



June 23, 2025

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Senator
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
Senator
U.S. Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angie Craig
Congresswoman
U.S. House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brad Finstad
Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives
2418 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach
Congresswoman
U.S. House of Representatives
2229 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kelly Morrison
Congresswoman
U.S. House of Representatives
1205 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Congresswoman
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
Congresswoman
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives
145 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Proposed Medicaid reductions

Dear President Trump and members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

The Olmsted County Board of Commissioners recognizes the profound responsibility you have for controlling our nation's ever increasing and concerning federal budget deficit and appreciates your

dedication to public service. We write today on behalf of the residents of the county to respectfully urge you to reconsider the Medicaid reductions included in the budget reconciliation bill currently before Congress. In Minnesota, counties are responsible for the provision of Medicaid services and for administering several other social services programs. We are very concerned that the proposed Medicaid reductions will have devastating results in Olmsted County.

Medical assistance is a vital component of government. For children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, the poor, and adults with disabling conditions, Medicare and Medicaid are their lifeline. Medicaid is crucial to child health in Olmsted County. In 2024, 16,000 children were able to access healthcare because of Medicaid. Last year, children in our county who qualified for services completed 12,145 check-ups, which resulted in 1,185 referrals for specialized care. Olmsted County served over 1,821 new Medicaid families in 2024. Without Medicare and Medicaid, these children would have poor health outcomes and be left with only emergency room care. Medicare and Medicaid also assist seniors and adults with disabilities, as well as those living in poverty.

In addition to concern for our most vulnerable residents who may lose Medicaid eligibility, proposals in the reconciliation bill place significant administrative and workforce challenges on counties, including:

- More frequent eligibility and work requirement verification. Under the proposed bill, eligibility checks would need to be performed every six months instead of annually, effectively doubling the workload for county workers who already manage a significant workload. We are also concerned that the time and cost to administer the proposed work requirements would fall heavily on the county workforce. We lack the workforce to manage these increases.
- More complex eligibility requirements. New requirements will disproportionately impact vulnerable groups, leading to eligible individuals losing and/or not accessing coverage. Complex application processes, increased documentation requirements, and more frequent reporting obligations will increase the workload for counties.

Olmsted County is an innovative leader in administering and accounting for medical and social services for our residents, and we continually improve our performance measures. We work closely with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to refine our processes and look forward to collaborating with our federal partners to improve efficiencies and policies.

Cutting the Medicaid budget will not alleviate the county's responsibility to provide essential human services to its most vulnerable residents, and funding reductions cannot be absorbed into the county's budget. Our only recourse may include increases in property taxes, which would further jeopardize those least able to afford them. We respectfully request that you reconsider the proposed Medicaid cuts in the reconciliation bill.

Thank you for your public service and leadership. We would be happy to discuss any of the information in this letter in more detail. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 7

Laurel Podulke-Smith
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 1

David Senjem
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 2

Gregg Wright
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 3

Brian Mueller
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 4

Michelle Rossman
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 5

Robert Hopkins
Olmsted County Board of
Commissioners
District 6