



## **\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**For more information, contact:**

Willa Prescott, Director of Advocacy Communications

[wprescott@nebraskahospitals.org](mailto:wprescott@nebraskahospitals.org)

(402) 541-8525

# **Nebraska Caregivers Rally for Medicaid Funding Protection at State Capitol**

(LINCOLN, NE) – On **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 12:00 PM CT**, statewide health care associations and caregivers including doctors, nurses, and other health workers will hold a press conference to highlight the importance of the Medicaid program in Nebraska and urge Congress to reject cuts that would not only strip access to health care from some of the most vulnerable populations but also destabilize hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care services, leading to a loss of care that would impact patients and communities across the state.

Medicaid is a major source of health care coverage for Nebraskans in rural areas. Nearly half of all Nebraskans enrolled in Medicaid live in rural counties. In Nebraska's rural hospitals, Medicaid pays for 33 percent of all births, 43 percent of all behavioral health services, and 44 percent of all services provided to children. Medicaid is a major source of health care coverage for kids and families in Nebraska. Fifty-three percent of the Medicaid population in Nebraska is children.

Medicaid funding is under threat. Congress is currently considering massive cuts in federal Medicaid spending, including billions in cuts in Nebraska. These cuts pose severe threats to Nebraska patients and health care. The impact of cuts to Medicaid would not be limited to just Medicaid beneficiaries — it would stress the availability of health care services for everyone.

Federal health care cuts would harm rural hospitals in Nebraska that are already struggling to stay open. In Nebraska, 54 percent of rural, independent critical access hospitals are operating at a loss. The average operating margin is only 1.4 percent for rural hospitals, well below a sustainable operating margin. These tough financial conditions have forced more than 20 percent of Nebraska hospitals to reduce or eliminate services in the past two years — vital services like labor and delivery and behavioral health. Reductions in federal support for Medicaid would exacerbate these pressures and could strip essential health care services for entire communities.

**WHEN:**

Monday, March 17, 2025

12:00 PM CT

**WHERE:**

Nebraska State Capitol

1445 K St

Lincoln, NE 68508

West side of Capitol (Abraham Lincoln statue) weather permitting; otherwise, inside the Capitol Rotunda.

**AGENDA:**

- Opening statement from Jeremy Nordquist, President of the Nebraska Hospital Association
- Statements from Nebraska caregivers including doctors, nurses, and aides who care for seniors, children, and other patients across the state
- Closing remarks
- Speakers will be available after remarks for individual Q&A.

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