



TALKING POINTS – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

Protect SNAP, Medicaid, and Poverty Programs

Legislative Ask

As Congress develops a budget reconciliation package, ensure that Medicaid, SNAP, and programs that serve those most in need are protected. Policy changes that result in families and individuals losing access to life-affirming healthcare and proper nutrition are unacceptable.

Talking Points for Advocacy Meeting

- Our faith teaches that the dignity of the human person demands that all people have everything necessary to truly thrive– including food and healthcare.
- Families across the country are facing financial hardship and need help. Families, especially those most in need, must not be left worse off because of the reconciliation package.
- We are concerned that there could be cuts to Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other safety net programs in order to pay for tax cuts. The loss of revenue created by tax cuts should not be made up by cuts to programs that serve those most in need.
- Protect Medicaid and SNAP for families and individuals in need. These programs are important to care for the most vulnerable members of our society and to ensure their basic human needs are met. Any changes to these programs should prioritize improvements and access to quality care and nutrition over cost savings.
- SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have in the fight against hunger, serving over 42 million people.
 - It responds quickly to increased need during economic downturns.
 - It benefits the economy – every \$1 spent on SNAP generates \$1.54 in economic activity – helping farmers, store owners, and workers.ⁱ
 - It complements the work of charitable organizations but can respond on a larger scale.
- Medicaid provides comprehensive health coverage for almost 80 million people.
 - It covers many of our most vulnerable neighbors, including 39% of children and 41% of adults with disabilities.
 - It provides coverage for primary care, prescriptions, nursing home care, pregnancy and postpartum care, mental health treatment, and more.
- Weakening SNAP or Medicaid through structural changes to the programs will act as cuts to these critical supports. Reducing funding, shifting costs to state budgets, limiting program eligibility, or adding new or stricter work requirements would all result in the loss of healthcare and proper nutrition for those in need.

ⁱ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2019/july/quantifying-the-impact-of-snap-benefits-on-the-u-s-economy-and-jobs>