

News from State Representative Jed Davis For Immediate Release // Contact: Jed Davis March 5, 2025 // thisjed@gmail.com

Medicaid Reform Deserves Honest Debate, Not Fear-Mongering

SPRINGFIELD - Today in committee, we heard numerous claims about potential Medicaid cuts from Washington, but let's be clear—many were based on hypotheticals and worst-case scenarios, not reality. Medicaid is a critical program serving many in need, yet today's discussions relied more on fear-mongering than serious conversations about efficiency and sustainability.

We heard speakers say "people will die" and "hospitals will perish" if any adjustments are made. They claimed Illinois will have "no choice" but to cut services or raise taxes, ignoring any discussion about ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely or making the system more efficient. Some even suggested Medicaid must continue expanding into areas like daycare, food services, and transportation—stretching beyond its core mission of providing healthcare.

At one point, a speaker claimed Medicaid cuts were only being considered to fund tax cuts elsewhere—another misleading argument meant to stoke fear. Nowhere in the discussions were there serious talks about controlling costs, eliminating waste, or ensuring resources go to those who need them most. Instead, the assumption was made reforms are a direct attack on the disadvantaged rather than efforts to make the system more sustainable.

Community health centers and hospitals argued Medicaid saves the state money, yet they also warned any reductions in funding will cause financial ruin. If the system is truly saving money, why does it require endless increases? It's also worth noting some speakers delivered emotional testimonies but left before legislators could ask questions. If the stakes are as high as they claim, why not stay and engage in real discussions?

Illinois taxpayers deserve a Medicaid program defined by both compassion and financial responsibility. Essential services can be protected while ensuring the program remains sustainable for the future. But achieving this goal requires real solutions—not exaggerated

rhetoric and scare tactics. Let's make it about the policies, not about the politics, ensuring Medicaid is available and stable for generations to come.

For more information on this legislation or to express support, please contact Rep. Davis' office at (331) 867-8200. For more information about Representative Davis, visit <u>RepJedDavis.com</u>.

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