

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2026

Mehmet Oz, MD  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Oz:

This letter is regarding the actions being taken by this Administration that threaten to restrict Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS), which will ultimately harm people with disabilities and older adults. More than 8.4 million people with disabilities and older adults rely on HCBS to live and age independently in their homes and communities<sup>1</sup>, and they — along with their families and workers that make care possible — cannot afford cuts, reductions, or frozen funding to these life-saving services.

We are concerned by continued attacks on Medicaid, including actions by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that undermine HCBS. We reject the implication that increased demand for HCBS, including behavioral health services and other integral services for people with disabilities, or the growth in the number of direct care workers is evidence of fraud<sup>2</sup>.

HCBS are essential supports that help older adults and people with disabilities with day-to-day activities such as bathing, dressing, managing medication, and participation in employment. More than one in four people in the U.S. have disabilities<sup>3</sup>, and across the country, more than one in five adults receive ongoing support<sup>4</sup> with everyday functional needs for aging and disability

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<sup>1</sup> [Trends in Users and Expenditures for Home and Community-Based Services as a Share of Total Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports Users and Expenditures, 2023](#), Alexandra Carpenter, Cara Stepanczuk, Caitlin Murray, and Andrea Wysocki, Mathematica, *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*.

<sup>2</sup> [Home Health and Personal Care Aides Job Outlook](#), *Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

<sup>3</sup> [Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability Status and Type Among Adults](#), *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

<sup>4</sup> [KFF Health Tracking Poll- October 2021: Home and Community Based Services and Seniors' Health Care Needs](#), Ashley Kirzinger, Audrey Kearney, Mellisha Stokes, Liz Hamel, and Mollyann Brodie, *KFF*

care. Family caregivers and direct care workers are also supported through Medicaid to provide life-saving, essential care. Growth in Medicaid spending reflects the needs of a rapidly growing population that requires care, and decades of progress to ensure people can live, age, and work with dignity in their homes and communities- which they often prefer- rather than costly institutional settings. Home care is less costly- resulting in savings for both the government, individuals, and their families<sup>5</sup>.

Cuts to Medicaid harm people with disabilities, older adults, family caregivers, and workers which Medicaid is intended to support. States are already facing difficult decisions as they face more than \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and other public services to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest and big corporations. At least 10 states — including Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Utah<sup>7</sup>, Colorado<sup>8</sup>, Missouri<sup>9</sup>, and Washington<sup>10</sup> — have proposed eliminating or reducing some HCBS funding as they grapple with increasingly constrained budgets. Recent CMS actions to withhold and defer billions of dollars in Medicaid funds from Minnesota, including HCBS, further strain state budgets and threaten access to care<sup>11</sup>.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

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*Health.*

<sup>5</sup> [Gradual Rebalancing Of Medicaid Long-Term Services And Supports Saves Money And Serves More People, Statistical Model Shows](#), H. Stephen Kaye, *Health Affairs*.

<sup>6</sup> [To cut Medicaid budget, governor says Idaho could remove disability, dental services](#), Kyle Pfannenstiel, *Idaho Capital Sun*.

<sup>7</sup> [Facing potential cuts to vital programs, Utahns rally for 'Disability Advocacy Day' at the Capitol](#), Will Ruzanski, *Utah News Dispatch*.

<sup>8</sup> [Cuts to outings, cleaning and cooking are latest round of Medicaid slashes for Colorado's disability community](#), Jennifer Brown, *The Colorado Sun*.

<sup>9</sup> [Missouri families worry proposed \\$80.7 million cut will hobble disability care programs](#), Steph Quinn, *Missouri Independent*.

<sup>10</sup> [Advocates: 5,000 disabled people in Washington could lose access to services](#), Kimberly Cortez, *The Columbian*.

<sup>11</sup> [Why and How States and Territories are Addressing Fraud, Waste and Abuse](#), Kate McEvoy, *National Association of Medicaid Directors*.



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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