



Protect SNAP & Medicaid Advocacy Toolkit

This document was most recently updated on 6/2/2025

General Overview

In order to find enough money to give tax breaks to wealthy individuals and corporations, Congress is threatening deep and harmful cuts to SNAP, Medicaid and other critical programs that will threaten the food and economic security and health of millions of Georgians. As Congress is drafting and voting on the federal budget, you can act now and make sure your voice is heard. This toolkit provides concerned Georgians and community advocates with talking points, data, and other resources to take action to protect SNAP and Medicaid.

How You Can Take Action

- Send a digital letter to your [Representatives](#) and [Senators](#)
- Call your Congresspeople using the [phone script](#)
- Educate and influence your family, friends, and social network using the [talking points](#), [sample social media posts](#), and [additional resources](#)
- Submit an op-ed or letter to the editor for your local newspaper using your own story and info outlined in this toolkit

Overview of Medicaid, SNAP and Proposals in the House-passed Reconciliation Bill

Medicaid is the nation's largest public healthcare program and provides life-saving health care coverage to millions across the nation. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important and effective anti-hunger program. Both programs play a critical role in reducing poverty, improving health and economic outcomes, supporting people who are paid low wages, and serving as the first line of defense against hunger and against loss of health care access during economic downturns.

- Medicaid helps 2 million, or about 18% of Georgians see the doctor, fill prescriptions, and get access to other forms of critical health care coverage.
- SNAP helps about 1.4 million or 13% of Georgians, put food on the table.

In May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would make dramatic cuts to Medicaid and SNAP to pay for tax cuts to wealthy corporations and individuals. The proposal would cut more than \$800 billion from Medicaid and about \$300 billion from SNAP. The legislation would push more of the costs of these programs onto states and expand policies that take away food and health care from adults who cannot meet a work reporting requirement.

Read more about the changes:

- [Medicaid](#)
- [SNAP](#)

Topline Talking Points and Key Facts

Talking to legislators

These talking points are to help you understand the basics of Medicaid and SNAP and help tell your story to legislators about why these programs matter to you and/or your community. Use them as you see fit.

- **We must protect and defend SNAP and say NO to the largest cuts in the programs' histories!** Two million Georgians get health coverage through Medicaid and 1.4 million get help affording the high cost of groceries through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Cuts to these programs would be felt almost immediately across Georgia. Imagine a dad unable to get cancer treatment; parents who can't afford care and support that their disabled child needs; a mom forced to skip meals so her children don't go hungry.
- **There is no way to cut over \$1 trillion in spending while protecting health coverage through Medicaid and food assistance through SNAP.** You cannot cut hundreds of billions of dollars

from health care and food assistance without taking away coverage, raising costs for families, or making it harder for people who need support to meet their basic needs.

- **It's clear that many leaders in Congress want Georgians to foot the bill for billionaire tax cuts.** The cost of extending tax cuts for households with incomes in the top 1 percent --\$1.1 trillion over 10 years — equals roughly the same amount as the proposed potential cuts for health coverage under Medicaid and food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- **It's time for Congressional leaders to abandon an agenda that puts the wealthy before everyone else and start serving the interests of their constituents.** They should reject any budget that would mean higher food costs for families, more people without health coverage, increased poverty and hardship, and higher debt — all in service to tax cuts for the wealthy.

You can use some of the key facts about [Medicaid](#) and [SNAP](#) below in your messages to lawmakers.

What is Medicaid?

- Medicaid provides life-saving health care coverage to about 2 million Georgians, allowing them to see the doctor, fill prescriptions, get access to preventive care, and much more.
- The program is jointly financed by the federal and state governments and administered by the state.

Who/what does it support?

- Medicaid primarily serves Georgians with lower incomes, including children, pregnant women, parents/caregivers with very low income, individuals with disabilities, older adults and some low-income adults who meet work or other reporting requirements.
 - Although Medicaid covers Georgians across the lifespan, a majority of Medicaid and PeachCare recipients are children under the age of 19.
 - In Georgia, Medicaid finances 45% of all births; covers 42% of children under the age of 19; and pays for 72% of nursing home stays.
- Medicaid covers a higher proportion of Black and Latino Georgians and Georgians living in rural areas.
- Medicaid supports people from all walks of life - from veterans to low-wage workers to college students.
- Medicaid is the largest payor of behavioral health services, which includes mental health care and substance abuse disorder treatments and plays a critical role in the fight against the opioid epidemic
- Medicaid also provides direct support to providers and hospitals through programs such as the state directed payment program.

How does Medicaid impact our state budget and our state healthcare system?

- Currently, the federal government pays about 66% of health care costs for Medicaid enrollees in Georgia, and the state pays the remainder.
- Medicaid is Georgia's largest source of federal revenue.
 - Federal Medicaid dollars bring billions to our state every year and, on average, comprise about 20% of the state's total budget.
- Medicaid protects enrollees from medical debt and helps ensure that hospitals and community providers stay open, particularly in underserved areas of the state.
 - This is especially the case in rural communities, where children disproportionately use Medicaid for their health coverage, and where rural hospitals already operate on the thinnest margins.

