



PROTECT OUR CARE GEORGIA

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

APRIL 2017



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

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How to use this toolkit

The passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and the recent defeat of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) were made possible because of the actions of people like you. People in all 50 states, including thousands of Georgians, contacted their members of Congress to let them know why health care is important to them and how the proposed health care reforms would impact their lives. Your voice mattered in 2010 and it matters in 2017.

The American Health Care Act would have caused more than half a million Georgians to lose their coverage entirely while doing nothing to improve affordability or quality of care. In fact, it would have led to higher deductibles while stripping consumers of critical protections. It would have forced unconscionable cuts in health care services for vulnerable children, people with disabilities, and seniors who rely on Medicaid for their most basic health needs. Instead, the Affordable Care Act remains the law of the land. However, we know our work is not done. Congressional leaders have made it clear that they will continue their attempts to gut Medicaid and repeal the Affordable Care Act.

We built this toolkit so that you could make your voice heard. It is imperative that Congress hears from you in the health care debates to come. We want to make that as easy as possible for you, so we have compiled information and tools that we think will be useful for you. Use it on your own, with your family and friends, or with your community and advocacy groups. This is a starting point for your advocacy so build on it to fit your needs, and let us know about your experiences. Tell us which pieces of this toolkit are most useful and your suggestions for improvement. We will update it based on your suggestions and input.

We also want to offer our organization as a resource for you. If we can provide information, answer your questions, present to your community group, or otherwise support your healthcare advocacy, please let us know. We look forward to working towards a healthier Georgia with you!



MY FAMILY
CAN'T SURVIVE
WITHOUT THE ACA

Protect Our Care Georgia— What are we protecting?

The Affordable Care Act is a landmark piece of legislation that built a framework for health coverage that has resulted in the lowest uninsured rate ever recorded, established rights and protections for health care consumers, and provided opportunities to advance health equity. Medicaid is a public health program that for 50 years has provided quality, affordable care to the most vulnerable Americans—mostly children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The proposed health reforms put forth by President Trump and Congressional leaders would bring significant changes to our health system, threatening health coverage for millions of Americans and the progress we have made in the last half-century with the enactment of Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA.

Medicaid provides health care coverage for about 2 million low-income Georgians. To qualify for the program, people have to meet certain income requirements and be part of a specific population. Georgia's Medicaid program covers about 40% of children in the state, 25% of seniors, more than 300,000 people with disabilities, and pregnant women and uninsured women with breast and cervical cancer diagnoses. Georgia's program is a federal-state partnership and is structured so that the program grows with the needs of those enrolled in the program and the state. The Medicaid program is our government's commitment to ensuring health care is available and accessible to those that need it the most.

About 500,000 Georgians are enrolled in private health insurance through the health insurance Marketplace (also called healthcare.gov). More than 80% of these consumers receive some kind of financial help from the federal government so that they can afford health coverage. However, the ACA's benefits stretch far beyond those who buy health insurance on the Marketplace. The ACA instituted fundamental reforms in the health care system from which all Georgians benefit. Insurers can no longer discriminate against people who have pre-existing conditions by refusing to cover them or charging incredibly high prices. Health plans have to cover ten essential health services (called "essential health benefits") so that consumers know their plans cover the care they need. Non-discrimination provisions prevent LGBT people or people who speak English as a second language from being discriminated against as they seek coverage or care. These provisions make the health care system stronger for us all.

These are the things that are at stake in Washington, D.C.'s health policy debates. Over the next year or more, there will be multiple threats to the values and programs that provide the foundation for our country's health care system. We are working to protect the health care of all Georgians and we hope you will join us in that effort.

You can find out how many children are covered by Medicaid in your county in these [interactive maps](#).

You can read more about Medicaid and the ACA on pages 22-27 of this toolkit.

