



## Kids Matter Index Rating on Medicaid Funding

**S1185**

### **Yes, This Bill is Good for Idaho's Children**

With Medicaid being a crucial program serving Idaho's children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, we need to take action to ensure Idahoans can continue to access affordable and quality health coverage. With the Public Health Emergency extending through the rest of 2021, federal Medicaid relief will allow for full funding of the state Medicaid budget without having to implement program changes or cut access to life-saving services during these unprecedented times.

Medicaid is working. The increased needs due to the pandemic and recession are being met.

- Historically, Medicaid has played a key role during national emergencies and recessions, providing flexible funding and offsetting expenses. The same is true now in Idaho.
- Original projections for the costs of Medicaid did not include the realities of a pandemic, economic recession, and federal relief. Idaho's healthcare needs are radically different than they were a year ago.
- Medicaid is a crucial source of health coverage for workers whose jobs require them to show up for work during the pandemic, such as home health aides, child care workers, food manufacturers, grocery store workers, and farm workers.
- Medicaid helps families avoid medical debt, making it easier for them to get back on their feet.

Federal relief should be used to cover all Medicaid costs.

- There is no hole in the budget to fill. Increased costs to Medicaid are offset by the additional federal Medicaid dollars Idaho is receiving this year.

- Thankfully, Idaho's budget is not in trouble. With Idaho's strong economic standing, high revenues from federal stimulus packages. Our state budget has the capacity to keep Medicaid fully funded without any cuts.
- Thanks to Medicaid expansion, Idaho was better positioned to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and prevent the resulting economic downturn from worsening access to care, financial security, health outcomes, and health disparities.