

# Medicaid Threats in Pennsylvania:

WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join PHLP, PHAN, and J. Badger Consulting on April 8th for a webinar discussing federal threats to Medicaid, including **action steps you can take** to protect this vital program!

Hosted by:

→ @pahealthlaw

@pahealthaccess

@jbadgerconsultinginc



TUESDAY

**APRIL 8**

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST**

**VIRTUAL**

PENNSYLVANIA  
**Health Law**  
PROJECT

**PHAN**  
Pennsylvania Health  
Access Network



# Today's Roadmap

1. Welcome/Housekeeping
2. Medicaid Overview – How is it funded? Who benefits from Medicaid?
3. The Threat - What's being proposed?
4. The Impact – How would it impact us here in PA?
5. Next steps: How you can raise your voice to protect Medicaid!



# About PHLP

- Statewide nonprofit legal aid organization dedicated to ensuring access to public health coverage and services
- What we do:
  - Helpline for clients - FREE legal services
  - Technical assistance
  - Community education/trainings
  - Monthly email newsletter
  - Policy advocacy
  - Litigation



[www.phlp.org](http://www.phlp.org)

*30+ Years of Helping People in Need Get  
the Healthcare They Deserve*


# Medicaid Overview

How is Medicaid funded?

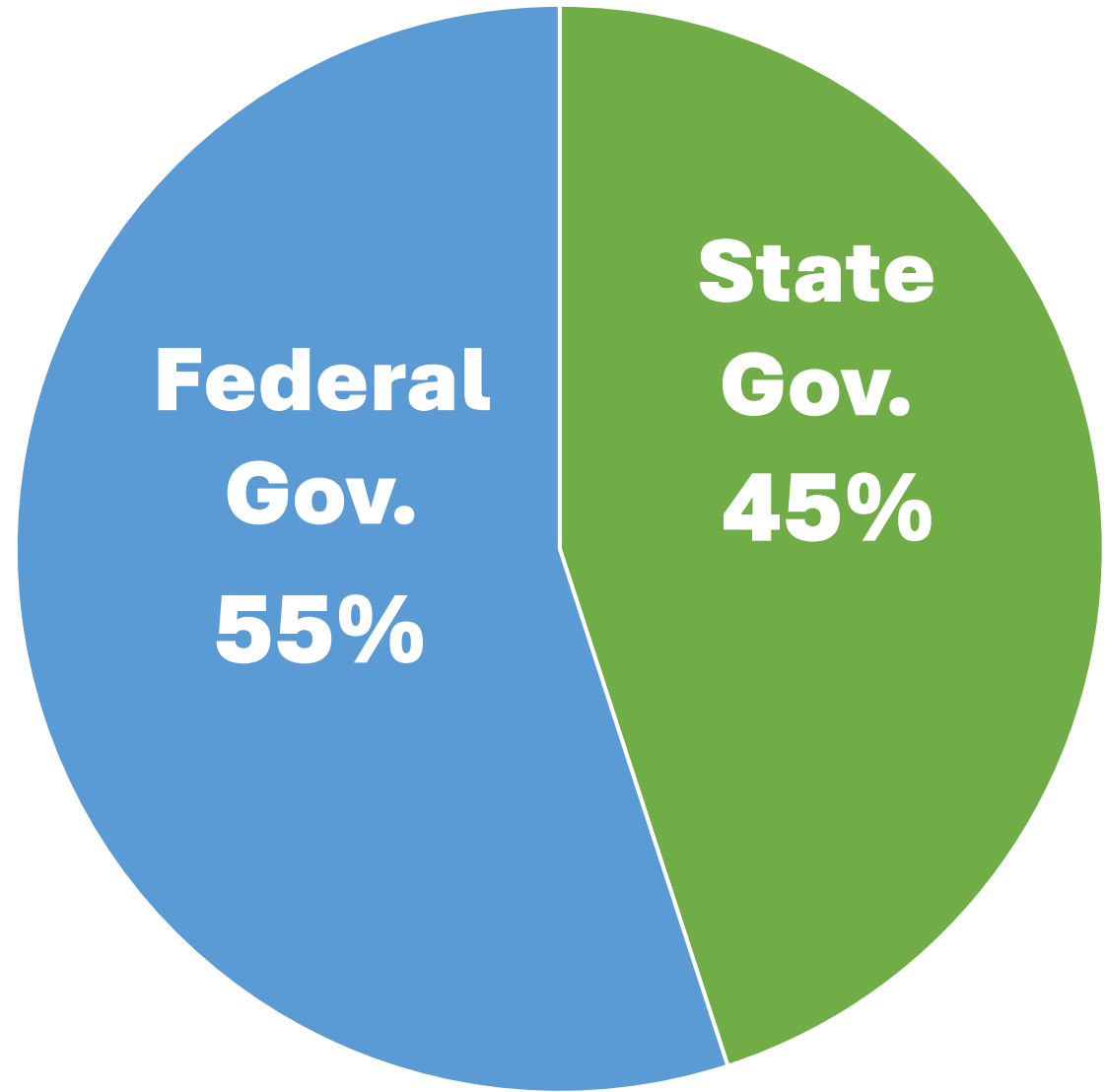
Who gets Medicaid?