What are the potential impacts of Medicaid cuts?

- Protecting against Medicaid cuts is critical for the health of Georgia's economy and the well-being of Georgia's low-income families.
- A decrease in federal Medicaid funding would effectively shift costs to the state –forcing the state to make difficult decisions around who stays covered and what benefits they receive.
 - These cuts could impact children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, older adults, veterans, and low-wage workers and cut Georgians off from the health care coverage that keeps them healthy and productive.
- The loss of federal Medicaid dollars would have a ripple effect on our state economy and result in an estimated \$2.8 billion in decreased economic output.
- Cuts to Medicaid threaten the financial stability of hospitals, healthcare providers and related job sectors and could result in almost 17,000 job losses across the state.

What is SNAP

- SNAP is the country's most effective anti-hunger program
- It provides food assistance to families and individuals with low income so that they can better afford the cost of food.
- SNAP benefits are 100% covered by the federal government

Who/What does it support

- SNAP reduces food insecurity by about 30%
 - A recent [Georgia poll](#) found that more than 50% of Georgia voters, especially those with low income, had a challenge affording the cost of food in the last 12 months.
- SNAP helps 1.4 million Georgians (or about 700,000 households) afford the growing cost of food and helps ensure they have enough to eat
- About 52% of SNAP households include children, 38% include seniors, and 45% include individuals with disabilities. .
- In 2024, SNAP recipients received an average of \$193 per month to pay for groceries

SNAP's impact

- Research finds that SNAP helps [children](#) perform better in school, have better long-term health, and have better financial security as adults
- [Seniors](#) who use SNAP are better able to afford their prescriptions than other seniors with low income who don't have access to SNAP.
- In 2023, More than \$3 billion in federal SNAP benefits flowed into local economies through the nearly 10,000 SNAP retailers throughout the state.
 - Retailers include grocery stores and farmers' markets, which contribute to local taxes that fund services like schools and health care.
- SNAP supports Georgia's [rural communities](#) and small towns
 - One in 6 rural and 1 in 6 small-town households use SNAP compared to 1 in 9 households in metropolitan areas.

Talking about Medicaid and SNAP in your community

Feel free to incorporate these messages and the above data points in your outreach in the community and the media

Work Better/Tax Wealthy

We don't need to cut basic assistance programs like Medicaid and SNAP—we need to make them work better. Instead of gutting healthcare and food assistance, Congress should fix them by making wealthy pay what they owe in taxes. That would help everyone afford the basics like healthcare, groceries, and housing.

Cost-of-living message

The cost of living is hurting everyone, and any of us could be just one paycheck away from a crisis. Medicaid and SNAP food assistance provide critical support when people fall on hard times. We must protect and strengthen them so they're always there when we or our loved ones need them.

Hit Children Hardest message

Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will hit children the hardest and we will pay a steep price for them down the road. Less food assistance for families means kids will go hungry and fall behind in school. Changes to Medicaid could mean children may not get the care they need to live healthy lives. We cannot afford to disinvest in our children's future.

Key Legislators

Please note that all members of Congress should be contacted about the need to protect SNAP and Medicaid from harmful cuts. The list below includes members of the Georgia delegation who are on key congressional committees. If you don't know the number for your elected representatives, you can call the **U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202)224-3121**. You'll find a **sample phone script in the next section**.

Chamber	Member	Relevant Committee(s)	Contact Info
U.S. House of Representatives	Rick Allen (R)	Energy & Commerce (Medicaid)	(202) 225- 2823
U.S. House of Representatives	Sanford Bishop (D)	Agriculture (SNAP), Appropriations (Government funding)	(202) 225-3631
U.S. House of Representatives	Buddy Carter (R)	Energy & Commerce - Chair of Health Subcommittee (Medicaid)	(202) 225-5831
U.S. Senate	Jon Ossoff (D)	Appropriations (Government funding),	(202) 224-3521
U.S. House of Representatives	Austin Scott (R)	Agriculture (SNAP)	(202) 225-6531
U.S. House of Representatives	David Scott (D)	Agriculture (SNAP)	(202) 225-2939
U.S. Senate	Raphael Warnock (D)	Agriculture (SNAP) Finance (Medicaid)	(202) 224-3643

Sample Phone Scripts

I am a constituent from Senator/Representative _____'s state/District calling to urge them to reject any proposed cuts in the Medicaid and SNAP programs. [Insert your personal and/or professional perspective and let them know why Medicaid and/or SNAP matters to you, your community, or those you serve]

Medicaid and SNAP help millions of Georgians see the doctor and keep food on the table. At a

time when many families in our state are already struggling to make ends meet, cuts to Medicaid and SNAP could push people who are financially struggling over the edge, raising their costs and taking away their access to health care coverage and food assistance. These cuts would hurt children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and low-wage workers and hit particularly hard in the more rural parts of our state. Cutting federal funds for Medicaid and SNAP would also put Georgia's safety net hospitals and long-term care facilities at risk of closing and threaten the bottom line of grocery stores in some communities. I strongly urge the [Senator/Member] to protect Medicaid and SNAP and oppose cuts or harmful policy changes that would threaten the well-being of Georgians and our state economy.

