

February 25, 2025

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the adult and child survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault we serve and advocate for, we write to ask you to reject cuts to federal Medicaid funding. Survivors rely on Medicaid every day to escape abuse, rebuild their lives after violence and care for their families.

Being a victim of violence can take a serious toll on one's health. Beyond the injuries associated with physical or sexual abuse, violence and trauma contribute to lifelong health conditions like chronic pain, obesity and heart attacks. The mental and behavioral health effects of violence and abuse are [well-documented](#).

Domestic and sexual violence can happen to all people but their impacts fall disproportionately [on women](#) and people with lower incomes and people with disabilities, who also make up a significant portion of the Medicaid-eligible population. [One in 5 women in the United States is covered by Medicaid](#), including women receiving mental health services and approximately half of women with disabilities.

Children who have been abused or neglected or exposed to violence in childhood are also significantly more likely to have [mental health or chronic health needs](#) if they do not receive care. Children and parents getting the health care they need can be life-saving and break the often intergenerational cycles of violence, substance abuse and mental health challenges that so many families face.

Medicaid's reach makes it powerful in ensuring all Americans have access to health care, including victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Medicaid covers more than 40 percent of all births in this country, and nearly half of all children in the United States get health care through Medicaid. Its benefits include screening and brief counseling for intimate partner violence, mental and behavioral health services, substance use services, prescription drugs, annual well-woman visits, and emergency room services. Medicaid also covers all the services a child needs through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, and many states' Medicaid programs cover sexual assault forensic exams and treatment for sexual assault survivors. Most states also have expanded their Medicaid program to cover mothers post-partum, helping to reduce a new mother's chance of dying after childbirth and improving her ability to care for her child.

Without Medicaid, they would not be able to get the help and services they need.

On behalf of all who have been impacted by violence and abuse we strongly request you reject the more than \$800 billion in proposed cuts and protect Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Futures Without Violence

Legal Momentum

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health
Tahirih Justice Center
VALOR