



May 18, 2023

Debt Ceiling - Why it Matters?

What is the debt ceiling? It is kind of like the limit on a credit card.

When you get a credit card from a bank - they set the limit on how much money you can charge to the card. So in other words, how much debt you can put on the card.



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The debt ceiling or the the limit of how much debt the US Government can have is decided by Congress .

In order to pay its bills to those it borrowed from and to give out money for everything from Medicare benefits to military salaries, the government needs more money, the debt ceiling has to be raised.

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The U.S. House of Representatives [passed a bill to make spending cuts](#) in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. These horrific cuts would result in millions of people losing crucial access to programs like Medicaid, housing assistance, and SNAP! We're hearing from our allies on the Hill that our community needs to **act NOW and contact our Senator.**

Cuts to Medicaid will mean health care is harder to get in places where there are already access problems. This will hurt many disabled people, especially those who already have the hardest time getting the care they need.

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And, the bill includes harmful work requirements that would force many people with disabilities and the people who provide us support to lose coverage. Work requirements are cruel, do not take into account the lived realities of Americans, and jeopardize the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of people who will lose access to Medicaid.

This would also affect our access to Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS)! We rely on Medicaid HCBS to live independently in our communities but it is usually the first place to be hit by cuts when Medicaid funding is tight. There are already more than 650,000 people stuck on waiting lists who are not getting the services they need, and those lists will only get longer. Cuts to Medicaid will also mean more disabled people forced into institutions because they can't get the help they need to live in real homes!

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, helps people living on low incomes afford food. Many people who get SNAP have disabilities. SNAP is especially important for people who get SSI. Cuts to SNAP mean people going hungry and having trouble meeting dietary needs!

Affordable housing is on the chopping block too. People with disabilities, especially people who live on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are already struggling to pay for housing. An estimated 350,000 families would lose the help they get to pay for housing. Cuts to affordable housing assistance will make some people homeless and push others into bad living situations, including institutions.

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These cuts would disproportionately affect people with disabilities, low-income families, and communities of color. Years of progress we've made in community living for all will be wiped away if this funding is cut. We need to stop this in its tracks and tell Congress to keep Medicaid OUT of debt ceiling negotiations!

If you have an opinion about the cuts to crucial programs like Medicaid! Call your Senators NOW! They will vote next week.



Call
202-224-3121
Ask for (your state) and
leave your message

A switchboard operator
will connect you directly
with the Senate office
you request.

Call as often
as you can!