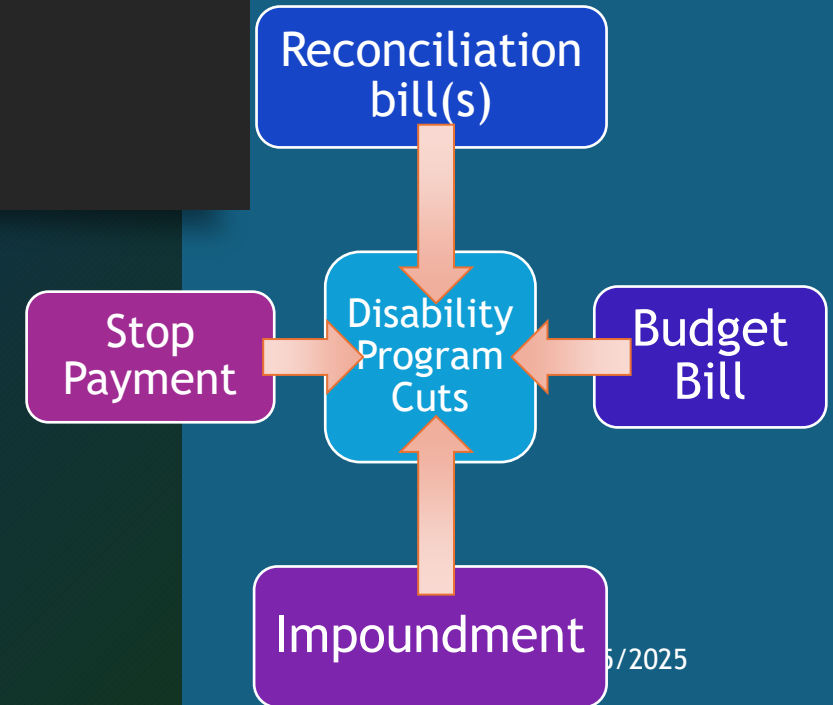


Disclaimer: Congress is considering federal spending cuts and other changes that could change how programs are funded and how much federal money comes to states. Many programs important to people with disabilities may cut by Congress through the reconciliation bill process. The Executive branch is making changes at federal agencies, including mass layoffs of federal employees, reorganization of existing programs, contract cancellations and stop payments, and policy changes that impact services and programs for people with disabilities.

# Federal Funding Fallout 2025

Weekly Update  
April 25, 2025



# Medicaid: Wisconsin family fights against delays, denials, and red tape

- AB 163 was the news hook that generated the article, but it covered many Medicaid issues:
  - How hard it is NOW to navigate Medicaid for Wisconsin families.
  - Impacts to people if coverage is delayed.
  - Wisconsin data on how many people have lost coverage, most due to paperwork mistakes
  - Wisconsin estimates on how much it would cost to check people's eligibility more often.
  - The risk of federal actions making it harder and adding more administrative burdens



RACINECOUNTYEYE.COM

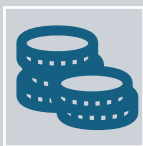
**Medicaid in crisis: A Wisconsin family's fight against delays, denials, and red tape | Racine County Eye**

<https://racinecountyeeye.com/2025/04/18/medicaid-emma-widmar-chronic-ill/>

# Silver lining: AB 163 gives us a good idea about how much extra work costs the state



State agencies must give lawmakers an estimate of what it would cost the state (in dollars and extra workers) to change how they do things if a bill is passed as written.



These fiscal estimates contain lots of good information.



DHS said the extra work required by AB 163 would have cost the state \$60.57 million annually, plus \$2.5 million in tech upgrades, and they would need 119 more workers.

Wisconsin Department of Administration  
Division of Executive Budget and Finance

**Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session**

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number **25-1533/1** Introduction Number **AB-0163**

**Description**  
redeterminations of eligibility for the Medical Assistance program and database confirmation for public assistance program eligibility

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**

☐ No State Fiscal Effect  
☒ Indeterminate  
☐ Increase Existing Appropriations  
☐ Decrease Existing Appropriations  
☐ Create New Appropriations  
☐ Increase Existing Revenues  
☐ Decrease Existing Revenues  
☒ Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget  
☐ Yes ☒ No  
☐ Decrease Costs

**Local:**

☐ No Local Government Costs  
☐ Indeterminate  
 1. ☐ Increase Costs  
☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory  
 2. ☐ Decrease Costs  
☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory  
 3. ☐ Increase Revenue  
☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory  
 4. ☐ Decrease Revenue  
☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory

**5. Types of Local Government Units Affected**

☐ Towns ☐ Village ☐ Cities  
☐ Counties ☐ Others  
☐ School Districts ☐ WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**  
☒ GPR ☒ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**  
 s. 20.435(4)(a), (bm), (bn), (n), (nn), and (pa)



# Wisconsin State Journal position on Medicaid

- State paper says Wisconsin's Congressional Republicans needs to protect Medicaid for Wisconsin constituents.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Rep Gwen Moore held multiple Medicaid events during the two-week recess that got press coverage in multiple media markets.



[https://madison.com/opinion/editorial/article\\_71101665-bfb1-475a-9906-a1e18f0fde30.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ0uhVleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExRHZ2SHE3OUZjT1pDNmxSAR7swH4Kp8BooMX9fzShDEsfMey19A3AcToAdQG01Y-kyaoOd4fLr2DraqeZXg\\_aem\\_N0c1bl5naYwRxAtN2MLDIA](https://madison.com/opinion/editorial/article_71101665-bfb1-475a-9906-a1e18f0fde30.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ0uhVleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETExRHZ2SHE3OUZjT1pDNmxSAR7swH4Kp8BooMX9fzShDEsfMey19A3AcToAdQG01Y-kyaoOd4fLr2DraqeZXg_aem_N0c1bl5naYwRxAtN2MLDIA)

# You held in-district events, they covered it

- Grassroots forum in Waukesha calls attention to impacts potential Medicaid cuts could have on services for people with disabilities
- When asked if they or someone they knew used Medicaid for services, every person attending the forum raised a hand.
- Event covered cuts to disability advocacy programs too.
- The group collected written and video testimonies to deliver to lawmakers.



