American Heart Association®

Defending Access to Health Care
Fact Sheet

This is a defining moment in the fight for quality, affordable health care for all. At stake: massive cuts to federal funding for Medicaid and the elimination of tax credits that make health insurance affordable for millions of families. But this is a battle we can win. Research shows there is widespread opposition to cuts that will terminate health care for millions.

OVERVIEW

Medicaid cuts will:

- **Terminate care:** Congress' rush to cut Medicaid and eliminate tax credits will *terminate health care* for millions who can least afford it.
- **Hurt people:** Millions of seniors, veterans, children and people with disabilities and chronic conditions like heart disease will lose lifesaving care.
- **Raise costs:** These cuts will do nothing to make health care more affordable and will raise costs for all of us.

Key Facts

- Congress is rushing to cut up to $880 billion from Medicaid and terminate tax credits that make health insurance affordable for millions of working families.

- These cuts are reckless and go way too far, too fast – terminating health care for millions of people who can least afford it - patients with cardiovascular disease, seniors in nursing homes, veterans, children and people with disabilities.

- Instead of making health care more affordable, these cuts will terminate health care for millions who need it most - while raising costs for everyone.

- If Congress doesn't change course, millions of people will pay even more for their coverage or lose their insurance altogether. As a result, more people will face medical debt and be forced to delay or go without care they need.

- There is simply no way to make cuts this massive without taking away critical health care services for millions of patients with cardiovascular disease and other life threatening conditions.

- Protect our health care. Stop the cuts to Medicaid and extend the tax credits.

Work Requirements & Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Work requirements are the opposite of common sense. It will make it harder for people to get and stay healthy enough to work. Punishing people with chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease or cancer – by terminating their health care - will only make it harder for them to treat their disease and more difficult for them to work.

These cuts do nothing to address **waste, fraud and abuse**. Congress will terminate health care for more than 15 million people instead of investing in prosecutors and state fraud control units that could crack down on abuse.