

# **HIJACKING HEALTH CARE**

## **HOW FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS WILL HURT HEALTH CARE & HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

Federal funding supports life-saving programs like Medicaid; it keeps hospitals and nursing homes running and provides health care for millions of seniors and children with disabilities. It funds AFSCME members' jobs and bolsters the economies of entire states, cities and towns. But anti-union extremists and billionaires want to make massive cuts to federal spending on health care – all to give tax breaks to those same billionaires. If they succeed, our entire health care system, our economy, and the job of every AFSCME member will be at risk.

**The federal government spends nearly \$2 trillion dollars a year on health care. That money touches every aspect of our health care system, our economy, and affects all of our lives.**

## ***MEDICAID: MUCH MORE THAN HEALTH CARE***

Medicaid is a public insurance program that provides health care coverage to low-income Americans.

Nearly 72 million people – or one in five in Americans – rely on Medicaid, with another 7 million families relying on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The federal government spends close to \$600 billion a year on these programs, and they are a key source of revenue for state and local budgets.

Medicaid not only delivers health care for tens of millions of Americans, but it funds, either directly or indirectly, all AFSCME members' job. Medicaid directly supports AFSCME members who work in:

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Home care and adult day care settings
- Behavioral health facilities
- Intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Federally qualified health centers
- K-12 schools
- Colleges and universities
- Ambulances
- And more



And many AFSCME members administer programs through Medicaid as eligibility specialists, case managers and in other roles.

Anti-union extremists and billionaires have proposed cutting up to \$880 billion from Medicaid over 10 years. That would mean millions of Americans would lose their health care, and AFSCME members could lose jobs.

Hospitals, veterans' homes and other health care facilities could be forced to close and cut services – with nursing home residents being disproportionately harmed. And without the lifeline that Medicaid provides, millions of Americans would slip into poverty.

## ***BUDGET CUTS WILL HURT OTHER HEALTH-CARE RELATED PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES***

### **Medicare**

Medicare provides health care coverage and financial security to 67 million older people, as well as younger people with disabilities.

Right now, Congress and the administration are eyeing multiple proposals to cut Medicare by hundreds of billions of dollars. These proposals will all lead to cuts to health care systems and will severely harm patients and health care professionals. And huge cuts to Medicaid will make it even worse for the people who are covered by both programs and the health professionals who care for them.

### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NIH, the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, has been forced to cut hundreds of grants, halting critical research and leaving AFSCME members who work in research-related jobs out of work. These cuts also jeopardize the jobs of many more people in core support roles that make colleges and universities run. The administration wants to make more than \$20 billion in additional cuts, which will only make the problem worse.

### **We need to stop these attacks on health care**

If we want to stop these attacks on Americans' health care and health care professionals, we need to Get Organized. That means going to a union meeting. Engaging your co-workers and getting them involved. Signing up for PEOPLE or becoming a PEOPLE MVP.

**The bigger we are, the more power we  
have to say working people shouldn't  
just get by – we demand to thrive.**

