

Act Now! CSHA urges our members to take action now to send a message to Congress to save Medicaid (Medi-Cal) funding.

Federal funding for Medicaid is critical to speech-language pathologists in California. Medicaid (referred to as Medi-Cal in California) is a federally funded public program designed to help people who otherwise would not be able to afford health coverage, including coverage for speech-language therapy. At least 60% of federal funding sent to California is for Medicaid, which means a cut could cripple the state's funding. Reducing the federal government's contribution match to Medicaid by just 10% would equate to a cost of over \$10 billion in 2025. One in 3 Californians rely on Medicaid for health care and other services.

Many programs in California rely on Medicaid to fund speech-language therapy including but not limited to:

- Neonatal care – Medicaid pays for 40% of births in California which includes critical postpartum services such as feeding therapy.
- Early intervention – Medicaid funds Early Start, without which Regional Centers would be under tremendous financial burden; about half of children served in Part C Early Intervention are enrolled in Medicaid.
- School speech-language therapy – Medi-Cal funds school SLP services through the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, where LEAs bill Medi-Cal for services provided to eligible students and receive reimbursement for those services.
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) – People with disabilities and long-term care receive services funded by Medicaid, including home and community-based services.

Medicaid cuts would be especially devastating for our most vulnerable citizens, including children with severe disabilities who require specialized equipment and services that private insurance doesn't cover. About two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of income for children's hospitals and providers of specialty care comes from Medi-Cal patients. It would also harm those Californians living in rural areas, where almost half of children are covered by Medi-Cal. Medicaid funding cuts would disproportionately impact Latinx families, who make up more than half Medi-Cal enrollees

These cuts are not supported by the public . Polling shows that 72% of voters view Medicaid favorably and most believe funding should either be increased (42%) or be kept the same (40%)--not cut!

There are several ways you can advocate.

1. Call (866) 426-2631 Medicaid Hot Line to tell your representative to oppose any cuts.
2. Send a letter to Congress using one of the links below, from trusted organizations:
 - a. https://go.caringacross.org/a/no-cuts-medicaid?utm_campaign=protectmedicaid&utm_source=toolkit&utm_medium=social&sourceid=1079721
 - b. <https://www.thinkbabies.org/take-action-email-budget-reconciliation-2025/>
3. Plan a visit to your local representative. A guide to arranging a meeting is available here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sVLjPBpa3iwfReN5Hfls0wGDc3TBC-O4kuC7E3SmdXk/edit?tab=t.0>