[https://www.cbs58.com/news/grassroots-forum-in-waukesha-calls-attention-to-impacts-potential-medicaid-cuts-could-have-on-services-for-people-with-disabilities?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ3G25leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETFCOVRJd0FkYmkweWJEaUp3AR4KpA83zIQKqEUR738ZPGyDEnsWvQTYyTlYTRpPTdFg5RAFeVbCvRjmdKXnKg\\_aem\\_cftzwtFzPsGAUHgtSk6WFg](https://www.cbs58.com/news/grassroots-forum-in-waukesha-calls-attention-to-impacts-potential-medicaid-cuts-could-have-on-services-for-people-with-disabilities?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ3G25leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETFCOVRJd0FkYmkweWJEaUp3AR4KpA83zIQKqEUR738ZPGyDEnsWvQTYyTlYTRpPTdFg5RAFeVbCvRjmdKXnKg_aem_cftzwtFzPsGAUHgtSk6WFg)

# Congress: Using budget process to cut programs and fund tax cuts

Update on  
reconciliation  
bill process.  
Recissions  
bill.



# Reconciliation bill moving



**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>**  
House  
passed  
Budget  
Resolution

Committed to \$2 Trillion in cuts, with at least \$880 Billion in cuts assigned to committee that covers Medicaid



**March 5** non-partisan Congressional Budget Office confirms Major cuts to Medicaid are the only way to meet the House's budget resolution requirements

.



**Senate** passed Budget Resolution 4/6. House passed it 4/10.

Sets a low minimum floor for cuts, but keeps the House's \$1.5 trillion floor for cuts. Adds \$5 Trillion debt ceiling



**April 13-26<sup>th</sup>**  
U.S. Reps and Senators in-district.

Leadership working to draft legislative language for reconciliation bill



**House:**

Weeks of April 28, May 5, May 12 committees "mark up" language. First time we see details on cuts.



**House and Senate Committees** are hoping to write and move legislation by May 9th



**May 16,** deadline for Senate Finance to figure out debt ceiling plan



**Memorial Day.** Goal for House and Senate to have agreed to and passed reconciliation bill to get to President.

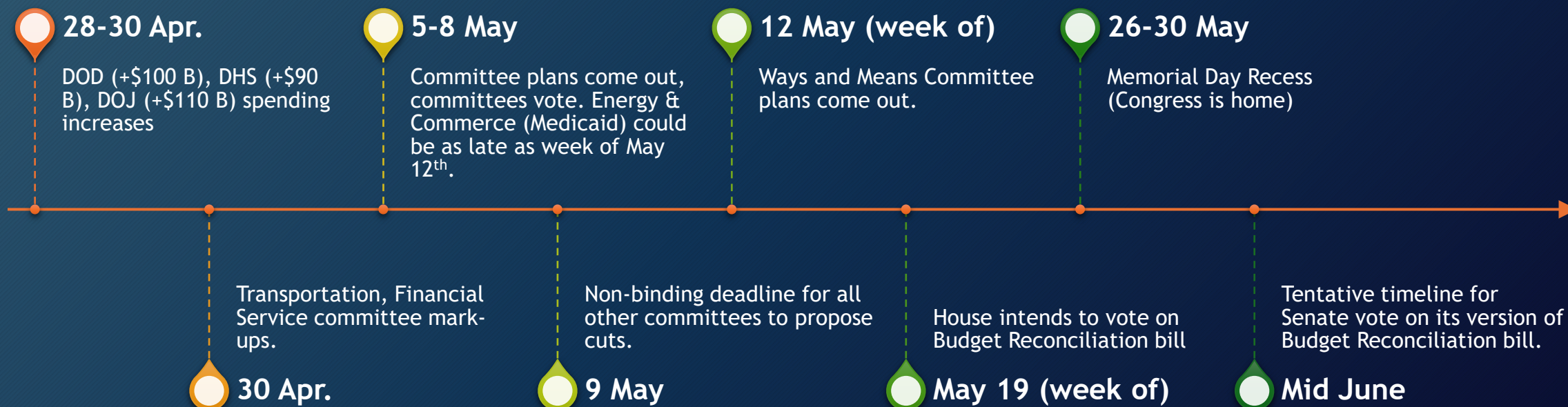
Considered unlikely this goal date will be met.



**Debt ceiling.** August/Sept is the current estimate.

IRS staff cuts which may mean less revenue collected could mean the debt ceiling is reached earlier

# House Committees will start making proposed cuts public



House instructions to committees Sec. 2001:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/14/text#toc-H588365ED4A93477FB88A8DD8E06674FD>



# The great reveal is coming.

Rumor \$600 Billion of the \$880 Billion in cuts will be from Medicaid.

- This level of cuts still means states will have less money, big budget holes, and more costs

Committee chair claims \$170 Billion savings from doing more Medicaid eligibility checks

- Rumor of quarterly renewals instead of annual renewals. Adds costs for states.

Claims \$200 Billion savings from Medicaid work requirements (up from \$120 Billion estimate from Feb)

- Rumor work requirement proposal could be “Draconian”. Possible working age 18-67, Desire to apply to the most people possible with narrow exemptions. Adds costs to states.

Rumor lowering federal match for Medicaid expansion populations.

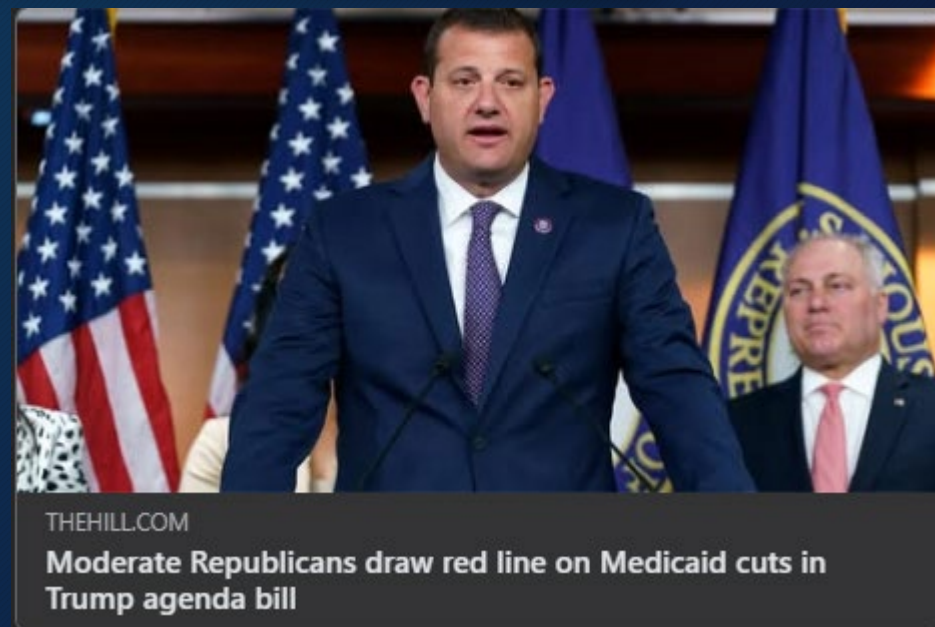
There could be other changes not mentioned in the article, and changes in other committees that could impact people in Medicaid.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/14/medicaid-cuts-house-gop-energy-commerce-markup-00288914>

# Feeling the pressure to make a public gesture

- April 16th, 12 vulnerable/Moderate House Republicans said they would not support Medicaid cuts that would lead to “reduction in Medicaid coverage for vulnerable population.”
- (None of Wisconsin’s R’s signed on)
- Letter does not define who is vulnerable
- Letter silent on changes that would make it harder (including for vulnerable people) to get or stay in Medicaid.
- This week, House R’s shift message (blame) on Medicaid cuts: “Nobody would be kicked off Medicaid as long as governors decided they wanted to continue to fund the program.”



