

# Medicaid work requirements jeopardize access to care for cancer patients and survivors



**People across America, including those from low income and rural populations, rely on Medicaid to access lifesaving health care that allows them to prevent, detect early and treat cancer.**

Work requirements create unreasonable barriers to care, making it harder for cancer patients and survivors to recover and stay healthy enough to work. Punishing people with cancer and other serious chronic diseases by terminating their health care will only make them sicker and less able to work, and will do nothing to lower the cost of health care for anyone.

## Work requirements create unnecessary red tape



1 in 10 people

One-in-ten individuals with a **history of cancer** rely on Medicaid for their health coverage.<sup>1</sup>



92% already work or can't

92% of working age individuals with Medicaid coverage are either **workers, caregivers, students or unable to work due to illness.**<sup>2</sup>



90% of funding wasted

In Georgia's Pathways to Coverage program, 90% of funding was directed towards administrative expenses, including **work requirement verification.**<sup>3</sup>

## Access to Medicaid...

- ✓ Increases cancer survival rates
- ✓ Increases the number of people who get cancer screenings and preventive services
- ✓ Helps more cancer patients and survivors get insurance coverage
- ✓ Leads to more early cancer diagnoses
- ✓ Helps people with cancer access timely treatment

## Medicaid work requirements put cancer patients at risk

Access to health insurance through Medicaid is a lifeline for people who otherwise would have no coverage options. Conditioning coverage on work, when nearly all individuals are already working or unable to do so, creates administrative strain while jeopardizing health outcomes. ACS CAN strongly opposes any attempt by the federal government or states to condition Medicaid coverage on work or community engagement.

<sup>1</sup> 2023 National Health Interview Survey data. Analysis performed by American Cancer Society Health Research Services, December 2024.

<sup>2</sup> RWorking age individuals includes those under 65 who do not receive social security disability benefits. Tolbert, Jennifer et al. Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid & Work: An Update. KFF. February 4, 2025. Available at: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work-an-update/>

<sup>3</sup> Musumeci, M., Leiser, E., & Douglas, M., (2024, September 11). Few Georgians are enrolled in the state's Medicaid work requirement program. The Commonwealth Fund. Retrieved from <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2024/few-georgians-are-enrolled-states-medicaid-work-requirement-program>.