**Medicaid Is a Lifeline for Marylanders with Disabilities**

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides health insurance and access to long-term care to **more than 1.6M people in Maryland**, including:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Around **34% of Marylanders with disabilities** aged 18-64 | Around **34% of Maryland children** | More than **121,000 adults** receiving long-term support and services |

 **WHAT MEDICAID MEANS FOR MARYLANDERS:**

* **Health:** Medicaid coverage unlocks access to health care and improves health.
* **Financial Security:** Medicaid protects families from high healthcare costs.
* **Dignity and Community:** Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) enable **103,000** disabled Marylanders to live, work, and participate in their communities.
* **Federal Investment:** In 2023, the federal government spent **$10.7B** on Medicaid in Maryland, providing around 63% of the program's total cost in the state.
* **Jobs:** Medicaid creates thousands of valuable local jobs in the healthcare sector and increases employment for people with disabilities.
* **Stronger Rural Hospitals:** Medicaid funding enables rural hospitals and other critical healthcare infrastructure to stay open and provide care to rural residents.

***71% of Maryland voters oppose cuts to Medicaid funding!***

**IMPACT TO MARYLAND’S ECONOMY:**

* Cuts to federal Medicaid funding would **shift costs onto Marylanders**, squeezing already tight state, local, and family budgets.
* The state would be **forced to make up for the loss in federal funds by raising taxes**, reducing eligibility for Medicaid or benefits, increasing costs for individuals and families, paying providers less, or cutting state funding from other areas like K-12 education.
* The risk of cuts to HCBS is especially significant because **the state spends more on HCBS than any other optional benefit**. Plus, 35,000 Marylanders are currently on a waitlist to receive Medicaid-funded HCBS
* Without adequate HCBS funding, **thousands of Marylanders with disabilities would lose their independence** and be forced into nursing homes or state-run institutions