<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5251367-medicaid-cuts-house-republicans-2/>



# Ways and means committee: what to watch

- This committee covers tax policy, so extending the 2017 tax policies and other tax policies would be reflected as spending increases.
- The committee also covers programs that provide payment (from any source) for health care, health delivery systems, or health research; public assistance and eligibility provisions for many programs including SNAP; trade policy; and Social Security (not able to be included in reconciliation).
- Spending cuts to programs might help the committee cut taxes more while still staying under the spending limit set by the budget instructions.

## Tax cuts allowed

\$4.5 trillion



Each square represents \$250 billion in potential tax cuts over 10 years.

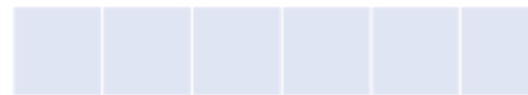


## Agriculture committee: what to watch

- Instructed to cut at least \$230 Billion
- Committee covers funding for SNAP, (widely expected to be targets for cuts)
- Also watch for changes to SNAP work requirements, more requirements or less flexibility for states, and changes that could make fewer people eligible.

### Spending overseen by the committee

\$1.5 trillion



SNAP

Crop insurance  
and other

### Cuts required

\$230 billion



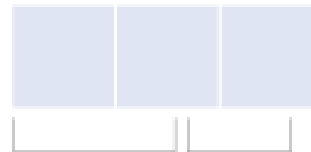
Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year gross mandatory spending.

# Education and Workforce: what to watch

- Instructed to cut at least \$330 Billion.
- Committee covers special education (IDEA), school choice funding for low-income families, DVR and programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), school lunch and nutrition programs, programs for older Americans, Equal employment opportunity and civil rights in employment (including ADA).

## Spending overseen by the committee

\$722 billion



Child  
nutrition

Student aid

## Cuts required

\$330 billion



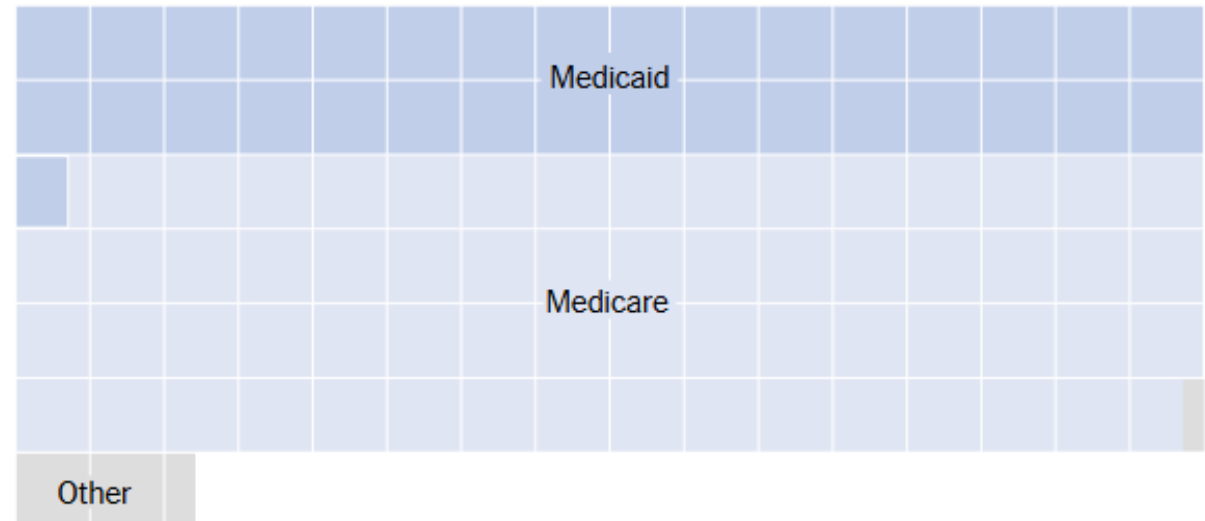
Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year mandatory spending.

# Energy & Commerce committee (Medicaid): what to watch

- Instructed to cut at least \$880 Billion (widely expected to come from Medicaid)
- Committee covers ACA, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, mental health; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; the 340B drug discount program; FDA, the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control; Indian Health Service

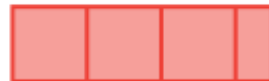
## Spending overseen by the committee

\$24.6 trillion



## Cuts required

\$880 billion



Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year gross mandatory spending.



# Other House committees to watch

- Transportation & Infrastructure. Instructed to make at least \$10 Billion in cuts. Committee covers transit funding distributed to states and other funds that support **nondriver transportation** (5310).
- Oversight & Government Reform. Instructed to make at least \$50 Billion in cuts. Committee covers cybersecurity, IT (AI?), Health Care footprint.
- Financial services. Instructed to make at least \$1 Billion in cuts. Committee covers **public and private housing**.

## Other spending cuts

Cut by at least \$562 billion

Four other committees are instructed to make additional cuts of tens of billions of dollars. But there's more, too: An amendment added to the budget resolution by committee members means lawmakers are instructed to find an additional \$500 billion in spending reductions. That extra set of cuts has not been parceled out to individual committees.

### Cuts required



Each square represents \$250 billion in 10-year mandatory spending.

# Rapid response. Rinse. Repeat.



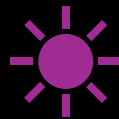
Every committee that comes out with cuts that you think will impact you and states, react.



Rapid response. Call, e-mail, follow up with personal handwritten letter.



Be prepared to have to take the same three steps for several or many issues.



The most important thing is to say NO as loudly as possible. Many people using their voices is the only way we can be heard.



Advocates can prevent cuts from being included and convince lawmakers to remove cuts.

# The Senate is watching how people react to the House's spending cut ideas



The Senate is waiting to see how people react to the House plan.



They can make a different plan in the Senate.



The more different the Senate and House plans are the more likely cut ideas will change.



Different plans also mean delays, which means more time for people to tell Congress what they think.



A strong response sends a message. So, does not responding.



