

Children's Champion

August 16, 2018 • Vol. 21 • Tennessee Justice Center

QUICK LINKS

[About Us](#) | [Give Now](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Staff](#)



INSURE OUR KIDS UPDATES

July was a busy month for the Insure Our Kids campaign!

We held an in-person training in Memphis at Church Health that was attended by over 80 people!



We also published [this video](#) in which students talked about their participation in the TJC Student Ambassador Program. This program is another way that we're furthering the goal of Insure Our Kids to get young people signed up for health insurance. If you know high school students who may be interested in applying for the next group of ambassadors, please share [this flyer](#) and [this application](#).

Please "like" and "follow" the Insure Our Kids [Facebook page](#).

If you need help applying for
TennCare and CoverKids, call
1-844-644-5443.

If you have already applied and
been denied, call the Tennessee
Justice Center at
1-877-608-1009
to get free help to file an appeal.

Don't forget to check out insureourkids.org for more information.

ICYMI



- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that program funding for enrollment assistance (which was used to hire the 27 Navigators in Tennessee) would be cut from \$1.1 million to only \$300,000 statewide. Find out more about these harmful cuts in a [blog post](#) from Jacy Warrell, Executive Director of the Tennessee Health Care Campaign.
- Kinika Young, Director of Children's Health, and Dennisse Calle, King Child Health Fellow, wrote a [blog post](#) for the Georgetown Center for Children and Families about our Student Ambassador Program.



"[These students] understand the unique challenges their families and their friends' families face when trying to get health insurance."

- Kinika Young wrote [an op-ed](#) in the Tennessean about the harmful effects of family separation at the border and beyond.
- Michele Johnson, Executive Director, wrote [an op-ed](#) in the Knoxville News Sentinel, raising concern about Judge Kavanaugh's nomination for the Supreme Court and what could happen to pre-existing conditions protections and other ACA protections if he is appointed.
- McKenzie Regional Hospital is set to [shut down](#) September 15, joining 9 other rural hospitals that have shut down in the last few years due in large part to the lack of Medicaid expansion in Tennessee. To learn more about our campaign to close the coverage gap and save rural hospitals,

THE MORE YOU KNOW

A New Threat to Immigrant Families

The Trump Administration plans to issue a proposed rule change targeting lawful immigrants and their citizen children. Under the draft proposal, if children or other relatives receive Medicaid, nutrition benefits, or other aid for which they are eligible, their parents may be denied green cards. This policy threatens to divide families by forcing parents to choose between getting health coverage for their citizen children or maintaining their ability to remain with their children in the U.S. Experts estimate that the new rule would directly affect 55,000 school-age Tennessee children who are U.S. citizens. Fear and confusion will prompt many more families to drop health coverage or forego needed nutrition assistance for which they remain eligible.

These proposed changes will:

- Target only lawful immigrant families and their U.S. born children.
- Have the effect of denying vital health and nutrition assistance to immigrant families, including thousands of Tennessee children who were born in the U.S.
- Create fear and confusion for tens of thousands of Tennessee families.
- Inflict collateral damage on the health and economies of Tennessee communities.

What can you do?

- Stay up-to-date on the status of the public charge rule change by [signing up for this email list](#). We have partnered with TIRRC to send out updates and action alerts.
- Prepare to submit comments when the rule is released. There will be a 60-day comment period. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit comments. We can provide research and assistance for your organization.

LOOKING FORWARD

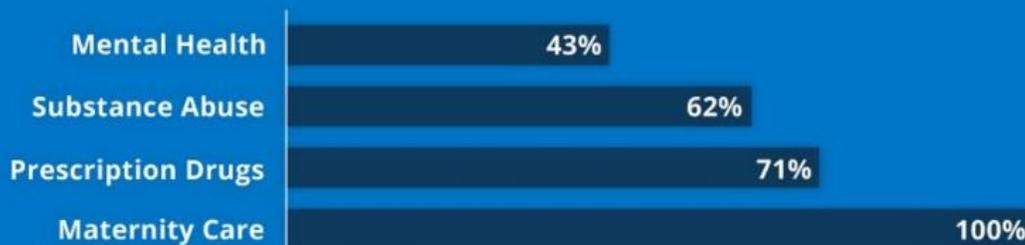


Federal level:

- The Trump administration has expanded [short-term "insurance" plans](#) from the current 3-month limit to a 1-year limit with the ability to renew them for up to 3 years.
- These plans are not health insurance. They often don't cover mental health services or prescription drugs. They don't have pre-existing condition protections, which means someone with a pre-existing condition (1/3 of Tennesseans) could be denied coverage or be charged exorbitant amounts. Short-term plans are an inadequate substitute for Marketplace plans. They would not be sufficient for anyone that needs medical care, meaning those that are sick would stay in the Marketplace, driving up premiums, and healthier people would opt for the short-term plans. As soon as the healthier people have any medical problems, they would be stuck with enormous out-of-pocket expenses and could lose their coverage when it is time to renew.
- Not only is this change very expensive (nearly \$30 billion over the next 10 years), it is incredibly profitable for insurance companies. Data shows that insurance companies spend less than half of enrollees' premiums on actual medical care. It is junk coverage where the consumer loses.

Short-Term Health Plans Have Substantial Benefit Gaps

% OF ANALYZED PLANS THAT DO NOT COVER:



KFF
HENRY J. KAISER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

State level:

- After the primaries earlier this month, we want to make sure that candidates are educated about issues that affect children and families. We know that [Medicaid expansion would greatly help children](#) and help support Tennessee's healthcare infrastructure. We have candidate education resources such as [a fact sheet about the uninsured children in Tennessee](#) and about [Medicaid work requirements](#).
- We also have a draft question that you can pose to candidates about Medicaid expansion:
 - Governor Haslam and Speaker Harwell's 3-Star Health Task Force have separately recommended that TN accept \$1.4 billion/year that is available from the federal government to cover 300,000 uninsured Tennesseans, funding that would also create 15,000 jobs, according to estimates by the UT Center for Business and Economic Research. Data shows that in the 32 states that accept the money, health insurance premiums are 7% lower, there is greater access to treatment for addiction, and rural hospitals are six times less likely to close. Will you accept the \$1.4 billion per year for these purposes, or do you have another plan to address these needs?

JOIN US

**INSURE OUR KIDS
ENROLLMENT TRAINING**

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
11 AM CST**

**Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar
Thursday, September 13
11 AM-12 PM CDT**

The Insure Our Kids Enrollment Webinar will include coverage options, eligibility, and the enrollment process. This is the same content as the last training. We are hoping to reach a new audience so if you enjoyed the training in the past, please pass it on to anyone you think could benefit from the information.

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

As a reminder, the Tennessee Justice Center also helps with:

1. Enrollment onto TennCare and CoverKids
2. Service Issues
3. Redetermination Issues

If you ever encounter anyone who is having trouble getting health insurance or getting health services, please call TJC: (615) 255-0331.

If there is any information you would like us to share on your behalf, including events and resources, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,

Kinika Young
Director of Children's Health
kyoung@tnjustice.org



STAY CONNECTED:



kyoung@tnjustice.org | 615-255-0331 | <https://www.tnjustice.org/>