



May 14, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
Chairman
House Budget Committee
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Crapo
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
Member, House Budget Committee
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Urgent Need to Protect Medicaid Funding for Working Adults and the Business Community

Medicaid Importance to the Business Community – Chamber of Commerce Request

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Chairman Crapo, Chairman Arrington, and Representative Obernolte:

On behalf of business leaders committed to driving economic prosperity and certainty for our region, we are writing to emphasize the foundational importance of Medicaid health insurance for working adults in the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino counties of California).

The Inland Empire is home to over 4.7 million Californians, most of whom work in our region to support their families and communities. Many receive their health insurance coverage from their employers or through our state exchange, Covered California. However, roughly 31% in San Bernardino County and 29% in Riverside County fall below the poverty level and receive their health insurance coverage through Medicaid. Of these, 56% in San Bernardino County and 53% in Riverside County are children.

A significant majority of the Inland Empire's Medicaid beneficiaries (ages 19-64) are gainfully employed, with 62% of non-disabled and non-elderly beneficiaries working at least part-time or full-time hours. Industries and businesses across the Inland Empire employ a significant portion of beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid provides critical access to health care for low wage workers and their families, many of whom would not otherwise qualify for or be able to afford employer funded health insurance. Access to health care coverage through Medicaid supports a healthy workforce, promotes lower sick time usage, strong work attendance, increased productivity, and fewer disruptions to business operations.

Any cuts to Medicaid would have devastating impacts on many industries and businesses in the Inland Empire, leading to increased numbers of workers and families without access to health care coverage, as well as significant reductions in funding across the health services sector. Health services is one of the leading employment sectors in the Inland Empire and a critical source of both jobs and economic growth. Significant Medicaid cuts would disproportionately impact hospitals, clinics, providers, and local businesses that provide ancillary services, further straining a health care system that is grappling with workforce shortages and ever-increasing costs.

Medicaid is a relied upon and necessary program to ensure economic certainty and workforce stability for business owners. We urge you to protect this program that supports working

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Americans. If you would like any more information, please feel free to reach out to me, IEHP CEO Jarrod McNaughton, directly at (909) 890-2010 or by email at Mcnaughton-J@iehp.org.

Sincerely,

Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
Dignity Health: St. Bernardine Medical Center
Greater Ontario Business Council
Inland Action
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
Inland Empire Health Plan
Loma Linda University Health
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
Redlands Community Hospital
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

Cc: Inland Empire Congressional Delegation
Senate Finance Committee Staff and Consultants
House Budget Committee Staff and Consultants