

Broken Promises: Long-Term Care

Long-Term Care is More Expensive and Less Safe Because of Donald Trump

The Promise:

- Donald Trump repeatedly promised he is “not going to hurt anybody on Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security” – the programs millions of seniors and people with disabilities rely on.
- He made a “solemn pledge” to “protect,” “defend,” and “fight” for America’s seniors.
- Instead, Trump and Republicans used their majority to take a sledgehammer to America’s already broken long-term care system.

Donald Trump broke his promise.

Despite claiming he would not hurt Medicaid, Trump’s “Big Ugly Bill” slashed nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, which finances care at home and care in nursing homes. Medicaid cuts harm families who need this care.

Trump is Attacking Home Care:

- Most Americans want to age at home. Medicaid home care services make that possible for millions of adults and children with disabilities who rely on these services to remain in their communities. But hundreds of thousands are stuck on years-long waiting lists to receive care.
- Trump’s Big Ugly Bill virtually guarantees that people waiting for home care will never receive it. When federal funding is slashed, home care is often the first service that states cut.
- The damage is already here. In Idaho, kids with disabilities now face caps on the number of therapy visits they receive, and in Colorado, the state’s Joint Budget Committee voted to reduce services for people with developmental disabilities.
- When home care is cut, families are forced to make impossible decisions — leave the workforce to provide unpaid care or turn to institutional care, like nursing homes.



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Care In Nursing Homes: Trump is Accelerating Closures and Rolling Back Protections

- At the same time, Republicans rolled back protections to keep nursing home residents safe. Trump and Republicans repealed nursing home staffing standards that would have saved an estimated 13,000 lives per year, following corporate lobbying and campaign payoffs.
- Dr. Oz also eliminated requirements that forced nursing homes to disclose private ownership interests, shielding greedy corporate actors from public accountability.
- Medicaid cuts also destabilize nursing homes. More than 570 nursing homes nationwide are at risk of immediate closure because of Republicans' Medicaid cuts.

Families Pay the Price for Trump's Broken Promises

- When home care is cut and nursing homes close, families are left scrambling.
- Most of us will need help bathing, dressing, or eating at some point – or care for a loved one who does. Yet a full-time home health aide costs more than \$68,000 a year. A private nursing home room can exceed \$120,000 annually. Families who worked and saved their entire lives have no affordable options.
- Trump's economy is squeezing these families on all sides. Tariffs and inflation are forcing families to spend more on basic living expenses, leaving them with less to cover the cost of long-term care for their loved ones.



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Trump is Destroying the Care Workforce

- Long-term care depends on people.
- Direct care workers earn a median annual income under \$26,000. These unconscionable wages make it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain workers. Instead of addressing these unlivable wages, the Trump administration is now seeking to strip home care workers of minimum wage and overtime protections, worsening an already severe workforce shortage.
- Medicaid cuts are also threatening this workforce, with direct care workers in New York, Florida, and Texas losing their jobs due to Republican cuts. Additionally, nearly one-third of this workforce receives health insurance coverage through Medicaid – meaning their financial AND physical health are at risk because of Medicaid cuts.
- Trump’s inhumane immigration policies compound the crisis. Direct care workers are seeing their temporary protected status revoked, and providers are struggling to replace them.

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans are worsening the long-term care crisis.

- Beyond cutting Medicaid, rolling back protections for nursing home residents, and bowing to corporate lobbying, Donald Trump and his cronies are weaponizing the federal government for political ends and targeting seniors and people with disabilities—including children – who will lose the services that allow them to live safely at home.
- Democrats are fighting to build an affordable long-term care system — expanding home care, making nursing homes safer, holding corporate nursing home owners accountable, and giving workers good wages and quality jobs.



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