



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
O F F L O R I D A

# **Medicaid Expansion in Florida: A Social and Economic Imperative**



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# Medicaid Expansion

- Objectives:
    - ❑ Overview of Medicaid
    - ❑ Overview of Medicaid in Florida
    - ❑ Benefits and Impact of Expansion in Florida
    - ❑ Status of Medicaid Expansion in Florida
    - ❑ What you can do to help
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# Medicaid Expansion

- Overview of Medicaid:
    - ❑ Created in 1965 to provide healthcare to those who had no other means of affording insurance
    - ❑ Currently covers 3,420,845 Floridians
    - ❑ Pays for hospital care for medically needy uninsured low income adults
    - ❑ Key aspect of PPACA is to expand Medicaid to those adults
    - ❑ In Florida, 1.2 million uninsured are eligible under the extension
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# Supreme Court's Ruling on Medicaid

- Medicaid component of PPACA must be optional for states
    - ❑ The Act expands health insurance through 3 provisions:
      - ❑ (1) Medicaid expansion to cover the poorest segment of the population;
      - ❑ (2) Health insurance subsidies on the Marketplace;
      - ❑ (3) Mandate for the uninsured to buy insurance
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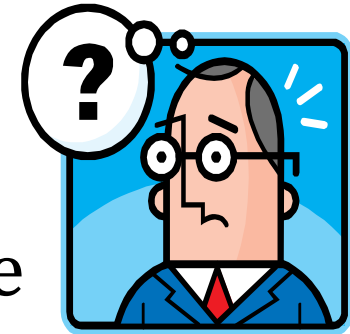
# What is the status of Medicaid Expansion in Florida?

- Florida legislature adjourned the 2013 session without expanding Medicaid



- \$51 billion in federal funds were refused

- The poorest segment of Florida's hard working adult population will likely be without coverage



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# Status of Medicaid Expansion in Florida (continued)

- LWVF supports the plan proposed by Senator Negron:

- ❑ Accept federal funds (\$51 billion)



- ❑ Manage the program through Florida's Healthy Kids
  - ❑ Allow participants to purchase private insurance plans

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# What are the social benefits of Medicaid Expansion in Florida?

- The PPACA increases the income limit for Medicaid - up to 138% FPL
  - An estimated 1,300,000 adults will enroll in the program by 2022 in Florida
  - More insured working adults and children
  - More working adults can have preventative care and manage medical conditions vs. resorting to high cost hospital care
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# What are the economic benefits of Medicaid Expansion in Florida?


- Relief for hospitals
- \$51 billion to Florida's budget
- Saves \$100 million/year
- Creates jobs (120,000+)
- Extends benefits to workers in Florida's tourism, hospitality and agricultural industries





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# What are the implications for Florida by *not* Expanding Coverage?

- Millions of residents will be left uninsured
  - Leaves uncompensated care burden on hospitals
  - Funding for hospitals caring for indigent patients will be reduced by as much as \$640 million/year
  - Consumer premiums will increase 
  - There will be no subsidized coverage option for low-income adults who aren't already Medicaid eligible
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# Is There Any Hope Medicaid Will Be Expanded in Florida this year?



- There are three ways a special session can be called:
  - ❑ By the Governor
  - ❑ By the Speaker of the House and the Senate President
  - ❑ By 3/5ths of the members of both Houses

The special session must be called by October 2013

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# What Can I Do to Help with Medicaid Expansion In Florida?

- Contact Speaker Weatherford (850) 717-5038
  - Contact Governor Scott (850) 717-9337
    - **Tell them that we cannot:**
      - Allow hard-working, low income workers to be left uninsured
      - Continue to allow hospitals and the insured to pay the medical bills of those who seek care at ERs
      - Afford to be without 120,000 new jobs
      - Give away our taxpayer money - \$51 billion – to other states that “get it”
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# Questions?

