



June 14, 2011

Join the n4a Call-In to Support Medicaid this Week

As n4a has previously reported, federal budget issues have been front and center since the 112th Congress convened in January. Many of the deficit-reduction proposals under discussion resort to drastic reductions in funding for key safety-net programs without careful consideration of the consequences.

While n4a continues to advocate for the full range of programs that support older adults and caregivers and weigh in on a range of budget-related issues, we recognize that Medicaid is a vital program for older Americans and is particularly vulnerable in this budget environment. For this reason, we are joining other national aging, disability and children's groups to call on Congress to protect Medicaid from safety-net cuts that will undermine the health of millions of Americans, including older Americans.

Today, tomorrow and Thursday, you can take advantage of the toll-free number below to remind your elected officials that cuts to this vital program will only shift costs to states, locals and non-Medicaid programs like the Older Americans Act, and it will also create a tremendous burden on the older adults who depend on the program for long-term services and supports.

Action Requested:

STEP 1: Call your Representatives and Senators this week. Through Thursday, you can call **1-866-922-4970** to reach the Capitol Switchboard toll free, thanks to [Families USA](#). Simply ask for your Senator or Representative's office and the operators will transfer you.

Talking Points: Urge them to reject Medicaid cuts, in any form. They should oppose any proposals that include deep spending cuts, harsh caps on spending that could lead to deep spending cuts, or proposals that would restructure Medicaid. Reducing the deficit is important, but the approach must be fair and balanced. We should not balance the budget on the backs of our most poor and vulnerable families—those who can least afford to bear it.

STEP 2: Ask other advocates to do the same! Urge colleagues, advisory board members, volunteers and clients to make calls to their legislators.

STEP 3: Attend n4a's [Answers on Aging conference](#) this July in Washington, DC and make in-person visits to your Members of Congress on Hill Day (Wednesday, July 20). We need your advocacy now more than ever!

If you have questions about this *Advocacy Alert*, please contact n4a's Public Policy and Legislative Affairs staff, Amy Gotwals and K.J. Hertz, at 202.872.0888 or agotwals@n4a.org, khertz@n4a.org.