Georgia Congressional Delegation

Contact Information

Georgia Senators

Sen. Johnny Isakson (R)	Washington, D.C.: (202) 224-3643 Atlanta: 770-661-0999	Twitter: @SenatorIsakson facebook.com/isakson Email Form
Sen. David Perdue (R)	Washington, D.C.: (202) 224-3521 Atlanta: (404) 865-0087	Twitter: @sendavidperdue facebook.com/SenatorDavidPerdue Email Form

Georgia Representatives

District 1 Rep. Buddy Carter (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-5831 Brunswick: 912-265-9010 Savannah: 912-352-0101	Twitter: @RepBuddyCarter facebook.com/CongressmanBuddyCarter Email Form
District 2 Rep. Sanford Bishop (D)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-3631 Albany: 229-439-8067 Columbus: 706-320-9477 Macon: 478-803-2631	Twitter: @SanfordBishop facebook.com/sanfordbishop Email Form
District 3 Rep. Drew Ferguson (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-5901 Newnan: 770-683-2033	Twitter: @RepDrewFerguson facebook.com/RepDrewFerguson Email Form
District 4 Rep. Hank Johnson (D)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-1605 Decatur: 770-987-2291	Twitter: @RepHankJohnson facebook.com/RepHankJohnson Email Form
District 5 Rep. John Lewis (D)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-3801 Atlanta: 404-659-0116	Twitter: @repjohnlewis facebook.com/RepJohnLewis Email Form
District 6 Currently vacant		

District 7 Rep. Robert Woodall (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-4272 Lawrenceville: 770-232-3005	Twitter: @RepRobWoodall facebook.com/RepRobWoodall Email Form
District 8 Rep. Austin Scott (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-6531 Tifton: 229-396-5175 Warner Robins: 478-971-1776	Twitter: @AustinScottGA08 Email Form
District 9 Rep. Doug Collins (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-9893 Gainesville: 770-297-3388	Twitter: @RepDougCollins Email Form
District 10 Rep. Jody Hice (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-4101 Milledgeville: 478-457-0007 Monroe: 770-207-1776 Thomson: 770-207-1776	Twitter: @CongressmanHice facebook.com/CongressmanJodyHice/ Email Form
District 11 Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-2931 Cartersville: 770-429-1776 Woodstock: 770-429-1776 Galleria: 770-429-1776	Twitter: @RepLoudermilk facebook.com/RepLoudermilk/ Email Form
District 12 Rep. Rick Allen (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-2823 Augusta: 706-228-1980 Dublin: 478-272-4030 Statesboro: 912-243-9452 Vidalia: 912-403-3311	Twitter: @RepRickAllen facebook.com/CongressmanRickAllen Email Form
District 13 Rep. David Scott (D)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-2939 Jonesboro: 770-210-5073 Smyrna: 770-432-5405	Twitter: @RepDavidScott facebook.com/RepDavidScott Email Form
District 14 Rep. Tom Graves (R)	Washington, D.C.: 202-225-5211 Dalton: 706-226-5320 Rome: (706) 290-1776	Twitter: @RepTomGraves facebook.com/reptomgraves Email Form

Contacting your members of Congress



There are a number of ways that you can contact your members of Congress and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

- You may want to host a gathering at someone's house or a community space where people can come together to socialize and take action in one place.
- You may want to have people write letters or postcards to their members of Congress or set up a couple stations where people can call their local or Washington, D.C. Congressional office.
- For those who are motivated to do even more, you can schedule a meeting with your member of Congress (see page 13 for information about in-person meetings).

For a postcard or letter-writing party

Be sure to have available stamps, postcards or paper and envelopes, and the address(es) for the member(s) of Congress to whom you are writing.

When writing or emailing your elected officials, remember to be concise, persuasive, and courteous. If you have a personal connection to the Affordable Care Act or Medicaid, include that in your comments. You may also want to mention if you are a health care provider, enrollment assister, work with people who are covered by the ACA or Medicaid, or otherwise have a professional perspective on health care.

Here is some an example of what your postcard or letter might say:

Dear (Senator or Representative X):

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the future of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

I am distressed by the recent attempts to cut Medicaid and to repeal the ACA, which together would have caused millions to lose their health coverage. (Insert your own story about how you or someone you know have been impacted by the ACA or Medicaid.)

As your constituent, I want to urge you to abandon partisan efforts to repeal or weaken the ACA and Medicaid, and instead work in a bi-partisan way to improve health care and coverage for all Georgians. Helping Georgians get the care they need makes the health care system stronger for us all.

Sincerely,
(Your name)

Note: Letters and postcards are screened for toxic chemicals and can take 4-6 weeks to be delivered. For that reason, this is not an effective advocacy strategy for fast-moving or timely issues.

