



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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February 24, 2025

**NYSARA President Meets With Senate Majority Leader
Schumer About President Trump's Actions that
Jeopardize Seniors and the Nation to Give Tax Cuts to
the Wealthy and Corporations**

By Barry A. Kaufmann, NYSARA President



On Friday February 21st NYSARA President, **Barry A. Kaufmann**, was part of a live/zoom meeting with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and a variety of other organizations including Medicaid Matters, NYS Senior Action Network, Medicare Rights Center, the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Housing Works, Citizens Action, Gay Mens Health Center, the Cancer Society, SEIU 1199, NYSNA, PEF, CSEA, the Doctors Council, DC 37, NYSUT, and A Strong Economy for All. The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on the happenings of the first weeks of the Trump administration and discuss actions going forward.

As you can see below the President's proposed extension of the 2017 tax cuts over 49% of the costs flow from tax breaks for the top 5% of earners in America and even more of the tax breaks will go to corporations by reducing corporate tax rates while not getting rid of tax loopholes that corporations use to pay low or no taxes. This law will blow a hole in the deficit by adding \$4.6 trillion to the debt. The way they pay for it is by cutting Medicaid, funding for Social Security and civil service employees. While some of you would say that there is waste and fraud in government and there is, the way that an unelected, unvetted multi billionaire that makes \$8 million per **DAY** from taxpayers through government contracts has cut civil servants without reason and resulting in having to rehire people who control our nuclear stockpile or a dealing with bird flu, or firing those doing research to find cures or treatments for cancer, alzheimer's and other diseases or the chairman of the joint chiefs of the military I would say they are not dealing with finding and remedying that waste and fraud.

Medicaid is a program that 63% of seniors receiving long term care use to pay. Medicaid is not only a senior program is is critical to New York State. If the cuts in Medicare from the federal government are passed in the proposed budget to give tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations and increase the debt there are unplanned problems. If New York does not receive federal funding they have to fund Medicaid with State dollars. Since there are only a limited amount of dollars Other critical programs the state currently funds would be impacted.

We are at a critical juncture in this country. Separation of powers is not happening. Our Republican leaders have abrogated their power of the purse and move in lockstep with the administration with no accountability.

According to Senator Schumer our job (NYSARA members) is to create a groundswell of protests to our Republican members of Congress to get them to do their jobs and act in the best interest of their constituents in NEW YORK. These cuts impact people. The choice is tax cuts for the wealthy while "throwing Grandma out on the streets. The choice is tax cuts for the wealthy or cuts to Social Security and Medicare. The choice is tax cuts for the wealthy or funding for research into disease. The choice is clear and we must take action now. We cannot sit on the sidelines and wait for others to "save us".

The plan is that NYSARA members that live in districts with elected Republican representatives must contact them now. New York State Republicans know they are in a state that does not support the actions that have taken place and for that reason if they remain silent and blindly follow they are at risk of not getting re elected. I urge you to call or e mail your displeasure that millionaires and billionaires are favored over the vast majority of citizens and that you will not stand for that. Seniors vote in much higher percentages than any other age demographic and just as they were voted in they can be voted out. **The contact information below is for all the New York Republicans.**

Congressional District #1 Nick Lakota -631-289-1097 lalota.house.gov to e mail. 31,887 households NYSARA members, 32,276 NYSARA members

Congressional District # 2 Andrew Garbarino 631-541-4225 garbarino.house.gov to e mail 25,125 households, 25,408 members

Congressional District # 11 Nicole Malliotakis 718-568-2870 malliotakis.house.gov 19,870 households 20,131 members

