



February 12, 2025

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brenden Boyle
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Members of the House Committee on the Budget

RE: The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

Dear Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle:

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families by driving policy change, providing resources, engaging with local communities, and shifting public perceptions. We write today in regard to the House Committee on the Budget's upcoming markup to consider the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025 and begin the process of Congressional budget reconciliation. We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse in our government. **However, we urge the Committee to exercise caution when setting top-line budget numbers, particularly in regard to how these numbers could impact the Medicaid program.**

Medicaid is a critical lifeline for individuals with Down syndrome and their families, providing access to essential health care services, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and therapies that support independent living. As the primary insurer for the majority of individuals with Down syndrome, Medicaid is often the only option available for those who rely on long-term services and supports.¹ Any reductions to Medicaid funding—whether through work requirements, block grants, changes to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), and more — could have devastating consequences for people with disabilities.

Proposals that limit Medicaid's scope or funding could lead to service reductions, longer waitlists, and increased financial burdens on families. For individuals with Down syndrome, this could mean losing access to personal care assistance, job coaching, and assistive technologies that are vital to their health, independence, and well-being. Furthermore, historical evidence shows that policies such as Medicaid work requirements, even when exemptions are intended

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10422190/#H1-5-AOI230052>



for people with disabilities, can still create administrative barriers that jeopardize coverage for millions of eligible Americans with disabilities.²

NDSS stands ready to work with Congress to ensure Medicaid remains sustainable and efficient. However, we strongly urge you to reject any budget proposals that would impose caps, cuts, or restrictive eligibility requirements that would harm individuals with Down syndrome and the broader disability community. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing to work together to protect and strengthen this essential program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandi Pickard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Kandi Pickard
President and CEO
National Down Syndrome Society

² <https://healthlaw.org/resource/unfit-to-work-how-medicare-work-requirements-hurt-people-with-disabilities-2/>