**Medicaid**

* CBO Releases Estimates for Medicaid Policy Options and State Responses: On Wednesday, May 7, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [released](https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/050725_wyden-pallone_letter.pdf) its estimates for five policy options regarding Medicaid, including setting the federal Medicaid matching rate for the expansion population equal to that for other enrollees, limiting state taxes on health care providers, establishing caps on federal spending for the entire Medicaid population, establishing caps on federal spending for the Medicaid expansion population and repealing Medicaid’s Eligibility and Enrollment rule. For example, CBO estimates that under the option to set the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the expansion population equal to that for other enrollees, the deficit would be reduced by $710 billion over the 2025-2034 period. However, CBO estimates that, in 2034, 2.4 million of the 5.5 million people who would no longer be enrolled in Medicaid under this option would be without health insurance. CBO also noted that repealing the Eligibility and Enrollment final rule would reduce the deficit by $162 billion over the 2025-2034 period but would result in 2.3 million Americans losing Medicaid coverage. CBO found that it anticipates states would respond in four ways: (1) spend more themselves on Medicaid using a mix of revenue increases and reduced spending on other programs for financing; (2) reduce payment rates to providers; (3) limit the scope or number of optional benefits; and (4) reduce enrollment in Medicaid. Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) pointed to the findings as confirmation that Republican efforts would disproportionately harm children, seniors and people with disabilities.
* House Republicans Meet to Discuss Reconciliation, Including Medicaid Cuts: On Tuesday, May 6, Republicans met with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to discuss reconciliation efforts and potential reforms to Medicaid. Reports [indicated](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/mike-johnson-medicaid-plan-gop-moderates-00332330) that several moderate Republicans emerged from the closed-door meeting with less hesitation. The plan has started to shift to focus more on work requirements for beneficiaries, more frequent eligibility checks and cracking down on coverage for noncitizens. Some of the more controversial changes, including pursuing changes to the FMAP or per capita caps, have been taken off the table, with Speaker Johnson saying he thinks they are “ruling that out, but stay tuned.” Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ) told reporters that if there are trigger laws related to per capita caps in Arizona, it is a deal-breaker. Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY) also noted that he remains opposed to both changes to FMAP and per capita caps. Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL) accused Democrats of fearmongering about potential Medicaid coverage losses and said that Republicans are being thoughtful and working through the text line by line.
* E&C Committee Democrats Release Report on Potential Impacts of Medicaid Work Requirements: On Thursday, May 1, House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats released a [staff report](https://comms.bhfs.com/collect/click.aspx?u=&rh=ff00e88926ca9d9f0263c9d817409b2c587c9f7b) warning that Republican-led proposals to impose national Medicaid work requirements would cause millions of low-income Americans to lose coverage without increasing employment. The report, released by Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), highlights findings from Arkansas and Georgia. These two states have implemented paperwork-based eligibility requirements. According to the report, thousands lost coverage due to administrative burdens, and in Georgia, less than 18% of program funding was spent on actual health care, with the bulk going to administrative costs. Ranking Member Pallone said the report reveals these policies are not about encouraging work but rather serve to reduce enrollment and redirect funds. The CBO estimates that such requirements could result in $260 billion in Medicaid cuts and leave 2.5 million people uninsured. The report includes district-level estimates of those at risk and stories of individuals harmed during previous implementation efforts.
* House Conservatives Push for Deep Medicaid Cuts in GOP Reconciliation Bill: On Thursday, May 1, Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) and 19 other House conservatives called for sweeping Medicaid reforms in a letter to GOP colleagues, urging structural changes as part of Republicans’ forthcoming reconciliation bill. The [letter](https://comms.bhfs.com/collect/click.aspx?u=NnRnT0RXTGFDUmQ3UVdRQnRaRTBhTjJwMGZLaUh3ZEdIRHZ6OTRhWTRpQXJSbEtCMkZaaGljcmxvaGpTcEs5L0FESVZ0ZE9KVWI2ckJWVlBqTThqVHlKdXNWdHo5TXFObmZtSjBlc0xlREU9&rh=ff00e88926ca9d9f0263c9d817409b2c587c9f7b) advocates equalizing federal Medicaid payments for expansion and traditional populations, limiting provider taxes and tightening eligibility verification. While conservative Republicans want deep Medicaid cuts to meet the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s $880 billion savings target, swing-state Republicans are pushing back, warning against harming constituents or providers.