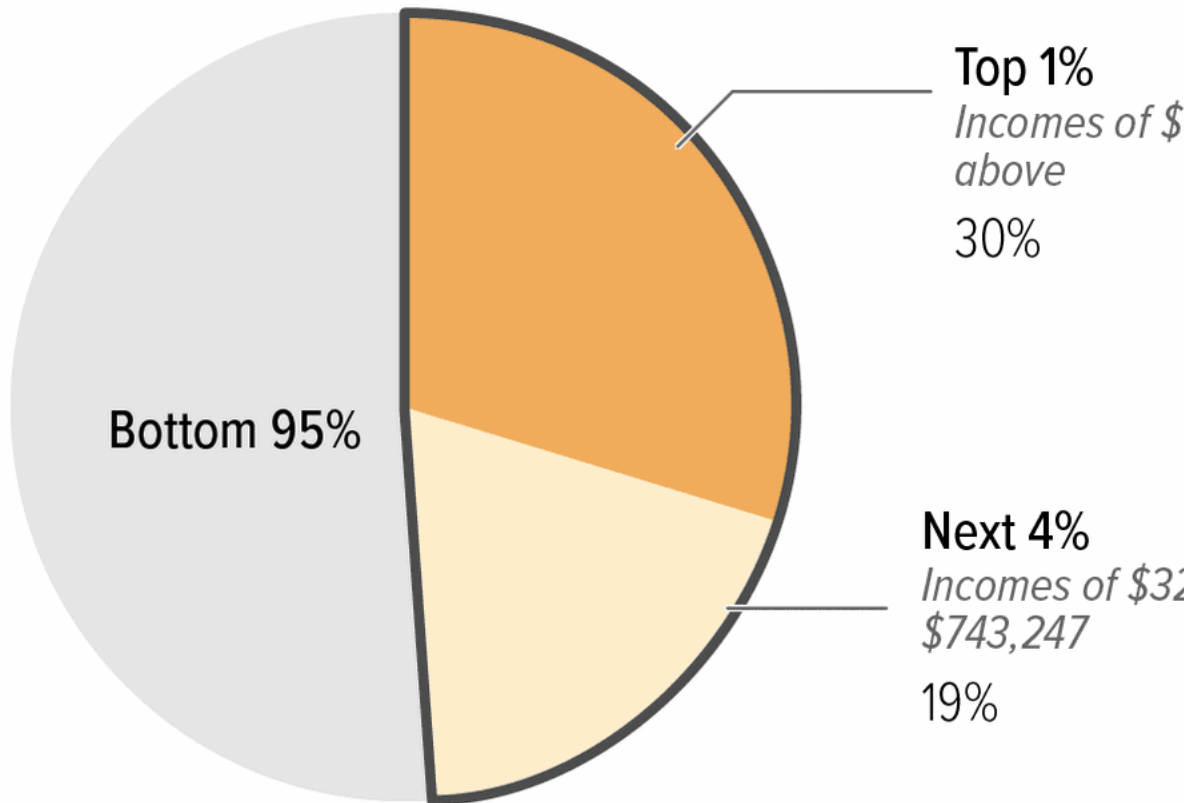
Congressional District # 17 Mike Lawler 845-743-7130 lawyer.house.gov 28,105 households 28,374 members

Congressional District # 23 Nick Langworthy 585-543-5033, 716-547-6844 or 607-377-3130 langworthy.house.gov 44,569 households and 44,929 members

Congressional District 24 Claudia Tenney 716-514-5130, 585-869-2060 or 315-236-7088 tenney.house.gov 34,317 households and 34,533 members.

I urge you all to call these Representatives this week before the House votes on the reconciliation bill on the budget that will include tax cuts for the wealthy, huge deportation funding and increased defense spending. Remember, reconciliation allows the bill to pass the senate on a majority vote with no filibuster (60 votes) to hold it up. Republicans hold the majority 53-47 in the Senate. This bill **MUST** be identical in the Senate and House version.

Over 49% of Costs of Extending 2017 Expiring Provisions Flow From Tax Benefits to the Top 5% of Households



Source: Office of Tax Analysis, Department of Treasury. "The Cost and Distribution of Extending Expiring Provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017"

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

Healthcare Fight Organizing Call with Senator Schumer: Hands Off Our Healthcare! No Hand Outs to Billionaires!

The GOP budget blueprint uses savage cuts to Medicaid and other vital programs to pay for \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts for the rich. Join this call to learn how to fight back.

Date: Wednesday, February 26th

Time: 8-9pm

Zoom registration link:

Audience: {who are we reaching?} Rank-and-file union members, activists, folks who want to fight back

Purpose: Bring together New Yorkers to get an overview on the healthcare fight ramping up; highlight the negative, real impacts healthcare cuts will have on New Yorkers; and learn how you can fight back against these extremist plans. Senator Schumer will give an overview of the state-of-play and the legislative and messaging strategy, and organizers and activists will break down organizing next steps for the outside strategy. This is the ACA fight of 2017, like then let's show up to win!

Cutting \$2 trillion in healthcare and programs that families need to then give \$4.5 trillion in cuts to billionaires and wealthy corporations is what the Republicans want, which means that it's up to all of us to stop it.

How are we going to do that? First, get fired up to make a difference; then come find out action steps at the **Healthcare Fight Organizing Call with Leader Schumer and leading activists and organizations on Wednesday, February 26th at 8pm.**

You're invited to come and get a behind-the-scenes look on what's going on in Congress with the Republican extremist plan to cut healthcare to give even more money to the richest people on the planet. We'll hear stories of how this will negatively impact New Yorkers if Republicans get their way, and how we are going to organize together to fight back. Join fellow activists, organizers, advocates and labor leaders from across NY for this must-attend event with Senator Chuck Schumer.

