

# The Medicaid Saves Lives Act

*Introduced by U.S. Senators Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA),  
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jon Ossoff (D-GA)*

## ENDORSEMENTS

“On behalf of our more than 160 member hospitals, the Georgia Hospital Association is pleased to endorse Senator Warnock’s Medicaid Fallback legislation. GHA supports access to quality healthcare for all patients, and this legislation provides yet another option for Georgians who do not currently have access to health care coverage. A covered patient is a healthier patient, and Georgia’s hospitals have a shared mission of promoting healthy communities. This legislation, if passed, would complement Georgia’s current statewide Medicaid program by including additional individuals into the category of those eligible for coverage. This goal falls squarely within our legislative priority to achieve greater access to care for all Georgians,” **said Earl Rogers, President and CEO, Georgia Hospital Association.**

“Medical bankruptcy is killing the American middle class, and 3 hospitals have closed within a 200 mile radius of my home in rural Tennessee. We’ve lost jobs, communities and lives because Medicaid expansion has been weaponized for political gain. We need that help, no matter anyone’s political party affiliation,” **said Deborah Miness, President of 159 Georgia Together.**

“Millions without health insurance need and deserve Medicaid expansion. It's long overdue, and this bill can right that wrong,” **said Pat McCoy, Executive Director of Action NC.**

“There has never been a more dire time for your leadership on Medicaid expansion,” **said Dorothy Leone-Glasse, Executive Director of Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC).**

“Universal access is our goal and this bill helps us get there by covering millions of people in states whose elected officials are blocking Medicaid expansion. If they happened to live in another state - one that has expanded Medicaid - these folks would already be covered and have access to care. This legislation gives states more incentive to expand Medicaid and, most importantly, it provides a coverage solution for those left behind. This way no one is unable to access healthcare simply because their state elected officials refuse to do what’s best for their constituents’ health. AMSA believes healthcare is a human right, and that the United States can and should guarantee healthcare access to all. The American Medical Student Association is proud to endorse Sen. Warnock's plan for a federal Medicaid fall back program,” **said Hannah Hendrix, President of American Medical Student Association.**

“This proposal can help many currently uninsured people meet their healthcare needs. We support this proposal wholeheartedly,” **said Bruce Johnston, Leader, Steering Committee of Avondale ACTION.**

“Until Florida signs on to Medicaid expansion, there is no justice. Shame on any leader denying emergency medical services, hospital stays, care services for seniors or disabled folks, and our

community members—all in the name of greed and power. We support this bill because it puts the people of Florida before politicians,” **said Laurie Woodward Garcia, co-leader of Broward for Progress.**

“The denial of health and wealth through the intentional failure of Governors and Legislatures to expand Medicaid in some states, they are saying their constituents don't matter, and the elected officials don't care about the people in their states. They only care about thumping their chests and fighting something good for all the wrong reasons. It's essential all qualified Americans have access to Medicaid, at a minimum. Health care is a human right. If they won't act to do the right thing, we must take care of that for them. I urge you to support the Medicaid Fall Back Program and legislation,” **Carolyn Barclift, Founder/Director of Build Back Better USA.**

“The members of the Center for Popular Democracy Action, located across the country in communities that have experienced serious racial inequity in healthcare recognize how critically important, in the face of a pandemic, that we do everything that we can to strengthen our healthcare system and ensure that no one can't afford healthcare. Senator Warnock's legislation will do just that. We will be fighting for it to become law,” **said Jennifer Flynn Walker, Senior Director of Mobilization and Advocacy, Center for Popular Democracy Action.**

“Expansion of healthcare coverage creates stronger communities and a stronger nation,” **said Barbara Byram, Co-Founder, Citizens for an Engaged Electorate.**

“Whether or not you have access to life-saving health insurance shouldn't depend on which state you live in. Closing the coverage gap is a racial and economic justice issue, and we applaud Senator Warnock for his leadership in putting forward a federal policy that would guarantee people coverage in states that continue to deny it to them,” **said Eva Stahl, Director of Policy & Partnerships, Community Catalyst.**

“DemCast strongly supports this critical piece of legislation and applauds Senator Warnock's efforts on this,” **said Jamie Carter, Director of Partnerships and Outreach, DemCast USA.**

“Expanding Medicaid would help catch North Carolina up to national standards. North Carolina is ranked 47th out of 51 across metrics of health care cost, accessibility, and outcomes. As we continue to fight COVID-19, this is a problem for everyone, especially for black, Latinx, Indigenous, poor and working class,” **said Dreama Caldwell, Executive Co-Director, Down Home NC.**

