



There is strength in numbers.

December 12, 2019

The fight isn't over.



Here's the skinny on Medicaid and the Block Grant.

MEDICAID is a health care program that assists **LOW-income families and individuals** in paying for doctor visits, hospital stays, long-term medical, custodial care costs, and more. **THIS IS VITAL** in rural areas.

MEDICAID is a joint program, mostly funded by the federal government and run at the state level, where coverage may vary.

MEDICAID in Tennessee is called **TENNCARE** and covers **1.4 million people: 50% of TN's CHILDREN and 60% TN's ELDERLY in nursing homes.**

TENNCARE's expense is **MOSTLY** covered by the Federal Government—**2/3** of it. Tennessee's **1/3** is **20%** of our state budget.

The TN Legislature passed Bill HB1280/SB1428 that asks for a Medicaid Block Grant instead of Expanding Medicaid.

THAT MEANS Federal Funding for TennCare will be turned into a Block Grant...

and THAT MEANS:

- **TN HAS LOST** and will continue to lose \$1.4 billion a year in federal healthcare funding
- **NO** affordable coverage to uninsured families.
- **NO** funding struggling rural hospital
- **NO** Federal Regulations to ensure program integrity and accountability
- **NO** Federal Regulations to protect patients from shoddy treatment/discrimination by state or HMOs.
- **A POWERFUL INCENTIVE** now exists to cut on patient care and divert TennCare "savings" into other parts of the state budget.

TNCPPC Opposed this bill. The bill passed.

But, the fight isn't over.

There is overwhelming opposition to the Block Grant in TN. During a Public Comment Period, only one out of the many who attended five public hearings across TN spoke in favor of the Block Grant—AND, only 10 of 1,650 written responses were for it.

So, we're taking it to another level.

We have until Dec. 27 to voice our opinion on the Block Grant during a Federal Comment Period. Tell them:

The block grant is a poor substitute for expanding Medicaid, a political gimmick, **AND** an insufficient answer to Tennesseans' real health concerns. It's time to...

Knock their block OFF!