Register below for our **Wednesday, February 26th at 8pm** call. This call will not be recorded.

LINK: https://senate.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/3917400071416/WN_B7AHwjLYSOWYKqfVeOFeSQ

Potential Target for Medicaid Cuts Would End Coverage for 20 Million People

By Julie Carter and our friends at Medicare Rights

[As we discussed last week](#), the Republican-controlled Congress is considering massive cuts to Medicaid. All cuts to Medicaid are harmful and would have ripple effects that hurt the Medicare program and its beneficiaries.

One type of cut being discussed would target the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion population. This may sound familiar. In 2018, [the last time the ACA was at risk](#), its Medicaid expansion was a particular target for repeal. The new efforts may come with a twist, however. Instead of directly eliminating the expansion, Congress could keep it in place but reduce its federal funding, shifting those costs to states.

States on the Hook

[KFF has new numbers](#) estimating the state-by-state impact of this policy under two different scenarios. In Scenario 1, states would continue to fund their Medicaid expansions despite the greater cost. According to KFF, this would result in a 17% increase in state Medicaid spending over 10 years. This number would go higher if anything like a pandemic or recession caused a surge in Medicaid enrollment.

In Scenario 2, states would drop their expansions entirely, unable to afford the \$626 billion in additional costs. This would kick 20 million low-income people out of their insurance coverage. While dropping this coverage would prevent the catastrophic budget effects of trying to pay for the expansion

using only state dollars, increasing the uninsured rate has ripple effects for the economy and the health care system, in addition to the suffering and increased health and financial harms for the people losing access to coverage and care.

Trigger Laws

Importantly, nine states have [“trigger laws”](#) on the books that require them to terminate the expansion if the federal government’s financial support dwindles. Three other states have laws that would require them to find other sources of funding under such circumstances. So, even if some states wanted to continue covering their expansion population, they may be unable to do so.

Impact on Medicare

While Medicare would not be directly affected by changes in federal or state funding for the Medicaid expansion, [cuts to Medicaid harm Medicare beneficiaries in many ways](#). Anything that stresses state budgets puts programs on which older adults and people with disabilities rely at risk. That pool of dollars is finite, and either bearing the sole cost of the Medicaid expansion or the sole cost of increasing numbers of uninsured people is a stressor on state financial health that could limit capacity for and access to other programs.

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Many people with Medicare have caregivers who are insured through expansion Medicaid. This includes family caregivers and also formal, paid direct care workers whose [wages lag behind those in other industries](#) and who [often qualify for Medicaid despite working full time](#). If they lose coverage and experience health and financial instability as a result, they may be unable to provide care, putting the Medicare beneficiary’s health and future at risk as well.

A Cut to Medicaid is a Cut to Medicare

At Medicare Rights, we see Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA as a set of interconnected programs. A cut to one is a cut to all, with damaging effects on beneficiaries, families, providers, and taxpayers. We will continue to urge policymakers to work toward more access to affordable, high-quality care, not kicking people out of their coverage.

Take Action to Protect Medicaid

The Senate may vote on its [harmful budget proposal](#) in the coming days, and the House is expected to follow suit as soon as next week. Now is the time to send Congress a clear message: **Don't cut Medicaid!**

- Tell them to oppose any Medicaid cuts. Whether it's work requirements, eligibility changes, or reduced funding, a cut is a cut.
- A cut to Medicaid is a cut to Medicare. The programs work together to provide the services and supports people need.
- The outcome from any cut is the same: older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers would lose access to needed health and long-term care.
- Medicaid is a lifeline for over 7 million older adults and 12 million people with Medicare. Slashing the program would cause serious and lasting harm.
- Be sure to personalize your message! [View this map](#) to learn what percentage of people in your Congressional district rely on Medicaid and share that number with your lawmakers.

Fiscal Policy Institute's Annual State Budget Analysis Offers Important insights for New York Seniors

The well-respected Fiscal Policy Institute has released its annual review of the Governor's proposed New York State Budget and makes several important observations about priorities related to Tax Cuts, Housing and Medicaid - all issues of great concern to New York's seniors.

