

URGING CONGRESS NOT TO CUT FUNDING FOR MEDICAID, THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, AND OTHER CRITICAL HEALTHCARE SUPPORTS

The Dane County Board of Supervisors requests and strongly urges the U.S. Congress not to make cuts to Medicaid and the Older Americans Act funding in the proposed 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

Members of the United States Congress are meeting now to consider which of the proposed more than \$2 trillion in federal Medicaid cuts will be included in 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

Members of Congress have indicated this reconciliation bill process will be “ambitious and aggressive.” It likely will move quickly through Congress before details are fully understood and before the public and local governments have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the consequences of the impact.

Cuts to the Medicaid program could significantly reduce Medicaid reimbursements to the county for mandated programs such as Children’s Long-Term Care for disabled children, Adult Family Care, and long-term elder care. Medicaid funds support Wisconsin’s institution diversion programs that keep kids, people with disabilities, and older adults out of more expensive nursing homes and institutions.

Federal cuts to Medicaid funding will leave states and counties with budget shortfalls, which would then either become the responsibility of the state or the county. The alternative would be to deny services for the disabled, elderly, or mentally ill, causing harm to the well-being of residents in our community. Reductions to other programs within the county that are not mandated might also be necessary to make up for the federal funding cuts.

In 2024, 8.54 percent of Dane County’s residents used a Medicaid program to get their health care and other supportive services, which is a rate that has stayed consistent or even declined slightly since 2013.

Medicaid funds pay community workers' salaries and support small businesses, hospitals, mental health professionals, therapists, school-based medical services, and many other jobs in every corner of Wisconsin, including Dane County.

Access to Medicaid funding improves the health and well-being of thousands of residents through preventive services, prenatal care, opioid and other drug treatment, behavioral health, crisis intervention, lead poisoning prevention and treatment, treatment of chronic disease, dental health, and support for seniors and people with disabilities, all of which provide for a healthier population and a more productive workforce.

Veterans, older adults, people living with disabilities or dementia, foster kids, people with mental illness, unpaid caregivers who have needed to leave the workforce to provide care for family members, low-wage paid caregivers, low-income children, and families all depend on Medicaid.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in Wisconsin offer a strong return on investment while significantly enhancing the well-being of individuals across the state. In 2023, every \$1 invested into ADRCs in Wisconsin led to a savings of \$3.88.

47 Older Americans Act funding is necessary to continue the ADRC's essential dementia care  
48 services and the senior nutrition program, for instance, which includes Meals on Wheels and  
49 congregate dining, programs which have been shown to reduce senior health issues,  
50 hospitalizations, and the isolation that harms our aging residents, along with associated  
51 personal and economic costs.

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53 Wisconsin's population is aging, and Dane County's projected aging population demographic is  
54 even higher than the state's as a whole, which means more Dane County seniors will require  
55 these services and care in the future.

56 Cuts to Medicaid and the Older Americans Act programs will hurt vulnerable individuals and  
57 families, the workers who support them, and the communities that must provide expensive crisis  
58 and hospital services when residents have nowhere else to turn for assistance.

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests  
60 and strongly urges its elected representatives to not include reductions in Medicaid and Older  
61 American Act funds in the 2025 budget reconciliation bills.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors invites residents to  
63 contact their elected representatives in the U.S. Congress to ask them to consider the harm that  
64 drastic cuts would cause to members of our community and to reject proposals that reduce  
65 federal funding for Medicaid and the Older Americans Act.

66 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Dane County's state  
67 and federal legislative delegations.