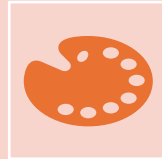
When people do not object, it signals that spending cut is ok to make.



# Get ready to roll.



The reconciliation process is going to start to move faster



That's by design.



That means we must also move faster.



Like pedaling a bicycle, keep pushing, keep turning the wheel, keep moving forward.



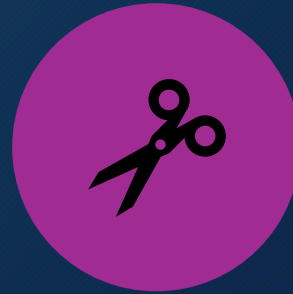
They want to pass something fast before people know what is in it.



We want to make sure they know what is in it and how it will impact people, businesses, and states.



We want to give them pause and make space so they can make different decisions.



Like not cutting Medicaid.

# We are in a race with Congress.

# Separate Recissions bill coming (?)

The Trump administration said it will ask Congress to make \$9.3 billion in cuts the administration has already made.

A Recissions bill can cut salaries/positions of jobs that have been cut, stop grants or other programs that are currently funded, claw back previously appropriated money.

Some of these cuts are part of ongoing court cases that question whether the administration's actions are legal.

The Recissions bill could also make cuts to future funding for existing programs, including funding that was just appropriated in the Continuing Resolution passed this March.

Congress is expected to receive that so-called rescissions request when lawmakers return the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>.

A Recissions bill can pass with a simple majority in both the House and Senate.



# This is not over. It is just beginning.



U.S. Senate and U.S. House have both passed a Budget Resolution. The budget reconciliation process has started.



Senate and House standing committees are writing legislation to make cuts to federal Medicaid spending and other programs important to people with disabilities.



Then, the House Budget Committee and Senate Finance committee then collect all the cuts proposed by the standing committees, vote on cuts.



**Cuts approved by the Budget and Finance Committee must be voted on by the full Senate and House on the floor.**

In March 2017, advocates delayed the passage of the ACA repeal bill by two months, important time that led to the eventual defeat of the bill in the Senate.



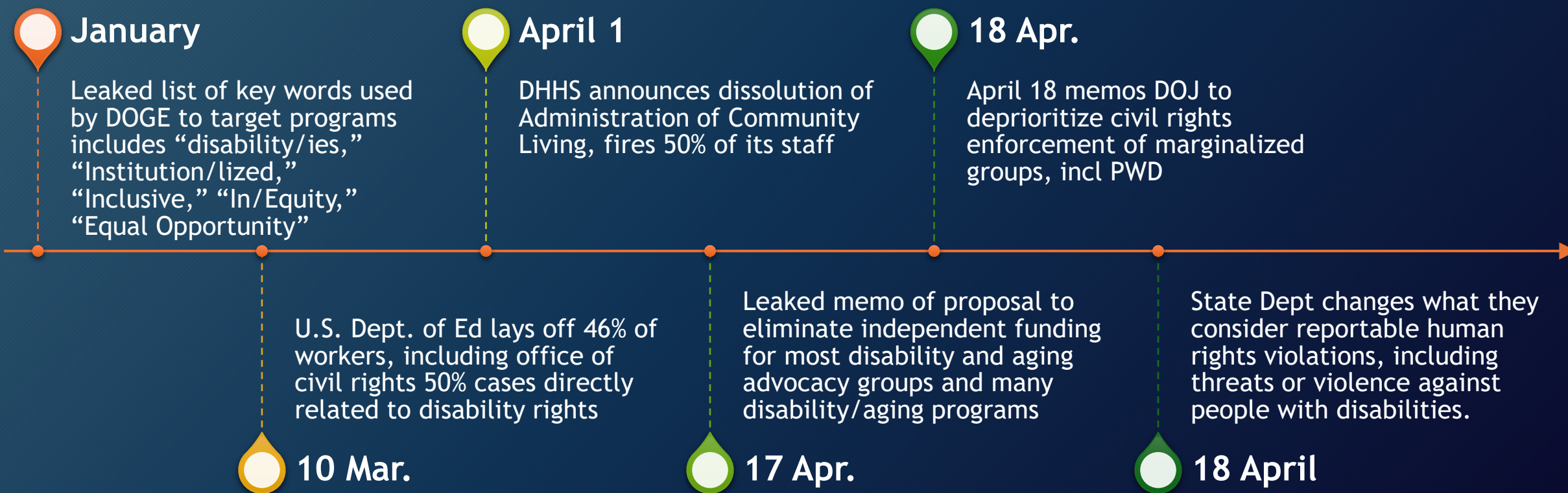
**The House and Senate must pass the exact same language before the bill can move to the President's desk.**

Disagreement and delay can mean cuts don't get added or are removed.

# Executive Branch: Changes to Federal agency policy, cuts to programs and staff

Department  
of Health  
and Human  
Services,  
Department  
of  
Education,  
Social  
Security.

# Federal programs that serve people with disabilities being reduced





# This pattern is familiar.

## Reduce/destabilize

- Reduce/destabilize the public supports that let people live meaningful lives in the community

## Divest in Prevention

- Get rid of preventative strategies (i.e. fall prevention) that help people avoid crisis or acquiring additional challenges

## Eliminate

- Get rid of independent voices that watch out for people, advocate for better systems/outcomes, prevent/respond to abuse.

## Isolate

- More people being socially isolated, disconnected from community, and unseen when things go wrong.

## Normalize

- Permission structure to expect normalize bad outcomes for older adults, people with disabilities (especially if they are also low income or have high care needs).

## Result

- Emphasizes who in society is less valuable and/or most costly; gives a permission structure for erasure of populations.

# Removing capacity to enforce civil rights of people with disabilities

## U.S. Dept. of Education

- Mid March, 50% of Office of Civil Rights staff were laid off, esp. attorneys who investigate complaints.
- Half of cases involve students with disabilities.
- Reports said loss of so many staff would make it virtually impossible to resolve complaints.
- Parents are now reporting civil rights cases are not being investigated.

## U.S. Dept. of Justice

- U.S. DOJ Office of Civil Rights has historically focused on protecting voting rights, disability rights (ADA, Rehab Act), Housing discrimination.
- The Division's work will pivot to enforcing President's priorities in his Executive Orders.
- Clear shift away from enforcement of Voting, Housing, Disability discrimination work.



# Changing what is counted as a violation of human rights

- The State Department is changing its annual reports on international human rights to exclude many actions in other countries that have been used to measure whether foreign governments are treating their people well.
- One of the items that will no longer be included in the reports is whether a country has “Violence or threats of violence targeting people with disabilities.”



