

People's Medicaid Speak Out & Singalong

Kennedy Center Grounds: March 2, 2025

Welcome to the People's Medicaid Speak Out & Singalong on the Kennedy Center grounds. Disabled DC, Maryland and Virginia community members and activists invite you to **join our gathering to say 'Hands Off Our Medicaid,'** to listen, learn, support one another and sing in faith, love, hope and resistance.

The White House, Elon Musk, members of the Republican Party, and those with more wealth than they could ever spend are attacking the programs we rely on to live. **Last week the House voted to move forward with a plan to cut at least 880 billion dollars from Medicaid and other programs.** Medicaid is already a lean program. Abuse is often found at the hands of those seeking a profit, not those of us who need the healthcare, supports, and services Medicaid provides.

Attempts to institute work requirements or decrease funding WILL lead to cuts in personal care attendant or direct support professional hours, WILL lead to loss of healthcare for disabled people and our caregivers – it WILL lead to more disabled people of all ages living in nursing homes and other institutions, and in the worst cases, dying.

We are people with many different types of disabilities and races, some are members of the LGBTQI+ and transgender / gender nonconforming communities. We dream of and cultivate a world where we all have access to our basic needs – to healthcare, education, housing, transportation, food, the right to marriage without penalties and supports we need to live in the community outside of institutions, to be creative and thrive, to live joyfully.

We are gathering here today as a part of a broader movement as people in DC and across the country speak out against the racist, transphobic, and ableist attacks on our communities – against attempts to take back DC's Home Rule and movement for statehood, against the cuts to government programs, and firings and threats to government workers.

We remember, and are only able to be here today because of, our elders' resistance and victories in the disability rights and justice movements (the 504 sit in, the Capitol crawl), the Stonewall Uprisings and ACT UP activists, immigrant and workers' rights movements, the civil rights movement and Montgomery bus boycott among many, many others.

We call on everyone to learn about the threats to Medicaid and why it is so important to our communities. Share your stories and what you've learned, **speak out to your members of Congress, local officials, friends and press**. Use hashtags and in-person communication to share not just your Medicaid story but also your vision of the world you want to live in.

As disabled people we commit to continuing to adapt, to resist, to support one another through mutual aid and care and reach across movements and communities to learn and grow. **We will hold fast to our freedom, equality, justice, dignity and humanity.**

We acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank (or Anacostans), and neighboring ancestral lands of the Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples. We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the Native communities who make their home here today. We are grateful for their past and continued stewardship of this land. We acknowledge March 1st as the Disability Day of Mourning for siblings murdered by parents or caregivers. We acknowledge and wish a Blessed Ramadan to all those observing.

To learn more and take action, visit:

<https://dredf.org/hands-off-our-medicaid/>

<https://caringacross.org/protect-medicaid/>

