

OPPOSE H.B. 463 - MEDICAID FUNDING AMENDMENTS

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Brady Brammer
5 February 2024

Bill Summary

- H.B. 463 requires the state Medicaid program to take “cost control measures” in the event of an ill-defined Medicaid financial shortfall
- These suggested measures include: cancelling coverage for many enrollees, closing enrollment to new members, and other efforts that threaten administrative/provider finances

H.B. 463 threatens Medicaid funding and will result in cuts of medically-necessary services.

Current legislative efforts to address persistent behavioral health needs would be directly undermined by this legislation.

H.B. 463 harms Utah families

- The bill, if passed, would disrupt coverage of medically-necessary services for individuals with conditions including diabetes, behavioral health concerns, ext. and those requiring home and community-based health services
- The bill unwinds Utah’s voter-approved Medicaid expansion and attacks the heart of the services provided by the legacy Medicaid program

H.B. 463 is not sound policy

- *Fiscal:* the bill would reduce the amount of Utah federal tax dollars coming back to the state, and the decreased coverage would direct those who have lost coverage to expensive and inappropriate care settings like Emergency Departments
- *Administrative:* the bill would place extraordinary burdens on Medicaid administration. As a consequence, individuals would face greater wait times, confusion around coverage status, and conflicting messages for Utahns who need the program

H.B. 463 would undo decades of essential Medicaid legislative work

- Utahns have worked extensively to build a Medicaid program that serves the state’s specific needs with particular expansions to include more populations/services including more robust behavioral, dental, maternal, and rural health care services—these could be cut rapidly
- Taking away these life-saving services would send a threatening message to constituents that calls into question Utah’s commitment to support families and care for its communities

H.B. 463 does not establish a mechanism to reinstate services, coverage, or re-open enrollment. These changes would have lasting and detrimental impacts.



Reach out to policy@healthpolicyproject.org for more information