# What is Medicaid?

- Public health insurance for people with limited incomes
- Also called “Medical Assistance” in Pennsylvania
- Medicaid is a federal-state partnership. It’s paid for by both the federal government and Pennsylvania.

 <b>pennsylvania</b>	<b>ACCESS</b>
<b>NAME:</b>	Individual Name
<b>ID #:</b>	987654321
<b>CARD ISSUE #:</b>	0123456789

Who pays for  
Medicaid?





## What services are covered?

- Medical Care
- Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Pregnancy Services
- School-based Services
- Home Care
- Nursing Facility Care
- Transportation to Appointments
- And more...

## Who gets Medicaid?

- Families with limited income
- Children
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Veterans
- Low-wage workers

# 3 MILLION Pennsylvanians Rely on Medicaid!

Nearly **1 in 4**  
Pennsylvanians  
is on Medicaid

**39%** of kids in PA  
children are on  
Medicaid.

**48%** of PA kids  
with special needs  
are on Medicaid.

**1 in 3** births in  
Pennsylvania is  
covered by  
Medicaid

**190,000**  
Pennsylvanians  
rely on Medicaid to  
avoid institutions.

Medicaid funds  
more than **60%** of  
nursing home care  
in PA.



# Current Threats to Medicaid

Erin Gabriel, Government Affairs  
[erin@pahealthaccess.org](mailto:erin@pahealthaccess.org)

# About PHAN

PHAN is Pennsylvania's only statewide patient-driven organization working to expand and protect access to high-quality, equitable, affordable healthcare for all Pennsylvanians.



## **Education**

Helping communities understand health policy.



## **Assistance**

Resolving problems and getting people covered.



## **Advocacy**

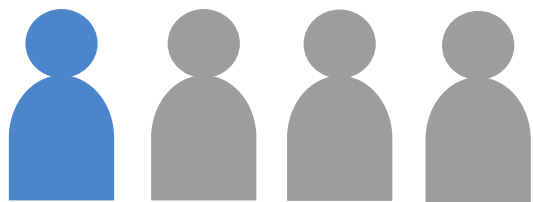
Ensuring consumers have a voice in policy decisions.

# Medicaid, Medicaid, Medicaid!

- Low income families
- Seniors
- Children
- People with disabilities
- Pregnancy
- Veterans
- School Services
- Home Care
- Nursing Home care
- Transportation
- And more!



# Medicaid is the most powerful public health intervention ever.



Pennsylvanians enrolled  
in Medicaid!

	Enrollment (11/2024)	% Total Enrollment	% Spend (2019)
Total Enrollees	2,994,346		
Children	1,254,756	42%	8%
Seniors, People with Disabilities, Pregnant Individuals	991,788	33%	81%
Medicaid Expansion	747,802	25%	11%

# Multiple Threats to Medicaid...

## Prominent Conservative/GOP Plans Include Severe Medicaid Cuts

Proposal	Project 2025	FY 25 Republican Study Committee Budget	FY 25 House Budget Resolution
Cap federal Medicaid funding through block grants and/or per capita caps	✓	✓	✓
Eliminate 90 percent expansion matching rate and make other cuts to regular Medicaid matching rate	✓	✓	✓
Eliminate states' use of provider taxes which are used to help finance their share of Medicaid costs	✓	✓	
Explicitly cut Medicaid eligibility and benefits	✓	✓	
Impose more red tape to reduce enrollment among eligible individuals including work reporting requirements	✓	✓	✓

Source: Edwin Park, Say Ahhh!, Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. See Project 2025 Blueprint Also Includes Draconian Cuts to Medicaid, Latest House Republican Study Committee Budget Plan Again Includes Draconian Medicaid Cuts, and This Year's House Republican Budget Resolution Also Includes Severe Medicaid Cuts.



