

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 122
(A-22)

Introduced by: Michigan
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Referred to: Reference Committee A

1 Whereas, The Affordable Care Act, which beneficially expanded health insurance coverage in
2 the United States, allowed states to determine if they wished to enact Medicaid Expansion; and
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4 Whereas, Lack of insurance coverage has devastating effects on the health of all persons,
5 affecting them, their families, and society in general; and
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7 Whereas, Medicaid expansion in the states in which it has been enacted has been
8 demonstrated to have beneficial effects on the health status of enrollees and to save money;
9 therefore be it
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11 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association continue to advocate strongly for
12 expansion of the Medicaid program to all states and reaffirm existing policies D-290.979,
13 H-290.965 and H-165.823 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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15 RESOLVED, That our AMA produce informational brochures and other communications that
16 can be distributed by health care professionals to inform the public of the importance of
17 expanded health insurance coverage to all. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 04/08/22

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Medicaid Expansion D-290.979

Our AMA, at the invitation of state medical societies, will work with state and specialty medical societies in advocating at the state level to expand Medicaid eligibility to 133% (138% FPL including the income disregard) of the Federal Poverty Level as authorized by the ACA and will advocate for an increase in Medicaid payments to physicians and improvements and innovations in Medicaid that will reduce administrative burdens and deliver healthcare services more effectively, even as coverage is expanded.

Citation: Res. 809, I-12; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 02, A-19; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 5, I-20; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 3, A-21; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 9, A-21; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 3, I-21; Reaffirmed: Joint CMS/CSAPH Rep. 1, I-21

Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion H-290.965

1. Our AMA encourages state medical associations to participate in the development of their state's Medicaid access monitoring review plan and provide ongoing feedback regarding barriers to access.

2. Our AMA will continue to advocate that Medicaid access monitoring review plans be required for services provided by managed care organizations and state waiver programs, as well as by state Medicaid fee-for-service models.
3. Our AMA supports efforts to monitor the progress of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on implementing the 2014 Office of Inspector General's recommendations to improve access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries.
4. Our AMA will advocate that CMS ensure that mechanisms are in place to provide robust access to specialty care for all Medicaid beneficiaries, including children and adolescents.
5. Our AMA supports independent researchers performing longitudinal and risk-adjusted research to assess the impact of Medicaid expansion programs on quality of care.
6. Our AMA supports adequate physician payment as an explicit objective of state Medicaid expansion programs.
7. Our AMA supports increasing physician payment rates in any redistribution of funds in Medicaid expansion states experiencing budget savings to encourage physician participation and increase patient access to care.
8. Our AMA will continue to advocate that CMS provide strict oversight to ensure that states are setting and maintaining their Medicaid rate structures at levels to ensure there is sufficient physician participation so that Medicaid patients can have equal access to necessary services.
9. Our AMA will continue to advocate that CMS develop a mechanism for physicians to challenge payment rates directly to CMS.
10. Our AMA supports extending to states the three years of 100 percent federal funding for Medicaid expansions that are implemented beyond 2016.
11. Our AMA supports maintenance of federal funding for Medicaid expansion populations at 90 percent beyond 2020 as long as the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion exists.
12. Our AMA supports improved communication among states to share successes and challenges of their respective Medicaid expansion approaches.
13. Our AMA supports the use of emergency department (ED) best practices that are evidenced-based to reduce avoidable ED visits.

Citation: CMS Rep. 02, A-16; Reaffirmation: A-17; Reaffirmed in lieu of: Res. 807, I-18; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 02, A-19; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 5, I-20; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 3, I-21

Options to Maximize Coverage under the AMA Proposal for Reform H-165.823

1. Our AMA will advocate that any public option to expand health insurance coverage must meet the following standards:
 - a. The primary goals of establishing a public option are to maximize patient choice of health plan and maximize health plan marketplace competition.
 - b. Eligibility for premium tax credit and cost-sharing assistance to purchase the public option is restricted to individuals without access to affordable employer-sponsored coverage that meets standards for minimum value of benefits.
 - c. Physician payments under the public option are established through meaningful negotiations and contracts. Physician payments under the public option must be higher than prevailing Medicare rates and at rates sufficient to sustain the costs of medical practice.
 - d. Physicians have the freedom to choose whether to participate in the public option. Public option proposals should not require provider participation and/or tie physician participation in Medicare, Medicaid and/or any commercial product to participation in the public option.
 - e. The public option is financially self-sustaining and has uniform solvency requirements.
 - f. The public option does not receive advantageous government subsidies in comparison to those provided to other health plans.
 - g. The public option shall be made available to uninsured individuals who fall into the "coverage gap" in states that do not expand Medicaid – having incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits but below the federal poverty level, which is the lower limit for premium tax credits – at no or nominal cost.

2. Our AMA supports states and/or the federal government pursuing auto-enrollment in health insurance coverage that meets the following standards:
- a. Individuals must provide consent to the applicable state and/or federal entities to share their health insurance status and tax data with the entity with the authority to make coverage determinations.
 - b. Individuals should only be auto-enrolled in health insurance coverage if they are eligible for coverage options that would be of no cost to them after the application of any subsidies. Candidates for auto-enrollment would, therefore, include individuals eligible for Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or zero-premium marketplace coverage.
 - c. Individuals should have the opportunity to opt out from health insurance coverage into which they are auto-enrolled.
 - d. Individuals should not be penalized if they are auto-enrolled into coverage for which they are not eligible or remain uninsured despite believing they were enrolled in health insurance coverage via auto-enrollment.
 - e. Individuals eligible for zero-premium marketplace coverage should be randomly assigned among the zero-premium plans with the highest actuarial values.
 - f. Health plans should be incentivized to offer pre-deductible coverage including physician services in their bronze and silver plans, to maximize the value of zero-premium plans to plan enrollees.
 - g. Individuals enrolled in a zero-premium bronze plan who are eligible for cost-sharing reductions should be notified of the cost-sharing advantages of enrolling in silver plans.
 - h. There should be targeted outreach and streamlined enrollment mechanisms promoting health insurance enrollment, which could include raising awareness of the availability of premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions, and establishing a special enrollment period.
3. Our AMA: (a) will advocate that any federal approach to cover uninsured individuals who fall into the "coverage gap" in states that do not expand Medicaid--having incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits but below the federal poverty level, which is the lower limit for premium tax credit eligibility--make health insurance coverage available to uninsured individuals who fall into the coverage gap at no or nominal cost, with significant cost-sharing protections; (b) will advocate that any federal approach to cover uninsured individuals who fall into the coverage gap provide states that have already implemented Medicaid expansions with additional incentives to maintain their expansions; (c) supports extending eligibility to purchase Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace coverage to undocumented immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, with the guarantee that health plans and ACA marketplaces will not collect and/or report data regarding enrollee immigration status; and (d) recognizes the potential for state and local initiatives to provide coverage to immigrants without regard to immigration status.

Citation: CMS Rep. 1, I-20; Appended: CMS Rep. 3, I-21