For a phone call party

Set up stations in a relatively quiet area where people can call their member of Congress. You will need the phone number(s) of the relevant office(s), a suggested script, and any additional information you want people to know for their call (ex: a fact sheet about the issue or a summary of how the member of Congress feels about the issue).

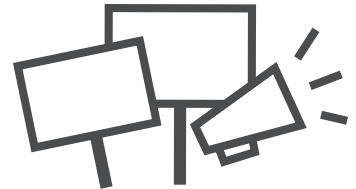
When calling your elected officials, remember to be concise, persuasive, and courteous. If you have a personal connection to the Affordable Care Act or Medicaid, include that in your comments. You may also want to mention if you are a health care provider, enrollment assister, work with people who are covered by the ACA or Medicaid, or otherwise have a professional perspective on health care.

Here's an example of what you might say when you call:

Staffer:	Thank you for calling Senator/Congressman X's office, how may I help you?
You:	Hello, my name is (your name) and I live in (City or County). I am calling because I am concerned about the future of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.
Staffer:	Great, what can I do for you?
Caller:	<p>I am distressed by the recent attempts to cut Medicaid and to repeal the ACA, which together would have caused millions to lose their health coverage. (Insert your own story about how you or someone you know have been impacted by the ACA or Medicaid.)</p> <p>As a constituent, I want to urge (Senator or Congressman X) to abandon partisan efforts to repeal or weaken the ACA and Medicaid, and instead work in a bi-partisan way to improve health care and coverage for all Georgians. Helping Georgians get the care they need makes the health care system stronger for us all.</p>
Staffer:	Thank you for sharing your concerns with us. I will relay your comments to the Congressman.
Caller:	I appreciate you listening and sharing my thoughts with (Senator or Representative X). Have a great day.

Events

Meeting your members of Congress at a public event or in-person meeting can be an even more effective way to communicate your concerns about a health care issue that is important to you. These opportunities require more time and preparation than a phone call or email but can also result in more meaningful conversation with your member of Congress. If your members of Congress cannot or will not meet or host a public event, you may consider hosting your own. For each of these opportunities, consider carefully your ultimate advocacy goal and how to most effectively influence your members of Congress.



Events hosted by your members of Congress

If members are planning public events in your region, it is critical that constituents attend town hall meetings and public forums to voice their opinions on health care. Call your elected officials before Congressional recesses or legislative breaks to find out when and where they are hosting public events. Plan to attend and invite people to attend with you. Use personal stories and current talking points at public meetings to get your message across, and take the opportunity to ask questions of legislators. Here are some sample questions that you might want to ask:

- My (son/daughter/mother/family member) depends on Medicaid for his/her health care needs. (Insert specific example.) Will you commit here today to voting against any health bill that restructures or cuts Medicaid?
- Will you commit here today to voting against any health care reform that would strip away health insurance from those who now have it, loosen protections for consumers or raise costs?

- For the families that currently receive financial support to pay for health insurance, will you ensure that they continue to receive support under current law or any proposed ACA replacement plan?
- The American public, doctors, nurses, hospitals, the AARP and dozens of other professional organizations strongly opposed the American Health Care Act. Will you work to improve the Affordable Care Act and work against any continued efforts to repeal the ACA?

If you are looking for more specific questions about how health care reform may impact people of color, treatment for substance use disorders, children, women, or older consumers, you can refer to additional town hall questions [here](#).

Have a friend record your question and the member's response on their phone and post it to social media. This helps inform other constituents about the member's views on important health care issues.

Plan a public event

If your member of Congress is not hosting their own public event, consider organizing your own. Depending on the type of event, you may consider inviting them to attend. The type of event will depend on the time and capacity available, the best way to reach the particular member, and the number of people participating. Some possibilities for events include:

- Town hall meeting without a member of Congress present—here's a [handy guide](#) from Indivisible
- Public rally
- March
- Open house or reception at your organization
- Tour of a clinic or hospital

If your elected official attends the event, make a request of him to stand by Georgians and protect health care in the state. We are asking Georgia's Congressional delegation to make these four commitments, which you can also use.