[https://www.npr.org/2025/04/18/nx-s1-5357511/state-department-human-rights-report-cuts?fbclid=IwY2xjawJzMJdleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHr0kTAEXrZa00\\_fijAxw7NU-jEyUm9i67Mcqi5cXkV7UXMV--GUpsxr6kcrm\\_aem\\_B3TXQL0DtqACuJ67q6Giug](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/18/nx-s1-5357511/state-department-human-rights-report-cuts?fbclid=IwY2xjawJzMJdleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHr0kTAEXrZa00_fijAxw7NU-jEyUm9i67Mcqi5cXkV7UXMV--GUpsxr6kcrm_aem_B3TXQL0DtqACuJ67q6Giug)



# DHHS Secretary doubles down on comments about people with autism

- Original comments made about all people with autism, later said they apply to only “non-verbal” people with autism.
- April 18: "Bottom line, the more than 25% of people who have severe autism will never go on a date, write a poem, live independently, or have a job," Kennedy said in an April 18 social media post. "We need to identify the exposures that are causing this epidemic and **compensate the families of the injured.**"
- Compensation funds are most often used to provide one-time payments to victims who have suffered irreparable harm.



[https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/20/rfk-jr-autism-claims-compensate-families/83185167007/?utm\\_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz--a7ZAlujy4cRhZCbmZDjluS42VhWeS9cn7ErnvKJ2m58oC\\_r9CYHpNmU9WylmE09f\\_tECO\\_kKNw2FZd1GiaWGsn8QFcNX4qiaao8h3L5YbUW34U3Q&\\_hsmi=357620200&utm\\_content=357620200&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/20/rfk-jr-autism-claims-compensate-families/83185167007/?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--a7ZAlujy4cRhZCbmZDjluS42VhWeS9cn7ErnvKJ2m58oC_r9CYHpNmU9WylmE09f_tECO_kKNw2FZd1GiaWGsn8QFcNX4qiaao8h3L5YbUW34U3Q&_hsmi=357620200&utm_content=357620200&utm_source=hs_email)

# Walking back is not walking away.

Narrowing and focusing comments on a smaller group of people doesn't change the meaning of the words.

Not all autistic people, but this 25% have less value.

Value is still defined by narrow metrics of success (productivity, work, living independently, dating)

This is a strategy. Define which people the majority might agree have less value, expand to others from there.

This is defining who is not valued. Who is expendable. Who costs too much. Who will not be missed.



Convincing public of who is less valuable and/or most costly gives a permission structure for erasure.

April 20, Kennedy said, “It dwarfs the COVID epidemic and the impacts on our country because COVID killed old people. Autism affects children and affects them at the beginning of their lives, the beginning of their productivity.”

“And it’s absolutely debilitating for them, their families, their communities and for our country — just the pure economic cost of autism,” he said.

He also claimed that autism will eventually cost the economy “\$1 trillion dollars a year” by 2035, though he did not cite where he got the figure.



PEOPLE.COM

**RFK Jr. Says Autism Rates Have Bigger Impact Than COVID 'Because COVID Killed Old People'**

[https://people.com/rfk-jr-says-autism-has-bigger-impact-than-covid-because-covid-killed-old-people-11718613?utm\\_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_iUgjqUnm2n2g6HZFEesytmGV6qtcDJIE9w\\_W1BHDYAJevCkHnUM3dH645s0eSrdC\\_-4Ks0OpXYs1L8dte0nnmc5Hy5rfpoz3SojKxi\\_gY2oPkJkc&\\_hsmi=357814800&utm\\_content=357814800&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://people.com/rfk-jr-says-autism-has-bigger-impact-than-covid-because-covid-killed-old-people-11718613?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_iUgjqUnm2n2g6HZFEesytmGV6qtcDJIE9w_W1BHDYAJevCkHnUM3dH645s0eSrdC_-4Ks0OpXYs1L8dte0nnmc5Hy5rfpoz3SojKxi_gY2oPkJkc&_hsmi=357814800&utm_content=357814800&utm_source=hs_email)

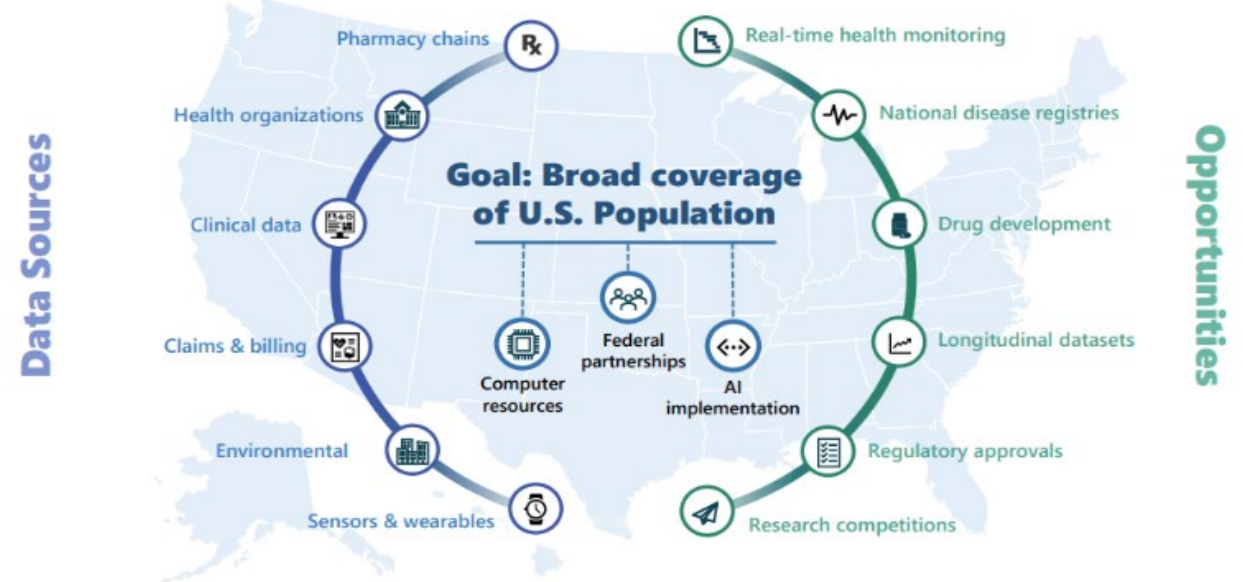


# Private health data to be mined for autism research

- “Medication records from pharmacy chains, lab testing and genomics data from patients treated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service, claims from private insurers and data from smartwatches and fitness trackers will all be linked together.”
- Talk of adding CMS data (Medicaid and Medicare billing)
- April 22, NIH announced [new disease registry](#) to track Americans with autism.
- Apr. 24 DHHS changed language and said it would be a “real-world data platform”.

