

March 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation:

As organizations that serve people who live and work throughout Arizona, and as your constituents, we write to respectfully request that you ensure that Congress protects the health care system and nutrition safety net that keeps so many Arizona children healthy, and that is critical to meeting the needs of Arizona families and businesses.

### **Medicaid is Vital to Arizona's Families and Economy**

In Arizona, 74 percent of federal funding sent to the state is for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), which is about \$19.3 billion annually.

In Arizona, Medicaid provides insurance to more than two million Arizonans including:

- 765,000 children
- 64,000 people with serious mental illness
- 152,000 seniors

Medicaid covers roughly 1 in 3 Arizona children and pays for care for 1 in 2 nursing home residents. More than half of Arizona's births are covered by AHCCCS. Medicaid is a critical source of health care funding for many rural communities throughout Arizona.

Furthermore, federal funding for Medicaid results in billions of dollars of health expenditures in the state. Arizona's health care sector continues to be a large driver of job gains for the state and directly employs hundreds of thousands of residents. In many rural communities, health care providers are the largest employer and often the only source of health care. Medicaid is important to the sustainability of rural hospitals and providers because reimbursement through Medicaid ensures they are paid to provide services rather than face unsustainable amounts of uncompensated care.

**Any reduction in federal Medicaid funding to Arizona will result in severe disruptions in the provision of health care services.** Arizona will not be able to increase revenues or reallocate sufficient scarce state resources to ensure continuity of Medicaid health care coverage. If hundreds of thousands of Arizonans lose Medicaid, it will be impossible to avoid severe disruption of Arizona's entire health care system. Arizona's system is interconnected, and everyone will be impacted, not just those receiving Medicaid services.

**Medicaid is too vital to Arizona children, families, and communities to risk severe cuts to Medicaid funding.** It is not worth the risk to our economy, businesses, or the health and safety of Arizonans.

### **As Costs Continue to Rise, Nutrition Assistance is Critical**

Similarly, cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would worsen hunger for Arizona children and families. In 2024, 923,400 Arizona residents, or 12% of Arizona's population participated in SNAP. Of Arizona individuals that received SNAP benefits in federal fiscal year 2022, more than 68 percent of recipients were in families with children and over 40 percent were members of working families.

Furthermore, SNAP is an economic driver for local economies in Arizona and has been shown to have a multiplier effect on economic activity. In 2019, roughly \$1.1 billion in SNAP benefits were redeemed at 3,808 authorized retailers in the state. According to United States Department of Agriculture, in a weak economy, every \$1 of SNAP benefits results in about \$1.50 in economic activity.

As inflation continues to run stubbornly high (the Consumer Price Index for January 2025 showed prices increased 3 percent from a year earlier), many Arizona families are struggling to afford necessities. Any cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will only worsen the rising unaffordability of living in the State of Arizona.

**For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge you to protect federal funding for Medicaid and SNAP, two vital programs that make life better across Arizona.**

Thank you for your leadership on these issues. We look forward to working with you to continue moving Arizona forward. Should you have questions about our position or require additional information, please contact January Contreras, Executive Director of Children's Action Alliance at [jcontreras@azchildren.org](mailto:jcontreras@azchildren.org).

Respectfully,

### **Statewide Member Networks and Associations**

Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children

Arizona Council of Human Service Providers

Arizona Early Childhood Education Association

Arizona Faith Network

Arizona Food Bank Network

Arizona Head Start Association

Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

## **State, Regional, and Local Organizations**

Activate Food Arizona

Aliento Education Fund

Arizona Association for Infant Mental Health

American Association of University Women-Arizona

Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest

Arizona Center for Economic Progress

Arizona Center for Women's Advancement

Arizona Poor People's Campaign

Asian Pacific Community in Action

Arizona - Reproductive Freedom for All

Candelen

Center for Economic Integrity

Child & Family Resources

Children's Action Alliance

Children's Clinics

Coconino Coalition for Children & Youth

Family Housing Resources

Healing Hearts Pediatrics

Intermountain Centers for Human Development & Affiliates

National Council of Jewish Women Arizona

New Pathways for Youth

Northern Arizona Interfaith Council

Phoenix Legal Action Network (PLAN)

Pilgrim Rest Foundation

Pima County Interfaith

Prader-Willi Syndrome Arizona Association

Regional Center Border Health

Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center

Social Venture Partners (SVP) Tucson

Southwest Fair Housing Council

Southwest Human Development Healthy Families

Summit Healthcare Association

The IDEA School

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

Valle del Sol

Valley Interfaith Project

Vitalyst Health Foundation

William E. Morris Institute for Justice

Women's Foundation for the State of Arizona

YWCA of Southern Arizona