

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Senate Democrats Press Stakeout
May 6, 2025
Sen. Cantwell Remarks on Medicaid Cuts

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: We're here today to say it's time for the war on health care to stop.

President Trump's cutting of NIH is causing great impacts to our health care system. President Trump's tariffs are causing higher cost on prescription drugs. And the proposed budget that we still haven't seen the details on, \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts is going to cause a devastating impact to communities all across the United States.

The fact that in my state, five to seven hospitals could close as a result of that, and many other impacts on rural health care has caused a group of citizens to send a letter to my House colleagues urging them to oppose cuts to Medicaid rates, any adjustment to the Federal Medical Assistance [Percentage] or direct Medicaid payment programs.

Who are these people? Some of them are hospital CEOs. But guess who else they are? Republican state representatives, Republican county commissioners, city councilpeople from the communities, they all know this is the wrong idea. And they are not interested in a sneak attack by the Republicans of saying that they can successfully cut \$880 billion and not have an impact on our communities.

They are going to have an impact, as I said, on closing hospitals, kicking people off of Medicaid, as we've had a record expansion to hold down the cost of expensive insurance by covering them with Medicaid. And, in addition, the impacts to long-term care.

We know now that Medicaid is on such a short fuse of basically only having a very limited budget, and every penny counts, but 52% of that [nursing home] revenue comes from Medicaid [in Washington state]. So if Medicaid is cut at any percentage, the impact to long-term care, and kicking people off of their Medicaid for long-term care is going to have a devastating effect.

And lastly, these same individuals who are involved with running our response to the fentanyl crisis know that if you cut Medicaid, you're also going to cut the recovery and treatment and also the housing that occurs in our jails of having the Medicaid resource to fight fentanyl, a scourge on our society.

It's time for people to come clean in the House of Representatives and clarify that they too oppose Medicaid cuts.