1. Stand firm in protecting Georgia's Medicaid program, including by opposing proposals take away Georgia's option to expand Medicaid, or cap Medicaid spending via a "per capita cap" that shifts costs and risk to our state
 2. Oppose any bill that would result in millions of people losing coverage or facing higher costs
 3. Oppose any effort that would destabilize the marketplaces
 4. Move on from partisan efforts to repeal the ACA and instead work together in a bipartisan way to protect Medicaid and improve our health care system
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Meeting with your member of Congress

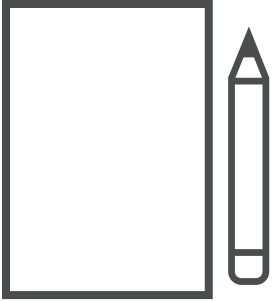
While your members are home, schedule in-district meetings. You can do this by calling the member's local office and asking for a meeting. The office staff will ask you what the purpose of your meeting is, so be prepared with a concise, professional response.

To prepare for the meeting, organize a diverse but manageable group of stakeholders, including local health professionals, community leaders, small business owners, clergy members and health care consumers who can share their stories and underscore the need for reform. Make a plan so that you all agree on the purpose of the meeting, the main messages that you want to convey, and what to ask of your legislator. Gather any information or materials that you want to share with your legislator and his staff.

If a meeting is not possible, request a group call with your member. Plan for the call just as you would an in-person meeting by reviewing goals and information in advance to ensure you deliver a strong, coordinated message.

Make sure you do not leave a meeting or call without an "ask" of your legislator. Your ask may be the commitments listed just above or a more specific ask tied to a piece of legislation.

Letters to the Editor



If you want to reach a broader audience with your message, you may consider writing a letter to the editor (LTE) of your local newspaper. We know that members of Congress and state legislators monitor media coverage, including LTEs, in their local newspapers to they know what issues are important to their constituents. Publishing a persuasive LTE helps you reach your elected officials and people in your region or community. Even if your letter is not published, it influences what the editors choose to cover in their paper. The more letters they receive on a given topic, the more likely they are to cover the issue in the future.

We have a tool to help you submit an LTE to your local paper. Visit healthyfuturega.org/get-involved/participate/write-a-letter-to-the-editor to easily look up your local newspaper, enter your contact information, draft your letter, and submit.

Here are some sample LTEs about health care that you may use as templates for your own:

- Opioid Crisis Sample LTE
- Medicaid Sample LTE for Health Care Providers
- Parent Whose Child has a Disability Sample LTE
- School Health Sample LTE — Teacher
- Faith Leader or Person of Faith Sample LTE

We have included brackets where you can fill in your own information, but we encourage you to go further by personalizing these as much as possible.

Opioid Crisis Sample LTE

Thousands of families in Georgia are struggling with [drug addiction]. The last thing they need to worry about is getting frozen out of life-saving treatment.

But that's just what many Republicans in Congress are still talking about in Washington as they renew their effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and gut Medicaid. Why can't they focus instead on bringing home more services to reduce the [XXXX deaths here in Georgia from opioid overdoses]?

Our members of Congress are home right now for a break. Let's let them know we strongly oppose any efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and undermine Medicaid since that would leave so many people in our state without health insurance or access to treatment for [addiction].

Bipartisan efforts had begun to alleviate some of the strain this crisis has placed on families and communities, but much of that progress is now at stake. The GOP health care repeal bill that failed to pass last month would have stripped away the requirement that Medicaid and private insurance cover [basic mental-health and addiction services], jeopardizing access to treatment for thousands of Georgians. [This would also have thrown open the door to more discrimination against people with addiction or mental illness.]

Just as we are making strides in [combatting the opioid crisis], we must remind our congressional leaders during their April recess that they must not reverse our progress. For our community, and our state, we must stand together and oppose efforts to repeal the ACA and cut Medicaid.

Note: You could use this template for many chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, or Alzheimer's. We've placed brackets around the sentences or phrases that need to be changed to address other chronic conditions.

Medicaid Sample LTE – For Health Care Providers

Note: We recommend providers use pseudonyms, so as not to identify any specific patient publicly.

As a [PHYSICIAN/NURSE/ETC] in [CITY/TOWN], I have been getting many questions from my patients about the recent health care debate in Congress. Will I lose my insurance? Will my family members be able to access the health care services they rely on? From what I can tell, the latest health care repeal proposals being pushed by Republicans in Congress lack answers for my patients, especially when it comes to Medicaid.

While Medicaid has faced attacks before, the American Health Care Act that nearly passed in Congress, and may yet emerge again, is the closest we've come to dismantling the Affordable Care Act and gutting Medicaid. The proposed cuts to Medicaid funding would not only harm my patients but also put the needs of Georgia's children, seniors and people with disabilities in jeopardy.

