

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

We write as a group of former mayors to share our concerns regarding the negative impact that the “One Big Beautiful Bill” reconciliation legislation will have on cities and localities across America. We have significant concerns about how this bill, especially by gutting Medicaid, food assistance, and millions of good-paying jobs, will cause irreparable harm to Americans who live in our localities just to finance tax breaks that benefit ultra-wealthy taxpayers and harm long-term economic growth in both urban and rural localities alike.

The health of our people and economy go hand in hand, yet the reconciliation bill proposes what would be the largest Medicaid cut in history. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the cuts to Medicaid and Affordable Care Act coverage, along with the failure to extend enhanced premium tax credits, will result in at least \$1 trillion in cuts to health coverage and lead to 17 million people losing access to healthcare coverage.<sup>1</sup> With rural hospitals also being forced to close, healthcare systems in more densely populated areas will also be strained with reduced funding and even more communities to cover.

As noted in a March 31, 2025, letter from a bipartisan group of 225 mayors, Medicaid is a “principal source of health care funding for countless seniors in nursing homes in cities and rural America alike,” covering 2 in 3 nursing home residents.<sup>2</sup> Medicaid is also “a major source of health care for the nation’s children,” with over 37 million children enrolled. For our seniors, a cut to Medicaid is also a cut to Medicare, as 30 percent of Medicaid dollars go to Medicare recipients. More uninsured patients mean the costs will be passed onto those with insurance and community health providers, increasing costs for services, making it harder to employ enough doctors and nurses, and reducing access to care for everyone involved.

In addition, Medicaid helps so many in our communities stay healthy and access the vital care they need. The program enrolls 1 in 10 veterans, covers over 40 percent of childbirths in America, and provides comprehensive health and long-term care coverage to one in three with disabilities. Medicaid also provides healthcare for 16.6 million working Americans. Cuts to Medicaid don’t just harm the most vulnerable among us; they hurt our ability to make sure people can stay healthy, earn a living, and provide for their families.

With nearly a trillion dollars in cuts to Medicaid alone, cities will be irreparably harmed as states, being forced to balance their budgets, will be forced to make cuts to these critical healthcare services or other important priorities, like childcare, housing, education, or emergency relief and disaster recovery efforts. When states lose Medicaid funding, it is often services that help seniors and individuals with disabilities that are first on the chopping block, such as coverage for home- and community-based care.

These impacts on State budgets will trickle down and harm the services and day-to-day functions of the localities and cities, including public safety. A May 9, 2025, letter from the United States Conference of Mayors stated that, “the cuts being considered by Congress will not only hurt Medicaid beneficiaries and our health system, but also jeopardize public safety and the progress we have made in reducing violent crime.”<sup>3</sup> Strong investments in Medicaid allow officers to focus on curbing violent crime while allowing social services and specially-trained medical personnel to respond to people suffering from mental health crises, substance abuse, and homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kff.org/quick-take/about-17-million-more-people-could-be-uninsured-due-to-the-big-beautiful-bill-and-other-policy-changes/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usmayors.org/2025/03/31/more-than-200-mayors-write-to-congressional-leaders-outlining-opportunities-to-strengthen-american-cities-in-reconciliation-bill/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usmayors.org/2025/05/09/in-new-letter-mayors-raise-concern-over-proposed-cuts-to-medicaid-and-effect-on-public-safety-in-cities/>

Strong investments in Medicaid allow people to get the treatment they need before a crisis erupts and breaks cycles of incarceration. Strong investments in Medicaid help address underlying health and social challenges, leading to safer, more resilient communities.

It is also impossible to stay healthy, pay attention in class, or work hard when you are hungry, which is why we oppose cutting the hundreds of billions of cuts in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other child nutrition programs. SNAP is one of the most powerful tools to fight hunger, helping 42 million Americans put food on the table, including 1 in 5 children. For SNAP, almost 90 percent of participants are in households that have a child, a senior, or a person with a disability.

The reconciliation bill shifts billions in SNAP costs from the federal government to states for the first time, yet again putting state budgets in peril. Compounded with the Medicaid cuts, this shifting of costs will have negative downstream effects for localities. SNAP helps drive local economies, as every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in economic activity. The average benefit comes out to just \$6 a day, which is far from enough to help these families make ends meet. In the wealthiest country in the world, no one should go hungry for the sake of tax breaks for the richest households.

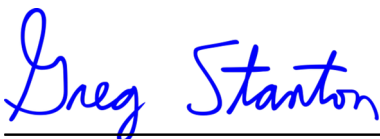
We are also concerned with provisions that will destroy incentives to invest in America and jeopardize infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing projects critical to driving innovation, strengthening energy security, and powering our local economies. The reconciliation bill threatens millions of good-paying construction jobs, billions of work hours, and risks ceding critical energy leadership to China. The provisions would threaten nearly 300,000 direct manufacturing jobs supported by the clean manufacturing tax credits, over one million indirect jobs along the supply chain, and nearly 643,000 related jobs. The reconciliation bill is a job-killer, will increase electricity rates for our communities, and risks the future of our energy, innovation, and manufacturing industries.

Simply put, as it stands, this bill cuts over a trillion dollars for programs that working families rely on for food, health care, and new jobs, all just to fund tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. There is still time to stop this reconciliation process, go back to the drawing board, and do right by our communities. As former mayors, we are willing to work with you on a bipartisan reconciliation bill that drives economic growth and investment without leaving working families behind.

Sincerely,



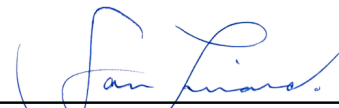
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



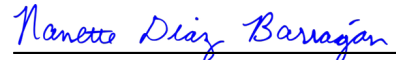
Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



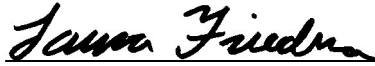
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable David Holt, United States Conference of Mayors President  
The Honorable Todd Gloria, United States Conference of Mayors Vice President  
The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, United States Conference of Mayors Second Vice President