

# MedChi NEWS

## MEDICAID FUNDING CUTS THREATEN OUR ENTIRE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

#### MEDICAID FUNDING CUTS THREATEN OUR ENTIRE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



All fifty State Medical Societies including MedChi, have signed a letter urging the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to protect Medicaid from the proposed \$880 billion House Energy and Commerce Committee spending reduction target.

For decades, Medicaid has been the safety net for the nation's most vulnerable patients – children, pregnant women, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and low-income, working families. Enacting these cuts would cause millions of Medicaid patients to lose their coverage and it is expected that they would also lose some of their existing benefits and access to essential health care services.

This is a risk to patient health. A loss of a coverage will prevent access to patient care, which can worsen patient health, and will place a financial burden onto physicians, emergency rooms, hospitals, and all other patients.

Medicaid cuts will have a negative impact on the entire health care system. As patients lose Medicaid coverage and access to care, more rural hospitals, physician practices, clinics, and nursing homes will be forced to close. These closures will lead to a substantial number of health care workers losing their jobs. As costs are shifted out of Medicaid, all insured patients across the health care system will experience higher insurance premiums.



**DR. MARIE-ALBERTE BOURSQUOT SERVING AS MEDCHI'S #PHYSICIANOFTHE DAY IN THE ANNAPOLIS FIRST AID ROOM.**

These cuts will also place incredible pressure on patients and state budgets, and states will be forced to choose between cutting services or raising taxes because states will be unable to absorb these increased costs.

As a society of physicians, our obligation is to care for all those who need us – sick children, people with disabilities, seniors in assisted living, veterans, and those with chronic conditions, mental health, and other special needs.

MedChi is committed to finding solutions to protect and improve Medicaid for generations to come. Medicaid funding cuts threaten patient care, coverage, and the viability of our entire health care system.

**GENE M. RANSOM III**  
CEO MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND  
STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY