

Healthcare is a Human Right

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF



MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE. MEDICAID CUTOFFS ARE A DEATH SENTENCE.

- In March 2023, one in three Vermont residents (213,769 people) were enrolled in some form of Medicaid or Dr. Dynasaur. (JFO)
- By December 2023, 27,984 Vermont residents had been cut off from Medicaid. With over 20,000 cut for procedural reasons, many were likely unaware they even lost their Medicaid until they visited a doctor or went to pick up a prescription. (KFF)

MEDICAID CUTOFFS VIOLATE VERMONT POLICY.

- Vermont statute states: "It is the policy of the State of Vermont that health care is a public good for all Vermonters and to ensure that all residents have access to quality health services at costs that are affordable." (18 VSA §9401a)
- Stripping Medicaid from thousands of people and forcing them to choose between going uninsured or purchasing a Vermont Health Connect plan with high premiums, copays and deductibles is policy violence, and a violation of Vermont's own healthcare policy.

GOVERNOR SCOTT HAS THE POWER TO STOP CUTS TO MEDICAID.

- The Scott administration can work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay Medicaid redeterminations until legislation is enacted to expand Medicaid.

H.721, "EXPANDING ACCESS TO MEDICAID" IS A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF MEDICAID FOR ALL.

- Introduced by 80 Representatives, H.721 would increase adult Medicaid income eligibility over six years to reach the same level as Dr. Dynasaur, among other changes.
- Lawmakers should convene a public hearing to ensure impacted people are at the table.
- H.721 would be strengthened by grounding it in human rights principles of equity and universality — shortening the implementation period; eliminating cost-sharing language, which creates barriers to care; tasking the Agency of Human Services with preparing a report on universal public financing, i.e. Medicaid for All; and ensuring that any Medicaid expansion is accessible to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

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