

MEDICAID CUT PUSHBACK — Patient advocacy groups and health care workers are ramping up pressure on Republican lawmakers to steer clear of massive cuts to Medicaid that GOP leadership is proposing.

The groups, from across the country, are converging on Washington this week to warn Republicans of the political ramifications of cutting a program that serves more than 70 million low-income Americans, many of whom reside in red districts. The efforts come as House Republicans have [doubled down on their proposal](#) to find \$880 billion in cuts — with most cuts likely coming from Medicaid — to offset funding for President **Donald Trump**'s domestic agenda.

At the same time, some Senate Republicans are wary of advancing a bill that would lead to massive Medicaid cuts. It's a major sticking point as both chambers work out a deal on a reconciliation bill framework they hope to adopt by the week of [April 7](#).

“Beyond work requirements, if it's something that results in reductions in benefits to folks who depend on it and who are qualified and are working, I'm not going to vote for that,” Sen. [Josh Hawley](#) (R-Mo.) told POLITICO on Wednesday. “That's 20 percent of my state.”

Amid the standstill, the advocates swarming the Capitol hope to convince lawmakers to protect Medicaid. About 20 California health care workers flew into Washington on Wednesday to visit the offices of the state's Republican Reps. [David Valadao](#), [Ken Calvert](#) and [Young Kim](#) to ask them to “reverse course on Medicaid cuts that could shutter hospitals, raise healthcare costs, and leave working families without care,” according to an advisory from the Fight for Our Health Coalition.

Additionally, the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living, representing about 15,000 nursing homes and long-term care facilities, flew in providers from dozens of facilities across 16 states to stress to lawmakers the importance of Medicaid for the intellectual and developmental disabilities community.

“Without reliable Medicaid funding, our residents could see their coverage cancelled, their care options reduced, or their facilities close,” said **Jamie Anthony**, chair of the AHCA/NCAL's intellectual and developmental disabilities committee, in a press release.

And more than 300 advocacy groups [sent a letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader [John Thune](#) on Wednesday calling on him to reject House Republicans' budget blueprint.

“Medicaid is already a lean program; the cuts required by the House budget resolution would blow a hole in state budgets, forcing them to offset financial losses by either raising taxes or dropping people from coverage, eliminating critical health services, or cutting payments that support rural hospitals, community clinics, nursing homes and other providers — delaying care and driving up costs for everyone,” the organizations said in the letter.

House Speaker [Mike Johnson](#) and Thune [signaled Wednesday that they would move forward on a fiscal blueprint](#) before they resolved major disputes over the offsets. Thune, asked about potential Medicaid cuts, said the budget resolution is the first step in moving forward, and decisions about the source of spending cuts would be made later.

“Some of that is just getting the process unlocked ... so the committees can actually start doing the scrub and finding where they can find savings,” he said.