The proposal to cap and slash Medicaid funds would have rationed care, threatened coverage and benefits for almost two million Georgians and put further strain on our state budget. Medicaid has ensured that Georgians like my patient [PATIENT NAME] can afford to take care of [HIS/HER] health, offering [HIM/HER] peace of mind that comes from health and financial security.

[INSERT PATIENT STORY where applicable. 2-3 sentences.]

This April, we need to guarantee that [Congressman or Congresswoman LAST NAME] and Senators Isakson and Perdue protect Medicaid. Tell them what this program means for you, your family and your community. Together, we can protect Georgia's health care.

Parent whose child has a disability—Sample LTE

My child has a disability.

[INSERT STORY (2-3 sentences)]

As a [middle-class/option to highlight] parent in [CITY/TOWN], I lose sleep over the recently proposed changes to Medicaid and how it would harm my family. Medicaid provides needed services and supports to my child, keeping [him/her] living at home and able to attend public school—in essence, Medicaid creates the conditions for [NAME] to thrive.

Without these important services [can name: physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy that children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities may receive through school or other specialized services], my child and over 10 million children and adults with disabilities across the country would not be able to live to their full potential. Medicaid pays caregivers so that parents can go to work. Medicaid allows children to be with their families instead of in institutions.

While Medicaid has faced attacks before, the American Health Care Act that nearly passed in Congress, and may yet reemerge, is the closest we've come to dismantling the Affordable Care Act and gutting Medicaid. Drastic cuts to Medicaid would put Georgia's children with disabilities' health and educational success at risk. These cuts would ripple through the state budget, affecting Georgia's economy.

Medicaid works for my family and so many others, ensuring us access to needed health care services and supports for our child so that we can work, our children can thrive and we can be productive community members.

This April, we need to urge [Congressman or Congresswoman LAST NAME] and Senators Isakson and Perdue to protect Medicaid. Tell them what this program means for your child, your family and your community. Together, we can protect health care for Georgia.

School Health Sample LTE – Teacher

Note: We recommend the use of pseudonyms, so as not to identify any specific student publicly.

As a [TEACHER] in [CITY/TOWN], I am worried about my students and what the ongoing health care fight in Washington, D.C. means for them. Many of my students rely on Medicaid for health services that make their participation in the classroom possible. For children with disabilities, Medicaid supports their learning and engagement. For low-income children in my classroom, Medicaid gives them access to the care they need to succeed. Whether for eyeglasses so they can see the blackboard or help managing their diabetes or asthma, Medicaid plays a vital role in their lives and in my ability to help them succeed. A healthy child is ready and able to learn.

While Medicaid has faced attacks before, the American Health Care Act that nearly passed in Congress, and may yet reemerge, is the closest we've come to dismantling the Affordable Care Act and gutting Medicaid. Deep cuts to Medicaid would put Georgia's children's health and educational success at risk. These cuts would reverberate throughout the state budget, affecting [STATE's] economy and constricting important investments in our schools, including mine.

Medicaid works for my students, ensuring them access to preventive and developmental screenings services to support their educational success. Students like [NAME – "CALL HIM OR HER X"] are learning every day in my classroom thanks to Medicaid.

This April, join me in urging [Congressman or Congresswoman LAST NAME] and Senators Isakson and Perdue to protect Medicaid. Tell them what this program means for your students, your family and your community. Together, we can protect health care for Georgia.

Faith Leader or person of faith Sample LTE

It's an important time of year for many of us in the [faith or denomination] community, and a time for greater reflection. The ongoing health care debate in Washington has been hotly debated, and though we have a longstanding tradition in this country of separating church and state, we have never divorced our faith from our views on public policy, regardless of party or political ideology.

As a [person of faith or faith leader], I believe that access to quality, affordable health care is a moral issue. The topic of health care rightly involves one's values, and for many, that invokes his or her deeply held religious beliefs or faith tradition. For me, health care means [INSERT PERSONAL STORY. 2-3 sentences].

Nearly every person will utilize health care at some point in his or her life, whether a birth in a hospital, care for a broken limb, or treatment for a chronic condition or infectious disease. For this reason, recent political discussions invoke the passion of millions; from men and women, young and old, able-bodied and those living with disabilities, and persons of all socio-economic backgrounds and walks of life.