## SPENDING REFORM OPTIONS

### Policy Explainer

Topline Savings: \$5.3 - \$5.7 T

- 1. REPEAL MAJOR BIDEN HEALTH RULES (\$420B)**
- 2. STRENGTHEN MEDICARE FOR SENIORS (\$479B)**
  - *Site Neutral – \$146B*
  - *Uncompensated Care – \$229B*
  - *Bad Debt – \$42B*
  - *BCA Mandatory Sequester Extension - \$62B*
- 3. MAKING MEDICAID WORK FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE (\$2.3T)**
  - *Per Capita Caps - up to \$918B*
  - *Equalize Medicaid Payments for Able Bodied Adults - up to \$690B*
  - *Limit Medicaid Provider Taxes - \$175B*
  - *Lower FMAP Floor - \$387B*
  - *Special FMAP Treatment for DC – \$8B*
  - *Repeal American Rescue Plan FMAP Incentive – \$18B*
  - *Medicaid Work Requirements - \$120B*
- 4. REIMAGINING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) (\$151B)**
  - *Recapture Excess Premium Tax Credit – \$46B*
  - *Limit Health Program Eligibility Based on Citizenship Status - \$35B*
  - *Repeal the Prevention Public Health Fund – \$15B*
  - *Appropriate Cost Sharing Reductions - \$55B*
- 5. ENDING CRADLE-TO-GRAVE DEPENDENCE (\$347B)**
  - *Reinstate the Trump-era Public Charge Rule -- \$15B*
  - *Reduce TANF by 10 Percent – \$15B*
  - *Eliminate the TANF Contingency Fund -- \$6B*
  - *Reform the Thrifty Food Plan -- up to \$274B*
  - *Eliminate the Social Services Block Grant – \$15B*
  - *SNAP Reforms – \$22B*

*“Making the pledge to say we're going to find \$2.5 trillion over 10 years, we're gonna have to, I mean otherwise we're gonna bankrupt the country ... I've been a big proponent of **per capita allotments** [in Medicaid].”*

*“We offered Medicaid reform in reconciliation in the repeal-and-replace package, and it was **per capita allotments**, which didn't cut Medicaid but it does limit the growth.”*

- House Energy and Commerce Chairman  
Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

*“I think we're going to look for savings wherever we can, and that might include health issues. There's hardly anything except Social Security and Medicare that can't be on the table.”*

- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), President Pro Tempore of the Senate

*“**Block Grants** make a lot of sense.”*

- Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

*“There's some talk about **work requirements** and various aspects, but we haven't determined the final parameters of it yet. That'll be a bicameral discussion.”*

- House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)



# Medicaid is a partnership. The feds pay some and PA pays some.

## Traditional Medicaid:

Children, Seniors, People with Disabilities, Pregnant People

**Feds** \$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$ **State**

## Medicaid Expansion:

Part of the Affordable Care Act: Others under 138%FPL

**Feds** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ \$ **State**

**Some proposals want to break the partnership & force states to pay more.**

Traditional Medicaid:

**Feds \$\$\$\$** **\$\$\$\$\$\$ State**

Medicaid Expansion:

**Feds \$\$\$\$\$** **\$\$\$\$\$ State**

**Small Changes = Big Cuts**

# Block Grants

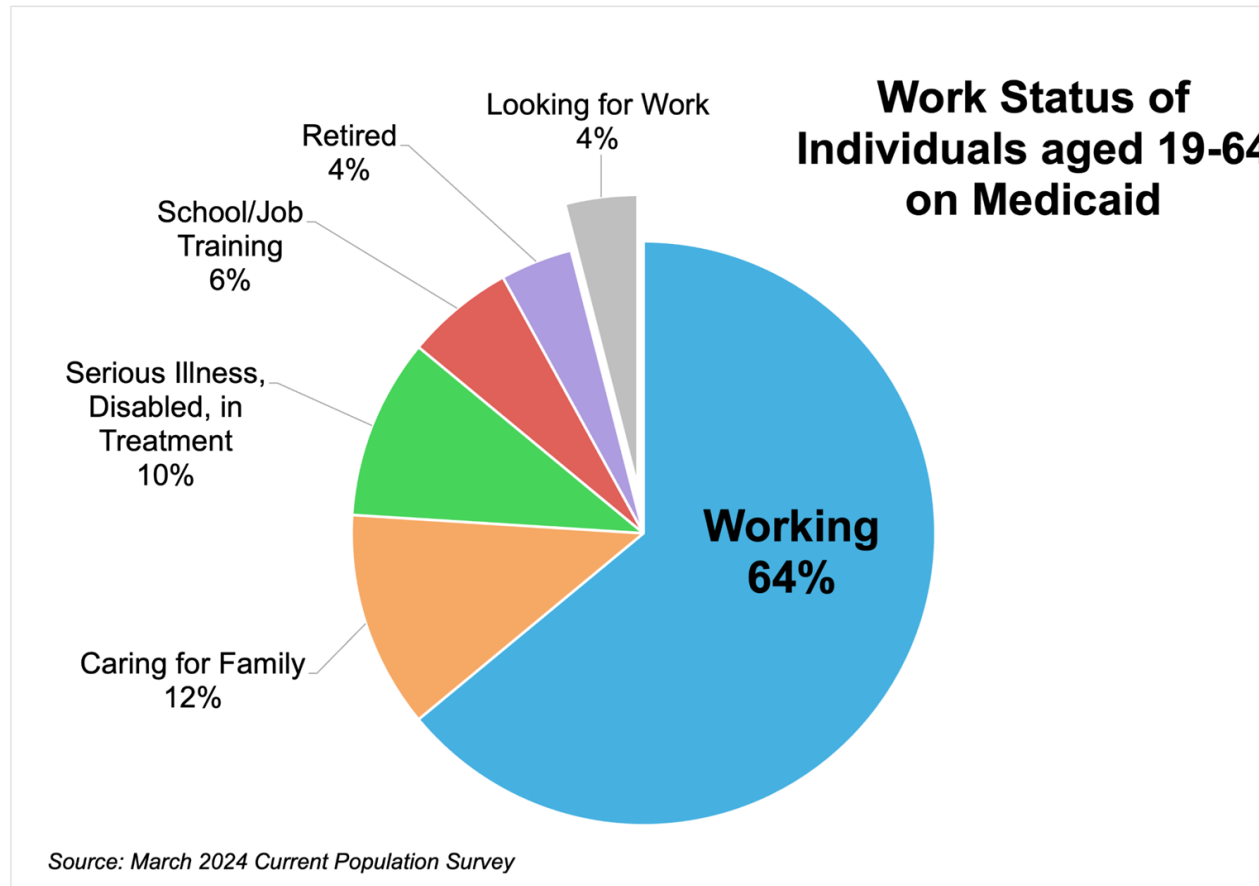
States get a single **lump sum** to cover Medicaid expenses regardless of enrollment or costs of care with minor increases each year.

# Per Capita Caps

States get a fixed amount of money **per person** enrolled in Medicaid that may or may not cover the cost of care with minor increases each year.

