



Dr. Danielle Binion, CHCM Chief Strategy Officer
Testimony in Support of Sustained Medicaid Funding
Jefferson City, MO
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My name is Dr. Danielle, and I'm here today, not just as an advocate, but as someone whose life has been directly impacted by Medicaid. From birth until I turned 18, Medicaid coverage made it possible for me to access healthcare. When I lost coverage due to age-based-eligibility, I was left uninsured for 5 years until I landed my first full-time job, despite living with a chronic condition like asthma.

Before the Affordable Care Act expanded coverage, this was the story of far too many young people who fell into coverage gaps. For my mom and me, Medicaid was lifesaving. Losing it put my health at serious risk.

When we talk about Medicaid, we're talking about real people: children missing out on preventative care and developmental screenings; parents being unable to afford life-saving medications; older adults without long-term care and working Missourians in low-wage jobs who can't see a doctor when they need one most.

Without Medicaid, rural hospitals, safety net clinics, and behavioral health providers, many already at capacity, would be forced to cut services or close altogether. That leaves entire communities without access to care.

We all know someone who needs Medicaid or is currently utilizing Medicaid.

Cuts would cause our families, friends, and neighbors to lose coverage, forcing them to delay care or go without it altogether.

Access to healthcare should never be a luxury. I'm calling on our elected leaders to protect and strengthen Medicaid for our youth, rural families, most vulnerable communities, and Missouri's future.