

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representative Schakowsky

Protect and Improve Medicaid

1. Strike section 407 of the Chairman's mark and make all necessary conforming changes.
2. At the end of Title IV, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON PROTECTING AND IMPROVING MEDICAID.

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) Medicaid provides health care services for more than 86 million beneficiaries, including children, veterans, pregnant women, people with disabilities and seniors. It covered 41 percent of all births in the United States in 2021 and paid for 42 percent of all long-term care, including skilled nursing home care, in 2020.
- (2) During the COVID-19 pandemic Medicaid was a lifeline for those who lost their health coverage or were unable to find work. Congress acted quickly to ensure that low-income families maintained their health insurance by requiring that states not disenroll anyone from Medicaid for the duration of the public health emergency. As a result, the nation's uninsured rate dropped to 8.4 percent in 2022, the lowest level in its history, and tens of millions of Americans were able to access health care during the pandemic.
- (3) Last year, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2023 terminated the continuous enrollment requirement as of March 31, 2023 and provided states and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with the resources and tools necessary to resume redeterminations for the currently enrolled Medicaid beneficiaries. However, early reports suggest that some states led by Republican administrations have disenrolled hundreds of thousands of individuals for procedural reasons, not because they were no longer eligible.
- (4) Medicaid coverage among eligible people should be protected and CMS must take timely enforcement action to prevent improper terminations during the redetermination process.
- (5) Furthermore, Medicaid work requirements are solely a backdoor way to kick people off Medicaid because they are built on false assumptions and a dishonest premise. Studies have shown that Medicaid work requirements do nothing to increase employment and result in substantial coverage loss among adults who comply with the work requirements but lose coverage due to new

administrative reporting burdens or red tape. When Arkansas briefly experimented with Medicaid work requirements before a federal judge halted it, the state had kicked off many people who should have been eligible but were confused by burdensome reporting requirements and failed to file the proper paperwork.

(b) **POLICY ON PROTECTING AND IMPROVING MEDICAID.** — It is the policy of this resolution that the Congress should:

- (1) Protect Medicaid coverage for all eligible people and improve Medicaid benefits for vulnerable populations, such as new moms, seniors, and people with disabilities, for example by providing 12-month postpartum coverage, improving access to Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services, or enhancing supports for family caregivers as proposed in the President's FY 2024 Budget.
 - (2) Pay for Medicaid improvements by requiring the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share, which may include raising the corporate tax rate, imposing the minimum tax on billionaires so that they pay at least 25 percent on their full income, increasing the marginal tax rate on earners making more than \$400,000 a year, and closing the loophole for wall street fund managers to tax carried interest as ordinary income.
3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.