**Both = Big Cuts**

# The majority of adults on Medicaid are already working.



# Exemptions from Medicaid Work Requirements are NOT protections.



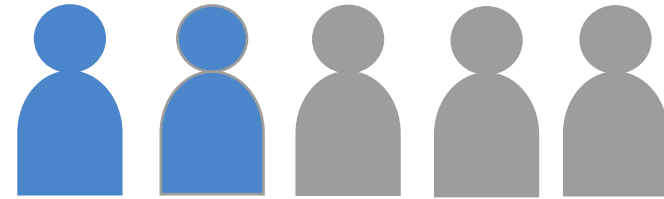
Paperwork Problems



System Backlogs



Strict Criteria



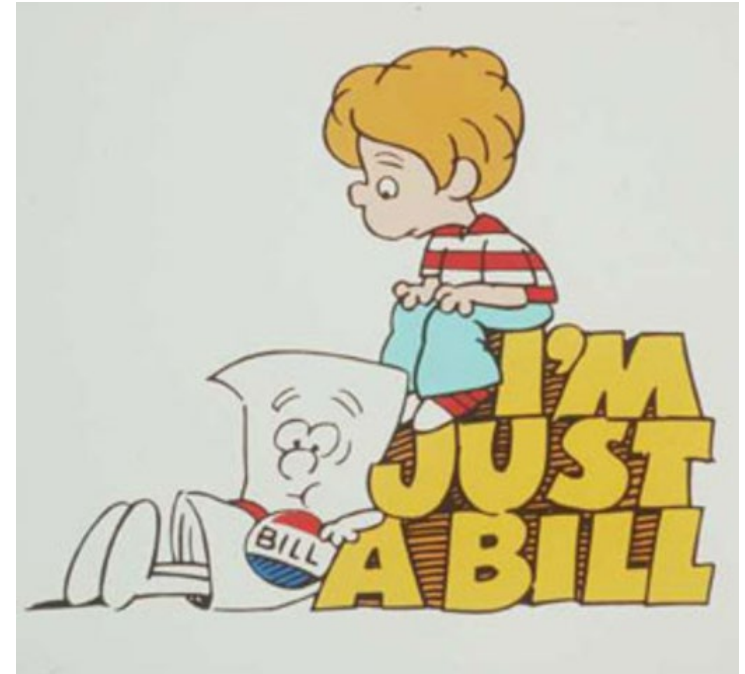
1.2 million at-risk  
of losing coverage  
in PA.

# Budget Reconciliation

Budget Reconciliation is a tool that gets around the filibuster, so only 51 votes are needed in the Senate, but it's complicated....

- Budget resolution gives instructions to each committee.
- The committees then draft bills that follow those instructions.
- The Budget committee combines all those bills into one budget bill.
- **If there are differences between the two chambers they must be resolved.**

Right now there are MAJOR differences between the two chambers that will need to be reconciled.



# What Can You Do?

**Call** your federal legislators!

- No cuts or caps for Medicaid
- Extend the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (EPTC) for the ACA





# What Can You Do?

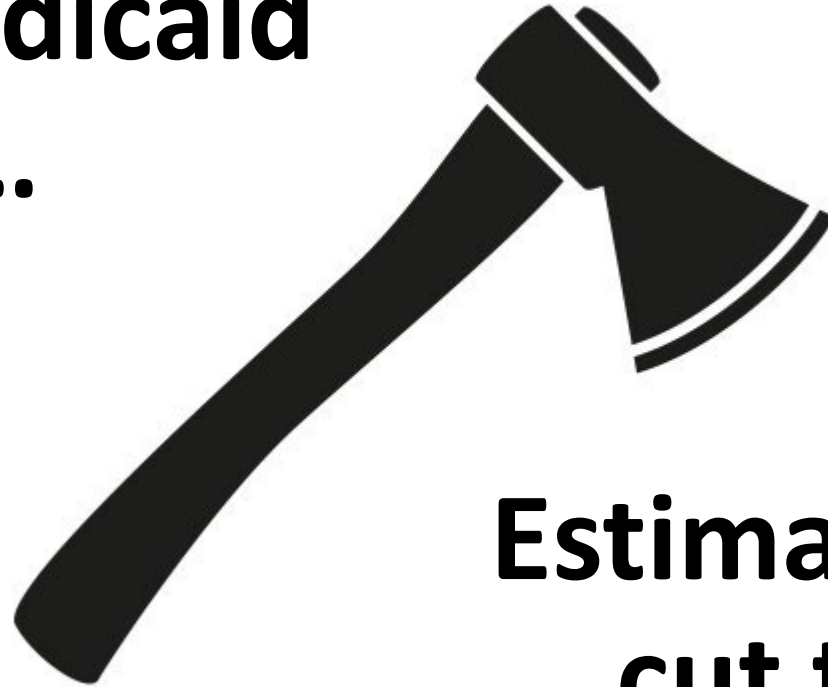
Share your stories!

