



Washington State Legislature

May 21st, 2025

The Honorable Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Representatives Suzan DelBene, Rick Larsen, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Dan Newhouse, Michael Baumgartner, Emily Randall, Pramila Jayapal, Kim Schrier, Adam Smith, and Marilyn Strickland
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

RE: Medicaid funding for Washington State

We are writing to thank you for your ongoing work on behalf of Washington residents. As fellow lawmakers facing deep budget challenges, we are also asking you to protect Medicaid funding for Washington State.

Our shared constituents depend on Medicaid for their health care access, with 25% of all Washingtonians enrolled in Apple Health. Please see the chart included below for information about the percentage of people enrolled by Congressional District. In addition to supporting access to health care services for 1.8 million Washington residents, Medicaid is a vital lifeline for a financially challenged health care system, including hospitals, nursing homes, primary care clinics and others.

We applaud your efforts to address fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid. In our legislative session that just ended, we introduced a bill to tackle improper Medicaid concurrent enrollment payments in Washington State. Furthermore, we fully support your community engagement requirements of work, education, or service pursuits for able-bodied adults.

We recognize that cuts to the Medicaid program would deal a significant blow to the state's budget. Multiple studies have shown that Washington State will be among the states hardest hit by Medicaid losses. Our state will be hard hit because we expanded Medicaid and because we have the lowest possible foundational federal Medicaid matching percentage. The federal Medicaid matching percentage is based on state per-capita income; Washington is one of a small number of states that receives only 50% matching funds for traditional Medicaid while many other states receive more than 70%.

If federal funding for the expansion population is cut or federal financing is reduced, Washington will have to use significant state funds to fill the gap. Without federal funding, we will be forced to make further cuts to health care, endangering local health care organizations and eliminating coverage for many constituents.

We are making important strides in our state toward improving maternal health coverage for pregnant women and their babies. Likewise, it is critical that we can continue our work in getting people impacted by substance use into treatment. Broad funding cuts in areas like these will force us to backslide on our gains.

Overall, we appreciate your thoughtful approach to increased Medicaid eligibility verification and requiring proof that enrollees are lawfully present in the United States before receiving coverage. At the same time, we

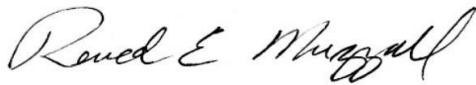
ask that you keep our health care safety net programs whole that serve our low-income citizens and their families.

On the local level, closures of health care organizations such as hospitals, clinics and nursing homes will disrupt the entire city and county economies. Without health care providers nearby, businesses have a tougher time recruiting workers and families have a more difficult time staying healthy.

We urge you to protect Medicaid. We can't afford to lose local health care resources, and our rural communities will not be able to ride out the economic shockwaves that are sure to follow if this program is significantly cut. Simply put, we cannot lose another rural hospital or clinic, nor another long-term care facility. We depend on a stable health care system, and we're counting on your leadership to ensure Medicaid's survival.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and learn how we can support you in our shared goals for our constituencies.

Sincerely,



Senator Ron Muzzall
10th Legislative District



Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



Senator Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District



Senator Nikki Torrez
15th Legislative District



Senator Phil Fortunato
31st Legislative District



Senator Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



Senator Keith Goehner
12th Legislative District



Senator Keith Wagener
39th Legislative District



Senator Leonard Christian
4th Legislative District



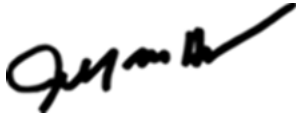
Senator Paul Harris
17th Legislative District



Senator Matt Boehnke
8th Legislative District



Senator Curtis King
14th Legislative District



Senator Jeff Holy
6th Legislative District



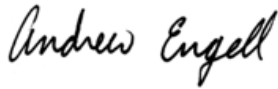
Representative Chris Corry
Deputy Minority Leader
15th Legislative District



Representative Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District



Representative Suzanne Schmidt
4th Legislative District



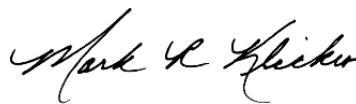
Representative Andrew Engell
7th Legislative District



Representative Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District



Representative Mike Volz
6th Legislative District



Representative Mark Klicker
16th Legislative District



Representative Mike Steele
12th Legislative District

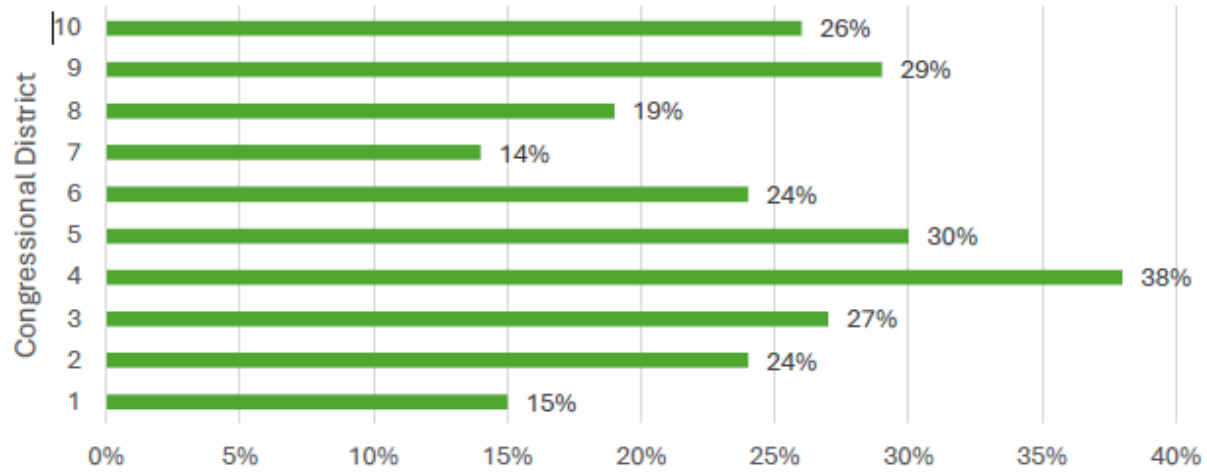


Representative Deb Manjarrez
14th Legislative District



Representative Gloria Mendoza
14th Legislative District

Percent of Washington State Residents Enrolled in Medicaid



Source: Washington State Health Care Authority for state fiscal year (SFY) 2024