



TENNESSEE
JUSTICE
CENTER

Briefing: Update on the Looming Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP

April 23rd, 2025 | 11:00 AM CT

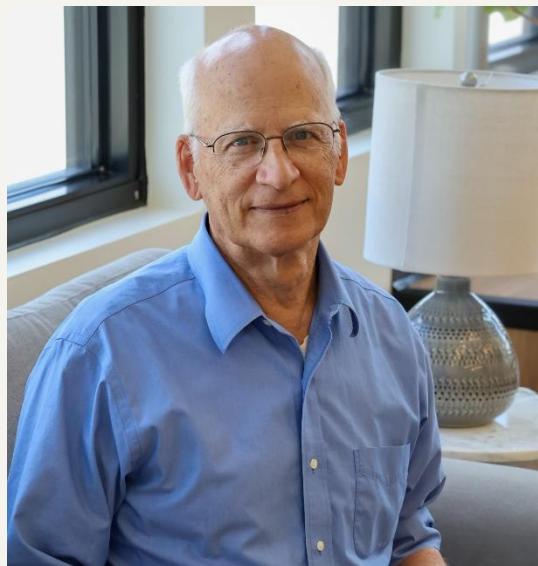
HOUSEKEEPING

- **Welcome!**
- **This briefing will be recorded. The recording and slides will be emailed to registered participants**
- **At least half of briefing will be reserved for Q&A**
- **Please introduce yourself by putting your name, organization, and county in the chat!**

SPEAKERS



Tené Hamilton Franklin
Chief Strategy Officer



Gordon Bonnyman
Staff Attorney, TJC Co-
Founder



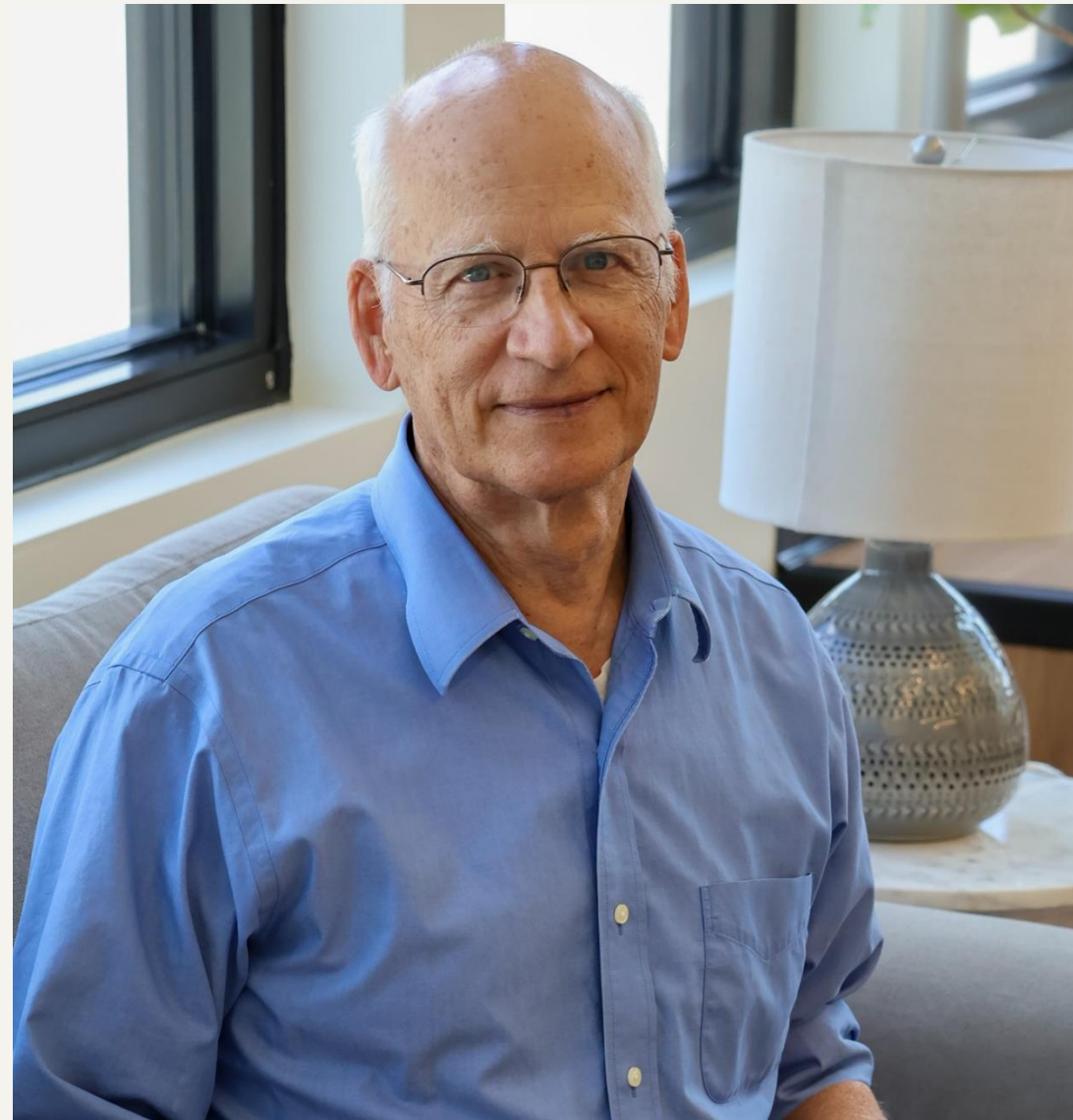
Jane Dimnwaobi
Equal Justice Works Fellow