- Personal stories make the most impact on legislators
- Meet with your legislators
- Talk to your neighbors, encourage them to get involved



# How would these proposals impact Pennsylvania?

**Federal Medicaid  
cuts mean...**



**Estimated **\$3-4 Billion**  
cut to Pennsylvania  
Medicaid (2026)!!!**

# State Options if There Are Cuts 😞

**Keep Medicaid  
Going As Is by:**

Raising Taxes

Taking Money from Other  
Programs

**Make Medicaid  
Cost Less by:**

Cover Fewer People

Cut Amount and Types of Services

# Potential Impact on PA Medicaid Recipients



**Loss of Medicaid Coverage**

**Stricter Eligibility & Enrollment Requirements**

**Service Cuts and Limits**

**Waitlists**

**Fewer Providers**

# Connect with PHLP

**Website:** [www.phlp.org](http://www.phlp.org)

**Helpline:** 1-800-274-3258

**[Sign up for PHLP's newsletter](#)**





# So, What Can We Do?

Dr. Josie Badger  
J. Badger Consulting, Inc.




# Telling Your Medicaid Story: Soapboxx

#SaveMedicaid

## Why is Medicaid important to you?


Congress is considering making big cuts to Medicaid & they need to hear from you! Tell us why Medicaid is so important to you and your family.


➦ SHARE THIS QUESTION



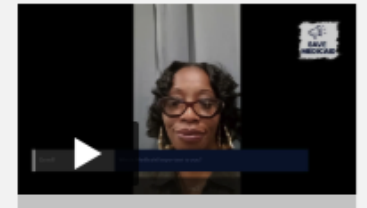
**SAVE MEDICAID**

*Share why Medicaid is important to your family!*

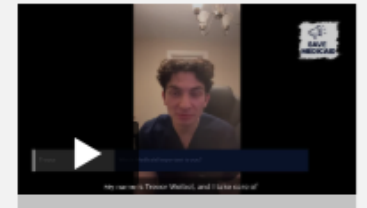
 **RECORD YOUR VIDEO**

 **UPLOAD VIDEO**

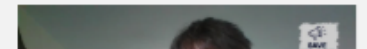
## Stories From This Question:



