



The Ultimate Guide to Vigils to Protect Medicaid

The Why:

Congress is pushing forward a plan to cut nearly a trillion dollars from Medicaid. We know that Medicaid isn't a line item in a budget, but a lifeline for millions of families across the US. The house is going to be doing their mark up of what cuts will move forward the first week of May.

The What:

We will be holding a 24 hour vigil on the National Mall starting on May 7th at 1pm until May 8th at 1pm. Advocates, activists, members of congress, and recipients of medicaid will be sharing their stories and stories from all over the country through the 24 hours. At 1pm on May 7th, we'll kick things off with a rally and then get right into the vigil sharing stories until May 8th at 12pm where we'll end our vigil with a closing rally. The entire event will be livestreamed.

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The Plan/Logistics

We will be meeting at the below location at 1pm on May 7th to kick things off with a rally with movement leaders and advocates.

Directly following the rally we will begin the vigil with continuous story sharing throughout the next 22 hours.

At 12pm on Thursday May 8th, we will have a final closing rally.

We would LOVE partners, organizers, advocates, families, whomever at all times, but we'd especially love a good crowd for both of the rallies.

We will have a continuous livestream for the entirety of the program from 1pm May 7th until May 8th.

The vigil itself will be held on the pathway at 3rd Street and the National Mall, directly across from the Capitol building. We are building out infrastructure to be able to properly support folks who are attending and vigiling for the full 24 hours including accessible portable restrooms, snacks/water, phone charging stations, and many accessibility aspects (discussed more in depth below). You can find a full layout of our footprint on the National Mall [here](#).

The three closest Metro Stops are Judiciary Square, Capitol South, and L'Enfant Plaza. While the following bus lines all run nearby as well; 32, 36, 70, 72, 74, and S2,



Accessibility

We take accessibility seriously and it is one of the main priorities for this event.

For the in person portion of the event here's what we're working on:

- This location gives us the ability to build out an area that meets most accessibility needs, including a hard surface for mobility devices, accessible restrooms extremely close, adequate power, and more.
- 2 accessible portable restrooms will be located just north of the speaking area
- ASL interpretation will be provided on the right side of the main speaking area and also showcased on the livestream as well.
- We will have CART in English via the livestream folks in person and online can access.
- At the welcome desk we will have supplies like smell sensitivity masks, water, nut-free granola bars, ear plugs, N95 masks, and dog waste bags.
- A small welcome tent will be available for folks to use to take shade or charge their mobility devices.
- We will also have a medic on site throughout the entire 24 hours.

If you have any additional needs or concerns, let us know by emailing Linda at Linda@caringacross.org or Robby Diesu, Robby@allora-industries.com, 631-241-5966

How can you help?

We have 5 main asks for our partners and colleagues:

- 1) Chip in! Obviously a 24 hour event costs serious cash. If your organization would like to help out w/ the overall cost of the event, let us know! Linda@caringacross.org is who you should contact.
- 2) We have 22 hours of personal stories we will be reading. Do you work with folks who will be impacted by Medicaid cuts? If you've collected stories please submit by 5pm Monday 5/5 by using this template [📄 Sample Story Upload Sheet](#) and emailing Kristiana@caringacross.org.
- 3) Organizations can "adopt an hour" of time to have story-readers. If your org has their own stories, fantastic, please make sure to upload them above still so we can include them in the larger pool of stories. Adopting an hour means you get to choose who is reading stories for that time. It can be 1 person, 5 people, 25. It is up to you and your team to sort those details. You can sign up by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/7ViQQJuVADtGouRY7>
- 4) We would love people to join us throughout the whole 24 hours. Below you'll find some sample language to recruit people in your networks to the events, to join the

livestream, and just help out. We'll be holding the space for a very long time and the folks who are staying the entire 24 hours would love support and encouragement throughout.

- 5) Get this out in the world! Below you'll find a toolkit on how to spread the word about the event and content to post on social media.

Elected Official Outreach

Our team is working hard to make sure Members of Congress from across the political spectrum join us during the entire event. We are asking legislators to join our event by reading stories from their constituents and their own personal stories of medicaid during the first and last hours of the vigil.

If you have suggestions on elected officials or would like to support with follow up on current invitations please email Jaimie@Caringacross.org.

Media

To coordinate on comms needs contact laura@caringacross.org

Digital Toolkit

DIGITAL TOOLKIT TO BE LINKED HERE (BY FRIDAY MAY 2)


Interested in coordinating on digital needs? Email sahar@caringacross.org to be looped in.

FAQ

Do I need to be there the full 24 hours?!

- Nope! If you'd like to help out throughout the entire event, let our team know. We'd love for folks to join us at any point throughout the full 24 hours. We'd love your constituents and activists to especially be there for our kick off rally and closing rally (May 7th at 1pm-2pm and May 8th 12pm-1pm).

Can I tell my story?!

- Right now we're having organizations use [the sign up sheet](#) to adopt an hour so folks can share their stories that way. If you have stories please submit them to Kristiana@caringacross.org using this template for submission:
 Sample Story Upload Sheet

What happens if there's weather?

- Weather Plan: As a 24 hour outdoor event, the weather can have a significant impact on the event. The following is the plan depending
 - Light Rain: The event will continue as planned.
 - Heavy Rain: If the rain becomes heavy enough to potentially impact the video production gear we will need to strike
- Lighting: If lightning strikes within 15 miles of downtown DC, the event will be paused until US Capitol Police give an all clear and participants will be directed to a nearby Smithsonian.
- Winds over 35 MPH: The main lighting tree, tents, and banner stand will be brought down and the event will continue as planned

I'm nervous about being in DC in this political climate...

- Our team is working with a local security firm that is led by local Black women. We'll have a security guard on site throughout the entire event. We will not be taking any sort of risk throughout the event. The event is permitted, and if we are asked to leave, we will. We are not interested in escalating this action in any form so we can ensure the safety of the participants. If you have specific questions on how we can make sure this is a safe event for you, reach out to Linda@caringacross.org.

I have accessibility needs, who do I talk to?

- Accessibility is one of our highest priorities for this event. [Check out the section above](#), if that doesn't answer your questions, you can reach out to Linda or Robby at

What does it mean to adopt an hour?

- It means when you sign up for that our you are responsible for providing story-readers for the entire hour. We will provide stories for you to read if your organization doesn't have them. Roughly 20-40 stories will be read each hour. It is up to you and your organization to choose how many people will fill that time. We are **NOT** asking you to write a speech, but if you and your team want to share their personal stories of medicaid, we encourage you to do so. As long as you fill the full hour with stories, we're excited!

I missed the partner call, do you have notes?!

- Sure do!  Medicaid Vigil Partner Call Notes

We need interpretation for the event what do we do?

- We will have Spanish interpretation via a phone line on site and available in the livestream. If you need another language, please reach out to robby@allora-industries.com