

Telling Your Services Story

2025 Proposed Cuts to Medicaid Funding

What You Can Do

Aaron Carruthers

A Reminder

This training and the information in it is intended solely to provide education and raise awareness about the impact proposals could have on people with disabilities, developmental disabilities, their families, seniors, and people who use supports to live independently.

By sharing this information, the aim is to ensure people are informed and prepared to engage in thoughtful dialogue regarding proposed policies.

This training is part of our ongoing commitment to provide information for people to have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance to promote their own self-determination, independence, productivity, and community living.*

*Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, (Public Law 106–402; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 15001 et seq.) Section 101

The Situation

In Washington D.C., Congress has a plan to cut spending

- House proposes \$1.5 to \$2 trillion in spending cuts
 - Almost half would come from Medicaid funding (\$880 billion)
 - More cuts would come from Cal-Fresh (\$230 billion)
- ***What would this mean?*** Much less money from D.C. for Medicaid and other programs that people with disabilities and older Californians need to live and to live independently.

Overview

- What is Medicaid?
- What does Medicaid Mean to Me?
- What is Congress' Plan?
- What is SCDD Doing?
- What Can I Do?

What Is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a program in the United States (U.S.) funded by Congress that helps people pay for healthcare and other services.

- **Healthcare** is important for people with disabilities and seniors.
 - Without access to the health care and services we need, people with disabilities and seniors will live worse lives.
 - Healthcare costs a lot of money. So, many people need government programs to help us pay for healthcare and stay healthy.
- Programs that help people pay for healthcare are called **health insurance**.
 - Medicaid is a health insurance program by the U.S. government (federal government).
 - The federal government and each state government work together to fund and run Medicaid.

What Is Medicaid?

To pay for Medicaid programs, the federal government shares the cost with each state.

Without this **federal match** states would not have enough money for their Medicaid programs.

If they get less money, states would need to:

- raise taxes to pay for services
- take services away from people
- or not have as many services.

What Does Medicaid Mean to Me?

43% of Californians are in programs funded by Medicaid dollars

- 17,043,168 Californians would be severely impacted by cuts to Medicaid cuts and other programs, this includes:
 - 14,580,349 health coverage for workers, people with disabilities, children, and seniors (Medi-Cal)
 - 5,568,482 getting food (Cal-Fresh)
 - 1,766,490 working people with Covered California health insurance (ACA)
 - 1,438,090 new mothers and babies getting formula and other help (WIC)
 - 586,000 people receiving support to live in their home (IHSS)
 - 488,133 people with developmental disabilities (regional centers)
 - 59,172 foster youth

Sources:

- <https://health-access.org/federal-impacts-whats-at-risk-for-cas-statewide-safety-net/>
- [CF dashboard - PUBLIC | Tableau Public](#)
- [In-Home Supportive Services \(IHSS\) 101: Opportunities and Challenges Under CalAIM](#)

[Facts & Stats : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)
[Workbook: CHHS Program Dashboard](#)

What Is Congress' Plan?

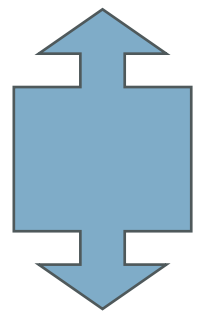
Proposal for federal budget

- On February 25, 2025, the House in Congress voted on a plan to:
 - Extend \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts
 - Raise the debt ceiling limit by \$4 trillion
 - Cut \$1.5 to \$2 trillion from federal spending
- Numbers are for the next 10 years
- Vote was for a “Budget Resolution”
 - This is the first step in the “Budget Reconciliation” process

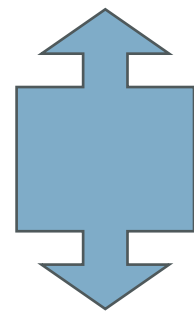
What Is Congress' Plan?

“Budget Reconciliation” What and Why

- “Reconciliation”= A procedural shortcut, used for:



Revenues
(lower by
\$4.5 trillion)



Expenditures
(lower by \$1.5
to \$2 trillion)



Debt
(increase by
\$4 trillion)

- Quicker. No hearings/briefings. Limited debate. Limited amendments.
- Easier to pass. The Senate can pass with a simple majority vote (51 votes). Not the 60 votes needed for the regular budget bill.

What Is Congress' Plan?

“But it’s only a procedural vote. It lets the discussion continue”

Technically true, but...

- Process for Reconciliation
 - Step 1) “Budget Resolution.” This sets goals and targets for spending cuts.
 - Step 2) “Budget Reconciliation” This has details on spending cuts.

The Reconciliation bill must meet the targets in the Resolution.

A vote for the Resolution binds what’s in the Reconciliation.

What Is Congress' Plan?