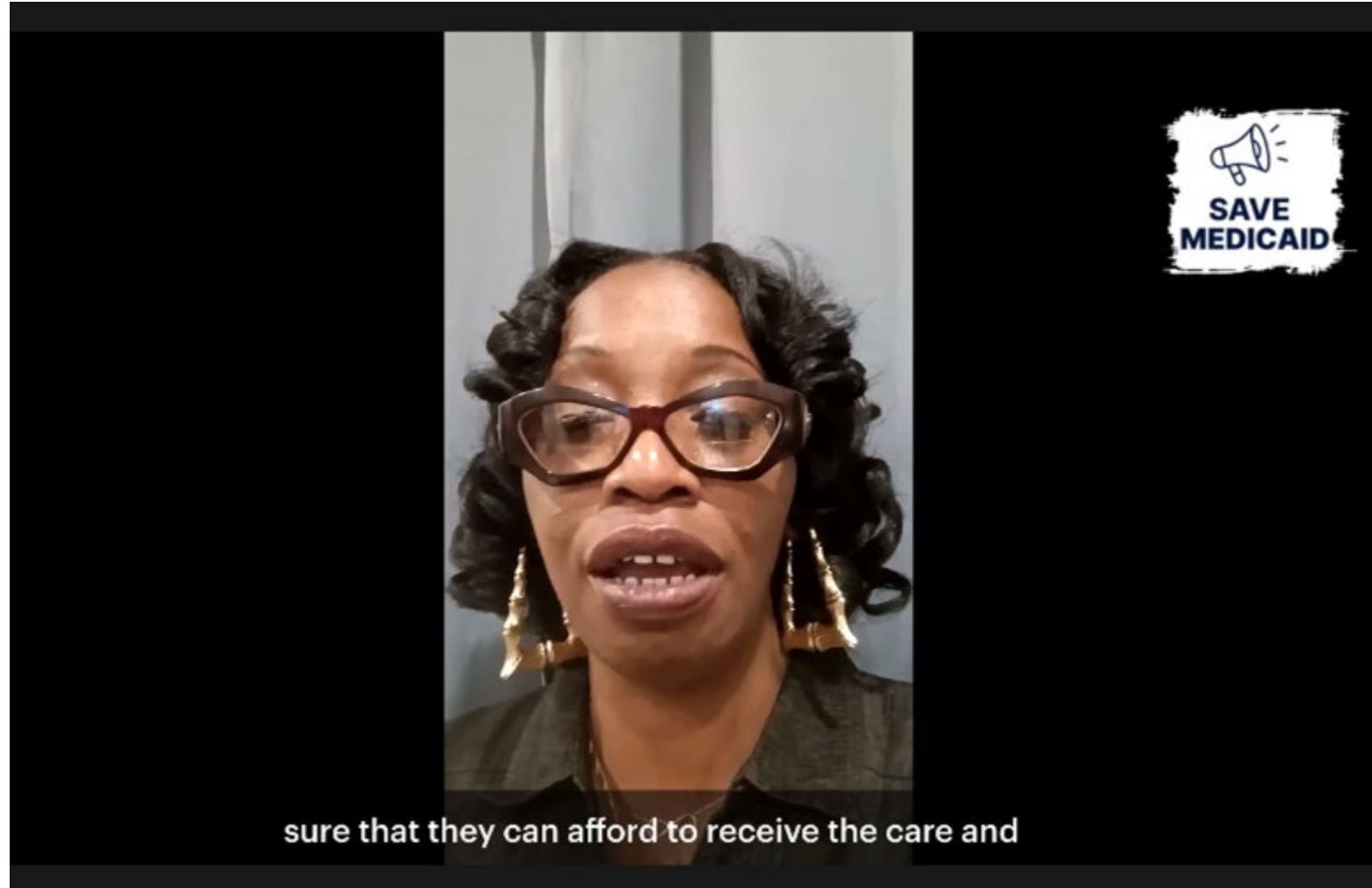
From **Cyrell**



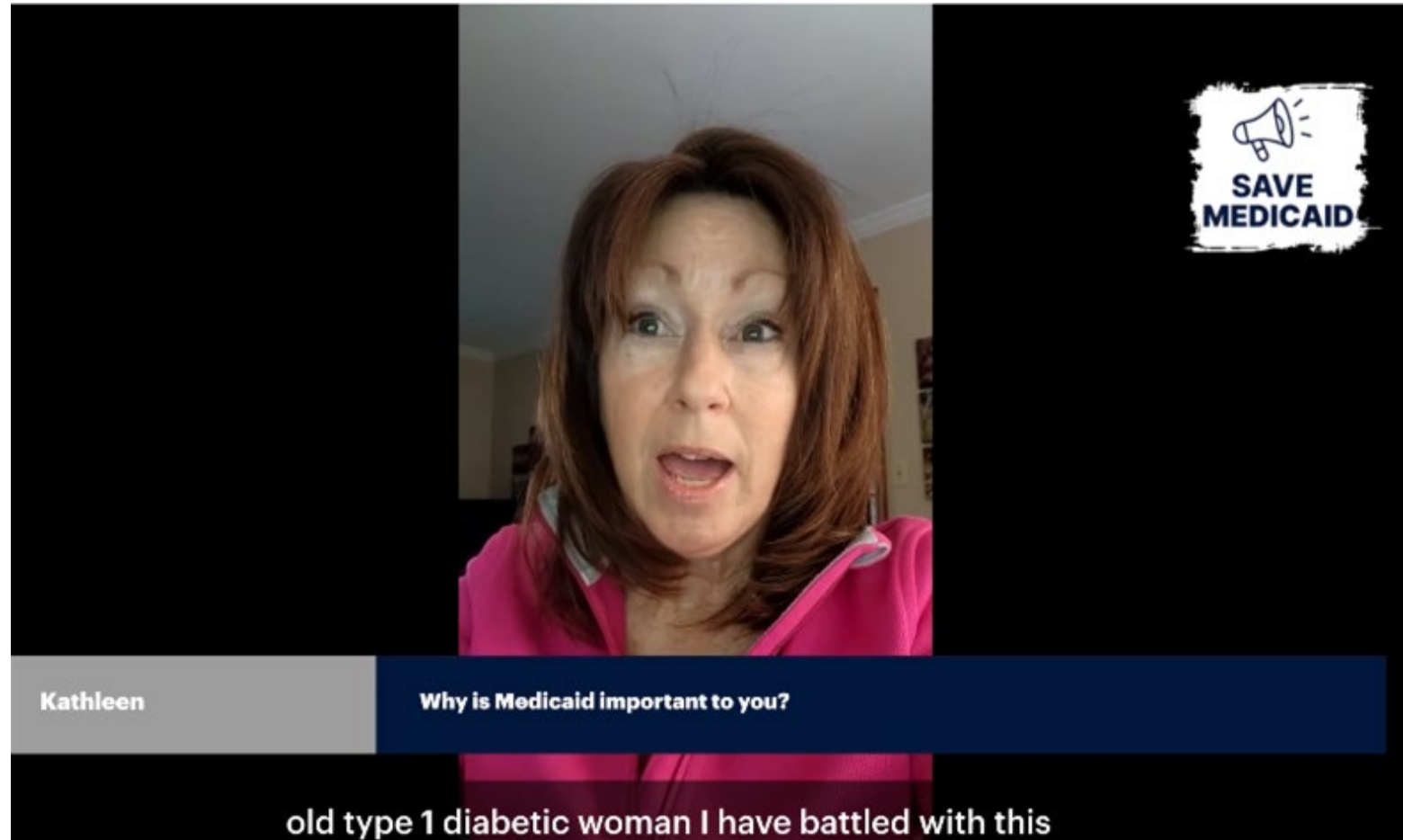
From **Trevor**



# Telling Your Medicaid Story: Soapboxx



# Telling Your Medicaid Story: Soapboxx



# Telling Your Medicaid Story: Soapboxx

**GO TO:**

[bit.ly/PAMedicaidVideo](https://bit.ly/PAMedicaidVideo)

Or use the QR code:



# Making a Call to Congress: Tips

- Calls are more effective than emails or web forms.
- Make sure you're calling **your** Representative and Senators!
- Always be polite and courteous.
- Practice what you'll say or write down a few notes.
- Leaving a voicemail is ok. Keep it to 30 seconds or less.
- If the staffer shares any information with you on the call, take note & share it with PHAN!

*(Example: "Thank you for calling. Rep. Jones is already planning to vote against Medicaid cuts.")*

# Making a Call to Congress: What to Say

- First, give them your name & address. Make sure they know you live in their district!
- Tell them you are concerned about potential cuts to Medicaid.
- Tell them – from the heart – in ***30 seconds or less*** why Medicaid is important to you or your family.
- Ask them to vote “No” on ***any*** cuts to Medicaid, including work requirements.
- **Call 866-426-2631 to be connected to your Rep. in Congress!**

# Getting Involved with PHAN

**PHAN** Pennsylvania Health  
Access Network  
