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Tennessee Justice Center Warns That the Senate's Budget Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP Will Devastate Tennessee, Urges House to Protect Tennesseans

Nashville, TN — The Tennessee Justice Center, a public interest law firm advocating for the health and nutrition needs of Tennessee families, condemned the Senate's passage of unprecedented cuts to the Medicaid and SNAP ("food stamp") programs. Nearly two million Tennesseans rely on Medicaid and SNAP to meet their basic needs. "We work with thousands of ordinary families across our state who are already struggling in today's economy to obtain affordable health care and put meals on the table," said TJC executive director Michele Johnson. "For us, this is not a political game. It's about the lives of people we care deeply about. These cuts will take care away from thousands of seniors in nursing homes, children with special health care needs and family breadwinners with cancer and heart disease. Thousands of our children will experience chronic hunger. Rural hospitals and nursing homes will close. This will cause so much suffering, especially in rural communities. We are heartbroken and angry

that the Senate has violated President Trump's pledge that Congress 'will not touch Medicaid,' and betrayed the 250,000 Tennesseans who will lose their coverage."

The Senate has sent the bill to the House of Representative for final passage. Johnson called on Tennessee members of Congress to restore Medicaid and SNAP funding before they send the bill to the President: "Please remember the Golden Rule. Don't take health care and nutrition away from the families who have sent you to Congress to stand up for *them*, not special interests."

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About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org

For over 26 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$2 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.