

## Congresswoman Deborah Ross Joined Protect Our Care North Carolina to Call Out the GOP Plan to Slash Medicaid Funding for North Carolinians

*Republicans in Congress Want to Gut Medicaid to Fund More Tax Breaks For the Wealthy and Large Corporations*



**\*Watch the full event [here](#)\***

**RALEIGH, NC** – Today, Congresswoman Deborah Ross, State Rep. Sarah Crawford, and Retired Storyteller Haywood Watson joined Protect Our Care North Carolina to discuss the GOP's latest budget plan to put billionaires over Americans. [Recent reporting](#) shows congressional Republicans intend to slash Medicaid funding by at least [\\$880 billion](#) to give tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy and big corporations, resulting in millions losing coverage, including children, new moms, seniors, and people with disabilities. Americans across party lines oppose cuts to funding for health care programs like Medicaid, and [new polling](#) finds that a majority of Americans think the government should spend [more](#) on health care — not less. Speakers discussed how these unpopular cuts will hurt North Carolina families, jeopardize funding for hospitals, and strain the state budget.

Medicaid is an essential pillar of the nation's health care system that has kept people healthier, kept rural hospitals open and saved lives, but Republicans are more concerned with taking care of their billionaire friends instead of protecting North Carolina families. If the GOP gets their way, [72 million](#) Americans will be at risk of losing critical health care coverage they need to stay

healthy. For years, rising health care costs have been on the top of people's minds, and they have been a core part of the public's economic concerns. Speakers called on lawmakers to protect access to health care for North Carolinians, not take it away.

“Medicaid funds more than half of long-term care services for seniors, and it covers nursing home bills for over 60% of residents. Without Medicaid, many seniors would have nowhere else to turn,” said **Haywood Watson, Retired educator from Johnston County**. “I know this firsthand because of my wife, who cares for her 97-year-old aunt. Her aunt, like many seniors, relies on Medicaid to pay for her care. Without it, her aunt would have to choose between critical healthcare and other necessities. For millions of seniors, Medicaid is not just helpful—it’s essential. Seniors like my wife’s aunt often live on fixed incomes and struggle to afford out-of-pocket costs, medications, and long-term care. Medicaid bridges the gap, ensuring they don’t have to decide whether they can pay for food, rent, or the medical care they need to stay healthy.”

“The danger we face today doesn’t just come from Washington—it’s also tied to the decisions made by our Republican-led legislature here in North Carolina, said **State Representative Sarah Crawford**. “Over the last several years, the legislature has prioritized tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and large corporations. These tax cuts have drained our state’s budget, leaving us vulnerable to the kind of devastating federal Medicaid cuts that would harm everyday families. These cuts reflect a pattern of prioritizing the interests of the wealthy over the well-being of working families and vulnerable populations. Instead of investing in North Carolinians, the GOP leadership in our state has chosen to favor tax breaks for the top 1%. Now, our budget is in a precarious position, and the proposed federal Medicaid cuts would only make it worse. If these cuts go through, the financial burden will fall squarely on the people who have only just gained access to health care.”

“In 2023, North Carolina opted into Medicaid Expansion. We received \$14 billion in federal Medicaid funding. 59% of all federal dollars that our state received - and let’s be clear, those are your tax dollars coming back to North Carolina - to help your family, your friends, and your neighbors. From the mountains to the coast, particularly in our rural areas, millions of North Carolinians rely on this funding to access the health care they need,” said **Congresswoman Deborah Ross**. “Federal funding for Medicaid has the power to save and enrich lives. President Trump, Elon Musk and Congressional Republicans who refuse to speak up are putting lives at risk in their quest to cut funding for rich donors. I am committed to doing everything that I can to fight back and I’m doing it every day. We need to protect these essential benefits and services that North Carolinians rely on. Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and VA benefits support so many people’s well being.”

You can watch the full event [here](#), and learn more about Republican threats to Medicaid [here](#).

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