

United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G. St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller General Brown:

We write concerning the effects of Medicaid cuts for older adults and people with disabilities. On July 4, 2025, President Donald Trump signed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA) into law.¹ The OBBBA slashed Medicaid funding by nearly \$1 trillion² to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans.³ President Trump's cuts to Medicaid include new red tape for certain adults who wish to enroll in Medicaid⁴ and limits on how states can fund their own Medicaid programs.⁵ The cuts particularly target states that expanded Medicaid under the *Affordable Care Act*,⁶ and will be particularly devastating for older adults and people with disabilities who depend on Medicaid for their health and independence. Given that adults age 50 or older make up 23 percent of Medicaid enrollees⁷ and older adults are more likely to have a disability,⁸ the Senate Special Committee on Aging (Aging Committee) must understand the multi-year consequences of Medicaid cuts for those populations.

¹ Kathryn Watson et al., "Trump Signs 'Big, Beautiful Bill' in July Fourth Ceremony at White House," *CBS News*, July 4, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-to-sign-one-big-beautiful-bill-ceremony-today-watch-live-2025-07-04/>.

² Rhiannon Euhus et al., "Allocating CBO's Estimates of Federal Medicaid Spending Reductions Across the States: Enacted Reconciliation Package," KFF, July 23, 2025, (hereinafter "KFF Medicaid Reduction Analysis"), <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-across-the-states-enacted-reconciliation-package/>.

³ Corey Husak, "7 Ways the Big Beautiful Bill Cuts Taxes for the Rich," Center for American Progress, November 20, 2025, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/7-ways-the-big-beautiful-bill-cuts-taxes-for-the-rich/>.

⁴ *Supra*, note 2, KFF Medicaid Reduction Analysis.

⁵ Dawn Joyce and Lena Marceno, "How New Limits on State Provider Taxes Will Affect Medicaid Funding," Commonwealth Fund, December 19, 2025, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/explainer/2025/dec/how-new-limits-state-provider-taxes-will-affect-medicaid-funding>.

⁶ Geraldine Doetzer, "How OBBBA Punishes Medicaid Expansion States," National Health Law Program, August 13, 2025, <https://healthlaw.org/resource/how-obba-punishes-medicaid-expansion-states/>.

⁷ Abby Wolk and Alice Burns, "5 Key Facts About Medicaid Coverage for People Ages 50 and Older," KFF, June 18, 2025, (hereinafter "KFF Facts About Medicaid"), <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-coverage-for-people-ages-50-and-older/>.

⁸ "Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability Status and Type Among Adults," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 11, 2025, <https://www.cdc.gov/disability-and-health/articles-documents/disabilities-health-care-access.html>.

Millions of older adults and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid to pay for their health care services.⁹ Medicaid is the largest payer of long-term care in the United States, and in 2023 covered roughly 46 percent of long-term care costs for institutions like nursing homes.¹⁰ Medicaid covers home and community-based services (HCBS) for eight million older adults and people with disabilities, helping them to live and age in the setting of their choice.¹¹ Nearly five million adults who are nearing retirement age – those between the ages of 50 and 64 – rely on expanded Medicaid coverage for services like primary care and cancer screening.¹² Meanwhile, roughly 13 million “dual eligible” enrollees rely on Medicaid to pay for essential services they cannot obtain through their Medicare coverage.¹³ People who are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare are more likely to be lower income, have long-term disabilities, or have multiple chronic conditions.¹⁴

Medicaid is administered by the states within federal standards, meaning that states may choose, but are not required, to cover many services that benefit older adults and people with disabilities.¹⁵ When federal funding for Medicaid is cut, states are forced to choose between cutting Medicaid spending or using more state money to maintain existing Medicaid services.¹⁶ Ultimately, Medicaid services for older adults and people with disabilities may be cut, even if federal cuts do not directly target those services.¹⁷ For example, following a 2011 reduction in federal Medicaid matching funds, every state cut HCBS services.¹⁸ Services for older adults and people with disabilities will again be on the chopping block as states confront the harsh reality of President Trump’s cuts. Because the OBBBA implements President Trump’s cuts to Medicaid over multiple years,¹⁹ the effect on states will also play out over more than one year.

⁹ *Supra*, note 7, KFF Facts About Medicaid.

¹⁰ Kirsten J. Colello and Isobel Sorenson, Congressional Research Service, *Who Pays for Long-Term Services and Supports*, Washington, D.C., August 28, 2025, at 1-2, <https://www.crs.gov/reports/pdf/IF10343/IF10343.pdf>.

¹¹ “How Medicaid Supports Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers,” Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, last accessed May 21, 2026, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/03/11/how-medicaid-supports-seniors-and-people-with-disabilities-and-their-caregivers/#d9eab0f7-47a1-4b8a-8a48-e3a02867ff06>.

¹² Tobey Oliver, “Data Visualization: Older Adults Ages 50-64 Who Rely on Medicaid Expansion,” AARP, October 2, 2025, <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/health/coverage-access/older-adults-rely-medicaid-expansion/>.

¹³ Maria T. Pena et al., “How Does Use of Medicaid Wraparound Services by Dual-Eligible Individuals Vary by Service, State, and Enrollees’ Demographics?,” KFF, January 31, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/how-does-use-of-medicaid-wraparound-services-by-dual-eligible-individuals-vary-by-service-state-and-enrollees-demographics/>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Robin Rudowitz et al., “Medicaid 101,” KFF, October 8, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/health-policy-101-medicaid/?entry=table-of-contents-introduction>.

