

# Tennessee

## STATE MEDICAID FACTS

### Protect Your Healthcare, Schools and Hospitals


The U.S. Senate is moving to approve **\$800 billion in cuts** to Medicaid that have already passed the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill will also end Affordable Care Act coverage for millions, allow out-of-pocket healthcare costs to increase, and cut Medicare spending by \$500 billion. Overall, 16 million people will lose healthcare, with 551,000 individuals dying unnecessarily each year.<sup>547</sup>

The bill will cause **68,000 people in Tennessee to lose coverage from TennCare** (the state's Medicaid program).<sup>548</sup> Tennessee will lose \$6,026,000,000 in Medicaid funding.<sup>549</sup> That money could be made up through firing public service workers, raising your taxes by more than 5%, or reducing funding for schools and law enforcement.



medicaid helps  
**72 MILLION**  
people with disabilities, veterans,  
new mothers, retirees, students  
and low wage workers.


In Tennessee, **1,271,910 people** are supported by Medicaid.<sup>550</sup> This includes **46 percent of moms giving birth**,<sup>551</sup> **42 percent of children**<sup>552</sup> and **57 percent of grandparents and other seniors in nursing homes in Tennessee**.<sup>553</sup> Medicaid also supports **veterans, students, working families and AFT members**.



medicaid is the  
**LARGEST**  
health insurance provider for  
children in the United States and  
covers about half of all kids.

School health professionals, like speech pathologists, occupational therapists and school nurses and psychologists, all rely on Medicaid funding. **Without Medicaid, they will not be able to help as many of the 132,000 students in Tennessee schools with disabilities.**<sup>554</sup>

**We're in this fight together. Bipartisan** groups representing **state legislators, state governments, county managers and cities** are concerned about the fate of Medicaid.<sup>558</sup> **And 71 percent of voters who supported President Trump oppose cuts to Medicaid.**<sup>559</sup> We need you to **tell the political leaders and donors in Washington, D.C., to keep their hands off of TennCare:**[www.actionnetwork.org/letters/medicaid-cuts-2025](http://www.actionnetwork.org/letters/medicaid-cuts-2025)



more emergencies, less staff  
**TRAGEDY**  
More patients will use the ER in  
place of primary care, and staffing  
and workplace violence in hospitals  
will worsen if Medicaid funding is cut.

Medicaid accounts for 19 percent of all payments to hospitals nationwide.<sup>555</sup> Cuts **could lead to longer wait times, rushed care, hospital closures** and an increase in workplace violence and other challenges faced by our healthcare members. Rural areas and small towns could be impacted the worst, with families having to travel hours for maternity or cancer care.<sup>556</sup>



medicaid provides  
**THE MOST**  
federal funding to states for  
public services and  
schools. If Medicaid is  
cut, jobs will be lost.

Tennessee receives \$9,533,000,000 in federal Medicaid funding annually.<sup>557</sup> Gutting Medicaid will mean **job losses**—in hospitals, in schools and to Tennessee public service jobs.

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

# ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> LDI Staff, "Research Memo: Projected Mortality Impacts of the Budget Reconciliation Bill

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<sup>2</sup> Rhiannon Euhus et al., " Allocating CBO's Estimates of Federal Medicaid Spending Reductions and Enrollment Loss Across the States," KFF, June 4, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-and-enrollment-loss-across-the-states/>.

<sup>3</sup> Rhiannon Euhus et al., " Allocating CBO's Estimates of Federal Medicaid Spending Reductions and Enrollment Loss Across the States," KFF, June 4, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-and-enrollment-loss-across-the-states/>.

<sup>4</sup> Medicaid.gov, "October 2024 Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights," Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, January 15, 2025, [www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html).

<sup>5</sup> KFF, "Births Financed by Medicaid, 2023," State Health Facts, [www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/births-financed-by-medicaid/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\"colId\":\"Location\",\"sort\":\"asc\"}](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/births-financed-by-medicaid/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\).

<sup>6</sup> KFF, "Medicaid Coverage Rates for People Ages 0-64 by Age, 2023," State Health Facts, [www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/people-0-64-medicaid-rate-by-age/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\"colId\":\"Location\",\"sort\":\"asc\"}](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/people-0-64-medicaid-rate-by-age/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\).

<sup>7</sup> KFF, "Distribution of Certified Nursing Facility Residents by Primary Payer Source, 2024," State Health Facts, [www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-of-certified-nursing-facilities-by-primary-payer-source/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\"colId\":\"Location\",\"sort\":\"asc\"}](https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-of-certified-nursing-facilities-by-primary-payer-source/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel={\).

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Education, "Summary: Investments and Reach of the U.S. Department of Education," January 2025, <https://media.the-learning-agency.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/10133556/ED-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, "Medicaid Base and Supplemental Payments to Hospitals," Issue Brief, April 2024, [www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Medicaid-Base-and-Supplemental-Payments-to-Hospitals.pdf](https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Medicaid-Base-and-Supplemental-Payments-to-Hospitals.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Joan Alker et al., "Medicaid's Role in Small Towns and Rural Areas," Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, January 15, 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/01/15/medicaids-role-in-small-towns-and-rural-areas>.

<sup>11</sup> Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, "Medicaid Spending by State, Category, and Source of Funds," December 2024, [www.macpac.gov/publication/medicaid-spending-by-state-category-and-source-of-funds](https://www.macpac.gov/publication/medicaid-spending-by-state-category-and-source-of-funds).

<sup>12</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, "State and Local Government Organizations Express Concern Over Proposed Changes to Medicaid Financing and Requirements," February 21, 2025, <http://www.ncsl.org/press-room/details/state-and-local-government-organizations-express-concern-over-proposed-changes-to-medicaid-financing-and-requirements>.

<sup>13</sup> Jared Gans, "71 Percent of Trump Voters Oppose Medicaid Cuts: Poll," The Hill, February 25, 2025, [www.thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5163193-trump-voters-oppose-medicaid-cuts-poll](https://www.thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5163193-trump-voters-oppose-medicaid-cuts-poll).