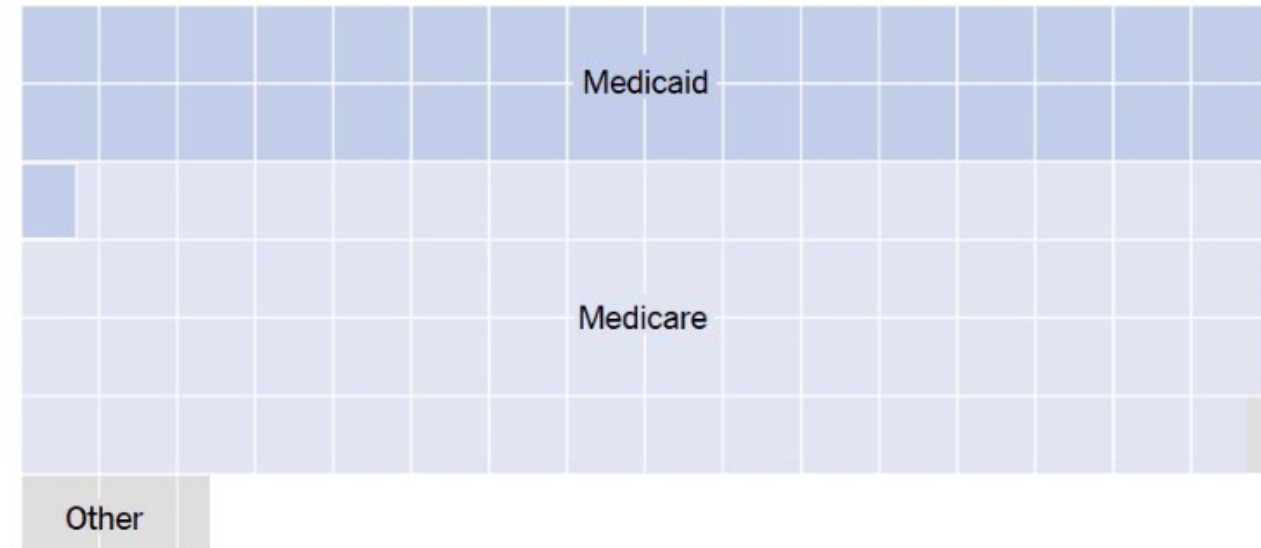
“The resolution doesn’t say Medicaid anywhere in it”

Technically true, but...

- The vote on February 25, 2025 by the House in Congress to cut \$1.5 to \$2 trillion from the federal budget over 10 years also said...
- The House Committee on Energy and Commerce must cut at least \$880 billion from programs.
- Medicaid is likely to be the largest target to get \$880 billion in budget cuts.

Spending overseen by the committee

\$24.6 trillion



Cuts required

\$880 billion



Graphic: NYT, February 25, 2025

What Is Congress' Plan?

A cut by any other name is still a cut

- The House Committee could cut \$880 billion from Medicaid by calling it something else:
 - Work requirements (cut \$100 billion)
 - Per Capita Caps (cut \$588 billion to \$893 billion)
 - Block Grants (cut \$459 billion to \$742 billion)
 - Reduce matching rate for Covered CA (\$561 billion)
- Bottom line: These ideas mean states would get **much less money to pay for Medicaid** programs.
- Note: the Senate has their own ideas: \$320 billion in spending and cuts
- Note: the ideas could change

What We're Hearing

Community...

"This won't happen."

"They'd never do this."

"This will happen to immigrants, not us."

Answer...

Congress voted on it. It's in print.

The cuts are so big that it will happen to everyone in these programs.

What We're Hearing

Community...

“The President said to not touch Medicaid. He will protect Medicaid.”

Answer...

Cutting \$2 trillion can't be done without cutting Medicaid or Medicare.
--Nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, March 5 2025

What Is Congress' Plan?

House and Senate timeline for the resolution:



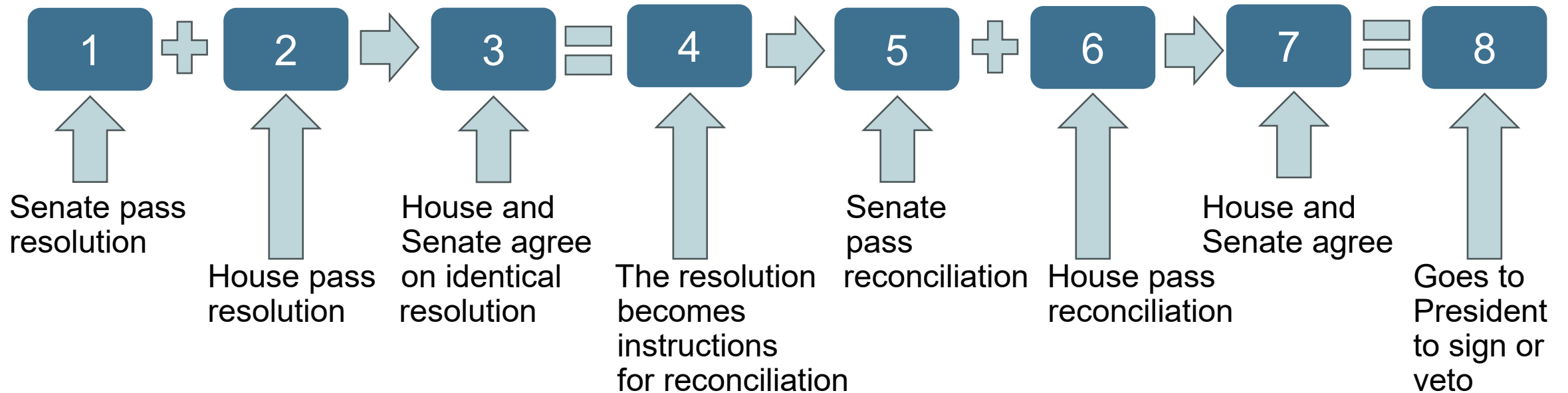
The House and Senate must pass identical resolutions.

