

# The Medicaid Saves Lives Act

*Introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Jon Ossoff (D-GA)*

## THE PROBLEM

While the American Rescue Plan Act offered the 12 states that did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act robust financial incentives to finally expand their state Medicaid programs, it has become increasingly clear that many of these states do not plan to expand. This means 4.4 million Americans with low incomes will continue to be denied health coverage as communities across the nation are still working hard to turn the corner on a once-in-a-century pandemic. Additionally, across these 12 states, the Americans who are most harmed by this inaction from state leaders are people of color: 60 percent of people in the coverage gap are Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander. In Wisconsin, the state legislature's failure to fully expand Medicaid has kept 91,000 Wisconsinites from affordable, comprehensive coverage through BadgerCare. This obstruction has also meant the refusal of \$1.6 billion in federal funding.

We cannot continue to allow Americans with low incomes to suffer any longer just because they live in a state that has refused to expand Medicaid for political reasons at the cost of residents' health and taxpayer dollars.

## THE SOLUTION: *Medicaid Saves Lives Act*

Introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Jon Ossoff (D-GA)—all the Democratic senators representing states that have refused to expand Medicaid—the *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* is a foundational bill that would create a federal Medicaid-style program for those living in non-expansion states like Georgia and Wisconsin.

The *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* would:

- Create a federal Medicaid look-alike program that is run and administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and would provide the same full benefits of Medicaid; and
- Add to the incentives in the American Rescue Plan Act by giving states additional and extended funding to expand Medicaid through a significant federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) increase.
- Importantly, since Congress already paid for Medicaid expansion in the Affordable Care Act, the federal Medicaid program in the *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* has already been funded once and should require no additional offsets.

Congress must pass the *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* right away because this legislation would:

- Increase free and affordable health coverage to millions of Americans;
- Expand access to health care and provide access to preventative health services;
- Improve health outcomes and prevent premature deaths;
- Reduce uncompensated care costs which would reduce the number of hospital and provider closures; and
- Improve economic mobility that would enable low-income individuals to work.

This program created in the *Medicaid Saves Lives Act* would also include the robust Medicaid benefits provided under the Affordable Care Act, such as:

- All essential health benefits;
- Non-emergency medical transportation;
- Prescription drug benefits;
- Coverage for rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers;
- Preventative services;
- Maternity and newborn care;
- Mental health and substance use disorder care; and
- Hospitalization services.

## **The full list of the bill's 158 endorsers:**

159 Georgia Together; Abney CPA PLLC; ACA Consumer Advocacy; ACCESS; Action NC; Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC); AIDS Alabama; AIDS United; Alabama Arise; Allergy & Asthma Network; American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia; American Medical Student Association; American Muslim Health Professionals; American Public Health Association; ANAC; Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF); Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO); Association of Nurses in AIDS Care; Avondale ACTion; Better Wyoming; Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation; Broward for Progress; Build Back Better USA; CD1 Alliance Action, a CDP chartered organization; Center for American Progress; Center for Disability Rights; Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School; Center for Law and Social Policy; Center for Popular Democracy Action; Children's Defense Fund-Texas; Children's Action Alliance; Citizen Action of Wisconsin; Citizens for an Engaged Electorate; Coalition on Human Needs; Community Catalyst; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Consumer Action; Consumers for Affordable Health Care; DemCast USA; Doctors For America; Down Home NC; Every Texan; Fair Fight Action; Faith in Public Life Action; Families USA; Georgia Budget and Policy Institute; Georgia Hospital Association; Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center; Georgia NAACP; Georgia Watch; Georgians for a Healthy Future; Get America Covered; Grady Health System; Health Care Awareness Month; Health Care for America Now; Health Care Voices; Health Care Voter; Helping Hands Community Outreach Services; HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute; HIV Medicine Association; Indivisible; Indivisible Columbus GA; Indivisible District 12 Statesboro, GA; Indivisible District 13; Indivisible GA 6; Indivisible Georgia 04; Indivisible Georgia District 10; Indivisible Houston; Indivisible Lumpkin; Indivisible Madison (WI); Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta; Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta; Indivisible NC District 9; Indivisible of Moore County North Carolina; Indivisible San Francisco; Indivisible Sausalito; Indivisible Sonoma County; Indivisible South Bay LA; Indivisible Ulster; Indivisible Ventura; Indivisible: Narberth and beyond; Interfaith Children's Movement; Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice (IVRJ); International Association of Providers of AIDS Care; Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta; Jewish Democratic Women's Salon, Atlanta; ; Kansas Action for Children; Kansas Appleseed; Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition; Kentucky Voices for Health; Lee County NOW; LeeOFA Indivisible; Little Lobbyists; ; Mainers for Accountable Leadership; Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative; Medicare for All CT; Mississippi Center for Justice; MomsRising; MoveOn; NACBHDD and NARMH; NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Association of Social Workers; National Birth Equity Collaborative; National League for Nursing; National Safe Return; NC Child; Necessary Trouble Indivisible; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; New Georgia Project Action Fund; New Virginia Majority; Oakmont Democratic Club; Oakmont Progressives; Paulding County Democratic Committee (GA); PDA Central Florida; People Demanding Action; People's Action; Progress Georgia; Progressive Mariposa; Protect Our Care; Protect Our Care Florida; Protect Our Care Georgia; Protect Our Care NC; Protect Our Care Wisconsin; Proyecto Azteca; Public Citizen; Public Justice Center; R2H Action [Right to Health]; Santa Rosa Democratic Club; Save My Care; SEIU; Shriver Center on Poverty Law; Skidaway Island Democrats; Skidaway Island Indivisible Group; Social Security Works; South Atlanta Progress; SPLC Action Fund; S'Up Alaska - Stand Up Alaska; Tennessee Health Care Campaign; Tennessee Justice Center; Texas Parent to Parent; The AIDS Institute; The Good Life Outcomes Program, at Change Happens!; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society; Third Way; Treatment Action Group; Union for Reform Judaism; Unite Dallas; United for Respect; United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley; Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health; Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association; Working Families Party; Wyoming Interfaith Network; Young Invincibles; and Young Invincibles TX.