



Protecting Marylanders' Access to Health Care Through Medicaid

Medicaid provides free or low-cost health coverage to about 25% of Marylanders, including children, parents, pregnant people, seniors, and people with disabilities. Major federal policy changes are now putting access to this essential care at risk for thousands of Marylanders. **About 130,000 people across the state are expected to lose their health coverage through Medicaid** once provisions of H.R. 1, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," that Congress passed in 2025 fully go into effect.

Many people are expected to lose coverage not because they are no longer eligible, but because new administrative barriers cause them to fall through the cracks. Strategic implementation of these changes can help more Marylanders keep their coverage.

Additional Supports Can Protect Access to Health Care



Fully fund strong implementation that reduces paperwork barriers. Using data the state already has to verify eligibility can simplify the enrollment and re-enrollment process for Medicaid participants and state employees alike. This reduces the risk that people will lose coverage due to paperwork issues. The budget should maintain sufficient funding for IT upgrades and staffing to accomplish these goals.



Support 100 local navigator positions. Navigators, working in local communities across the state, were critical in helping Marylanders get enrolled in health coverage during the rollout of the Affordable Care Act. Using this successful strategy again can help prevent Marylanders from losing coverage due to the new administrative requirements and provide individualized support. The estimated cost for the navigator positions is \$8 million in FY 27.



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