It's impossible to have any of these without the financial and personal security that comes with access to quality, affordable health care. As people of faith, we cannot, dare I say, we must not, stand idly by as a vocal minority seeks to undo the gains we've made to provide our fellow man with this essential public good.

Let us not forget that we were founded on the belief that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Share your health care story



Many Georgians have inaccurate or uninformed ideas about who is impacted by cuts to Medicaid or the repeal of the ACA. Most people do not know that Medicaid is critical to Georgia's health care system and to the Georgians who need health care most. Social media can help to educate the public and policymakers about who is impacted by the policy decisions being made in Washington, D.C. or in the Georgia state capitol building.

If you have Medicaid coverage

#IamMedicaidGA is a campaign designed to give you a way to change the conversation around Medicaid. There are misconceptions about who receives help and why, but you can help us change that. This campaign is an opportunity for individuals who receive Medicaid, their family members, their physicians and concerned Georgia citizens to show that there are real people with real needs being impacted by the decisions made by elected officials.

Your photos and stories are powerful. We plan to use them in our social media communications (with your permission of course!), providing a striking image to go along with our message to support Medicaid. This will help build community support and educate others about the importance of the program. We ask that everyone who participates use the hashtag #IamMedicaidGA when posting their photos to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or Twitter. We also encourage you to write your own personal story and submit it to us. The stories and pictures from you and other Georgians will be used to demonstrate the significance of Medicaid in our communications with lawmakers, the media, and in other publications on the topic. Join the campaign!

1. Print the sign below
 2. Ask someone to take a picture of you holding the top half of the sheet.
 3. Post this picture on your social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) with the hashtag #IamMedicaidGA. *You can even tweet or tag your elected officials for the biggest impact. We included the Twitter and Facebook information for your members of Congress on page 3-4.*
 4. If you would like to share your story with us, email Laura at lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org.
 5. Share your sign with others and ask them to join the campaign!
-

If you have benefited from the Affordable Care Act

Many Georgians know that their friends and family and others like them benefit from the Affordable Care Act, but you can help us change that. Sharing your health care story is an opportunity for people like you to show that there are real people with real needs being impacted by the decisions made by elected officials.

Your photos and stories are powerful. They help build community support and educate others about the importance of the program. We are asking you to write your own personal story and submit it to us. The stories and pictures from you and other Georgians will be used to demonstrate the significance of the Affordable Care Act in our communications with lawmakers, the media, and in other publications on the topic.

Send your story to Laura Colbert, Director of Outreach and Partnerships at lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org or call her at 404-567-5016, ext. 2. Be sure to include your name, the city or county where you live, a summary of how you benefit from the ACA, and how we can easily get in touch with you.

#IamMedicaidGA

Help Save Medicaid

Are you covered by Medicaid? Do you have a loved one on Medicaid? Do you serve Medicaid patients? Then we need your help...

Many of your fellow Georgians don't understand the impact Medicaid has not only on their neighbors but on themselves. This is an effort to put a face on the word "Medicaid." People need to know that the decision to cut Medicaid effects real people with real problems and real lives. This is your chance to make an impact on health policy in Georgia. Use your voice!

1. Print this sign
2. Ask someone to take a picture of you holding the top half of the sheet.
3. Post this picture on your social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) with the hashtag **#IamMedicaidGA**, a sentence or two about what Medicaid means to you, and where you live.
4. Share your sign with others and ask them to join the campaign!

For more information go to protectmycarega.org



What repeal of the Affordable Care Act could mean for Georgia consumers

The President-Elect and Congressional leadership have promised to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), landmark legislation that built a framework for health coverage that has resulted in the lowest uninsured rate ever recorded, established rights and protections for health care consumers, and provided opportunities to advance health equity. Repeal would bring significant changes to our health system, threatening health coverage for millions of Americans and the progress we have made in the last half-century with the enactment of Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA.

Who Benefits from the Affordable Care Act?

