United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2026

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer,

As we approach 2027, we ask that Congressional leaders consider policies that will lessen impending harm to families, communities, and states across the country due to the Medicaid cuts from H.R. 1 in the next moving legislative vehicle.[1] The midterm results reveal a clear message: the American people are hurting and we must do what we can to alleviate and prevent further harm. Absent the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) using its statutory authority and enforcement discretion to protect people from losing their health care due to states clearly not being ready to implement bureaucratic red tape, Congress must step in. While we remain committed to a full repeal of all Medicaid cuts, we urge you to include, in the next legislative vehicle, policies that can mitigate the imminent coverage loss from the work reporting requirements set to take effect on January 1, 2027.[2]

No state that has attempted work reporting requirements in Medicaid has ever meaningfully increased workforce participation. Instead, every state that has done so has either seen or predicted significant coverage loss for people who continue to be eligible for Medicaid but lose coverage because they can't navigate all the red tape. That is because affordable and reliable access to health care improves workforce participation, not the other way around: healthy people make a healthy economy.[3]

Even disregarding the decades of empirical evidence demonstrating that work reporting requirements fail to achieve their intended effects, the reality is that states have had neither the time nor resources to set up complex work reporting systems by 2027. Under H.R. 1, states had fewer than 18 months to make complex eligibility and enrollment systems changes, conduct readiness reviews, train staff, and educate enrollees, during a time when many states are already

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[1] Pub. L. No. 119-21.

[2] Section 71119 of Pub. L. No. 119-21

[3] *Health People, Healthy Economy: Why Adding Barriers to Medicaid is Bad for Business*, Office of Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (May 2025), https://www.warnock.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Final_-Healthy-People-Healthy-Economy-1.pdf

budget-constrained and experiencing staff shortages at the agencies responsible. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its Interim Final Rule (IFR) on the work reporting requirements on June 1, 2026, just six months before states must have their programs up and running, and with less than one month for states to meet the required notification timeframes.[4] The IFR also adds restrictions and requirements beyond the law to the medical frailty definition, adding unexpected complexity.[5]

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, more than 5 million Americans are estimated to lose their coverage from the work reporting requirements alone. This represents up to one-third of adults in Medicaid expansion states losing their coverage.[6] Most of the individuals at risk of losing coverage would likely continue to qualify for Medicaid: 92 percent of Medicaid enrollees are already working, caregiving, in school, or have an illness.[7] But they will likely lose coverage nonetheless because of the bureaucratic red tape that Americans will be forced to navigate, a complex system made more chaotic by the rushed timeline that states have been forced to meet.

In light of these concerns, we urge Senate Leadership to consider a two-year delay in the implementation of the work reporting requirements.

Sincerely,

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

[4] CMS-2454-IFC
[5] *Warnock, Wyden Push Trump Administration to Cut Red Tape Requirements in Medicaid*, Office of Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (Aug. 6, 2026), https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warnock-wyden-push-trump-administration-to-cut-red-tape-requirements-in-medicaid/.
[6] Matthew Buettgens, Michael Karpman, Jennifer M. Haley, Jameson Carter, and Genevieve M. Kenney, *Projected Reductions in Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Under OBBBA's Work Requirements and Six-Month Redeterminations*, Urban Institute (Mar. 25, 2026), https://www.urban.org/research/publication/projected-reductions-medicaid-expansion-enrollment-under-obbbas-work
[7] Elizabeth Hinton and Robin Rudowitz, *5 Key Facts About Medicaid Work Requirements*, KFF (Feb. 18, 2025), https://www.kff.org/medicaid/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-work-requirements/.

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