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Deep Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP Proposed by Congress, Wreaking Havoc in TN

Nashville, TN — Today, Congress released [budget plans](#) that will slash a minimum of \$880 billion from Medicaid and at least a 20% reduction in funding for SNAP ("food stamps"). SNAP is the most effective anti-hunger program in the country, and Medicaid is the nation's healthcare safety net that covers 80 million Americans. In Tennessee, the Medicaid program is called TennCare and covers 1.5 million residents.

Congressional leaders intend to use special debate procedures that will enable them to ram through the changes in a matter of weeks with limited debate.

Michele Johnson, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Tennessee Justice Center (TJC), responded to the announcement by stating: "Taxpayers pay for the health coverage of Congressional leaders and their families. It seems those same leaders are indifferent to the health, nutrition, and financial security of their fellow Americans. Programs like Medicaid and SNAP save lives and effectively launch young people into success as adults. Destroying these programs will destroy a generation of children who need grown-ups to take care of them. Congressional leaders are badly out of touch, and polls show that [71% of Americans](#) want essential programs like Medicaid and [SNAP](#) to be preserved."

The proposed budget cuts to Medicaid and SNAP would have devastating consequences for Tennesseans, particularly children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and rural communities. With Medicaid covering [half of all children and births](#) in Tennessee, and SNAP providing food assistance to [750,000 Tennessee households](#) per month, these cuts would strip essential healthcare and nutrition from some of the

state's most vulnerable populations. Furthermore, TennCare's role in funding school-based mental health services for [children that have individualized plans, such as IEPs](#), as well as [supporting nursing home residents](#) underscores the far-reaching impact of these programs. Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP threaten the individual wellbeing of thousands of Tennesseans as well as put the [fiscal stability of Tennessee's state budget](#) at risk.

As reports emerge of Congress's proposals to cut Medicaid and SNAP, TJC is tracking developments and will continue to share verified updates [on social media](#), [through emails](#), and at tnjustice.org/joinus.

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[About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org](#)

For over 28 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.