Expecting the Senate will take up the House resolution, but may make changes that will lead to a conference committee.

If they agree to a resolution, it comes back to Congress as instructions.

What Is Congress' Plan?

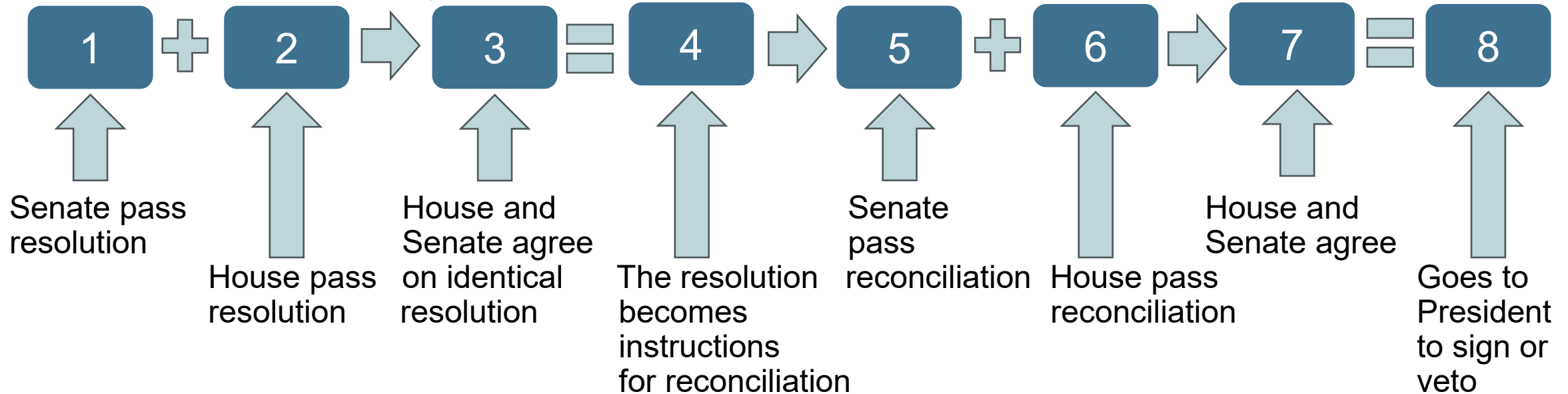
Congress process for the resolution and reconciliation:



What Is Congress' Plan?

Where are we now?

We are here



There is a long way to go. There are many opportunities for advocacy.

What is SCDD Doing?

Tell Your Story

- Training how people can tell their story
 - Helping them find their member of Congress
 - Giving tools to support them for these meetings
- Identifying people to profile in the StoryTellers Blog
- Collecting stories

What Can I Do? Tell Your Story

Your Medicaid story is important

- Your representatives need to know how Medicaid helps you and your family, and what it would mean to your life if the services and supports you are reduced or stopped.
- **Your lived experience makes you an expert!**
- Your voice is important
 - You may be introducing your representative to disability issues.
 - You are helping your representative understand the impact of their decisions.
 - Elected officials remember the people they meet and their stories.

What Can I Do? Tell Your Story

Your Medicaid story is easy to tell, it's talking about your life

“My name is ____.”

“I am your constituent and live in ____.” (city or county in their district)

“I am a ____.” (person with a disability, a senior, a family member, a care provider)

“Here's what my life is like now because of Medicaid programs”

(ex. I live in a home in the community, not in an institution. I work/volunteer/go to school)

“Medicaid programs make this possible”

(ex. I need people paid by Medicaid to get me out of bed, get to medications, to get to appointments, to help me go where I want to go, to live on my own)

“Cutting Medicaid funding will mean I can't live my life as I do now”

Medicaid Funding as Disruptor

Motto: “Move fast, break things”

Sometimes systems need the jolt, sometimes not

Natural disaster vs human disruptors

When humans are the disruptors there is a benefit of planning

Questions and Discussion