



June 20, 2025

The Honorable Jim Justice
United States Senate
SD-G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Justice:

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia was disappointed to see your recent comments regarding cuts to federal Medicaid funding or restructuring the program in the ongoing reconciliation process. Your comments suggest a lack of understanding of how essential Medicaid is to your constituents in West Virginia.

In the interests of your constituents, we urge you to reassess your position on Medicaid changes and oppose any legislation that cuts Medicaid. Those cuts threaten the loss of healthcare coverage for millions of eligible Americans and hundreds of thousands of West Virginians. Such cuts also threaten the financial viability of healthcare providers, especially in rural states like West Virginia.

Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the country and is a vital investment in our nation's health. Medicaid insures nearly 72 million Americans, and more than 500,000 West Virginians. Medicaid covers children, pregnant people, parents, seniors with limited incomes, those requiring long-term care, as well as people with disabilities.

Additionally, the League opposes changes in Medicaid policies that threaten coverage for eligible enrollees. This includes so-called "work requirements" on certain enrollees. The majority of Medicaid beneficiaries in West Virginia already work either full-time or part-time, and those not working would largely be exempt. Low-wage or part-time jobs typically do not come with health insurance benefits as an alternative to Medicaid. Therefore, these members of our community rely on Medicaid for essential care, including doctors' visits, hospitalizations, long-term care, maternity care, mental healthcare, and rural clinic services. And, in turn, healthcare providers in West Virginia rely on Medicaid to stay in business.

We know that these experiments with Medicaid work requirements in other states have been outright failures. While such requirements may reduce the number of Medicaid beneficiaries due to heightened administrative burdens, such reductions would harm your constituents who would lose access to needed healthcare, and they would harm healthcare providers that depend on Medicaid revenue. State administration of such requirements also costs taxpayers money that could be better spent elsewhere, especially in West Virginia.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education. League membership is open to all men and women age 16 or older. More at: www.lwv.org (National) and www.lwvww.org (WV).

Yes, insuring 1 in 5 Americans requires a significant federal investment. However, if that federal investment is reduced, states like West Virginia would be unable to make up the shortfall. As a joint federal-state program, Medicaid is predominantly federally funded in West Virginia; those federal dollars make up nearly a quarter of our state budget and they account for more than 80% of Medicaid spending in West Virginia.

If Congress cuts Medicaid funding, the options in West Virginia are few: it will force West Virginia:

- to raise taxes (unlikely, when the Legislature and Governor are dedicated to cutting taxes),
- to cut other state programs (which are already underfunded), and/or
- to reduce the Medicaid scope of benefits or enrollments for currently qualifying West Virginians (a threat to the health for our fellow citizens and healthcare providers).

In other words, as a poor state, West Virginia simply cannot make up for the loss of Federal dollars proposed in the budget currently under consideration.

Sen. Justice, the League of Women Voters of West Virginia urges you to consider how Medicaid cuts would have grave impacts on your constituents and healthcare providers in West Virginia. Please oppose any legislation that cuts Medicaid and threatens healthcare for eligible populations. With thousands of West Virginians at risk of losing healthcare access, the health and well-being of our state, our hospitals, our nursing homes, and our citizens hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Ball".

Judy K. Ball, PhD, MPA
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