

## Crafting Your Medicaid Story



- Who you are
- Where you live
- Relevant identities - sibling, caretaker, future caretaker
- Life experience
- Work experience
- Connection to Medicaid
  - You can talk about a service that Medicaid helps you or your sibling pay for.  
Some examples:
    - Community living
    - Mental health treatment
    - Doctor's office visits
    - Medications
    - Rides to appointments or work
    - Medical devices
    - Home health care
    - Activities in the community
    - Employment services
  - You can talk about what would happen if your or your sibling could not get Medicaid services
    - Some key sibling considerations- Undo costs on you to provide for your sibling while also caring for your aging parents, fears for future planning with loss of a critical funding mechanism and related services for your sibling, want your sibling to work/attend day program and have a positive quality of life while you are also still in your working years/unable to provide extended daily care.
  - You can talk about how Medicaid services help you or your sibling live at home instead of an institution
  - You can talk about how Medicaid services help you or someone else survive. Many people would die if they did not get the Medicaid services they need.

## Protect Medicaid Call Script Template

### Basic template:

Introductions- Hi, I'm \_\_\_ and I'm a constituent of \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask- I'm calling to urge \_\_\_ to vote no to \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts to offset big tax breaks for the wealthy.

Personal story/connection to Medicaid- Role as caregiver or future caregiver of your sibling. Highlight your experience with Medicaid. Some key sibling considerations- Undo costs on you to provide for your sibling while also caring for your aging parents, fears for future planning with loss of a critical funding mechanism and related services, want your

sibling to work/attend day program and have a positive quality of life while you are also still in your working years/unable to provide extended daily care.

Stats- Nationally Medicaid provides health coverage for 36.8 million children, 60% of seniors in nursing homes, 41% of births, and funds critical services in our public school systems. Medicaid supports 17 million people with disabilities, like my \_\_\_\_, in the U.S., and covers health services that other providers do not.

Closer- Can I count on you to vote no to Medicaid cuts?

**Extended template:**

Hello.

My name is [NAME] and I live in [Town/City], [State]. [Provide a very short (1-2 sentence) introduction to who you are, which should establish any relevant identities you'd like to share (your life experience, work experience, etc.) and any other relevant people in your story]. I am calling because I know that Congressional leaders are currently negotiating the budget resolution, and I am worried about reports of deep cuts to Medicaid and other parts of the budget that are meant to offset big tax breaks for the wealthy.

[I or family member(s)] have Medicaid coverage. [Briefly (1-3 sentences) describe the challenge you or your family have faced that was helped by having Medicaid coverage].

I am calling to urge you to protect Medicaid and other programs that keep people healthy. Medicaid allows children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant people, and adults with low incomes to get the health care they need.

Nationally it provides health coverage for 36.8 million children, 60% of seniors in nursing homes, 41% of births, and funds critical services in our public school systems. Medicaid supports 17 million people with disabilities in the U.S., and covers health services that other providers do not. Medicaid helps 4.5 million people with disabilities to live, work, and engage in the community. It plays a significant role in local and state economies by keeping rural hospitals open, supporting job growth, and ultimately saving taxpayer dollars.

Will [Representative OR Senator] [Last Name] vote "no" on cuts to Medicaid and other programs to make sure your constituents can stay healthy and get the care they need, when they need it?

[IF NO ANSWER/ANSWERING MACHINE]: Provide your contact phone number and ask them to call you back as soon as possible.

[IF YES]: Thank them for their support!

Thank you for your support for Medicaid and the thousands of people like [me or my family] across our state who rely on this coverage to access care. I appreciate you taking this call and any actions you can take to protect Medicaid and other vital programs from cuts going forward.

[IF NOT SURE/NONCOMMITAL] Ask them what factors they are considering when thinking about the budget reconciliation process? What are their priorities? When do they expect to make a decision about whether or not they will vote to protect Medicaid?

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you for taking this call and for any actions you can take to protect vital health care programs from cuts. I will follow up with your office to check on the status of this request. [Be sure to follow up with them]

[IF NO]: Ask them for specifics about how they reached their decision. Take notes. This information can be used later for accountability actions.

I am disappointed to learn of your decision and scared for [myself or my family] and the thousands of people in our state who stand to lose coverage if these cuts are implemented. These cuts are cruel and will have devastating consequences for the individuals and families who need care most. A vote in favor of them is not a vote for your constituents.

### **Protect Medicaid Email Script - Meeting Request Template**

Dear [Representative OR Senator] [Last Name]:

I'm writing today to request a meeting with you or an appropriate staff person in your office about protecting Medicaid, and other health care program funding in the upcoming budget reconciliation process.

[Insert short introduction to who you are, which should establish any relevant identities you'd like to share (your life experience, work experience, etc.), where you live, and any other relevant people in your story].

[Briefly (1-3 sentences) describe the challenge you or your family have faced that was helped by having Medicaid coverage].

Protecting the Medicaid program is vitally important because it provides a lifeline for [me OR families like mine] that we can't afford to lose. I would like to speak with you about how Medicaid works for [me or my family], and what it would mean for the program to be cut.

As the budget resolution is expected to come out next month, I am interested in meeting with you as soon as possible. I am currently available during the following dates/times, but may be able to arrange other meeting times to accommodate your schedule:

[provide 2-4 possible meeting dates/times]

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

[Community Storyteller Name]

[Address]

[Contact Information]

## Protect Medicaid Email Template via [Action Alert](#)

I'm writing to you today to ask that you protect Medicaid, which is already under threat by Congress.

ADD: [Personal story/connection to Medicaid- Role as caregiver or future caregiver of your sibling. Highlight your experience with Medicaid and what would happen to your family if Medicaid is cut. Some key sibling considerations- Undo costs on you to provide for your sibling while also caring for your aging parents, fears for future planning with loss of a critical funding mechanism and related services, want your sibling to work/attend day program and have a positive quality of life while you are also still in your working years/unable to provide extended daily care.]

Over 80 million people – more than 1 in 5 people in the U.S. – rely on Medicaid for health insurance, including 17 million older adults and disabled people. Cuts or harmful changes to Medicaid would be devastating to the 7.8 million care recipients who rely on Medicaid for their aging and disability care in their homes and communities, and to the millions of family caregivers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

In 2023, 84% of voters, with agreement across party lines, said Congress should place a higher priority on protecting Medicaid from harmful cuts than cut Medicaid to get federal spending under control. We can't sacrifice people's care for tax breaks for billionaires.

Medicaid is a lifeline, playing a pivotal role in lowering costs for families and providing aging and disability care and comprehensive health care. Cutting or defunding Medicaid would also create major gaps in state funding and devastate state budgets. Any type of cut – whether as block grants, per capita caps, work requirements, or other changes – will take critical care away from millions of people.

Please, take action to protect this crucial care program and do not allow any cuts to Medicaid!

### Toolkits/Resources

- [Sibling Leadership Network](#)
- [National Down Syndrome Society](#)
- [Caring Across Generations](#)
- [Additional templates](#)
- [5 Calls](#)
- [Find your legislator](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- National Call-In Day, February 25, 2025- Use this call-in line to reach your member of Congress: 866-426-2631 (phone line provided by SEIU)