

Protect Medicaid to Protect Access to Medically Necessary Rehabilitation Services

The American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) shares the concerns of the physician and patient advocacy communities with recently proposed cuts to Medicaid funding currently under consideration as part of Congress' budget reconciliation process. Some of the proposed cuts for the Medicaid program would threaten access to essential rehabilitation care for millions of individuals with disabilities, chronic conditions, and complex medical needs.

As the national medical society for physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), AAPM&R urges policymakers to reject funding reductions that would compromise the health, independence, and quality of life of our nation's most vulnerable populations.

Cuts to the Medicaid Program Would Harm Patients and Providers

- **Medicaid is a lifeline** for millions of Americans—including children, adults, and seniors—living with neuromuscular and muscular skeletal conditions, including limb loss, stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and other conditions requiring intensive rehabilitative care.
- **Drastic Medicaid funding reductions** would undermine access to medically necessary rehabilitative services that are essential for patients to regain function and live independently.
- **Cuts to the Medicaid program** would force providers to either absorb the unsustainable costs of delivering services to individuals who otherwise cannot afford them or reduce services, leading to delayed care, poorer outcomes, and increased long-term costs to the healthcare system.

Rehabilitation Care Is Not Optional—It is Medically Necessary

For individuals with complex functional impairments, PM&R services are not discretionary—they are critical medical interventions that support health, mobility, employment, and community reintegration. Physiatrists work closely with interdisciplinary care teams to ensure patients receive coordinated, evidence-based rehabilitation care. Without sufficient Medicaid support, access to these medically necessary services will be significantly compromised, delayed, or possibly denied.

AAPM&R Urges Congress to:

- ✓ **Reject significant cuts to Medicaid funding** in any reconciliation package.
- ✓ **Preserve access to the full range of rehabilitative services** that help Medicaid beneficiaries recover from injury, adapt to functional deficits, and live more fulfilling lives.