

PRESS RELEASE

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Briefing Memo Offers Data-Driven Context on Governor's Health Coverage Claims

ATLANTA – Today, Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) shared a briefing memo that contextualizes statements made during this morning's Patients First Round Table Discussion hosted by the Governor's office. Governor Kemp described Georgia's new health care programs, specifically the Georgia Access health insurance marketplace and the Pathways to Coverage program under Medicaid.

While more low-income adults have been able to enroll in health insurance over the last several years, the reasons are more nuanced than the current state administration has allowed, and the additional context has important implications for Georgians' access to care.

Originally published in May, GHF's [briefing memo](#) details each of the Kemp administration's health care programs (some are called "waivers"), their respective effects on access to health coverage in Georgia, and how Georgians are impacted by each. This memo provides essential, accurate, and sourced background information to reporters covering health care issues in Georgia.

Reporters will find understandable information and helpful illustrations that respond to the following questions:

- What is the Pathways to Coverage program? Who does it cover? Compared to Medicaid expansion (or closing Georgia's coverage gap), how many Georgians are covered?

- What is reinsurance and how does that impact health insurance premiums in Georgia?
- What is the Georgia Access marketplace? Are uninsured and low-income Georgians able to enroll in marketplace coverage instead? What has driven recent enrollment increases?
- What is the context around the Governor's remarks when referencing that 714,000 Georgians have become newly insured through his health insurance programs? How do federal policies impact this enrollment increase?
- Do these programs, when combined, replace the need to expand Medicaid in Georgia?

Statement from Laura Colbert, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future:

“The statements and numbers presented at today’s round table discussion paint an incomplete picture of Georgia’s health coverage landscape.

The fact remains that the Pathways to Coverage program has fallen far short of its goals, reaching only a small fraction of the Georgians it intends to help. We cheer the meaningful increases in private health insurance enrollment among Georgians, but that does not resolve the larger issue at hand. Hundreds of thousands of Georgians remain uninsured and without meaningful access to health care until Georgia leaders fully close our state’s coverage gap. We must focus on addressing the real barriers that prevent our most vulnerable residents from accessing the health care they need.

Accurate information and a commitment to comprehensive solutions are key to making meaningful progress. It’s time for state leaders to prioritize policies that ensure every Georgian has access to affordable, quality healthcare.”

GHF’s briefing memo is available here:

https://healthyfuturega.org/ghf_resource/georgias-health-care-waivers-what-each-waiver-does-and-their-impacts-on-health-insurance-eligibility-in-georgia/

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Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at healthyfuturega.org

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