

MICHIGAN CHAPTERS!

June 13, 2025

The Arc of the US and Its Priorities

1. The Arc of the US is an advocacy organization for individuals with disabilities and their families
2. The Arc is a network of nearly 600 state chapters, local chapters, advocates and The Arc of the United States
3. Protect Medicaid funding, services, and structure.
4. Protect the right of children with disabilities to a free, appropriate public education

US Department of Education

- Administers funding to states for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Provides technical assistance to states
- Funds teacher training
- Investigates violations of civil rights for students with disabilities
- Provides accurate information to the public about federal education laws

Key Dates

- March 11, 2025
 - 50% of US Department of Ed staff are subject to a reduction in force
- March 20, 2025
 - The Trump Administration issues an executive order to dismantle the US Department of Education
- March 31, 2025
 - The Arc of the US files legal declaration to provide factual information about the crucial work that the Department does to support students with disabilities
- May 22, 2025
 - Federal court rules Department of Education employees must be reinstated



What has not changed

- The statute and regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - State general supervision requirements
- The statute and regulations regarding students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The law that established the Department of Education

What is all means

- Delays in investigations of discrimination
- Delays in stakeholder responses to technical questions
- Uncertainty on existing and new guidance to assist states understand their roles and responsibilities
- Uncertainty in the continued flow of federal funding for formula and discretionary grants
- Profound brain drain as staff with decades of technical experience were terminated
- Legal actions to stop the dismantling of the Department

School Choice advances

- The House of Representatives budget bill includes the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA), a \$20 billion federal school voucher proposal
- The Arc opposes this policy because:
 - Not all private schools will enroll all students with disabilities
 - Parents may not understand fully the loss of due process protections if they place their child in a private school
 - Parents may not understand fully the loss of FREE in a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE)
 - **States still have to deliver FAPE regardless of funding**

The image features a background with a horizontal gradient from orange on the left to yellow on the right. On the far left, there is a large, solid orange triangle pointing to the right. On the far right, there is a large, solid yellow triangle pointing to the left. The word "Medicaid" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Medicaid

Current Make up of Congress

House of Representatives

- Total members: 435
- Republicans: 220
- Democrats: 212
- Vacancies 3

Senate

- Total members: 100
- Republicans: 53
- Democrats 45
- Independents 2

Our strategy -- Congress

1. Getting the necessary votes, one at a time
2. Targeting Republicans who have personal connections to disability or to The Arc
3. Providing accurate and timely information to our stakeholders, including the media
4. Focusing on the outcomes of policy
5. Reminding ourselves that its not over until its over



What Congress Needs to Hear From YOU

People with IDD Will Be Impacted

- Cuts to Medicaid in one area affect all others—cascading effect
- People with IDD are found in all parts of the Medicaid program
- Overall cut in federal funding and more uninsured will challenge hospitals and other medical providers.
- While the bill does not directly target HCBS spending --history shows that a loss of Medicaid funding hurts HCBS – see [study](#)



People with IDD Will Be Impacted By Work Requirements

Exemptions for IDD and others are vague and will vary by state

Many people with IDD are not on SSI

People who are exempt lose coverage because they cannot navigate or are unaware of the rules

People who are working part-time, seasonal jobs, or other work schedules will lose coverage because they do not fit into the rules or cannot navigate the changes

What We Are Hearing

- Just eliminating Fraud Waste and Abuse
 - Few provisions that enhance existing fraud detection programs
 - Bill labels the highly regulated, legal, provider tax provisions "abuse"
 - Bill labels frequent eligibility checks as fraud provisions

Also Hearing

- Doing this to protect the most vulnerable people and sustain Medicaid
 - Bill does **not** reinvest savings into the Medicaid program
 - Savings used for other federal priorities
 - Cuts will hurt the Medicaid program
 - Hospitals and other providers rely on Medicaid to keep health care system intact and cuts to coverage or general Medicaid mean more uncompensated care and threaten closures of health care facilities and fewer providers accepting Medicaid
 - Changes will likely require more cuts in Medicaid
 - Cuts will hurt vulnerable people
 - People will lose health coverage which means the doctor visits, medications, therapies, and other health care costs must be absorbed by individuals and families



Advocacy Actions

Comprehensive Medicaid Advocacy

1. Lobbyists on Capitol Hill

more than 100 visits with Republican members

2. Grassroots advocacy

More than 330,000 actions to Congress

Rallies at state capitals

3. Robust storytelling

800 stories for 24 hour rally

4. Getting the word out through the media

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT MEDICAID.



