



Priorities for Oklahoma

PROTECT ESSENTIAL REVENUES

FOR OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE

Soonercare Cuts Threaten Oklahoma's Health



Oklahoma's Medicaid program (Soonercare) needs a funding increase of \$90 million just to continue existing services because of rising enrollment and a drop in federal matching funds. But Governor Fallin has recommended cutting Soonercare by \$47.7 million—while proposing an income tax cut that would reduce state revenues by some \$115 million.

- **Soonercare cuts would seriously harm Oklahomans' health.** To cope with the cuts, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) has proposed measures that include eliminating all optional medical benefits under Soonercare, including adult dental services, podiatry, optometry, therapy, and audiology, and non-life sustaining medical supplies, such as wheelchairs and diabetic supplies.
- **Soonercare cuts threaten Oklahoma's health care providers.** Each 1 percent across-the-board provider rate cut would save the program \$9.8 million, so Soonercare providers would be looking at cuts of up to 9 percent to address a \$90 million shortfall. These cuts may threaten the financial viability for many Oklahoma hospitals and doctors or force them to stop accepting Soonercare patients.
- **Soonercare is a vital service for Oklahoma mothers and children.** In 2012, Soonercare covered nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all of the live births in Oklahoma. A majority of Soonercare enrollees (57 percent) are children age 18 and younger, and the program is crucial for providing coverage for thousands of well-child visits in the first 15 months of life.
- **Even as lawmakers consider cutting state funds for Soonercare, Oklahoma has also refused federal funding to expand health coverage.** Oklahoma is eligible to receive \$8.6 billion from the federal government over ten years to help citizens get the health care they need. But lawmakers are still refusing to accept the funds.



Soonercare cuts would be devastating for thousands of Oklahomans and our state's health care providers. Tell lawmakers to protect this vital program by avoiding tax cuts, accepting federal funds for health care, and finding other revenue options this year.

What You Can Do:

Let your elected representatives and the top officials who are making decisions on taxes and the budget know how you feel. Your voice can be heard!

House Speaker Jeffrey Hickman: (405) 557-7339, jwhickman@okhouse.gov

Senate President Pro Tem Brian Bingman: (405) 521-5528,
bingman@oksenate.gov

Governor Mary Fallin: (405) 521-2342

You can also reach your legislators through the House switchboard at 1-800-522-8502 and the Senate switchboard at 1-800-865-6490.

Find out more at www.togetherok.org or e-mail us at info@togetherok.org.