

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2026

Contact:

Andy DiAntonio | Director of Communications, National Health Law Program |
diantonio@healthlaw.org

Megan Dishong | Deputy Director, Montana Legal Services Association | mdishong@mtlsa.org

People with Serious Health Conditions Will Lose Medicaid Under Trump Administration Work Requirement Rule

BOSTON — Montana Legal Services Association, the National Health Law Program (NHeLP), the Center for Public Representation, and 68 additional organizations filed an amicus brief Thursday, September 10th in *Massachusetts v. Oz*, detailing how the Trump administration's Medicaid work requirements rule will strip health coverage from people with serious illnesses and disabilities.

The brief supports the plaintiff states' motion for partial summary judgment, which argues that the administration's Interim Final Rule unlawfully narrows the exemption Congress created for people who are medically frail or have special medical needs. The rule requires medically frail people to prove that their condition "significantly impairs" their ability to work and limits their ability to establish medical frailty through self-attestation.

The brief explains that interruptions in coverage can result in missed medications, worsening illness, emergency care, hospitalization, permanent disability, and death. It describes the importance of continuous care for people with cancer, sickle cell disease, diabetes, HIV, kidney disease, seizure disorders, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, and substance use disorders.

The brief illustrates the consequences through the experiences of Medicaid enrollees across the country, including:

- An Oregon resident managing life-threatening chronic conditions while working multiple remote jobs, who fears that proving compliance will overwhelm a body already working at capacity.
- An Indiana parent concerned that her autistic adult son will lose coverage because his disability has made steady employment difficult.
- A Washington parent whose son has epilepsy that will prevent him from working.

Administrative Office

616 Helena Ave., Ste 100
Helena, MT 59601
Toll Free: (800) 666-6124
Phone: (406) 442-9830
Fax: (406) 442-9817

Statewide HelpLine Number ☎ 1-800-666-6899

Websites:

www.MontanaLawHelp.org
www.mtlsa.org

Funded in part by:

**Montana Justice Foundation
&**



“In Montana, Medicaid is often the only thing standing between a rural family and a health crisis they can't drive an hour to treat,” states Alison Paul, Executive Director of Montana Legal Services Association. “These new rules don't ask people to work; they ask sick and disabled Montanans to prove, again and again, that they're too sick to work, using a system that wasn't built with rural life in mind.”

“Stories such as these illustrate what's at stake,” said Jane Perkins, Litigation Director at the National Health Law Program. “Congress excluded medically frail people from the work requirements. CMS has erected hurdles, however. People living with serious conditions need Medicaid coverage to ensure continuous access to the health care they need. They should not have to repeatedly prove that they are unable to meet the work requirements.”

Experts project that the rule's restrictions on the medical frailty exemption will cause an average of 1.8 million additional people to lose Medicaid each year from 2027 through 2034. That represents roughly a 30 percent increase in anticipated coverage losses.

The amicus brief is available [here](#). The following organizations signed onto the brief.

Access Ready Inc.

AiArthritis

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Arthritis Foundation

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law

Blood Cancer United

Center for Civil Justice

Center for Public Representation

Center For Elder Law & Justice
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Legal Services
CommunicationFIRST
Community Legal Aid Society Inc. (Delaware)
Connecticut Health Policy Project
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Deaf Equality
Disability Belongs®
Disability Law Center of Utah
Disability Rights Connecticut
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Disability Rights Iowa
Easterseals, Inc.
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Families USA
Georgetown University Center for Children and Families
Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Hawaii Disability Rights Center
Health Law Advocates, Inc.
Indiana Justice Project
Justice in Aging
Kentucky Protection & Advocacy
Legal Action Center
Legal Aid DC
The Legal Aid Society
Legal Council for Health Justice
Lupus Foundation of America
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Maternal and Child Health Access

Montana Legal Services Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NAACP
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
National Disability Rights Network
National Health Law Program
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
New York Legal Assistance Group
Northwest Health Law Advocates
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pisgah Legal Services
Public Justice Center
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
TechTonic Justice
UnidosUS
William E. Morris Institute for Justice

MLSA is a non-profit statewide law firm that empowers low-income people by providing legal information, advice, representation, and other services free of charge. Civil legal aid from MLSA assures fairness for all in the justice system, regardless of how much money a person has, and helps Montanans protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. You can find more information on our services at mtlsa.org or call our Helpline at 1-800-666-6899.