



TRANSMITTED BY EMAIL

February 19, 2025

Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. Representative, LA-01

Honorable Troy Carter
U.S. Representative, LA-02

Honorable Clay Higgins
U.S. Representative, LA-03

Honorable Mike Johnson
U.S. Representative, LA-04

Honorable Julia Letlow
U.S. Representative, LA-05

Honorable Cleo Fields
U.S. Representative, LA-06

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Scalise, Representatives Carter, Higgins, Letlow, and Fields,

On behalf of the Coalition of Louisiana Addiction Service & Prevention Providers (CLASPP) and individuals across Louisiana served by addiction treatment programming, we write to express our deep concerns regarding the potential impact of proposed federal cuts to Medicaid, including adoption of measures such as Medicaid block grants, per capita caps, or reductions to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). These proposed changes under consideration stand to have severe repercussions for the state of Louisiana, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs across the state, and the thousands of vulnerable Louisianans who rely on Medicaid for access to life-saving care.

Across Louisiana and the U.S., Medicaid is the primary source of coverage for addiction treatment services, enabling millions to access necessary care, ranging from outpatient counseling to inpatient rehabilitation. However, if Medicaid funding were to be reduced or capped, state policymakers would be forced to make difficult decisions that drastically impact the services available to individuals in need.

For our state, the introduction of funding restrictions or reduction of federal match percentages would create unpredictability and havoc in state budgeting. Louisiana could face shortfalls that may require reduction of eligibility or of critical programs. This uncertainty would most certainly undermine states' ability to plan and effectively allocate resources for SUD treatment and other essential services.

For treatment programs, Medicaid cuts would likely result in a significant reduction in funding for services. Programs may be forced to reduce the scope of care they provide, scale back outreach efforts, or even shut their doors entirely. As a result, individuals seeking treatment would face fewer available treatment



options and in some cases be left without access to care altogether. This would exacerbate the opioid crisis and other substance use issues within our communities, leading to preventable deaths, increased crime and incarceration, emergency room visits, and costly long-term healthcare needs.

These proposed reductions to Medicaid under consideration would harm the very individuals who depend on this program to manage their well-being. Medicaid serves as a lifeline for millions of low-income Americans, providing not only the treatment and care they need but also a sense of dignity and hope for recovery. Cutting this coverage would leave many individuals without access to the services that can help them regain their health, families, and livelihoods. This would not only impact the individuals directly affected but also create broader societal costs, as untreated substance use disorders contribute to increased crime, homelessness, and healthcare and criminal justice expenditures.

We must recognize the vital role Medicaid plays in ensuring access to treatment and work to protect and strengthen it for the sake of the individuals and families who rely on it. These reductions and restrictions under consideration, including the introduction of block grants, per capita caps, or cuts to FMAP, would have devastating effects on states, treatment providers, and individuals with substance use disorders.

We urge you to consider the profound impact these proposed cuts would have on vulnerable populations and thank you for your awareness around this critical issue.

Sincerely,

William M. Martyn, President – Executive Director, Responsibility House

Emily G. Tilley, Vice President – Executive Director, O'Brien House

Edward C. Carlson, Secretary/Treasurer – Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House Louisiana

Barry LaFleur, Member at Large – Clinical Director, Acadiana Cares