Sample Social Media Language

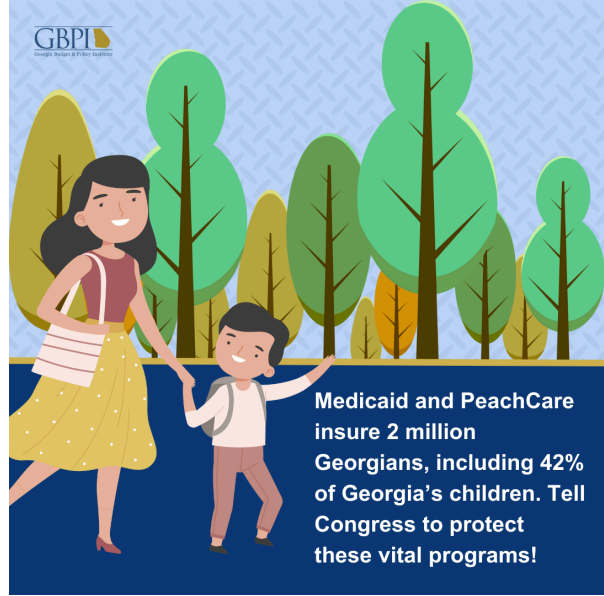
Facebook

- Leaders in Congress are advancing a reckless budget plan that would strip health care and food assistance away from millions of families – all to pay for extreme tax cuts for the nation's wealthiest households and corporations. Our elected leaders need to deliver on the promise to put our families first by opposing dangerous budget cuts that would keep food off the table and put our health on the line.
- Congress is pushing extreme budget cuts that would hit Georgia hard. Slashing federal funding to essential programs like #SNAP and #Medicaid means our local communities foot the bill. We're calling on members of Congress to stand with Georgians by pushing back on harmful budget cuts that take aim at our wallets and well-being.
- Congress is gearing up for yet another round of extreme tax cuts for the ultra wealthy. This comes at a high price for the rest of us. Georgians won't stand by as Congress slashes funding to our health care and food assistance in order to pass along more tax giveaways to millionaires and billionaires.

Social Media Graphics



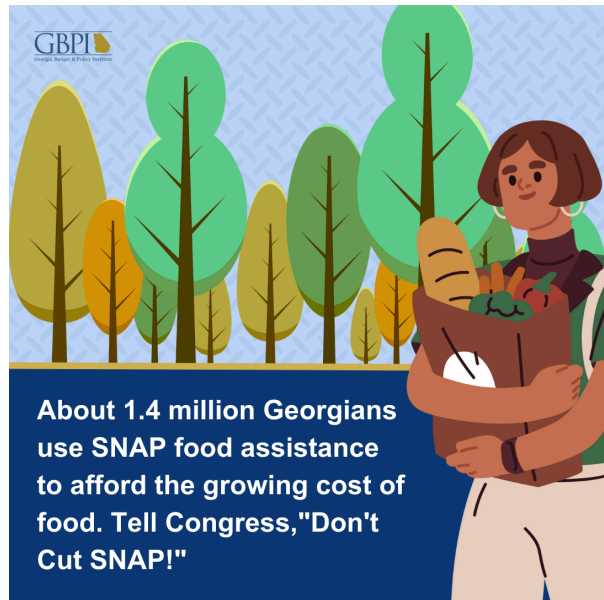
Medicaid and SNAP are cost-effective safety net programs that help Georgians meet their needs. Tell Congress to protect these vital programs!



Medicaid and PeachCare insure 2 million Georgians, including 42% of Georgia's children. Tell Congress to protect these vital programs!



Medicaid brings billions in federal funds to our state and helps keep our rural hospitals open. Tell Congress, "Protect Medicaid!"



About 1.4 million Georgians use SNAP food assistance to afford the growing cost of food. Tell Congress, "Don't Cut SNAP!"



Resources

- [GBPI's SNAP Fact Sheets](#)
GBPI created fact sheets that *approximate* congressional districts. Due to analytical limitations, we use the counties that make up each district.
- [Statewide SNAP fact sheet from Food Research and Action Center](#)

- [Fact sheets from the National Grocers Association](#) (not state-specific)
- [Georgia Medicaid fact sheet from Commonwealth Fund](#)
- [Medicaid & PeachCare's Role in the Health of Georgia's Pregnant Women and Young Children from Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students](#)
- [Map of Medicaid Enrollment by Congressional District from KFF](#)
- GBPI's Georgia Pathways to Coverage [Microsite](#) & [Fact Sheet](#)
Georgia is currently the only state to offer Medicaid coverage to low-income adults contingent upon work and other reporting requirements. Georgia's experiment with a work requirement offers important lessons as Congress is considering imposing broader work requirements.