



March 30, 2021

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families opposes House Bill 1428, which would eliminate Arkansas's Medicaid Expansion for low-income adults.

Since 2014, hundreds of thousands of Arkansans have received health care coverage under Medicaid Expansion. HB 1428 requires the Department of Human Services to transfer all the people receiving Medicaid coverage under AR Works to traditional Medicaid, which would in turn cause the federal match rate for this group to decrease from 90 percent to 70 percent. This bill goes even further and requires the Department of Human Services to terminate the Medicaid coverage for those in this eligibility group when the federal match rate decreases.

Our major concern is this bill will cause hundreds of thousands of Arkansans to lose their health care coverage. With Medicaid expansion, rural low-income adults in Arkansas saw a 23 percent increase in healthcare coverage. Their uninsured rate fell from 45 percent to 22 percent.

For rural Arkansans, this bill has the potential not only to impact the health and well-being of parents, but also their children. Children are negatively affected when their parents are not able to gain access to health care coverage.

If passed, this bill will:

- Result in a 20 percent loss of federal funds to the Arkansas Medicaid program
- Eliminate health coverage for around 300,000 of our fellow Arkansans currently receiving services under Arkansas Works
- Weaken the financial stability of our small rural hospitals
- Destabilize the insurance market in the state

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families opposes this bill for these reasons.