- Over half a million Georgians have gained health coverage through the ACA's Health Insurance Marketplace, reducing the uninsured rate in the state from 21.4% to 15.9% in three years.
- Of those, 86% get financial help (via tax credits) that allow them to pay lower monthly premium costs. This financial help, made possible through the ACA, brought the average monthly premium in Georgia down from \$385 to \$98.
- All individual insurance plans must now cover a comprehensive range of services, called essential health benefits.
- Many millions more benefit from new rights & protections guaranteed under the law. These include:
 - Preventing people with pre-existing conditions from being charged more or from being barred from coverage. Pre-existing conditions include chronic diseases like diabetes, mental health conditions, asthma, cancer, and more.
 - Preventing women from being charged more than men
 - Free preventive care
 - Keeping young adults on their parent's plan until age 26
 - Limiting the amount of money paid out-of-pocket each year for care
 - Protecting consumers from discrimination in health care settings based on sex, sex stereotyping, gender identity, language spoken, or country of origin



The loss of ACA tax credits would directly increase the cost of health coverage for middle-class workers and families.



If repealed, insurance companies could go back to excluding many common health care needs, such as maternity care.



Georgians would lose coverage, pay more for their coverage, or be unable to visit a health care provider when needed if these provisions are repealed.

Who Benefits from Medicaid and CHIP?

- More than 1.9 million people in Georgia receive health coverage through Medicaid. Of those, 64% are children.
- 1 in 5 Georgians is covered by Medicaid, and half of all children in Georgia receive Medicaid or PeachCare.
- Medicaid covers certain groups of adults such as very low-income parents, the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income pregnant women.
- Medicaid provides a health care safety net for children and low-income parents when the economy is bad or when families are facing job loss and economic hardship.



Cuts to Georgia's Medicaid program could prevent children from getting the health care they need to stay in school, restrict access to necessary care for people with disabilities, and endanger the lives of pregnant women who need pre-natal care.

We need your help!

We must be clear-eyed about the real impact of any proposal that seeks to make changes to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. It may leave hundreds of thousands of Georgians uninsured, living sicker, and one emergency away from financial ruin.

Georgians for a Healthy Future is committed to protecting the health care coverage of all Georgians. Here's how you can participate with us:

- Share your story—Do you have a pre-existing condition, are enrolled in health insurance through the Marketplace, or previously couldn't afford health insurance? Contact Laura Colbert by calling 404-567-5016, ext. 2 or emailing lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org to tell your health care story.
- Call your members of Congress at 202-224-3121, and tell them to "Protect the gains that have been made for Georgians through the Affordable Care Act."
 - Your Georgia Senators are Senator Johnny Isakson and Senator David Perdue.
 - You have **one** Congressional Representative. To find the name of your Representative, visit house.gov/representatives/find.
- Sign up for action alerts at healthyfuturega.org so that you can stay updated on when and how to take action.

Georgia Congressional Representatives:

- Buddy Carter
- Sanford Bishop
- Lynn Westmoreland
- Hank Johnson
- John Lewis
- Tom Price
- Robert Woodall
- Austin Scott
- Doug Collins
- Jody Hice
- Barry Loudermilk
- Rick W. Allen
- David Scott
- Tom Graves

To find the name of your Representative, visit house.gov/representatives/find.

Medicaid Works for Georgia

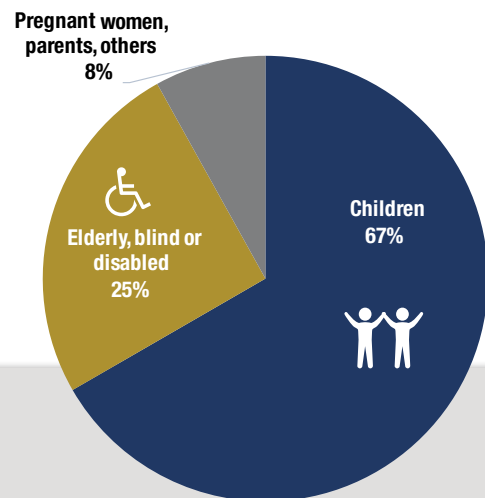


Medicaid and PeachCare provide almost 2 million Georgians with access to health care, including 1.3 million children. About **two thirds of Medicaid enrollees are children** statewide. Another quarter are elderly, blind or disabled.

Created in 1965, the Medicaid program provides health insurance coverage to low-income residents through a partnership between states and the federal government. PeachCare for Kids provides coverage for children in families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Medicaid is a critical source of coverage for many health services in Georgia. Medicaid is the primary payer for 75 percent of Georgia's nursing home patients and also covers more than half of all childbirths in the state.