¹⁶ Jessica Schubel et al., “History Repeats? Faced with Medicaid Cuts, States Reduced Support for Older Adults and Disabled People,” *Health Affairs*, April 16, 2025, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/history-repeats-faced-medicaid-cuts-states-reduced-support-older-adults-and-disabled>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Gelila Selassie and Natalie Kean, “What’s in the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2025 & What Does it Mean for Low-Income Older Adults’ Access to Health and Long-Term Care?,” *Justice in Aging*, August 2025, at 5, <https://justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/HR-1-Fact-Sheet-August-2025.pdf>.

Unfortunately, individual states have already discovered that the OBBBA is “making their problems worse.”²⁰ Early this year, Missouri and Idaho began considering cuts to programs for people with disabilities,²¹ while Georgia faces a roughly \$8 billion cut in Medicaid funding over the next ten years.²² Massachusetts approved \$1 billion less in state spending than initially proposed for fiscal year 2026 in anticipation of federal cuts.²³ Ohio is “expected to lose about \$33 billion over the next decade for its Medicaid program” and is facing the possibility of “additional program cuts.”²⁴ Arizona is facing a 19 percent reduction to its Medicaid funding, with no clear way for the state to make up for the cut.²⁵ Maryland is facing a nearly \$3 billion drop in annual Medicaid funding,²⁶ while New Jersey is considering new spending to try to keep as many as 350,000 people from losing coverage.²⁷ California and New York, meanwhile, are facing Medicaid cuts of \$112 billion and \$63 billion by 2034 – the largest decreases in the nation.²⁸

The Senate Aging Committee is charged with “a continuing study of any and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people.”²⁹ To properly carry out that mission, the Aging Committee must understand how Medicaid coverage for older adults and people with disabilities changes in the years following President Trump’s cuts. Accordingly, we ask the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the following questions for calendar years 2026 and 2027. When studying the questions, we ask that GAO focus on older adults age 65 or older, older adults between the ages of 50 and 64, and people with disabilities:

²⁰ Natalie Fertig, “Trump Cuts Exacerbate Budget Fights in Red States,” *Politico*, March 25, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/25/trump-cuts-republican-state-budgets-00842704>.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Christopher Alston, “One Georgia Family Worries What Medicaid Cuts Will Mean for Them,” WABE, December 8, 2025, <https://www.wabe.org/medical-wealth-gap-part-one-georgia-aca-navigator-describes-effect-from-rising-premiums/>.

²³ Yasmeen Abutaleb and Maeve Reston, “States Face Massive New Costs Under Trump Budget Cuts,” *Washington Post*, September 8, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/09/08/states-medicaid-snap-cuts-trump/>.

²⁴ Samantha Wildow, “Ohio Medicaid Projected to Lose \$33B Over Next Decade,” *Springfield News-Sun*, April 19, 2026, https://www.springfieldnewsun.com/local/ohio-medicaid-projected-to-lose-33b-over-next-decade/article_049e66ef-d9cb-5d6a-aa4c-1d91e8b93c61.html.

²⁵ Caitlin Sievers, “‘We’re real people’: Arizona Medicaid Recipients Brace for Devastating Cuts,” *Arizona Mirror*, July 11, 2025, <https://azmirror.com/2025/07/11/were-real-people-arizona-medicaid-recipients-brace-for-devastating-cuts/>.

²⁶ Danielle J. Brown, “Health Official Warns that Future Medicaid Cuts Could Lead to \$2.7 Billion Loss in Federal Funding,” *Maryland Matters*, January 29, 2026, <https://marylandmatters.org/2026/01/29/health-official-warns-that-future-medicaid-cuts-could-lead-to-2-7-billion-loss-in-federal-funding/>.

²⁷ Lilo H. Stainton, “With Federal Changes Coming to Medicaid, NJ Pursues Ways to Keep People Enrolled,” *New Jersey Monitor*, March 30, 2026, <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2026/03/30/with-federal-changes-coming-to-medicaid-nj-pursues-ways-to-keep-people-enrolled/>.

²⁸ Anna Claire Vollers, “State Medicaid Budgets Will Decline by \$665 Billion Under New Federal Law, Report Finds,” *Stateline*, March 4, 2026, <https://stateline.org/2026/03/04/state-medicaid-budgets-will-decline-by-665-billion-under-new-federal-law-report-finds/>; Preethi Rao et al., RAND, *State-Level Impacts of Key Medicaid Provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, Santa Monica, CA, February 26, 2026, at 56-58, https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA4098-1.html.

²⁹ “Rules,” Senate Special Committee on Aging, last accessed May 22, 2026, <https://www.aging.senate.gov/about/rules>.

1. What changes did select states make to their Medicaid coverage for older adults and people with disabilities in calendar years 2026 and 2027?
2. What effects did the changes selected states made to their Medicaid coverage have on older adults and people with disabilities served by the program?

We appreciate your attention to this request. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ranking Member Gillibrand's staff with the Senate Special Committee on Aging at 202-224-0185.

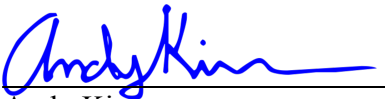
Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Special
Committee on Aging



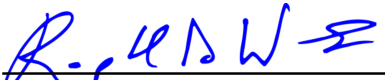
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



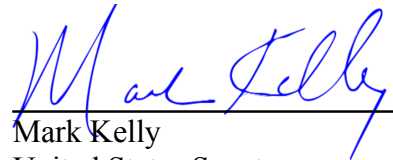
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
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Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator