

Statement from the American Muslim Health Professionals on Healthcare and Nutrition Budget Cuts

May 21, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) urges you to oppose the devastating healthcare and nutrition cuts advanced by the House Budget Committee. The current reconciliation proposal would:

- Slash Medicaid funding, jeopardizing coverage for children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Undermine the Affordable Care Act marketplace, forcing over 13.7 million Americans to lose or forgo affordable insurance.
- Threaten nutrition programs—such as SNAP, WIC, and school meals—upon which millions of low-income families rely for healthy food access.

Protect Medicaid and the ACA Marketplace

Medicaid covers one in five Americans, including those with chronic conditions who depend on regular care to avoid emergency interventions. Cuts to Medicaid will increase uncompensated care costs, destabilize hospitals, and worsen racial and economic health disparities. Similarly, reductions to ACA subsidies or navigator funding will spike premiums and narrow networks, leaving working families without viable coverage options.

Safeguard Nutrition Assistance

As the American Heart Association recently highlighted, proposed cuts to nutrition programs threaten healthy eating among vulnerable populations. SNAP and WIC connect families to fresh produce, whole grains, and lean proteins—interventions that reduce chronic disease risk and lower long-term healthcare spending. Undermining these programs will exacerbate food insecurity, heighten rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, and erode the health of our nation's children.

Demand Transparency and Deliberation

We also decry the process by which these cuts have been advanced—drafted in the early morning hours, with scant committee debate and limited stakeholder input. Major policy changes affecting access to care and nutrition deserve full public scrutiny, expert testimony, and robust amendment opportunities.

Our Asks

1. **Maintain or Expand Medicaid:** Reject any reductions to eligibility, benefits, or funding levels. Instead, support measures that broaden coverage and extend continuous eligibility for children and new mothers.
2. **Preserve ACA Strengths:** Keep enhanced premium tax credits and navigator grants intact to ensure stable, affordable marketplace plans.
3. **Fully Fund Nutrition Programs:** Reject cuts to SNAP, WIC, and school meal funding; bolster these programs to address rising food insecurity and diet-related diseases.
4. **Ensure a Transparent Process:** Schedule all budget and reconciliation markups during regular business hours and allow full committee and public engagement.

AMHP's members—physicians, nurses, public-health experts, and community advocates—stand ready to partner on bipartisan solutions that protect health coverage, promote nutrition security, and drive down healthcare costs through prevention. Please uphold your responsibility to advance policies that serve every American's right to health and well-being.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Shoaeb Basha

American Muslim Health Professionals

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