

PROTECT OUR CARE

HHS Regional Director Joins Protect Our Care Georgia, Advocates and Providers to Call On State Republicans to Expand Medicaid



[*Watch the event here*](#)

Atlanta, GA – Today, Antrell Tyson, US Health and Human Services Regional Director for Region 4, Yolanda Pickstock, an Atlanta-based healthcare advocate with Georgia Stand-Up and Glenda Battle, a retired nurse from Leesburg, joined Protect Our Care Georgia to mark the [seventh annual Medicaid Awareness Month](#) and call on Republicans to expand Medicaid and provide coverage to the thousands of Georgians who currently live in the coverage gap and cannot access care. Speakers also highlighted the vital role that Medicaid expansion would serve in providing health care coverage and access to services for Georgians with disabilities, people with mental health and substance use disorders, children, pregnant women, seniors in nursing homes, rural families, and people of color.

One in four Americans currently rely on Medicaid for health coverage. Democrats in Congress have created incentives for states to expand Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act, pushed for expanded postpartum coverage, and worked to minimize the impacts of Medicaid unwinding.

Meanwhile, Republicans have proposed [slashing trillions of dollars](#) from Medicaid through block granting and calls for reporting requirements and other bureaucratic measures designed to throw people off their coverage.

While Medicaid Awareness Month celebrates how this vital health care program has touched millions of families across the nation, it also reminds the public that Republicans continue to attack Medicaid and lawmakers in Georgia refuse to expand the program to Georgians who need it.

“Medicaid saves lives, helps people from all backgrounds stay healthy, keeps rural hospitals and other safety net providers open, and pays for preventive care. It must be protected and strengthened, not gutted through more anti-health care, Republican schemes,” **said Liz Ernst, Protect Our Care Georgia State Director.**

“Enrollment in Medicaid has increased by 52 percent nationally since 2013. Unfortunately, this figure doesn’t include as many Georgians as it could have. Without Medicaid expansion, Georgia ranks 48th out of 50 states for coverage rates. An estimated 431,000 Georgians could benefit from the affordable healthcare that Medicaid expansion would provide if the state expanded,” **said Antrell Tyson, US Health and Human Services Regional Director for Region 4.**

“Georgia is deliberately failing its working and low-income families by refusing to offer full Medicaid expansion – a program that covers more people, is less expensive, and is more easily accessed than Pathways. This has resulted in thousands of Georgia children being denied medical coverage during their formative years and a preventable and astonishingly high maternal mortality rate, especially among women of color,” **said Yolanda Pickstock, Atlanta-based healthcare advocate with Georgia Stand-Up.**

“Medicaid Expansion is not a partisan issue or a racial issue. It is a healthcare access issue for all Georgians. It’s time Georgia started treating its people better than we treat our pets,” **said Glenda Battle, a retired nurse from Leesburg, Georgia.** Battle served on the Decatur County Board of Commissioners and was Chairwoman of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission.

You can watch the full event [here](#), and learn more about how Medicaid benefits Americans across the country [here](#).

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