You can access a copy of their analysis and review a video recording of their Budget Briefing held in NYC this past week.:

<https://fiscalpolicy.org/annual-report-on-the-executive-budget>

FPI will also be presenting another briefing in Albany this Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8:30 am in Meeting Room 5 of the Empire State Plaza. It is open to the public and you can register here:

<https://fiscalpolicy.org/event/2025-budget-briefing-albany>

House of Representatives Will Vote on Budget Resolution That Fast Tracks Massive Medicaid and Tax Cuts Next Week

The House of Representatives is [set to vote](#) on its Fiscal Year 2025 budget resolution next week. The blueprint, unveiled by House Republicans last week, calls for giving \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts to billionaires and wealthy corporations by slashing \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid and food assistance. President Trump has already [endorsed the plan](#), despite promising not to cut Medicaid.

ACTION ALERT – The Alliance is urging people to call **866-748-9411** to be connected with their representatives' offices. Demand that they vote no on the budget resolution when it reaches the House floor for a vote.

“It is outrageous to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations on the backs of seniors and working people,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Please call your representatives and tell them to vote no on this bad plan.”

Turmoil at Social Security Administration as Acting Commissioner Resigns After Trying to Block Musk Team's Unwarranted Data Access

Social Security Administration (SSA) Acting Commissioner **Michelle King**, a 30-year public servant and veteran of the agency, [resigned](#) this week after refusing to provide Elon Musk and operatives access to sensitive SSA data.

President Trump appointed **Leland Dudek**, who worked in SSA's anti-fraud office, as a replacement, and DOGE operatives were able to gain access to the data.

Alliance members took action this week to protest indiscriminate firing of civil servants and giving Musk's team access to SSA's systems. Maryland/DC members [joined](#) a rally outside of SpaceX's Washington, DC office and Texas members [joining](#) the Dallas AFL-CIO for a protest over the weekend.



“Every American should be alarmed that Elon Musk’s minions have been given access to the Social Security databases and computer systems. This is an unprecedented action that puts our financial security at risk and raises questions about their plans for our earned benefits,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance, [in a statement](#) released on Tuesday. “Seniors who paid for the Social Security benefits they have earned over a lifetime should not have to worry about whether their benefits will be paid or whether their data will be stolen or abused.”

Elon Musk has spoken about Social Security throughout the past week, spreading misinformation, [including a false claim](#) that “millions” of dead people are collecting benefits. In fact, while there is a Social Security database with names of Americans who do not have an official death date, [those names are not on the list](#) of people receiving benefits.

Wisconsin Alliance Wins Voting Rights Case as Wisconsin Supreme Court Rejects Attempts to Restrict Absentee Voting

In a 4-3 vote earlier this week, the Wisconsin Supreme Court [dismissed a case](#) that would have restricted voting absentee by mail in the state. The Wisconsin Alliance intervened in the case to defend access to early absentee voting sites.

The case began December, 2022, when a conservative group called the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) filed a [lawsuit](#) on behalf of a Racine voter against the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) and the city clerk of Racine for implementing mobile voting vans and early absentee ballot sites.

“Today is a good day for older voters in Wisconsin,” said **Ross Winklbauer**, President of the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans. “Older voters are the most likely to vote by mail and thanks to this decision

there will be more in-person options available to securely return their ballots.”

Medicare Advantage Increases Financial Strain for Rural Hospitals

New research indicates that Medicare Advantage (MA) policies exacerbate financial hardship for rural hospitals, with 75% of rural hospital leaders identifying Medicare Advantage as their [“most challenging” insurance payer](#).

The American Hospital Association [highlights three](#) MA plan tactics that hurt rural hospital administrators and providers. First, MA insurers often refuse to approve medical procedures, delay payments to hospitals, or deny payments entirely, increasing administrative burdens for hospital staff. Second, overly onerous MA requirements negatively affect the quality of care and reduce access to care for patients. Third, MA plans generally pay providers much less than the actual cost of care.

The combined effects of these policies are [directly impacting patient care](#), often forcing rural hospitals to cut essential services including obstetrics, mental health, and rehabilitation. Many hospital leaders fear they will join the [over 700 rural hospitals](#) already at risk of closure, leaving their communities without essential healthcare services.

“These new analyses show that Medicare Advantage is not always the best option for rural providers or their patients, despite claims that MA plans are more efficient than traditional Medicare,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

KFF Health News: GOP Takes Aim at Medicaid, Putting Enrollees and Providers at Risk

Medicaid is under threat — again.

Republicans, who narrowly control Congress, are pushing proposals that could sharply cut funding to the government health insurance program for poor and disabled Americans, as a way to finance President Donald Trump's agenda for tax cuts and border security.

Democrats, hoping to block the GOP's plans and preserve Medicaid funding, are rallying support from hospitals, governors, and consumer advocates.

At stake is coverage for roughly 79 million people enrolled in Medicaid and its related Children's Health Insurance Program. So, too, is the financial health of thousands of hospitals and community health centers — and a huge revenue source to all states.