## NIH Real-World Data Platform

Accelerating *discovery*



CBSNEWS.COM

RFK Jr.'s autism study to amass medical records of many Americans

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rfk-jr-autism-study-medical-records/>



# Delaying and stopping payments

- DOGE's new "Defend the Spend" now requires workers to manually review and approve payments that were previously routine.
- They claim they are requiring funding recipients to justify spending (that Congress already approved) and create transparency.
- It is paralyzing grant awards to tens of thousands of organizations
- Thousands of payments backed up, including funding for doctors' and nurses' salaries at federal health centers for the poor.
- Funding for disability and aging organizations that Congress agreed to March 14<sup>th</sup> has not been released.
- Without action, BPDD will run out of funding and cannot operate past September.



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/17/doge-trump-grants-hhs-nih-backlog/?utm\\_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9DbijWgrZf6EH1crcA7S4Fy-8OCfeld5hW\\_knXtKpqOiHxB9W3fGVt3FktVke-QH1YjFM8i-MyukudrPxucPy4knGmgOdOc1ZjGak0mFYE4LJe2WE&\\_hsmi=357359757&utm\\_content=357359757&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/17/doge-trump-grants-hhs-nih-backlog/?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9DbijWgrZf6EH1crcA7S4Fy-8OCfeld5hW_knXtKpqOiHxB9W3fGVt3FktVke-QH1YjFM8i-MyukudrPxucPy4knGmgOdOc1ZjGak0mFYE4LJe2WE&_hsmi=357359757&utm_content=357359757&utm_source=hs_email)

# Future funding uncertain for disability and aging advocate voices

Last Thursday April 17, a document was leaked to the press that recommends total elimination of current appropriation lines that fund many disability and aging programs—including BPDD, DRW, and the Waisman Center--in the President's 2026 Fiscal Year budget.

GWAAR, The Board on Aging and Long-Term Care, and Lifetime Respite programs also would be deeply cut or eliminated.

Eliminating independent advocate voices and ability to enforce disability rights is happening throughout federal agencies.

This proposal is not a final decision, but **the intent is clear:** eliminate current funding for advocates charged under federal law to help people with disabilities and older adults.

This Administration also has not released current 2025 funding for disability and aging organizations that Congress agreed to March 14th.



# What do these disability and aging programs do?

- Together groups federally charged under the Developmental Disabilities Act—BPDD, DRW, Waisman Center--work to improve policies and systems that affect people with disabilities, protect people's rights and respond to abuse.
- **BPDD's role** is to provide the lived experience of people with disabilities and their Long-Term then push systems and programs to work better for people, be more efficient and effective, and create new approaches.
- **DRW and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman** are the people you call when you need help or things are going wrong.
- Together, the aging and disability programs help people with disabilities live more independent, productive, meaningful lives and protect their rights to fully participate in their communities.

last changed 04/25/2025



Early this week, a leaked internal budget draft revealed major changes proposed for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). If adopted, these changes would eliminate or restructure key programs supporting people with disabilities nationwide.

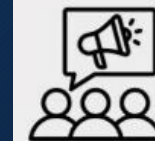
## Key Disability Agencies Proposed for Elimination Leaked FY2026 HHS Budget Draft



### State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils)

— \$81 million Budget for all DD Councils in FY25

- Promotes advocacy, leadership, and systems change for people with developmental disabilities at the state level.



### Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Agencies (P&A)

— \$45 million Budget for all P&A in FY25

- Provides legal representation and protects the civil and human rights of people with disabilities.



### University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

— Funding amount varies by center

- Conduct national leadership in disability research, education, community service, and training.



### Long-Term Care Ombudsman

— \$22 million allocated in FY25

- Advocates for residents in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities to ensure dignity and quality care.



### Voting Access for People with Disabilities

— \$10 million allocated in FY25

- Supports full participation of people with disabilities in the electoral process, including accessible voting systems.



# Action Steps you can take

- **Call your members of Congress** (Both U.S. Senators and your Congressional Rep.
- You can tell members of Congress your experience with state disability and aging organizations and how they have impacted your and your families' lives.
- You can also tell members of Congress your experience as a person with a disability trying to live your life. Many people without disabilities don't know the challenges many people with disabilities face daily.
- Let lawmakers know what you have experienced:
  - medical bias against disability,
  - difficulty getting the right supports to get an education,
  - difficulty to get where you need to go on your schedule,
  - find it hard to get into buildings or vote,
  - find it hard to navigate paperwork/phone systems/websites that are not plain language or accessible.
- These kinds of experiences can help lawmakers understand that there are many changes still needed--and advocacy voices needed--to make sure everyone can succeed



District 1: Bryan Steil

Phone: 202-225-3031



District 5: Scott Fitzgerald

Phone: 202-225-5101



District 2: Mark Pocan

Phone: 202-225-2906



District 6: Glenn Grothman

Phone: 202-225-2476



District 3: Derrick Van Orden

Phone: 202-225-5506



District 7: Tom Tiffany

Phone: 202-225-3365



District 4: Gwen Moore

Phone: 202-225-4572



District 8: Tony Wied

Phone: 202-225-5665



US Senator: Ron Johnson

Phone: 202-224-5323



US Senator: Tammy Baldwin

Phone: 202-224-5653

# U.S. Department of Education

- DPI did not sign certification.
- 18 states, including Wisconsin, responded to U.S. Dept. of Education that they are already in compliance with federal law and did not intend to sign the requested certification without clarification from the Dept.
- WI and UT asked questions to U.S. Dept of Education, and did not receive a reply from the Dept.



