



Achieve with us.

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The Honorable Cory Booker
One Gateway Center - 23rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Senator Booker,

On behalf of the thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in New Jersey, I urge you to fight back against any policy changes that would reduce or eliminate Medicaid benefits. People with I/DD depend on Medicaid to live successful lives in the community. With this in mind, I am greatly distressed by dialogue on the national level that aims to cut federal spending by way of cuts to Medicaid. Specifically, The Arc of New Jersey is concerned by any proposals that involve Block Grants or Per Capita Caps.

Under a Medicaid Per Capita Cap, the federal government would set a limit on how much to reimburse states per enrollee. This method would not account for changes in the costs per enrollee beyond the cost growth limit. Similarly concerning is Medicaid Block Granting which would provide states with a set amount of federal money forcing states to cover the costs beyond the federal allotment. This would likely force states to reduce eligibility, limit services and supports, and cut reimbursements to providers. New Jersey already has a waiting list for services but would likely see that list grow under a Block Grant system. In addition, Block Grants are not designed to adjust to changes in health care, drug costs, aging of the population or emergencies.

As you can imagine, these two proposals would lead to dramatic and negative impacts for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People could lose their home and community-based supports and other critical services. Cuts like this could lead to more institutionalization which is something we strongly oppose. While Block Grants and Per Capita Caps may cut federal spending, the actual costs don't go away. Instead, these costs will be shifted to states and subsequently, individuals with I/DD and their families. A scenario like this will result in fewer services for those who need them the most.

With this in mind, we urge you to strongly oppose any shift to Block Grants or Per Capita Caps. Medicaid is a lifeline for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we ask you to please protect it.

Sincerely,

Thomas Baffuto
Executive Director