Children Represent Majority of Medicaid Enrollees in Georgia



Medicaid is Major Source of Payment for Key Health Services in Georgia

Medicaid is primary payer for 75% of Georgia's nursing home patients



Medicaid pays for more than half of all births in Georgia



Medicaid and PeachCare Provide Access to Health Services for

1.98 MILLION GEORGIANS

including

1.3 MILLION CHILDREN

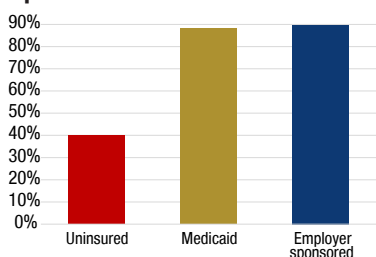
Half of Georgia's Children Are Covered by Medicaid

Medicaid a Good Deal for Georgia

Medicaid Provides Access to Care

Medicaid provides access to care for Georgians throughout the state. About 88 percent of Medicaid enrollees have a usual source of care, compared with 90 percent of people with employee-sponsored insurance plans.

People with Usual Source of Health Care



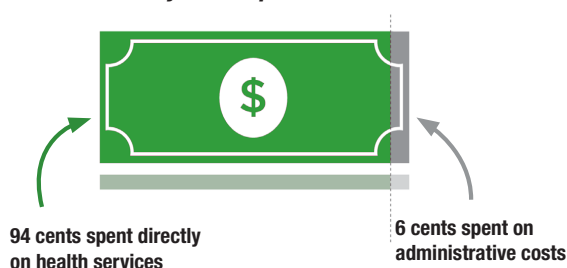
Medicaid Gives a 2-to-1 Return

Medicaid provides a stellar return on investment for Georgia. For every 1 dollar Georgia invests in Medicaid, the federal government matches with more than 2 dollars.



Medicaid Controls Costs Efficiently

For every dollar spent on Medicaid



Medicaid provides coverage efficiently by spending less on administrative costs. Private insurance companies can spend up to 20 cents of every dollar on administrative costs, but Medicaid spends less than half of that: just six cents per dollar on administrative overhead.

Medicaid's efficiency helps explain how the program's spending has grown more slowly than private insurance. Since 2007, Medicaid's spending per enrollee has grown 1.1 percent, compared with 4.4 percent for private insurance providers.

Enrollees Meet Strict Income Eligibility Standards

Georgians must meet specific criteria to enroll in Medicaid. Eligibility levels are based on household income and assets, with thresholds that vary for different groups. Adults without dependent children are not eligible for Medicaid in Georgia.

Group	Eligibility
Parents with children under age 19	Annual income up to \$6,600 for a family of three
Pregnant women	Annual income up to \$44,900 for a family of three
Children ages 6 to 19	Annual income up to \$32,700 for a family of four
Blind, disabled or over age 65	Annual income up to \$8,800 for an individual or \$13,200 for a couple

Health Care Advocacy Organizations

These organizations will keep you updated on the latest happenings in health policy at the federal and state levels. Sign up for their email updates and follow them on social media for the latest in health policy news.

National Organizations

Community Catalyst

communitycatalyst.org
[@HealthPolicyHub](https://facebook.com/communitycatalyst)

Families USA

familiesusa.org
[@FamiliesUSA](https://facebook.com/FamiliesUSA)

Kaiser Family Foundation

kff.org
[@KaiserFamFound](https://facebook.com/KaiserFamilyFoundation)

Kaiser Health News

khn.org
[@KHNews](https://facebook.com/KaiserHealthNews)

State-based organizations

Georgians for a Healthy Future

healthyfuturega.org
404-567-5016
[@healthyfuturega](https://facebook.com/HealthyFutureGA)

Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

gbpi.org
404-420-1324
[@GaBudget](https://facebook.com/gabudget)

Georgia Health News

georgiahealthnews.com
404-386-8290
[@gahealthnews](https://facebook.com/GeorgiaHealthNews)

Georgia Watch

georgiawatch.org
866-339-2824
[@georgiawatch](https://facebook.com/GeorgiaWatch)

Voices for Georgia's Children

georgiavoices.org
(404) 521-0311
[@GeorgiaVoices](https://facebook.com/GeorgiaVoices)



**GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE**

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS