

## Health Care Advocacy Toolkit: For AAP Chapters and Members in Target States July 2017

The U.S. Senate recently delayed a vote on its health care bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), until sometime in July, with a goal of taking a vote before the August recess. For reference, here is the Academy's [statement](#) opposing the bill. The vote could come as soon as the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**That is where you come in.** The Academy has created this tailored advocacy toolkit for AAP chapters and members who live in states with senators who are legislative targets – in other words, their votes are particularly important in determining whether or not the Senate bill will pass.

Advocacy efforts in all 50 states are critical, but **strategic, consistent advocacy efforts in your state are especially important.** Pediatricians like you across the country have been doing unprecedented work to oppose the Senate bill and protect Medicaid – we cannot let up now.

Congress is on recess the week of July 5, but will return to Washington the week of July 10. At any point during recess or in the days that follow when they return to Washington to work on a deal, your advocacy will be critical. For the latest information on where your senators stand on the bill, please see this New York Times [article](#).

**There are several actions you can take right now:**

1) **Call your senators' and governor's offices**

Each call to an elected official's office is logged, which is why it is critical that we continue to call the offices of senators and governors, urging them to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act. Introduce yourself as constituent and a child health expert who can speak directly to the needs of children in their state. The contact information for each of their offices is listed below. **Please use the key messages we've provided for each lawmaker in your state's section to help guide your conversation.** If you have only a short phone conversation, those are the messages that would be most effective to share. General talking points to guide these calls can be found at the end of this [document](#).

- *Governor advocacy:* In reaching out to your governors, the main goal is to explain how Medicaid is a lifeline for children in your state. Explain how the program works and why it is so important to your patients. Emphasize that the Senate bill is devastating to both children's health and the economic health of your state. This [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states. The ask is for them to share that information with the senators and urge them to oppose the Senate health care bill.

2) **Share your story in the media**

Op-eds and blogs published are an effective way for pediatricians to use their child health expertise and patient perspectives to outline how the Senate bill would harm children and families in their state. Especially if your state is on this list and there has not already been a piece published by a pediatrician, please consider drafting an op-ed to be published in your local newspaper. **Use the key messages and the state-specific resources we've included in your state's section to guide your piece.**

- General Instructions and sample messages can be found at the end of this [document](#).

- You can also proactively follow your newspapers' coverage of the health care bill and look for opportunities to weigh in with a letter to the editor in response to a piece that has already been published.
- If you are published, use social media to increase your audience reach and amplify your message by sharing a link to the piece using #KeepKidsCovered.

Please click on your state below for more information:

- 1) [Alaska](#)
- 2) [Arizona](#)
- 3) [Florida](#)
- 4) [Kentucky](#)
- 5) [Maine](#)
- 6) [Montana](#)
- 7) [Nevada](#)
- 8) [Ohio](#)
- 9) [South Carolina](#)
- 10) [Texas](#)
- 11) [Utah](#)
- 12) [West Virginia](#)
- 13) [Wisconsin](#)

## Alaska

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**Alaska** is a target state because of **Senator Lisa Murkowski (R)**.

Her main concern with the Senate bill is its defunding of Planned Parenthood. She has stated that she is optimistic Planned Parenthood funding will be preserved.

DC Office phone number: (202) 224-6665

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Murkowski:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Alaska, I urge you to please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act. In Alaska, more than 90,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance. The funding cuts the bill makes to the Medicaid program would be devastating to these children.
- In our state, 8 in 10 Alaska Medicaid enrollees is in a working household.
- Currently, 30% of the federal funds received by Alaska is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.

- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

**Governor information:**

Governor Bill Walker (I)

Position on the Senate bill: Unsure

Governor Walker has expressed concern with a one-size-fits-all approach. He chose to expand Medicaid coverage two years ago, and has stated that he and his team are analyzing the Senate health care bill and its effects on Alaskans.

In-state phone number: (907) 465-3500

Website: <https://gov.alaska.gov/>

**Key Messages for Governor Walker:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Alaska, I urge you to please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act. In Alaska, more than 90,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance. The funding cuts the bill makes to the Medicaid program would be devastating to these children.
- In our state, 8 in 10 Alaska Medicaid enrollees is in a working household.
- Currently, 30% of the federal funds received by Alaska is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please urge Senator Murkowski to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

**State-specific data:**

- Alaska children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Alaska, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **61%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Alaska, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **41.7%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- An [analysis](#) from Manatt for the AK Department of Health and Human Services that shows the impact of the BCRA’s Medicaid provisions on Alaska
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

## Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:

**No pediatrician op-eds or videos yet!**

## Arizona

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**Arizona** is a target state because of **Senator John McCain (R)** and **Senator Jeff Flake (R)**.

Senator McCain's main concern with the bill is its CBO score. Senator McCain also said he wants to be on the same page as Governor Doug Ducey in terms of Medicaid cuts.

Senator Flake expressed concern at the rushed process to introduce and vote on the bill and vowed to read and review it thoroughly. He has been quieter about his concerns on the bill but is up for re-election in 2018 and is considered vulnerable.

Senator McCain's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-2235

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.mccain.senate.gov/>

Senator Flake's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-4521

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.flake.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator McCain:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Arizona, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, more than 900,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Arizona's children and families.
- Senator McCain, you are right to be concerned with the bill's cuts to Medicaid. Currently, 60% of the federal funds received by Arizona is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Key Messages for Senator Flake:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Arizona, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, more than 900,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Arizona's children and families.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*

- Senator Flake, now that you have had a chance to read the bill thoroughly I hope you come to share my concern that its harmful proposals to cut or cap Medicaid will leave Arizona’s children and my patients worse off.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

**Governor information:**

Governor Doug Ducey (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Unsure

Governor Ducey wrote a letter to Senator McCain expressing concern about cuts to Medicaid because Arizona is a Medicaid expansion state.

In-state phone number: (602) 542-4331

Website: <https://azgovernor.gov/>

**Key Messages for Governor Ducey:**

- Governor Ducey, thank you for expressing your concerns about the Senate health care bill’s cuts to Medicaid funding. I am a pediatrician in Arizona and Medicaid is a lifeline program for many of my patients. In fact, in our state, more than 900,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage.
- Currently, 60% of the federal funds received by Arizona is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid expansion has been particularly crucial in allowing more and more parents of my patients who were previously uninsured, many of whom work jobs that do not provide insurance, to receive coverage. This has allowed them to access care more frequently and be healthier themselves, and which benefits their children as well.
- Please urge Senators Flake and McCain to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

**State-specific data:**

- Arizona children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Arizona, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **48%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Arizona, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **25.5%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)

- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

**No pediatrician op-eds or videos yet!**

## **Florida**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**Florida** is a target state because of **Senator Marco Rubio (R)**.

Senator Rubio has said he will vote on the health care bill depending on how it impacts those in Florida.

Senator Rubio's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-3041

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Rubio:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in our state, I can attest to the devastating effects the Senate health care bill will have on children and families in our state. In particular, the drastic cuts to Medicaid would directly impact the 2.4 million children in Florida who rely on the program.
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 57% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid. With the exception of Texas, Florida still has the highest uninsured rate in the South, with 284,000 children remaining uninsured.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Currently, Florida ranks among the 10 states projected to have the most significant economic consequences and job losses due to the BCRA.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Rick Scott (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Unsure

Governor Scott said he wants changes to the bill before it goes to vote, particularly a guarantee that Florida will not receive less money per person than states that participated in Medicaid expansion.

In-state phone number: (850) 488-7146

Website: <http://www.flgov.com/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Scott:**

- I am a pediatrician in Florida, and I am deeply concerned with the Senate health care bill and its cuts to the Medicaid program. In our state, 2.4 million children rely on the program. *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 57% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid. With the exception of Texas, Florida still has the highest uninsured rate in the South, with 284,000 children remaining uninsured.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Governor Scott, you are right to be concerned that our state will be short-changed under this bill, receiving less federal funding to provide the same care. This will force Florida to make difficult choices of which services to offer and how many people to provide care for – when the reality is that Medicaid is currently flexible, as federal funds adjust to cover new public health threats like Zika that impact our state, and comprehensive, offering preventive services that save our healthcare system money and save lives.
- Currently, Florida ranks among the 10 states projected to have the most significant economic consequences and job losses due to the BCRA.
- Please urge Senator Rubio to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

#### **State-specific data:**

- Florida children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Florida, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **62%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Florida, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **34.4%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

#### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [I am a medical student and Medicaid was a lifeline for my family](#) (Tampa Bay Times, 6/26/17)
- [We must maintain the safety net for medically vulnerable children](#) (Florida Times-Union, 6/19/17)
- [American Health Care Act is bad for children](#) (Tallahassee Democrat, 3/23/17)
- [Dr. Nancy Silva on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Rachel Dawkins on Twitter](#)

## **Kentucky**

#### ***Background:***

#### **Senator information:**

**Kentucky** is a target state because of **Senator Rand Paul (R)**.

Senator Paul's main concern with the bill is that it doesn't do enough to repeal Obamacare and bring down insurance premiums. It is important to note that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is from Kentucky.

Senator Paul's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-4343

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.paul.senate.gov/>

#### Key Messages for Senator Paul:

- I am a pediatrician in Kentucky and I am concerned about the devastating effects the Senate health care bill will have on children and families in our state. Medicaid is a lifeline for the more than 530,000 children in Kentucky who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country's future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- Under the Affordable Care Act, Kentucky saw the largest drop in the rate of uninsured working adults from 2013-2015, dropping 25 percentage points from 38% in 2013 to 13% in 2015.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

#### Governor information:

Governor Matt Bevin (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Supports

Governor Bevin reluctantly supports the bill. He does not think it is a good bill, but he does not support Medicaid expansion and favors states having more control.

In-state phone number: (502) 564-2611

Website: <http://governor.ky.gov/>

#### Key Messages for Governor Bevin:

- I am a pediatrician in Kentucky and I am concerned about the devastating effects the Senate health care bill will have on children and families in our state. Medicaid is a lifeline for the more than 530,000 children in Kentucky who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country's future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- Under the Affordable Care Act, Kentucky saw the largest drop in the rate of uninsured working adults from 2013-2015, dropping 25 percentage points from 38% in 2013 to 13% in 2015.
- Please urge Senator Paul to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

#### State-specific data:

- Kentucky children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Kentucky, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **231%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Kentucky, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **58.5%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [Kentucky children make 'undeniable' health care gains, but advocates fear setback](#) (Courier-Journal, 6/13/17)
- **No pediatrician op-eds or videos yet!**

## **Maine**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**Maine** is a target state because of **Senator Susan Collins (R)**.

Senator Collins is concerned with the bill's language defunding Planned Parenthood, calling it "unfair and short-sighted" and "just wrong." She has said she cannot support a bill that would result in millions of people losing health insurance and mentioned that during the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess her constituents were thanking her for her opposition to the Senate bill.

Senator Collins' DC Office phone number: (202) 224-2523

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.collins.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Collins:**

- I am a pediatrician in Maine and I want to thank you for your continued opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. This bill would be devastating to the children and families in our state that rely on Medicaid. In Maine, more than 150,000 children are enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Parents in rural areas whose children were privately insured were more than twice as likely to report problems paying medical bills compared to parents in rural areas whose children were enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*

- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Paul LePage (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor LePage thinks the new bill does not go far enough to fix the current law.

In-state phone number: (207) 287-3531

Website: <http://www.maine.gov/governor/lepage/index.shtml>

### **Key Messages for Governor LePage:**

- I am a pediatrician in Maine and I am concerned about the devastating effects the Senate health care bill will have on children and families in our state. Medicaid is a lifeline program for the more than 150,000 children in Maine who rely on the program.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country's future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- Please urge Senator Collins to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- Maine children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Maine, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **81%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Maine, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **21.1%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy examples:**

- [Dr. Daniel Summers on Twitter](#)
- **No pediatrician op-eds yet!**

## **Montana**

### ***Background:***

## **Senator information:**

**Montana** is a target state because of **Senator Steve Daines (R)**.

Senator Daines has not taken a position on the bill. He has said he wants the bill to reduce premiums and make health care more affordable. He also wants to ensure those with pre-existing conditions have access to care and wants to protect Medicaid for the most vulnerable.

DC Office phone number: (202)-224- 2651

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.daines.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Daines:**

- As a pediatrician in Montana, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid is a lifeline program for the more than 99,000 children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*
- Currently, 34% of the federal funds received by Montana is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

## **Governor information:**

Governor Steve Bullock (D)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor Bullock has spoken out against the secretive, partisan nature in which the Senate bill was drafted. He has shared his opposition to the bill and its consequences for hard-working Montana families.

In-state phone number: (406) 444-3111

Website: <http://governor.mt.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Bullock:**

- Governor Bullock, thank you for your continued opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. As a pediatrician in Montana, I am extremely concerned with the bill's drastic cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid is a lifeline program for the more than 99,000 children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*
- Currently, 34% of the federal funds received by Montana is for Medicaid. If federal funding for the program is cut, our state could be forced to chip away at insurance coverage and benefits in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Please urge Senator Daines to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

## State-specific data:

- Montana children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Montana, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **134%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Montana, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **39.1%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

## Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:

**No pediatrician op-eds or videos yet!**

## Nevada

### **Background:**

### **Senator information:**

**Nevada** is a target state because of **Senator Dean Heller (R)**.

Senator Heller is concerned about the impact of the bill on Nevada as a state that accepted Medicaid expansion. He also participated in a press event with Governor Sandoval and aligns with his opposition to the bill. He is up for re-election in 2018 and is considered vulnerable.

Senator Heller's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-6244

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.heller.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Heller:**

- Senator Heller, as a pediatrician in Nevada, I want to thank you for expressing your concern over the Senate health care bill's cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid is a lifeline for the more than 350,000 children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Currently, 59% of the total federal funds received by our state is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*

- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Brian Sandoval (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor Sandoval has said he is pleased with the current insurance situation in Nevada, and disagrees with the current bill as written. Governor Sandoval wrote a letter to Senator McCain expressing concern about cuts to Medicaid because Nevada is a Medicaid expansion state.

In-state phone number: (775) 684-5670

Website: <http://gov.nv.gov/contact/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Sandoval:**

- Governor Sandoval, thank you for expressing your concerns about the Senate health care bill's cuts to Medicaid funding. I am a pediatrician in Nevada and I want to thank you for your opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. The bill's drastic cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to the more than 350,000 children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance. It is important that you remain strongly opposed to any bill that includes cuts to the Medicaid program.
- Currently, 59% of the total federal funds received by our state is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Right now, 92% of Nevada children have health insurance; this bill would reverse that progress.
- Please continue to urge Senator Heller to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- Nevada children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Nevada, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **78%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Nevada, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **48.2%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [ACA improved care for Nevada's kids: Reno pediatricians](#) (Reno Gazette-Journal, 3/13/2017)
- **Could use another op-ed and no pediatrician videos yet!**

# Ohio

## **Background:**

### **Senator information:**

**Ohio** is a target state because of **Senator Rob Portman (R)**.

Senator Portman is concerned with the Medicaid policies in the bill, especially policies that impact drug treatment amid the opioid epidemic his state is facing.

Senator Portman's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-3353

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.portman.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Portman:**

- As a pediatrician in Ohio, I want to thank you for expressing your concerns over the Senate health care bill's cuts to the Medicaid program. Medicaid is a lifeline for the 1.3 million children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*
- Currently, 72% of the total federal funds received by Ohio is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next. This could also negatively impact the Medicaid funding used for drug and substance use disorder treatment amid the opioid epidemic our state is experiencing.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act

### **Governor information:**

Governor John Kasich (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor Kasich has expressed his opposition to the bill and his upmost concerns with rising health care costs, which he believes the bill does not address. Governor Kasich wrote a letter to Senator McCain expressing concern about cuts to Medicaid because Ohio is a Medicaid expansion state.

In-state phone number: (614) 466-3555

Website: <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Kasich:**

- Governor Kasich, thank you for expressing your concerns about the Senate health care bill's cuts to Medicaid funding. I am a pediatrician in Maine and I am concerned about the devastating effects the Better Care Reconciliation Act will have on children and families in our state. Medicaid is a lifeline for the 1.3 million children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance. It is important that you remain strongly opposed to any bill that includes cuts to the Medicaid program.
- *Share a brief anecdote about a patient you care for on Medicaid.*

- Currently, 72% of the total federal funds received by Ohio is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next. This could also negatively impact the Medicaid funding used for drug and substance use disorder treatment amid the opioid epidemic our state is experiencing.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please urge Senator Portman to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

#### **State-specific data:**

- Ohio children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Ohio, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **184%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Ohio, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **38.3%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)

#### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [Don't take away the Medicaid lifeline that protects our children's health coverage](#) (Cleveland.com, 6/22/2017)
- [Dr. Anika Kumar on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Elise Berlan on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Margaret Stager on Twitter](#)

## **South Carolina**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**South Carolina** is a target state because of **Senator Lindsey Graham (R)**.

Senator Graham said the CBO score will make it “harder to get to 50 [votes], not easier.”

Senator Graham’s DC Office phone number: (202) 224-5972

District Office phone number: Find your senator’s name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/>

**Key Messages for Senator Graham:**

- I am a pediatrician who cares for children in South Carolina and I am urging you to oppose the Senate health care bill. The drastic cuts the bill makes to Medicaid would be devastating to the more than 630,000 children in our state who rely on the program for health insurance.
- Seventy-two percent of the total federal funds received by South Carolina is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 57% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Henry McMaster (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Undetermined

In-state phone number: (803) 734 - 2100

Website: <http://governor.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Key Messages for Governor McMaster:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in South Carolina, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, more than 630,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to South Carolina's children and families.
- Seventy-two percent of the total federal funds received by South Carolina is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 57% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please urge Senator Graham to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- South Carolina children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In South Carolina, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **36%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In South Carolina, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **22.5%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)

- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [Letters: Medicaid is essential to child well-being](#) (The State, 4/2/2017)
- [Dr. Michael Foxworth on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Eliza Varadi on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Deborah Greenhouse on Twitter](#)

## **Texas**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

Texas is a target state because of **Senator Ted Cruz (R)**.

Senator Cruz says the bill needs more work because it does not do enough to lower insurance premiums. He is pursuing an amendment with Senator Lee of Utah that would even further unravel many of the ACA's consumer protections.

Senator Cruz's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-5922

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.cruz.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Cruz:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Texas, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, 3.5 million children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Texas' children and families.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country's future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- I would welcome the opportunity to discuss what I've seen in my own practice/clinic/hospital and how important Medicaid is to my patients.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Greg Abbott (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Undetermined

In-state phone number: (512) 463-2000

Website: <https://gov.texas.gov/>

## Key Messages for Governor Abbott:

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Texas, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act's drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, 3.5 million children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Texas' children and families.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country's future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- I would welcome the opportunity to discuss what I've seen in my own practice/clinic/hospital and how important Medicaid is to my patients.
- Please urge Senator Cruz to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

## State-specific data:

- Texas children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Texas, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **22%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Texas, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **14.4%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

## Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:

- [Cuts to Medicaid would badly damage health care in rural Texas](#) (Dallas Morning News, 6/12/2017)
- [AHCA's Medicaid cuts would endanger Texas kids' health](#) (Dallas News, 3/24/2017)
- [Dr. Ruchi Kaushik on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Ana Monterrey on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Bob Stephens on Twitter](#)
- [Dr. Padma Swamy on Twitter](#)

## Utah

### **Background:**

### **Senator information:**

**Utah** is a target state because of **Senator Mike Lee (R)**.

Senator Lee believes the bill does not adequately repeal current law, keeping the current system intact and “with less spending on the poor to pay for corporate bailouts and tax cuts.” He wants the bill to be amended to allow states to waive additional ACA consumer protections.

Senator Lee’s DC Office phone number: (202) 224-5444

District Office phone number: Find your senator’s name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.lee.senate.gov/>

#### Key Messages for Senator Lee:

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Utah, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act’s drastic cuts to Medicaid. In our state, more than 250,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Utah’s children and families.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country’s future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- I would welcome the opportunity to discuss what I’ve seen in my own practice/clinic/hospital and how important Medicaid is to my patients.
- Please oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

#### Governor information:

Governor Gary Herbert (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor Herbert has said that he wants more bipartisanship efforts in crafting the bill.

In-state phone number: (801) 538-1000

Website: <https://utah.gov/governor/index.html>

#### Key Messages for Governor Herbert:

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Utah, I am extremely concerned with the Better Care Reconciliation Act’s drastic cuts to Medicaid. Thank you for your opposition to the bill. In our state, more than 250,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The program is a true lifeline to Utah’s children and families.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Medicaid allows us to invest in our state and country’s future. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid miss fewer school days due to illness or injury, do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn higher wages and pay more in taxes than their uninsured peers.
- I would welcome the opportunity to discuss what I’ve seen in my own practice/clinic/hospital and how important Medicaid is to my patients.
- Please urge Senator Lee to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- Utah children's coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Utah, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **72%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Utah, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **22%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

**No pediatrician op-eds or videos yet!**

## **West Virginia**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**West Virginia** is a target state because of **Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R)**.

Senator Capito's main concern about the bill revolves around the lack of opioid funding for West Virginia. She believes the cuts to Medicaid are too deep and that the bill harms rural health providers.

Senator Capito's DC Office phone number: (202) 224-6472

District Office phone number: Find your senator's name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.capito.senate.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Senator Moore Capito:**

- I am a pediatrician in West Virginia and I want to thank you for your continued opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. This bill would be devastating to the children and families in our state that rely on Medicaid. In West Virginia, more than 240,000 children are enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Currently, 79% of the total federal funds received by West Virginia is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next. This could also negatively impact the Medicaid funding used for drug and substance use treatment amid the opioid epidemic our state is experiencing.
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 51% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid.

- With 87% of West Virginia's children living in or near poverty level, Medicaid ensures the basic right of children to have a chance to be healthy and productive members of our community.
- Medicaid covers 54 percent of children in West Virginia who have disabilities or other special health care needs, like juvenile diabetes, congenital heart conditions or asthma. Medicaid also covers big-ticket items like hospital stays, surgeries and prescriptions.
- The BCRA would increase the uninsurance rate in our state by more than 300%. This is a flawed solution to a problem that simply does not exist, and a misguided policy that would leave West Virginia's children and families considerably worse off.
- The number of children in foster care has increased drastically with the rise of the opioid epidemic. All children in foster care are currently entitled to Medicaid. This bill would severely harm this particularly vulnerable population.
- Children's hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Jim Justice (D)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes

Governor Justice wrote letters to both West Virginia senators asking them to carefully consider the consequences of Medicaid cuts on West Virginia residents.

In-state phone number: (304) 558 - 2000

Website: <http://www.governor.wv.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Justice:**

- Governor Justice, thank you for expressing your concerns about the Senate health care bill's cuts to Medicaid funding. I am a pediatrician in West Virginia and I want to thank you for your continued opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. This bill would be devastating to the children and families in our state that rely on Medicaid. In West Virginia, more than 240,000 children are enrolled in the Medicaid program. It is important that you remain strongly opposed to any bill that includes cuts to the Medicaid program.
- Currently, 79% of the total federal funds received by West Virginia is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next. This could also negatively impact the Medicaid funding used for drug and substance use treatment amid the opioid epidemic our state is experiencing.
- The impact of the bill would be felt especially hard in rural communities. In our state, 51% of children in rural areas and small towns are covered by Medicaid.
- With 87% of West Virginia's children living in or near poverty level, Medicaid ensures the basic right of children to have a chance to be healthy and productive members of our community.
- Medicaid covers 54 percent of children in West Virginia who have disabilities or other special health care needs, like juvenile diabetes, congenital heart conditions or asthma. Medicaid also covers big-ticket items like hospital stays, surgeries and prescriptions.
- The BCRA would increase the uninsurance rate in our state by more than 300%. This is a flawed solution to a problem that simply does not exist, and a misguided policy that would leave West Virginia's children and families considerably worse off.

- The number of children in foster care has increased drastically with the rise of the opioid epidemic. All children in foster care are currently entitled to Medicaid. This bill would severely harm this particularly vulnerable population.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- West Virginia children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In West Virginia, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **309%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In West Virginia, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **48.9%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))
- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [Kids in pro-Trump rural areas have a lot to lose if GOP rolls back Medicaid](#) (Los Angeles Times, 7/6/2017)
- [Saving Medicaid means saving WV kids’ lives](#) (Charleston Gazette-Mail, 5/20/2017)
- [Dr. Lisa Costello on Twitter](#)

## **Wisconsin**

### ***Background:***

### **Senator information:**

**Wisconsin** is a target state because of **Senator Ron Johnson (R)**.

Senator Johnson’s view is that the bill is not comprehensive enough and needs more revision. He says the current plan does not do enough to bring down insurance premiums and has spoken out against the speed at which the Republicans are moving to advance the bill.

Senator Johnson’s DC Office phone number: (202) 224-5323

District Office phone number: Find your senator’s name in [this spreadsheet](#), which lists all of the District office phone numbers

Website: <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/>

**Key Messages for Senator Johnson:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Wisconsin, I thank you for opposing the Better Care Reconciliation Act and urge you to continue to oppose the bill. In Wisconsin, more than 540,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance. The funding cuts the bill makes to the Medicaid program would be devastating to these children.
- Currently, 45% of the total federal funds received by Wisconsin is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Right now, 96% of children in Wisconsin have health insurance; this bill would reverse that progress.
- Please continue to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **Governor information:**

Governor Scott Walker (R)

Position on the Senate bill: Opposes in its current form

The AP reported on June 23 Governor Walker supports Senator Johnson’s opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act “at this point.”

In-state phone number: (608) 266 - 1212

Website: <https://walker.wi.gov/>

### **Key Messages for Governor Walker:**

- As a pediatrician who cares for children in Wisconsin, I want to thank you for your continued opposition to the Better Care Reconciliation Act. In Wisconsin, more than 540,000 children rely on Medicaid for health insurance. The funding cuts the bill makes to the Medicaid program would be devastating to these children.
- Currently, 45% of the total federal funds received by Wisconsin is for Medicaid. If this funding is cut, our state may be forced to chip away at health care coverage in other ways, pitting one vulnerable population against the next.
- Children’s hospitals would also suffer from Medicaid funding cuts, which would affect all patients not just those on Medicaid.
- Right now, 96% of children in Wisconsin have health insurance; this bill would reverse that progress.
- Please continue to urge Senator Johnson to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

### **State-specific data:**

- Wisconsin children’s coverage [fact sheet](#)
- New [brief](#): State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act
  - In Wisconsin, how much higher would the uninsured rate be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **73%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one\\_percent\\_change\\_bcra-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/one_percent_change_bcra-final.pdf))
  - In Wisconsin, how much lower would federal health care spending be under the Senate bill (BCRA) than under the ACA in 2022? **22.4%** (source: [http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two\\_bcra\\_fed\\_spend-final.pdf](http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/two_bcra_fed_spend-final.pdf))

- The Georgetown Center for Children and Families [Rural Health Report](#) and [state data](#) on child health coverage in small towns and rural areas (including county level data)
- A [new report](#) from the Commonwealth Fund shows the state-by-state economic and employment consequences for states
- [Data](#) from the Center for American Progress on the net loss in health insurance coverage in 2026 under the BCRA

### **Pediatrician advocacy & news coverage examples:**

- [Pediatricians Concerned Health Bill Would Reduce Kids' Care](#) (Wisconsin Public Radio, (6/27/2017)
- [Privately insured? What happens to Medicaid affects you too](#) (The Cap Times, 6/5/2017)
- [Letters: Medicaid works](#) (Sheboygan Press, 3/22/2017)
- [Dr. Jeff Britton on Facebook](#)
- [Dr. Dipesh Navsaria on Twitter](#)

## **Write a Blog or Op-ed About Opposing BCRA and Protecting Medicaid**

Using the below messages as a guide, consider writing a personal story about how capping Medicaid funding would impact your patients by writing a blog or op-ed in a local or national media outlet. Please email [kids1st@aap.org](mailto:kids1st@aap.org) with any op-ed you write for help editing and pitching the piece. **Please use the key messages and state-specific data in your state's section to personalize your piece.** A few example pediatrician pieces are included at the bottom of this section as well.

### **SAMPLE TEXT**

As a pediatrician in **x city**, I know first-hand the importance of ensuring children have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage. Today, I am using my voice to urge Senators **{insert names}** not to cap or cut Medicaid funding in their healthcare bill.

As we speak, the Senate is preparing to vote on a bill that includes unprecedented cuts to Medicaid, a leading source of health care coverage for 37 million children nationwide and **{insert state number}** here in **{your state}**. This bill has been crafted in secret, with no public hearings, and no opportunity for our elected officials to hear from those of us whose lives will be directly impacted by the health care legislation they are proposing. Our children deserve far better.