Chapter Advocacy:

The Arc Minnesota



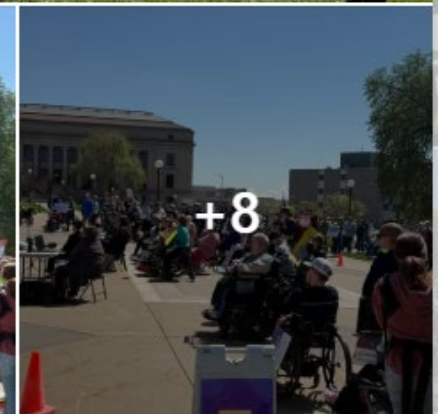
The Arc Minnesota

May 3 · ⚙️



Thank you, thank you, thank you, to our speakers, attendees, virtual supporters, partner organizations, and staff for making today's rally possible! We are stronger together!!

We're not done yet, we are committed to continuing the fight to protect disability rights!!! 🧡



Chapter Advocacy:

The Arc of Nebraska

Video credit: [The Arc of Nebraska](#)



Chapter Advocacy!

Across the country

- ABC Green Bay, WI: [The Arc Fond du Lac raises concerns on funding through President Trump's bill](#): **The Arc Fond du Lac interviewed.**
- Rochester Business Journal: [Don't abandon people with disabilities: Protect Medicaid funding](#): **Op-ed from The Arc of Monroe**
- CBS Des Moines, IA: ['Think about the children': Central Iowa family concerned about potential cuts to Medicaid](#): **Family connected to The Arc of Iowa featured.**
- Minnesota Public Radio: [Minnesotans, lawmakers in St. Paul protest federal cuts to disability funding](#): **The Arc of Minnesota featured.**
- Macomb Daily: [Local health advocates assess weight of possible Medicaid cuts](#): **The Arc of Macomb County interviewed.**
- AL.com: [Plan to cut Medicaid threatens a 'critical lifeline' for Alabamians with disabilities](#): **The Arc of Dekalb County featured.**
- Orleans Hub: [Arc GLOW joins other advocates in DC to 'Save Medicaid'](#): **Arc GLOW featured.**
- Capital & Main: [A Mother's Battle to Protect Her Son's Care](#): **The Arc of California interviewed.**


The background is a gradient from orange on the left to yellow on the right. Two large, thin white triangles point towards the center, framing the text.

Tools and Resources

2025 Medicaid Toolkit

This toolkit includes resources you can use to educate people with disabilities, family members, and lawmakers about the importance of and need for continued investment in Medicaid home and community-based services.


DOCX



READ FIRST
Advocacy Toolkit
Medicaid

Medicaid - How You Ca...


DOCX



**What Medicaid Cuts
Would Mean**

What Medicaid Cuts Me...


DOCX



**Key Talking Points
About Medicaid**

Key Talking Points Abo...


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**Medicaid
Links & Resources**

Medicaid Links and Res...


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**Medicaid Overview
Leave Behind**

Medicaid Overview Lea...


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**Medicaid Work
Requirements
Issue Brief**

Medicaid Work Require...


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**Medicaid
Words to Know**

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**Medicaid Funding
Explainer**

Medicaid Funding Expl...


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**Medicaid State Data
Leave Behind**

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**Medicaid Stories
You Can Share**

Medicaid Stories You Ca...


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**SAMPLE
Welcome Letter**

SAMPLE Welcome Lett...


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**SAMPLE
Meeting Agenda
Worksheet**
For Meetings With Lawmakers & Staff

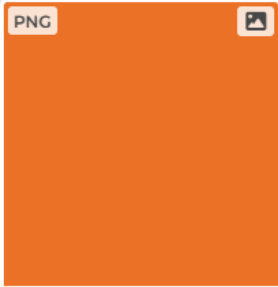
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Social Media Graphic -...

PNG



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Chapter Medicaid Toolkit

thearc.org/advocacytoolkits

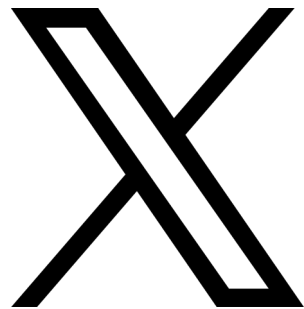
New Resources: In toolkit, or Coming Soon to toolkit

- House Bill overview
- Updated state fact sheets.
- New SNAP fact sheet.
- New graphics
- Updated action alert
 - – noting House votes + including SNAP
- Signs and buttons
 - sent to chapters in May.
- Coming week of June 16: short 101 video for advocates



The Arc's Action Center & Social Media

- We have updated petitions & ways to write members of Congress at thearc.org/action
- #WeActWednesday on social media
- Follow, share, uplift, subscribe, and tag us on



Process & Timeline



What are the steps?

The House of Representatives passed their version on May 22.

The House & Senate must pass the same bill.

The Senate must pass their version – they could make changes or keep it the same.

The President signs the bill, and it becomes law.

WE ARE HERE



Senate Tensions

- Some members are nervous about the cuts to Medicaid
- Some are nervous about increasing the deficit
- Many unknowns about how Senate will move forward
- July 4th goal to finish



**Its not over
until its over**



Thank you!!!