



MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) believes that state legislators should fully fund Medicaid and all associated programs.

- Mississippi physicians overwhelmingly believe that protecting patient access to care should remain the central priority in Medicaid policy decisions.
- Nearly two-thirds of births in Mississippi are covered by Medicaid, making the program essential to maternal and infant health. With the state already facing a morbidity crisis surrounding pregnancies, a lack of Medicaid funding could cause a rapid rise in infant and maternal deaths - especially in rural and underserved areas of the state.
- Should Medicaid not be fully funded, social determinants of healthcare and healthcare disparities will widen. Much of the progress made by the state from a public health ranking of 50th to 48th could quickly decline or disappear.
- Hospitals and clinics supported by Medicaid funding are major employers in rural Mississippi. Funding cuts threaten jobs, local economies, network adequacy and community stability. According to data from the AMA's 2018 Economic Impact of Physicians, one physician office supports 17 additional jobs and over \$125,000 in taxes.
- Many Mississippi communities already face physician shortages; and unstable Medicaid funding creates additional barriers to maintaining a strong healthcare system.
- When patients cannot access preventive care, they present later with advanced disease requiring hospitalization, surgery, or lifelong disability support. Investing in Medicaid funding reduces these long-term costs to taxpayers.
- Under the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), Mississippi currently receives the highest federal funding match in the nation - nearly 77%. Every state dollar invested in Medicaid returns over three federal dollars to Mississippi's healthcare economy. Reductions could lead to a nearly \$300 million total program loss.
- A fully-funded program allows the Legislature and the Division of Medicaid additional time to identify potential changes in approach, obtain different revenue sources, evaluate services, analyze long-term impact on the program and ultimately determine the best path forward for the foreseeable future.

