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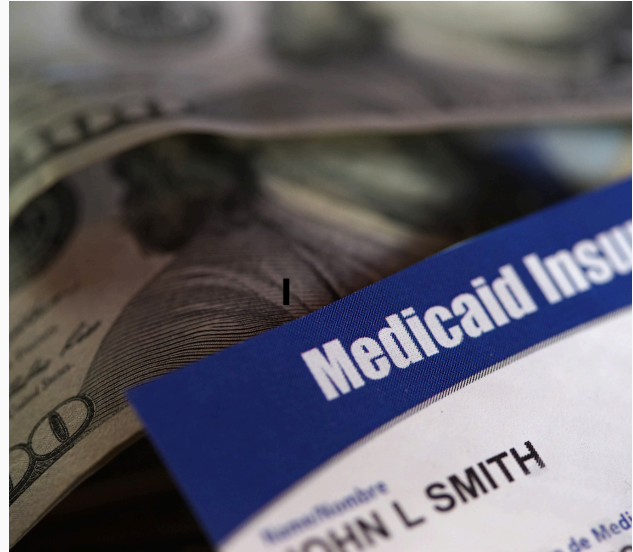
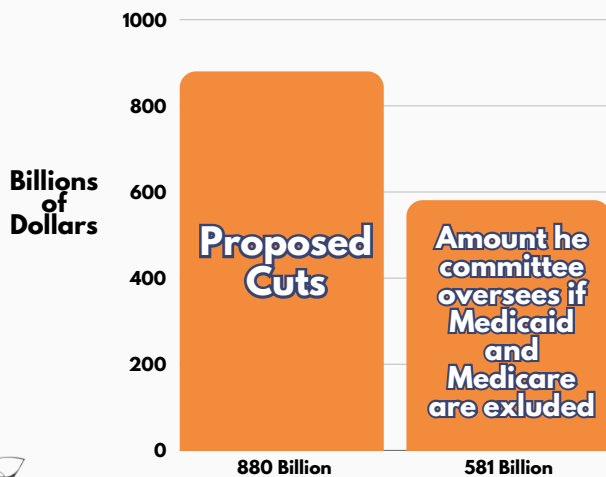


## Huge Cuts for Medicaid will Hurt the most Vulnerable

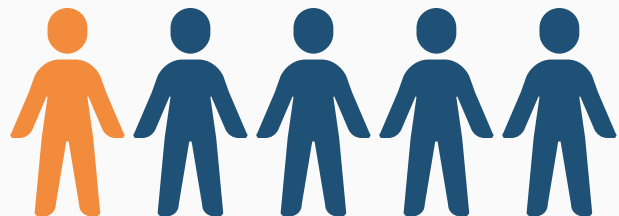
It's hard to watch or listen to news anymore because it seems -**Steve Hodapp**, CEO there is always something about mass layoffs or terminations from federal agencies, let alone the dismantling of some, and about huge cuts being mandated to programs which support the most vulnerable of our population.

Among the targets for budget cuts will be Medicare and Medicaid. The budget resolution passed by the House of Representatives on February 25 instructs the House Energy and Commerce Committee to cut spending in its jurisdiction by \$880 billion – with a ‘b’ – over ten years. Medicare and Medicaid are in the committee’s jurisdiction.

According to an NBC story on March 6, if both those programs were excluded, then the committee oversees \$581 billion, per the Congressional Budget office (CBO). So, there’s a disconnect between reality and expectation. The House committee’s expectation in the budget resolution is for more cuts than there is money, excluding those two programs.



How does that get reconciled? The only choice is to find more money to cut, and the only way to do that is to reach into funding for Medicare and Medicaid. And that circles back to cutting or eliminating services to our most vulnerable people. That group is huge.



Over 79 million people, or one in five Americans, were enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) in October 2024 according to the Medicaid.gov website. These people are enrolled because there is no other affordable safety net for them. They are enrolled to be able to access services which support and normalize their lives.

*Steve Hodapp*