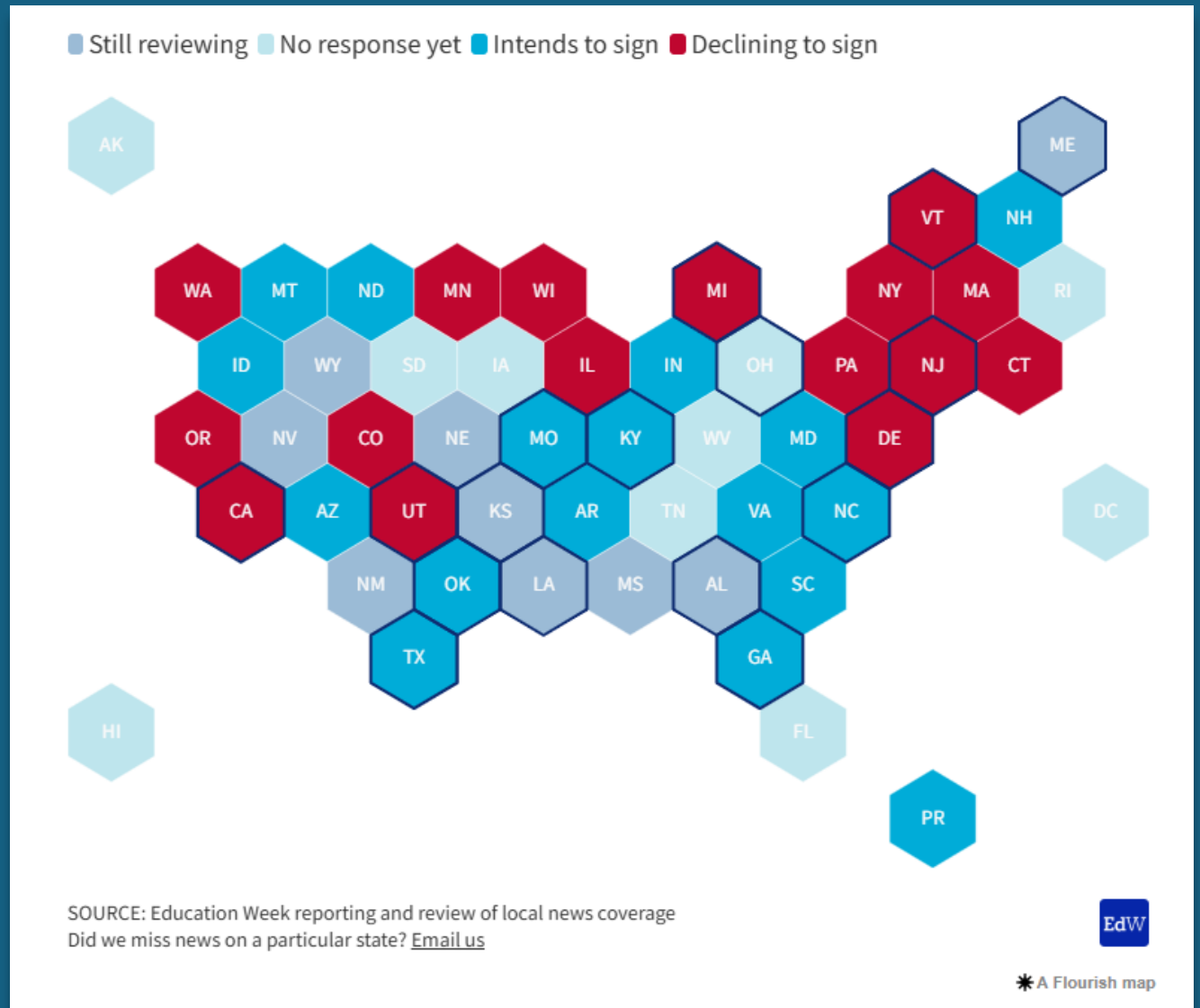
[https://www.npr.org/2025/04/03/nx-s1-5350978/trump-administration-warns-schools-about-dei-programs?fbclid=IwY2xjawJr79pleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHpxlcUeb7J1DtIm1\\_ZgZe8lr6M1zZg7nkeEvwhTlbRqtzuS4GZlyCM2QKTQV\\_aem\\_Gk23Nq91kNh5QdbPcaS31Q](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/03/nx-s1-5350978/trump-administration-warns-schools-about-dei-programs?fbclid=IwY2xjawJr79pleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHpxlcUeb7J1DtIm1_ZgZe8lr6M1zZg7nkeEvwhTlbRqtzuS4GZlyCM2QKTQV_aem_Gk23Nq91kNh5QdbPcaS31Q)



# States asked to certify, but no certainty about what it means

EdWeek: See Which States Are Telling Trump Their Schools Don't Use 'Illegal' DEI

last changed 04/25/2025



Map updated April 18<sup>th</sup>.

# Action Steps



New strategy.  
Go analog.  
Get personal.



Send a handwritten letter and a picture to your U.S. Senators and Congressional Rep. With your picture.



Voicemails can be ignored. (Call anyway)



E-mails can be deleted. (Email anyway)



Letters must be opened and read and put a constituent face on what cuts mean.



Letters are personal. So are Medicaid cuts. These cuts impact you.





You all have many stories to tell.



You can write multiple letters, each one covering a different way that Medicaid or other programs help you and your family.



Keep them short. 300 word glimpses into your life.



Keep their staff busy, seeing your faces, reading your stories, learning about what federal cuts will mean for real constituent lives.

# A letter for every cut

# Host a letter writing party, virtual or in-person

01

It's a great way to build community and support each other.

02

You may find shared experiences

03

You can help people develop their stories.

# May is going to be an active month

## Two JFC Hearings

- Monday April 28 (Hayward), Tuesday April 29 (Wausau)
- Make it a day, go with a group, invite people to come. Make Medicaid a top issue for these hearings too.

## React

- U.S. House committees expected to release budget cut ideas in budget markup sessions.
- Prepare to call, e-mail, and send a personal note on each cut that will impact people with disabilities.
- Committees to watch: Ag, Ed & Workforce, Transportation, Finance, Energy & Commerce (Medicaid)

## Anytime, all the time

- Keep posting, keep sharing, keep telling the people in your life how federal cuts could impact you (and them), keep writing op-eds, keep dropping in offices, keep calling, emailing, writing personal letters, keep going to lawmaker events. Hold letter writing parties. Get others acting. Be Present. Be Persistent.

## Community Conversations

- May: WI Medicaid Coalition planning Community Conversations
- Focus on Medicaid impact on unpaid family caregivers, and mental health populations



# State budget hearings

- Federal cuts mean state budget holes.
- What parts of the budget have holes and how deep they are unknown.
- When Congress acts can delay the state budget process or mean state lawmakers may need to revise a budget.
- State Lawmakers must know what is at stake for constituents if federal cuts to Medicaid and other programs important to people with disabilities happen.
- Heads up! Go early (7 AM); be prepared to stay all day; bring a friend or 2 to make it fun; look for media and staffers for informal chats.