“Senator Warnock's legislation is vital; it would enable Americans eligible for Medicaid expansion to access care in states refusing to take action. Passage of this bill is a critical step towards ensuring affordable quality health care for those who need it most — in Georgia and nationwide. Fair Fight Action is proud to support this groundbreaking legislation to expand access to lifesaving health care,” **said Craig Walters, Deputy Organizing Director, Fair Fight Action.**

“No matter where we live, what we look like, or how much money we have, we all deserve access to quality healthcare. This cuts to the heart of my Christian faith. Jesus healed all who were brought before him. He never turned away people for being poor, and neither should we. Senator Warnock is translating principle into policy with this lifesaving Medicaid expansion legislation. As a fellow pastor and native Georgian, I'm grateful for his leadership today. He campaigned on ensuring that all Georgians can see a

doctor. Now he's following through. The pandemic exposed the moral deficiency of our healthcare system more starkly than ever. It's no coincidence that the states where the virus is resurging fastest lack expanded Medicaid or were very late to accept it. Every person deserves better than this. Congress must remedy this wrong immediately by passing Senator Warnock's expansion of Medicaid," **said Rev. Jennifer Butler, CEO, Faith in Public Life Action.**

"As faith leaders, we believe healthcare access should be provided to all citizens of Georgia," **said Carole Maddux, Executive Director, Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center.**

"Georgia is in need of immediate relief to provide access to the most vulnerable in communities across this state. We are grateful that Senator Warnock is continuing the fight that we began almost a decade ago to expand Medicaid in Georgia and we will continue to stand in calling for access to affordable healthcare," **said Rev. James Woodall, former State President, Georgia NAACP.**

"Every American needs and deserves access to good health care, but too many Americans are priced out of health care today. Because the 12 non-expansion states have failed to act, the federal government must step in," **said Laura Packard, Executive Director, Get America Covered.**

"As a safety net provider, Grady sees first-hand how healthcare disparities affect thousands of Georgians. We support efforts to improve access to care and thank Senator Warnock for his work on behalf of the underserved," **said Dr. Robert Jansen, Chief Medical Officer, Grady Health System.**

"Senator Warnock's bill is a long overdue rescue plan to expand Medicaid for not just some states but ALL states. BRAVO!" **said Peter Morley, Patient Advocate, Health Care Awareness Month.**

"I'm a cancer survivor and the Affordable Care Act saved my life. Millions of Americans are locked out of affordable coverage today, because they live in one of the states that did not expand Medicaid. Enough is enough. The federal government must take action to cover them now. Lives depend on it," **said Laura Packard, Founder, Health Care Voices.**

"This is the best way to insure that the people get healthcare that need it the most. Expansion saves money in the long run and even if it costs it is worth the investment to improve the health of our working class and poor," **said Kathy Sykes, Coordinator, Helping Hands Community Outreach Services.**

"Expand Medicaid in Georgia!" **said Rita Ellis, Indivisible Columbus, Georgia.**

"Our district is desperate for this help. We have many uninsured citizens, due to low income. Please help them," **said Connie Johnson, Indivisible GA-12 (Statesboro, GA).**

"We must provide healthcare for Georgians!" **said Hope Mays, Indivisible GA-06.**

"Expanding Medicaid in Georgia will save lives and bolster the well-being of working families," **said Martha Shockey, Indivisible GA-04.**

"Georgia's failure to expand Medicaid has hurt the people of our state long enough! Please pass this legislation!" **said Linda S. Gilbert, Indivisible GA-10.**

“Healthcare is a right, not a privilege,” said **Margie Lee-Szymanski, Board Chair, Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta.**

“Expanding Medicaid is an easy yet critical way to save lives,” said **Carolyn Eberly, Founder/Director, Indivisible NC-09.**

“All American's deserve healthcare,” said **Lisa Bennett, Leader, Indivisible Sausalito.**

“We support Senator Warnock's strategy to bring much-needed Medicaid support to states which have ignored their own citizens and not expanded Medicaid,” said **Patti Crane, Steering Committee member, Indivisible South Bay LA.**

“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhuman,” said **Abbie Fuksman, Executive Committee, Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta.**

“Thank you for making this effort to assure that all Americans have access to quality healthcare,” said **Valerie Habif, Co-founder and Director of Programming, Jewish Democratic Women's Salon, Atlanta.**

