



## **What Does Capped Medicaid Funding Mean for Florida: *Considerations to Address Before Moving Forward***

**Background:** Along with repeal of the Affordable Care Act, Congress is considering fundamental changes to the Medicaid program that would both significantly reduce federal dollars to Florida *and* radically change Medicaid's current financing structure. Florida's Medicaid program currently *guarantees* coverage for children in low income families and very low income adults (and only if the adult is the parent of a minor child, pregnant, blind, aged, or disabled). Over 4 million Floridians rely on Medicaid for their health care and, under the current financing structure, the federal government *guarantees* payment for over 60% of the program's costs.

By contrast, proposals under consideration by Congress would reduce federal funding and eliminate this guarantee of federal matching dollars with a shift to "capped" funding under a per capita cap.

**Status:** As of March 7, 2017, Congressional leaders plan to move forward through the budget reconciliation process--beginning with the House Energy & Commerce Committee and Ways & Means Committee. In a radical departure from normal procedure, they are planning to do so without any input from health economists or other experts, without any public hearings and without a score from the Congressional Budget Office regarding costs/savings and how many people would lose coverage and benefits.

### **Questions that should be asked and answered:**

- Half of Florida's children rely on Medicaid/CHIP for health care coverage. How many of them will lose their guarantee of coverage under the proposal to cap federal Medicaid funding to states?
- Medicaid is the state's largest health insurer for people with disabilities, including children with special health care needs. How will capping federal Medicaid payments to Florida affect their guarantee of coverage? How would the loss of coverage affect their health and their families' economic security?
- For children and youth, Medicaid currently covers all medically necessary screenings and treatments. If federal Medicaid payments are capped, what will happen to these benefits and the children who rely on them for their healthy development?
- How will a federal Medicaid funding cap impact children's hospitals, teaching hospitals, or specialty providers. Will they be able to continue serving as community resources to vulnerable children and persons with disabilities and chronic conditions?

Florida members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee: [Representative Bilirakis](#) (202) 225-5755; [Representative Castor](#) (202) 225-3376; members of the Ways and Means Committee: Vern Buchanan (202) 225-5015 and Carlos Curbelo (202) 225-2778.

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