AGENDA

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Medicaid Presentation**
- **SNAP Presentation**
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**

MEDICAID



Gordon Bonnyman

Staff Attorney, TJC Co-Founder

Budget Reconciliation Process

- **The Budget Reconciliation enables Congress to fast-track cuts, limit amendments and block a filibuster.**
- **Congress has already adopted a budget resolution, telling committees what programs to cut and how much to cut.**
- **The process has gone according to plan and is on track to adopt cuts by end of May.**

What we KNOW: Congress will pay for tax cuts by slashing Medicaid and SNAP

- **Budget resolution requires over \$1 Trillion (with a “T”!) in cuts to health and nutrition safety net:**
 - **At least \$880 Billion from Medicaid**
 - **At least \$230 Billion from SNAP**
- **Now the House & Senate Committees are drafting amendments that will cut enough to achieve those required amounts of savings.**

What we **DON'T KNOW**:

- Which **PEOPLE** will lose their Medicaid coverage?
- Which **SERVICES** will Medicaid no longer provide?
- How much will Medicaid cut the **RATES** it pays providers?
- Will Congress just cut the funding and **MAKE STATES DO THE DIRTY WORK** of deciding who/what to cut?

If this is such a big deal, why aren't we hearing more about it???

- Congressional leadership is intentionally keeping it vague
- Angry denials and calming assurances-
 - Pres. Trump "loves & cherishes," promises to "not touch" Medicaid
 - Sen. Blackburn hits "Democrats' lies about Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid."
- White House is "flooding the zone" with other stories and controlling the news cycle, leaving little room for this issue.

The TIMETABLE

- **Congress is in recess this week and reconvenes April 28th**
- **Committees are drafting amendments this week**
- **Committees are to report out the amendments by May 6th**
- **House adopts amendments, sends to Senate**
- **Congress adopts and sends to the President by end of May.**

The Bottom Line

Cutting Medicaid and SNAP hurts:

- Half of TN's children & pregnant moms rely on TennCare
- Hospitals and nursing homes
- Seniors & people with disabilities
- The economy and entire communities
- Adds to Tennessee families' medical debts

Share the news!

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)



Jane Dimnwaobi

Equal Justice Works Fellow

SNAP (formerly "Food Stamps") in Tennessee

- 750,000 people in Tennessee rely on SNAP
- Food insecurity is a large issue in Tennessee
- SNAP is an economic investment that brings in approximately [\\$1.6 billion to the state annually](#)



Cuts to SNAP will affect many families and businesses

- Households with veterans, older adults, disabled people, and children
 - 50% of SNAP households have children
- 1 in 6 rural families and 1 in 9 small town families
- Working families struggling to make ends meet
- 6,650 retailers (grocery stores and farmers markets) that take SNAP dollars



What we're hearing about SNAP Cuts at the federal level

- Possible ways to cut SNAP:
 - **DECREASE** monthly SNAP benefits
 - **INCREASE** state's administrative costs
 - **ELIMINATE** Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE)

...the list goes on, but we don't know for sure!



SNAP Need to Know

- Proposed cuts to SNAP endanger WIC, SCHOOL MEALS, and SUMMER EBT
 - Household approval for SNAP certifies many families for WIC, school meals, and Summer EBT
 - Eliminating automatic eligibility = complicated processes and delayed nutrition benefits



SNAP Need to Know

- Related Cuts to the SCHOOL MEALS program (\$12 billion)
 - Cuts to Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – a program that funds certain schools to offer students free/reduced meals
 - Could impact 598 schools and 280,726 children in Tennessee



We MUST protect Medicaid & SNAP!

We did it in 2017 and will follow the same playbook now:

- Make sure people know these cuts will touch all of us.
- Tell Congress NOT to use Medicaid and SNAP to pay for tax cuts to the wealthy
- Convince Congress that Medicaid and SNAP are kryptonite:
“If you want tax cuts, don’t tie them to unpopular cuts to Medicaid & SNAP.”

Three Action Steps

- 1. Call local offices of Sen. Blackburn and Sen. Hagerty & your Member of Congress NOW EVEN IF YOU ALREADY HAVE CALLED BEFORE.**
- 2. Share your story with TJC.**
- 3. Post letters on your local news media opinion/feedback pages, opposing cuts to safety net to pay for tax breaks for the super rich.**

Our Msg. to U.S. Senators & Congressmen re. Medicaid

- 1. Honor Pres. Trump's promise that Congress will protect Medicaid.**
- 2. Protect MY _____ [fill in the blank with what matters most for you]:**
 - Care**
 - Family**
 - Friend**
 - Hospital**
 - Nursing care**
 - State's economy & jobs**
- 3. Don't let Congress DUMP ON Tennessee!**

Q&A

Call to Action!

[Contact your legislators!](#)



Add your organization name to the sign on letter!

Read our new policy brief on the uplifting impacts of SNAP and Medicaid

CONTACT US

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THANK YOU!