



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

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MEDIA NOTE: This Statement includes a list of local contacts who can speak about the impacts of Medicaid in their community. More than 50 individuals and families from around the state are available for media interviews to share their personal stories.

NEW WASHINGTON HEALTHCARE BILL HAS WISCONSIN DISABILITY COMMUNITY SPEAKING OUT ON DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF MEDICAID CUTS AS A FINAL VOTE LOOMS

(MADISON)—A new healthcare bill on the fast track to a vote in the U.S. Senate has desperate Wisconsin people with disabilities and their families sharing very personal stories about what the legislation's cuts to Medicaid would mean in their daily lives. The Senate is expected to vote by September 30 on a new version of a bill that would fundamentally change Medicaid funding and drastically cut spending over the next decade.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson, co-authored by Wisconsin's Senator Ron Johnson, has gained momentum quickly in the past weeks as the Sept. 30 deadline to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act approaches. People across Wisconsin are hoping that Senator Johnson will listen to their grave concerns.

More than 1.2 million people use Medicaid funded supports in Wisconsin; more than two-thirds of funding supports people with disabilities and seniors.

"People living with disabilities and their families have been clear about how significant across the board cuts to Medicaid would impact them. They have begged to be part of the conversations about changes to Medicaid, but have been largely shut out of those conversations," said Beth Swedeen, Survival Co-Chair.

Co-chair Lisa Pugh added, "People with disabilities and families who use Medicaid are scared. They know that the supports people with disabilities use to live and work in their communities and stay out of costly institutions are the optional part of the Medicaid package, so will likely be the first to be cut. ."

Survival Coalition surveyed people with disabilities and families earlier this year and received more than 1500 responses statewide sharing how they use Medicaid and how cuts would impact them. "These stories need to be heard before any bill passes," said Maureen Ryan, Survival Co-Chair.

More than 450 of the respondents offered to publicly share their stories with policymakers, the media, and the general public. Many of their stories are shared below in the Congressional Medicaid Stories booklets put together by Survival. "Senator Johnson needs to hear from constituents before voting on the bill. These are folks who are very eager to share their stories," said Kit Kerschensteiner, Survival Co-Chair.

Attached are local individuals want to be heard from by the media, along with their contact information and a short explanation of how they use Medicaid and what cuts would mean to them and their families.

Below are the Survival Coalition Medicaid Stories by Congressional District and names of local individuals and families who have agreed to be interviewed about the proposed cuts to Medicaid and how it would impact their lives and families.

DISABILITY STORIES

- Survey Results from [Congressional District 1: Speaker Paul Ryan](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 2: Congressman Mark Pocan](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 3: Congressman Ron Kind](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 4: Congresswoman Gwen Moore](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 5: Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 6: Congressman Glenn Grothman](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 7: Congressman Sean Duffy](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 8: Congressman Mike Gallagher](#).

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Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid and health care.

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Investing in People with Disabilities