

# ALABAMA MEDICAID: MYTH VS FACT

**MYTH: Medicaid needs to be fixed.**

**FACT: Reform is underway. CMS approved the 1115 Waiver, paving the way for transformation and providing more than \$740 M over the next 5 years. Without proper funding, the reform to facilitate long-term fiscal stability and ensure access to care cannot move forward.**

**MYTH: It is easy to enroll in Medicaid.**

**FACT: Alabama Medicaid has among the most restrictive eligibility requirements in the country. There are ZERO non-disabled, childless adults (18-64 years old) enrolled in the program.**

**MYTH: Medicaid hurts Alabama's economy.**

**FACT: Medicaid is a \$6 billion investment into the health care industry. Hospitals alone employ over 84,000 people and have an annual economic impact of \$19.2 billion.**

**MYTH: Alabama can afford to cut Medicaid.**

**FACT: There is nothing left to cut. Alabama Medicaid only covers the required basic services and for every dollar cut, the state loses nearly 3 dollars in total funding.**

**MYTH: Medicaid is a direct cash benefit for enrollees.**

**FACT: Medicaid is a form of health insurance for extremely low income parents, children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled.**

**MYTH: Medicaid doesn't matter to the privately insured.**

**FACT: Medicaid is a vital piece of the state's health care delivery system. Without it, hospitals, pharmacies and nursing homes would close and physicians would be forced to leave the state. Your BCBS card won't help if the providers you depend on aren't there.**

**MYTH: Medicaid can afford to be level funded.**

**FACT: Level funding will force Medicaid to make cuts just to maintain operations. Any cuts to the bare bones program will hurt our most vulnerable citizens and threaten access to care for everyone.**