

# Implore our legislature to stop cuts to Alabama Medicaid



The Alabama House of Representatives Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, during regular legislative session in Montgomery, Ala. (Julie Bennett/jbennett@al.com) (JULIE BENNETT)



By **Guest Voices**  
on April 16, 2016 at 8:45 AM

By **Alexander E. Vaughn**, an advocate for equal, fraternal, and liberty-minded government living in Madison, Alabama, who graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law. You can follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/thevaughnstate](https://twitter.com/thevaughnstate) or email him at [thevaughnstate@gmail.com](mailto:thevaughnstate@gmail.com)

If we expect our state to cultivate a legacy of goodwill, care for those most in need, and protect economic growth, we owe it to ourselves to implore our legislature to stop cuts to Alabama Medicaid.

We Alabamians have a proud heritage of expressing goodwill. We were the first state to extend married property acts to women, and we were the birthplace of Helen Keller, who cultivated minds and hearts through kind instruction and advocacy. We contributed to trips to the moon and birthed playwrights and songwriters the world over. Our history is littered with examples of such generosity and good intention.

If our recent history has revealed anything, however, it is that our government is acting to disavow this heritage entirely by proposing draconian cuts to one of the few services that actually benefits working-class Alabamians, Alabama Medicaid. In a perversity of epidemic proportions, our legislature, and now our governor, are mulling cuts to Medicaid that are both fiscally and pragmatically unsound while they pass bills to pay millions for new prisons. As a perverse corollary, it may be that some of them hope to kill two birds with one stone since under their leadership **many within our intellectually disabled population have been erroneously sent to those locations anyway**. Erin Edgemon, As Alabama psychiatric hospitals close, county jails struggle to house mentally ill, disabled inmates, AL.com, July 30, 2014, [http://www.al.com/news/montgomery/index.ssf/2014/07/as\\_alabama\\_psychiatric\\_hospita.html](http://www.al.com/news/montgomery/index.ssf/2014/07/as_alabama_psychiatric_hospita.html) .

These proposed cuts fail economic common sense too. Studies have repeatedly shown that **Medicaid benefits actually stimulate economic growth**. If Medicaid were revoked, the families of the disabled, seniors, and children receiving benefits (and the businesses that employ these families) would be on the hook, then, for the \$6.4 billion in medical care that these persons

currently require. Additionally, the loss of even a portion of this money can also affect the availability of medical care to all Alabamians since rural healthcare providers depend on Medicaid funding for a good portion of their revenue, **making the economic impact of their cuts even worse for the vast majority of Alabamians.**

Above all, our choices in funding government represent our best aspirations for future generations. Help us to create a future where our actions stimulate the economy and provide mechanisms of support for those most in need. As a citizen who deeply cares about our legacy of goodwill, the care of those most in need, and our long-term tax intake, I urge you to write your representatives and governor to oppose any cuts to Medicaid.

---

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2016 Alabama Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Alabama Media Group.

**Community Rules** apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. **Contact interactivity management.**

 **Ad Choices**