Right now, the coverage rate among children in our state is **{insert state number}**. Medicaid is a significant reason for this progress, and the bill currently up for a vote in the Senate would reverse these gains and leave children and families worse off.

Any proposals that would lead to cuts to eligibility in the Medicaid program would mean less coverage for those who need it most, children with special health care needs and low-income families. In **{your state}**, **{insert state number}** of children with disabilities or other special health care needs like juvenile diabetes and congenital heart conditions are covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. These children depend on Medicaid, and the Senate's proposal to cap its funding would jeopardize their access to critical services they need to thrive.

**{Insert personal anecdotes or patient stories about how Medicaid works for children in your state}**

Medicaid works, plain and simple. Its federal-state partnership model gives states flexibility in covering the needs of our patients, its benefits are designed with children’s unique needs in mind to cover essential screenings and services, and its affordability has allowed millions of families to turn to it for coverage without compromising their ability to make ends meet.

Capping Medicaid funding is not the way forward. Capping Medicaid means our state would be responsible for any dollar amount over the fixed cap provided by the federal government to cover patients in our state. Capping Medicaid does not account for unexpected public health crises like the opioid epidemic. Capping Medicaid would force states to make devastating cuts in order to stay afloat financially – scaling back the benefits our children need, cutting people from the program, or otherwise making it no longer meet the needs of the population it’s intended to serve. This is not the answer for **{your state}** and it is not the answer for our children.

Medicaid is an entitlement program, but it’s also an empowerment program. Medicaid allows families to hold down jobs while caring for ill children. It allows pregnant women to access vital services to ensure she and her baby stay healthy, and it provides critical supports for people with disabilities so they can live independently.

I urge Senators **{insert names}** to protect Medicaid by opposing the Senate bill, and in so doing, protect **{your state}** children.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Other recently published pediatrician op-eds:
  - An [op-ed](#) by Kimberly Mukerjee, MD, FAAP, in The Times-Picayune, Congress shouldn't deprive children of health care
  - A [piece](#) by DeWayne Pursley, MD, MPH, FAAP, president of the AAP Massachusetts Chapter, and John Zupancic, MD, FAAP, chair of the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine published in STAT News
  - A [piece](#) from Tony Johnson, MD, FAAP, past president of the AAP Arkansas Chapter, “Protect the kids”

## Calling Your Senators and Governor

You can find the phone numbers for the DC and state offices in your state’s section above. Also, the full list of Senate office phone numbers can be found [here](#). **Important: Please use the key messages in your state’s section to guide these calls, as well as the state-specific data.** Below are general talking points you can also reference.

### Talking points:

- Medicaid covers children from low-income families and children with special health care needs. It's a lifeline program for **{insert number of children on Medicaid from your [state fact sheet](#)}** in our state.
- The U.S. Senate health care bill fails children. In particular, the fundamental changes and drastic cuts the bill would make to Medicaid would be devastating to the children and families who rely on the program. It would leave more families uninsured, or without insurance they can afford or that meets their basic needs.
- *Insert brief anecdote if you have one of a patient on Medicaid who would be impacted*

- Medicaid allows a college student with cerebral palsy to live independently. Medicaid pays for a toddler's wheelchair, and as she grows over time, it covers the next one and the one after that. Medicaid is there for families struggling from the opioid epidemic, covering treatment for parents and services for their children. Medicaid covers a grandmother's chemotherapy and a newborn baby's emergency heart surgery and a six-year-old's hearing screening and a teenager's asthma inhaler.
- The bill includes misleading 'protections' for children by proposing to exempt them from certain Medicaid cuts. A 'carve out' for some children determined to be 'disabled' does not work if Medicaid is stripped of overall funding, which will force states to chip away coverage in other ways.
- Through Medicaid, children are guaranteed benefits that cover a comprehensive array of medically necessary services, including developmental, vision and hearing screenings. Pediatricians recommend these services because they help diagnose, treat and prevent complex conditions right away, saving money and lives. Capping Medicaid funding means these services could be rolled back or eliminated altogether.
- In addition, Medicaid expansion allowed many previously uninsured parents to gain coverage, making them better able to care for their children. This bill would reverse that progress.