Stronger Voices for Better Health



**TELL LAWMAKERS: NO CUTS TO MEDICAID!**

Medicaid provides health coverage for over 3 million Pennsylvanians. Of those, almost half are children, and a third are seniors, pregnant, or people with disabilities. Medicaid funds school nurses, mental health care, rural hospitals, nursing homes, in-home care, and much more. But lawmakers in Washington, DC are discussing making big cuts to Medicaid to fund tax breaks for wealthy Americans...

**Add your name below to tell lawmakers: NO CUTS to Medicaid!**

“Because of Medicaid, Shaun is out there in the world. He's working and volunteering. He has a life. Don't take that away from us.”  
-Colleen, Bucks County, PA

First Name\*  Last Name\*

City  State  Zip Code\*

Email Address\*

Sign our petition to make your voice heard & receive future updates about actions you can take!

**SIGN HERE:**

[bit.ly/PHANNoCuts](https://bit.ly/PHANNoCuts)

Or use the QR code:





# Getting Involved with PHAN: For Orgs.

- PHAN holds regular coalition meetings for organizations interested in advocating against cuts to Medicaid.
- How to get involved:
  - Sign our statement opposing Medicaid cuts at: [bit.ly/MedicaidWorksPA](http://bit.ly/MedicaidWorksPA)
  - Contact Bill England at [bill@pahealthaccess.org](mailto:bill@pahealthaccess.org) to join the coalition calls.

# Thank you for joining us!