last changed 04/25/2025

## Governor's 2025-27 Biennial Budget



P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

**Monday, April 28, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.\***

### Hayward High School Auditorium

10320 Greenwood Lane  
Hayward, WI 54843

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.\***

### Northcentral Technical College

Center for Health Sciences  
1000 West Campus Drive  
Wausau, WI 54401

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.\***

Kaukauna High School

### Auxiliary Gymnasium (Door AA4)

1701 County Road CE  
Kaukauna, WI 54130

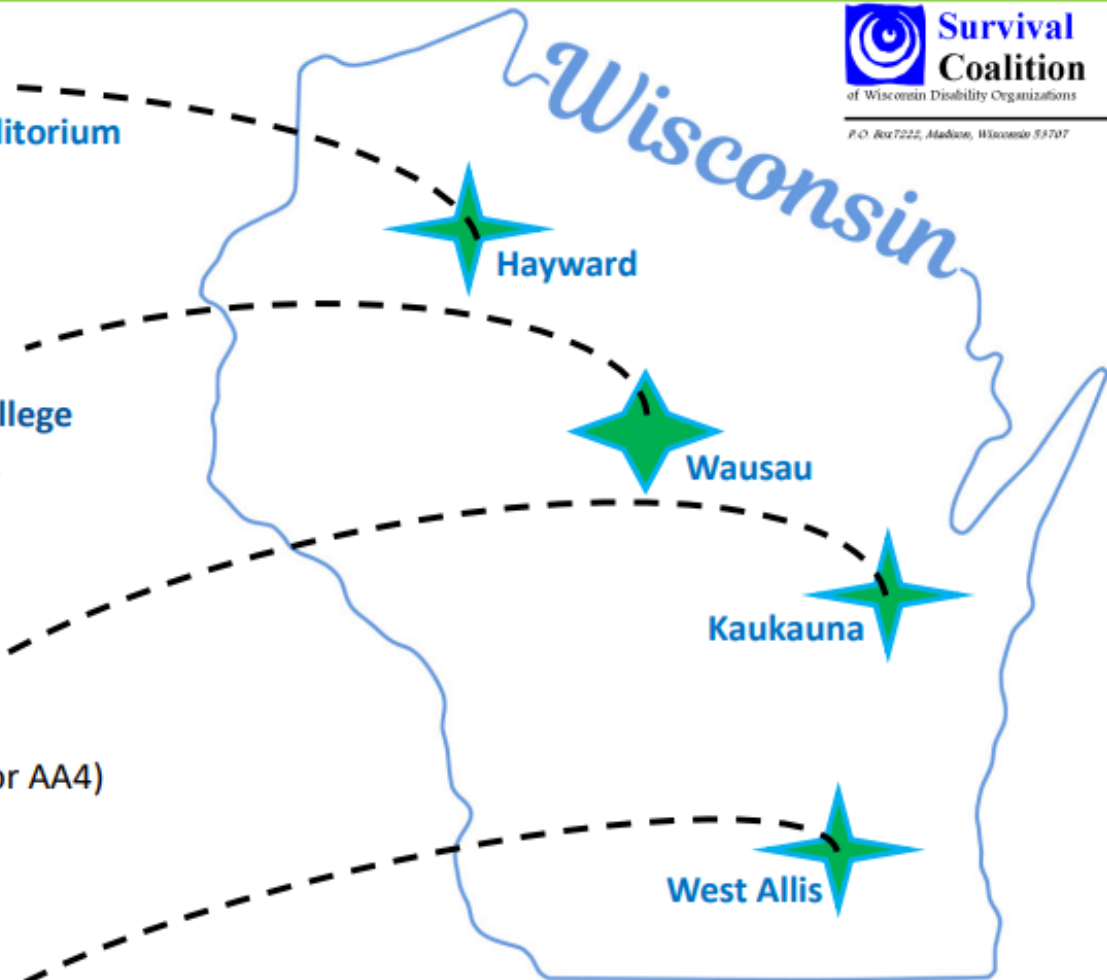
**Friday, April 4, 2025**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.\***

### Wisconsin State Fair Park Exposition Center

640 South 84th Street, West Allis, WI 53214

*Parking at Gate 4*



**No virtual testimony will be available.**

**\*The Committee will only take comments  
between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

**Get there early— there is always a line.**

# Attending a state budget hearing

## Before you go.

Write down your day and story about Medicaid and/or special education (see Medicaid and Special Education sections below for tips).



## Go early.

People get to the site between 7-8 AM to register to speak.



## Go with a group or invite people to come with you.

Make it a fun way to spend the day, and support each other.



## Talk to legislators, their staff, and media while you are there.

Many area legislators and local media attend the hearings to hear what is on people's minds. Don't be shy. Introduce yourself and say what you are there to talk about.



## Be prepared to wait.

People are called to speak in the order the registration slips are received. (If you need an accommodation, you can ask ahead of time or at the door, but there is no assurance that will allow you to speak earlier).



## Make each word count.

Each person has 3 minutes to speak. Be short, clear, and direct. You can tell a powerful story in a few sentences. (This is why it is helpful to write what you want to say ahead of time and keep it to 300 words or less)

# What is important for state legislators to hear

Many people with disabilities and families feel like the supports they need are under threat.



You can tell state budget writers how important Medicaid and other programs are to you and what it would mean if you had any less help than you have now.



Institution diversion programs like Family Care, IRIS, CLTS and other Medicaid-funded supports are critical for people with disabilities to live, work, and contribute to their communities.



Medicaid supports families, many of whom are unpaid caregivers, to continue working, providing care, and care for themselves.



Special education sets the foundation for success for students with disabilities.



Advocacy voices to help people know when something isn't working well or something bad has happened are critical for the state and the people they know and represent.



# Can't attend a hearing?



Submit your public comment (<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments>) to the Joint Finance Committee **AND**



E-mail your State Senator and State Representative your message about the state budget.

*All legislators can talk with the budget writing committee about what they are hearing from constituents.*

*All legislators will have to vote on the budget that advances out of Joint Finance, Wisconsin's State Budget writing committee.*



**Record your 300 word story** (use your phone!) about Medicaid and/or special education and **upload** it to TikTok, YouTube, and other social media. Use hashtags **#IAmMedicaid**.

# No one else is coming. It is up to you.

So, what else has changed?

You have been advocating in large and small ways for months, years, a lifetime.

Few people have as much advocacy experience as you.

And you have lived experience in what it means to have a disability in a world that is not built for people with disabilities.

You have expertise. Content knowledge that lawmakers don't have.

You have credibility. Perseverance. Patience to keep saying what needs to be said.

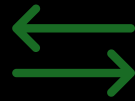
You are using your voices when so many others are not.

You will be heard. Or you will keep talking.

“It's like in  
the great  
stories.



...The ones that really mattered.



Folk in those stories had lots of chances  
of turning back, only they didn't



They kept going, because they were  
holding on to something.”



Hold on. The end is not yet written.



Say it.  
Say it again.  
Keep saying it.

You are repeating, but it  
may be the first time  
someone hears it.

This is how more people  
learn they may be  
impacted by Medicaid  
cuts

This is how lawmakers  
learn. This is how the  
public learns.

Multiple “touches” across  
different platforms and  
media all matter, and  
count.

Reinforcing the message  
in different ways  
matters.

Repetition matters. Most  
people need to be  
exposed to a message  
between 5-7 seven times  
before they act.

You can’t talk about the  
impact of Medicaid cuts  
enough.