

## **Medicaid Key Points - Updated 08/05/16**

*Please note: The most powerful messaging on Medicaid are the stories of real people who receive Medicaid or are in the coverage gap.*

### **Top Line Messages**

- Doctors and medical students know Medicaid is a lifeline for many.
- The Affordable Care Act has added **20 million** Americans to the nation's insurance rolls and lowered the percentage of uninsured to a historic low using the twin pillars of state/federal marketplaces and Medicaid expansion in 31 states plus the District of Columbia. However, governors and state legislative leaders in **19 states** across the country have continued to refuse to expand Medicaid to millions in the coverage gap.
- We must expand Medicaid in the remaining states and do our part to strengthen the program by pledging to take these patients.

### **On Medicaid Expansion**

- As physicians, medical students, and health advocates, we urge you to put patients over politics and extend coverage. Expanding access to health care has been proven to save lives and save states money.
- Closing the coverage gap will provide affordable healthcare to three million hardworking Americans.
- Most people who are in the Medicaid gap are employed in jobs (often more than one) that do not provide medical benefits. Many of these low-wage jobs are essential for the safe, smooth and secure functioning of our society. Others in the gap are the indispensable caretakers, often unpaid, of children, the disabled, and the frail elderly. And they are students who will soon find public health insurance unnecessary as they move into jobs with full benefits.
- Expanding access to health care would create jobs and every day that elected officials play politics instead of closing the coverage gap, they are throwing away the state's taxpayer dollars to other states.
- It's time to stop the partisan games, end the foot dragging, and put people over politics. Do the right thing. Lives are on the line.

### **State points**

*For state data visit [Families USA](#) site).*

- It's time for our state leaders to make health care expansion the top priority for the state. Here's why:
  - **Expanding health care access will save lives.** Nearly [insert number of people in state who are in the gap] cannot afford the health care they need. [insert number of people in state] die every year because they do not have access to health care.
  - **Expanding health care access will help our economy.** Every [day or year] that [insert state] leaders delay, our state loses [insert amount] in federal funding. Our rural hospitals are struggling to stay open without Medicaid expansion.

- **Expanding health care access means [insert state] residents will no longer be left behind.** The majority of states have already expanded coverage regardless of the political party of their leaders. It's time for [insert state] to take action.

### **On Doctors for America's Pledge**

- Our patients who are eligible for Medicaid deserve care.
- Whether you are self-employed, employed, a medical student, or already caring for this economically vulnerable population, take the pledge that will help strengthen this essential public health insurance program so that it is available to many generations to come.
- Together, we will continue to:
  - work to **expand Medicaid** to non-expansion states;
  - encourage states who have established **Medicaid reimbursement rates** at parity with Medicare rates to maintain those rates and push to establish Medicaid/Medicare parity in all states;
  - support **innovations in Medicaid** that promote access, quality, and high-value care and will ensure the program has long-term sustainability;
  - **advocate** for these vital programs as our nation decides the priorities for the future.

Looking for a good example of this messaging in a Medicaid op-ed? [Click here to view a piece written by a DEA doctor.](#)