**Relevant Articles**

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* [Trump touts ‘great progress’ as Republicans quarrel over his megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/trump-touts-great-progress-as-republicans-quarrel-over-his-megabill-00334589)
* [House GOP backing off some Medicaid cuts as report shows millions of people would lose health care](https://www.bgov.com/news/SVWN0ZTVI5MO)
* [Hard-liners double down on Medicaid cuts as White House scrambles for alternative](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/gop-medicaid-cuts-drug-prices-trump-00322803)
* [Hard-liners’ Medicaid letter has ties to GOP think tank](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/chip-roy-medicaid-letter-paragon-health-pro-00324249)
* [The problems are piling up for the GOP megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/trump-republicans-megabill-reconciliation-problems-00324861)
* [GOP leaders take more time for key megabill markup after Medicaid snags](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/energy-and-commerce-punts-megabill-markup-another-week-00322490)
* [CBO: Millions could lose coverage if GOP pulls back on Medicaid expansion](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/cbo-millions-could-lose-coverage-if-gop-pulls-back-on-medicaid-expansion-00332758)
* [Carter: Medicaid PBM Spread Pricing Ban Expected In Reconciliation](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/carter-medicaid-pbm-spread-pricing-ban-expected-reconciliation)
* [E&C Democrats’ Report Details Struggles Medicaid Beneficiaries Have With Work Requirements](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/ec-democrats-report-details-struggles-medicaid-beneficiaries-have-work-requirements)
* [State budgets land in GOP crosshairs amid struggle to fund megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/state-budgets-land-in-gop-crosshairs-amid-struggle-to-fund-megabill-00333638)
* [House GOP still considering drug policy White House wants for Trump's megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/house-gop-still-considering-drug-policy-white-house-wants-for-trumps-megabill-00331036)
* [Key Republican: GOP ‘hard pressed’ to wrap megabill by Memorial Day](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/key-republican-gop-hard-pressed-to-wrap-megabill-by-memorial-day-00330618)
* [Trump’s budget plan will test GOP lawmakers’ loyalty](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/trumps-budget-plan-will-test-gop-lawmakers-loyalty-00324279)
* [Medicaid Work Requirements, PBM Reforms Expected In E&C Reconciliation Draft, While 'Doc Fix' Less Likely](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/lobbyists-medicaid-work-requirements-pbm-reforms-expected-ec-reconciliation-draft-while)
* [Bacon Leaning No On FMAP, Provider Cuts](https://insidehealthpolicy.com/daily-news/bacon-leaning-no-fmap-provider-cuts)
* [E&C chair Guthrie still 'hoping' for megabill markup next week](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/e-c-chair-guthrie-still-hoping-for-megabill-markup-next-week-00333683?site=pro&prod=alert&prodname=alertmail&linktype=article&source=email)

**Food Insecurity**

* House Oversight Subcommittee Holds Hearing on the Growth of the Welfare State: On Wednesday, May 7, the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a [hearing](https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/examining-the-growth-of-the-welfare-state-part-ii/) titled, “Examining the Growth of the Welfare State.” Testifying before the subcommittee were the Honorable Ben Carson, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Chris Edwards, Kilts Family Chair in Fiscal Studies, Cato Institute; Howard Husock, Senior Fellow, Domestic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; and Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Advisor, Community Change, Doris Duke Distinguished Visiting Fellow, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University. Ranking Member Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) noted that the reconciliation bill would cut Medicaid and SNAP over $1 trillion combined, which would force children to go to sleep hungry because their parents lost their SNAP benefits. He noted that when he was young, he relied on the Food Stamp Program, which was critical to his family and cutting food aid is wrong. Rep. Wesley Bell (D-MO) emphasized that protecting Medicaid and SNAP is critical. Reps. Lateefah Simon (D-CA) and Emily Randall (D-WA) added that any reductions to SNAP for working, low-income Americans could be the difference between life and death or homelessness.
* Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller Says State Ready to Share Costs of SNAP: On Wednesday, May 7, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said in an [interview](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/texas-sid-miller-food-aid-cost-sharing-congress-plan-00331629) that Texas is ready to share the costs of SNAP. When asked about his opinion regarding the effort by Republicans in Congress to put some of the costs of SNAP onto states to fund tax cuts in the reconciling bill, he noted, “It is an excellent idea. Government that is closest to the people always does it better. We have run 12 of the 14 nutrition programs already. So, it would be a perfect hand-in-glove fit for us. I am responsible for five million school meals each day. We are the shining star when it comes to school lunch and school nutrition.” He added that, “We have rooted out a lot of fraud in the nutrition systems. We are really good at it. We know what to look for. So, I would take the challenge.” Miller cautioned that the change should be phased in gradually over a period of years to account for states that would have a larger fiscal impact.
* Reports Indicate Changing Sentiment Over SNAP Cuts: On Tuesday, May 6, [reports](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/house-republicans-plan-major-snap-food-aid-overhaul-in-trump-megabill-00330620) indicated that Republicans have altered the more controversial pieces of the House Agriculture Committee’s portion of the reconciliation bill, which could have resulted in a policy to force states to pay a portion of benefits under SNAP for the first time. A previous proposal that has been circulating would have seen the states’ share of costs reach 25% by the end of a 10-year window, with a phase-in period starting in 2027. Several lawmakers, including Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE) and David Valadao (R-CA), have raised concerns about the plan. According to reports, the latest plan would phase in for fiscal year (FY) 2028 and skew more of the financial burden to states with higher payment error rates while decreasing the portion of the cost share on states with fewer penalties to as low as 10%. Republicans are still considering increasing the age of recipients who need to complete work requirements to receive food aid, which CBO estimates could save at least $40 billion. The committee is also considering a plan to include provisions from the Farm Bill in its portion. Other proposals still in circulation include cracking down on waiver abuse, including waivers of certain layers of work requirements, as well as ending the “internet utility loophole” from the Biden administration and another loophole associated with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
* Sec. Rollins Testifies Before House and Senate Committees: On Tuesday, May 6, Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins [testified](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-department-of-agriculture) before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies to discuss the President’s FY2026 Budget Request for the Department of Agriculture. The hearing centered around disaster assistance programs, agricultural research, food assistance programs, USDA workforce and efficiency reforms and trade issues and the administration’s tariff regime. During the hearing, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) questioned the absence of SNAP funding in the President’s budget request and highlighted their impact on essential nutrition support for mothers and children. Rollins stated that SNAP has not been entirely cut, merely realigned to better address pressing needs and save taxpayer money. The following day, Secretary Rollins also [testified](https://appropriations.house.gov/schedule/hearings/budget-hearing-us-department-agriculture) before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. During the hearing, Rollins said she is open to changes to SNAP and vowed to eliminate “waste, fraud and abuse.” Chairman Andy Harris (R-MD) noted that SNAP recipients could be restricted to using the aid only for the purchase of U.S. products and touted his idea as an effort to bolster U.S. farmers. Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) noted that the agency should consider exemptions to the SNAP junk food restrictions, as small grocers could face significant technological burdens.

**Relevant Articles**

* [GOP leaders push Agriculture markup amid megabill delays](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/agriculture-committee-markup-delay-00322890)
* [House Republicans plan major SNAP food aid overhaul in Trump megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/house-republicans-plan-major-snap-food-aid-overhaul-in-trump-megabill-00330620)
* [Trump's budget plan suggests slashing food and forest programs, increasing MAHA funding](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/trump-budget-plan-food-aid-maha-agriculture-department-00324056)
* [Politico Pro Q&A: Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/texas-sid-miller-food-aid-cost-sharing-congress-plan-00331629)
* [House Republicans eye adding $60B farm bill package in Trump megabill](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/house-republicans-farm-programs-snap-megabill-00335377)
* [House Agriculture Committee schedules reconciliation markup of $230 billion in spending cuts](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/house-agriculture-committee-reconciliation-markup-megabill-00334839)
* [SNAP takes center stage as Rollins faces House appropriators](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/05/snap-takes-center-stage-as-rollins-faces-house-appropriators-00334212)