



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

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Achieve with us.

Brian Cusack
President

Maura Sullivan, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Senators:

Thank you for all of your continued work to defend and uphold critical programs that impact so many in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We appreciate all that you are doing to protect people with disabilities, who rely on Medicaid, Social Security, the Department of Education, and more. We write to you today specifically focusing on the Medicaid provisions in the 2025 federal reconciliation bill, which passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate.

The Arc of Massachusetts, which represents and advocates for over 250,000 people in Massachusetts with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families, is deeply concerned about this legislation. Medicaid is the backbone of our community. Medicaid provides health insurance and long-term care to more than 1 in 5 people nationwide, including 50% of children with disabilities or medical complexities. Medicaid is the primary funder of early intervention services and long-term services and supports, and funds home and community-based services. This bill proposes to cut nearly \$800 billion from Medicaid over 10 years and limit the ability of states to provide needed care and services. The impact on the state budget will be significant. Leaders in Massachusetts will be forced to make hard choices to cut access to services, eligibility, or rates of pay due to decreased federal funding.

It is important to note that though the impacts of these proposed cuts will harm many marginalized groups, the disability community is uniquely impacted. Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities intersect with all other identities—they are immigrants, they are people of color, they are LGBTQ+, and they are low-income. The workforce that supports these individuals is also reliant on

Medicaid, SNAP, and other forms of assistance. Cuts would be devastating to providers, the workforce, individuals, and families.

In Massachusetts specifically, Medicaid (MassHealth) covers about 44% of MA residents with disabilities under the age of 65. The proposal currently before the Senate would have significant impacts on the Commonwealth and its residents. MassHealth could lose more than \$1 billion annually, and hundreds of thousands of people could lose their health coverage. Healthcare costs would rise, hospitals would suffer, and the budgets of families, individuals, and the state as a whole would shrink.

We appreciate the ongoing advocacy you are doing in the Senate to fight for Medicaid and raise awareness about the dangers of the proposed cuts. The Arc of Massachusetts recently conducted a community survey to hear directly from the individuals and families we serve about how the proposed Medicaid cuts would impact their lives. We want to share some of those stories with you today. All of the below quotes come directly from individuals who completed this survey, when asked what impact proposed Medicaid cuts would have on them. Small edits were made for clarity.

- “I am not sure we would be able to keep our apartment and feed ourselves.”
- “I need Medicaid and Social Security to stay alive.”
- “I’m worried that my son will not have access to special education and therapeutic interventions at school.”
- “Without Medicaid, my son would lose the waiver that covers half the cost of his group home, as well as his medical insurance.”
- “As elders we depend on Social Security and Medicare. Our disabled son with profound autism depends on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for his health care and services...we live in fear every day.”
- “[I would] potentially lose my job, see my clients lose benefits and quality of life. Closing of group homes places developmentally disabled adults in imminent danger.”
- “I would not have coverage for medicine to keep my seizures stable.”
- “Our family would be deeply affected by sweeping cuts. Our adult daughter’s life would be completely uprooted since MassHealth supports her day program...transportation, health insurance/prescriptions, and dental care...”
- “My son’s...hearing aid, his [augmentative and alternative communication] device and his specialist care are taken care of by MassHealth. I do not know what his future holds if these programs disappear. It keeps me up at night.”
- “My child would not be able to get the supports or services they need to be fully independent. Without services, my child will struggle in school, social situations, and would not be able to survive as an independent adult.”
- “The quality of our life would be greatly impacted. I fear my daughter, 13, who has severe disabilities, would not have access to school, where she receives all her therapies. We would also

not be able to pay for respite care, putting a tremendous burden on my husband and me to care for her, as we have full-time jobs. Without our full-time jobs, we could not make ends meet.”

- “We would no longer be able to afford basic living necessities.”
- “It would severely lessen the chances of my son ever being able to live independently.”
- “I can't even think about where we would be. We are aging parents trying to keep our son at home for as long as possible, but without supports I don't know what will happen. It is hard enough with limited supports that any cuts could be devastating to our family.”
- “My special needs daughter which has a catastrophic illness would lose much needed services for her mental and physical health and safety. Her SSI pays for her daily needs, care, out of pocket expenses, etc. I voted for President Trump. I never expected my vote to affect her needs.”

These are just some of the nearly 600 responses we received from this community survey. The fear, uncertainty, and anxiety are clear. We urge you to continue sharing these stories with your colleagues. These proposed cuts impact real people. Services, supports, independence, economic stability and healthcare are on the line. Thank you for your tireless work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maura Sullivan".

Maura Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer
The Arc of Massachusetts