

Protecting Medicaid

BACKGROUND

Oklahoma has a real opportunity to expand Medicaid for hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans who currently can't see a doctor or fill a prescription. Oklahoma voters will be able to make that choice in 2020. However, Washington politics threaten to upend that opportunity by encouraging our legislators to pass measures designed to weaken Medicaid expansion and make it less effective. These measures threaten Oklahomans' health and access to care, waste taxpayer dollars on unnecessary bureaucracy, and rest on shaky legal ground. They include encouraging states to apply for Medicaid block grants; giving states the power to terminate health coverage for low-income adults who don't meet a work reporting requirement; and threatening access to care for low-income families by making it harder to enroll in Medicaid. These measures can be politically popular, but they needless threaten access to care for thousands of Oklahomans.



Other states' experiences show that implementing anything other than straightforward expansion keeps families from getting the care they need and results in expensive, time-consuming litigation. Thousands of Oklahomans have waited nearly a decade for the health care they need. Barriers to care like block grants or work reporting requirements prevent Oklahomans from needed health care and tie the state to long, expensive legal battles. Legislators should resist the temptation of radical, ineffective expansion options, and instead keep the path clear

THE SOLUTION

- Keep path clear for Oklahoma voters to determine SQ 802 for straightforward Medicaid expansion
- Avoid legislation for other Medicaid expansion options that would reduce access to health care and tie up the state in lawsuits

Become An Advocate

Making change happen will require Oklahomans from all walks of life to advocate with lawmakers and and speak out in their communities. OK Policy has resources available on our website or connect with Together Oklahoma (TOK), our statewide grassroots advocacy coalition.



For links to additional information visit us online at

www.okpolicy.org



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TARGETED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Rebuild financial structure for the state's criminal justice system to remove its reliance on fines and fees to fund its operations
- Modernize Oklahoma's sentencing based on national best practices



TAX CUT FOR WORKING OKLAHOMANS

- Restore refundability for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which most benefits Oklahoma's working poor while reducing the effects of poverty



PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE FOR WORKERS

- Adopt statewide insurance programs to make paid family and medical leave available to all workers and self-employed through a payroll tax of less than 1 percent



COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

- Provide a 4 percent cost of living adjustment for state retirees who have not seen an increase in their pensions since 2008



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