“Florida residents are falling behind because our Governor refuses to support Medicaid expansion,” said **Nancy Terreri, President of Lee County NOW.**

“Accepting Medicaid expansion means increased access to life saving health care for kids with complex medical needs and disabilities, their families and caregivers, especially in rural areas. North Carolina is behind the curve and should take action now for the benefit of all North Carolinians,” said **Stacy Staggs, Director of Community Engagement, Little Lobbyists.**

“When our former Governor LePage refused to expand Medicaid we took the issue to the people and let the people of Maine vote to expand Medicaid. Mainers are health care voters,” said **Marie Follayttar, Director, Mainers for Accountable Leadership.**

“We strongly support Senator Warnock's bill and any other measure which would get critically needed health care coverage to those in states which have rejected life-saving Medicaid expansion,” said **Vincent DeMarco, President, Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative.**

“Essential for those who are locked out,” said **Ron Manderscheid, President/CEO, NACBHDD and NARMH.**

“Access to affordable and quality health coverage is the foundation of building strong and thriving communities. As Congress and the Biden Administration work together to rebuild the health of our nation, we cannot forget the millions of low-income families who still lack access to Medicaid, at no fault of their own. Senator Warnock's legislation sends a clear message that they have not been forgotten and it takes a significant step forward in advancing health equity and racial justice,” said **Kenneth Gilliam Jr, Policy Director, New Virginia Majority.**

“It is a travesty that we have any uninsured people in our country. It's time for health to be prioritized over politics, and people over profit.” said **Sondra Youdelman, Campaigns Director, People's Action.**

“This is a great way to get around no action Republicans,” **said Marilyn Michaels, Chair, Skidaway Island Indivisible Group.**

“One of the goals of our organization has been to push for an expansion of Medicaid in Georgia in order to make sure more Georgians have health coverage, create more well paid jobs and to save our rural hospitals. Senator Warnock's legislation will supersede the ineffective healthcare bill passed by the Georgia legislature,” **said Tom Thomason, Co-administrator, South Atlanta Progress.**

“Getting healthcare should not depend upon the balance in your bank account,” **said Erin Jackson-Hill, Executive Director, S'Up Alaska - Stand Up Alaska.**

“Cancer, COVID, and medical bills don't come in red and blue. The COVID pandemic showed us that we're all in this together, that if some of us get sick, all of us are at risk. We need to view this as a problem to be solved, not as a political issue. That means making sure anyone who can't afford insurance can get high-quality coverage through Medicaid. If our State legislature is too mired in partisan politics to care for our health, then the Federal lawmakers need to step up and get the job done,” **said Judy Roitman, Executive Director, Tennessee Health Care Campaign.**

"For years, Tennesseans have urged our state leaders to expand Medicaid, and they have stood in the way. We are hopeful that federal leaders are listening and will finally provide access to this lifesaving program to people in the coverage gap, particularly those in communities of color and rural communities who have been harmed by our state's refusal to act," **said Kinika Young, Senior Director of Health Policy and Advocacy, Tennessee Justice Center.**

“I support the Federal Medicaid Program,” **said Taliah Ayers, Co-organizer, Unite Dallas.**

“Everyone should have access to quality healthcare and the resources to receive the care they need,” **said Chandra Wright, Vice President of Philanthropy, United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley.**

“Community Health Centers remain dedicated to ensuring that all Wisconsinites have access to high quality, affordable care that helps individuals reach their full health potential. A strong and sustainable Medicaid infrastructure is critical in advancing that goal. We recognize Senator Baldwin's continued leadership in championing an enduring health care safety net for all Wisconsinites, especially as over half of Wisconsin's Community Health Center patients are Medicaid enrollees. This proposal invests in Wisconsinites by creating new options for individuals to access affordable care, and advancing our nation's commitment to high-quality, affordable health outcome,” **said Stephanie Harrison, Executive Director, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association.**

“Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos rejected \$1.6 billion in federal aid for Medicaid expansion. It would have given tens of thousands of more people getting coverage while seeing the state's costs drop by hundreds of millions of dollars a year. It makes no sense,” **said Linda Kessel, Lead Organizer, Indivisible Madison, Wisconsin.**

“Thousands of Texans die each year because Texas extremists cruelly prop up a mirage of a free market. Their politics bleeds Texans dry. Enough is enough! This legislation is vital to save the lives of Texans and we fully support it,” **said Daniel Cohen, Co-Founder, Indivisible Houston.**