

Medicaid Advocacy Myths & Facts

Myth: I don't know very much about Medicaid, so I'm not qualified to talk to my Member of Congress.

Fact: You do not need to know much about Medicaid. No one expects you to. You only need to know about what Medicaid provides to your family and how your family would be affected if you lost it.

Myth: My Member of Congress does not support disability issues, so I shouldn't bother reaching out to him.

Fact: While your Member in the past may not have been receptive to your messages, he has an obligation to all his constituents in this critical debate on deficit reduction. If no one with your point of view speaks up, your Member of Congress will believe that all of his constituents agree with him. You will essentially be giving your Member silent agreement that you support his votes and where he is going on the issues that are of vital concern to you.

Myth: My Member of Congress has made up her mind and I won't be able to change it – so what's the point?

Fact: You may make some inroads in her thinking even if you don't see immediate results. You will be reminding your Member that she represents a broad constituency and you will be educating him/her on some issues that she may not be aware of. You may be the constituent who begins to open up her thinking to a new perspective and, if not fully change a mind, perhaps soften a hard line.

Myth: One person can't make a difference.

Fact: While we hope that there will be others joining your efforts, sometimes one person or one encounter has been the key to a turnaround for a Member. Never give up. Don't lose heart.



Myth: My Member of Congress always votes in support of our issues and I don't want to waste his time. We can count on him.

Fact: It is a big mistake to assume that Members of Congress are on your side on any particular issue – especially one this critical – unless you have been in contact. Many people have been sadly surprised after an important vote to discover that a Member did not make the connection to the disability issue, or had another competing concern, which caused him/her to vote the other way on something important to people with disabilities. Don't make that mistake and find out too late that your Member needed to hear from you about the importance of these issues to people with disabilities. Stay in contact and make sure that your Members of Congress know what is important to you and how you want them to vote. The current threats to Medicaid are too important to count on past encounters or assumptions!