



Congratulations!

YOU are going to help protect Medicaid!!

BACKGROUND

Medicaid is the public funding stream that provides health coverage for low-income children and adults, as well as long term services and supports for people with disabilities and low-income seniors. Over 58 million Americans rely on Medicaid services, and millions more are connected to Medicaid in some way. When we think about it we all know people who benefit from the Medicaid program. For example:

- Do you or someone you know use Medicaid long term services and supports?
- Do you or someone you know use Medicaid to cover prenatal services to ensure a healthy pregnancy?
- Do you or someone you know work as a home health attendant?

What does Medicaid pay for?

Most people in the general public don't know what Medicaid pays for. It pays for hospital and physician services; medical and surgical dental services; nursing facility services; lab and x-ray services; and family nurse practitioner services. It also pays for home care and other services that allow seniors and people with disabilities to live in the community, as well as prescription medications, optometrist services and eyeglasses, prosthetic devices, dental care and other community-based services and supports.

What's happening in Washington?

The Congressional Super Committee, comprised of six Senators and six Representatives, is charged with proposing targeted reductions in the federal budget of \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years - on top of the already \$1 trillion cuts that were made as part of the deal that created the process in the first place. The Super Committee may employ any mechanism from making cuts to creating revenue. One thing is clear. Medicaid is now more vulnerable than ever before.

OUR MESSAGE

Health, independence, families, and jobs!

We need to tell Congress why “MY MEDICAID MATTERS!” We need to remind Congress that Medicaid is more than just health coverage. Medicaid means:

- **Health!** Medicaid provides hospital, doctor and other health services to low income families, children as well as people with disabilities and older Americans.
- **Independence!** Medicaid provides vital home and community-based services that allow seniors and younger people with disabilities to live independently in the community.
- **Families!** Medicaid provides services that support families in caring for their children who have significant disabilities.
- **Jobs!** Medicaid provides vital jobs for direct care workers who support their families. Reducing Medicaid means eliminating jobs, which will not improve the economy.

We should point out to Congress that this is not a partisan issue. In fact, according to a recent Kaiser Foundation poll, 60 percent of Americans want to maintain Medicaid and only 13 percent support cuts to Medicaid.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE RALLY

The moment you committed to go to Washington, you joined a special group of advocates from around the country who will stand together to defend Medicaid. Rain or shine, more than a thousand folks from disability, aging, labor, religious, and civil rights organizations will gather on Capitol Hill at noon. There will be rallying chants, speeches by advocates, and special presentations by members of Congress who have united with us. After the rally, advocates will bring the message that “MY MEDICAID MATTERS” directly to Congressional offices and distribute information about the important impact that this program has.

WHAT IS HAPPENING BACK HOME

While you are defending Medicaid in Washington, advocates all over the country will be flooding the phone lines of the Super Committee members with the same message that “MY MEDICAID MATTERS!” There will also be simultaneous press events occurring locally and a flurry of activity on twitter, facebook, and other social media sites. It’s a historic day and you are a part of it!

**So when someone asks you why you came to Washington,
you can proudly say “MY MEDICAID MATTERS!!!”**