

## Providers, advocates call Malloy Medicaid cuts short-sighted

By: [ARIELLE LEVIN BECKER](#) | February 24, 2015

Medicaid is one of the state’s largest expenses, and a big target for savings in Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s proposed two-year budget. But health care providers and social service advocates say the way Malloy would cut Medicaid is financially short-sighted and threatens to undermine recent progress in a program that has added thousands of new members as part of the federal health law, expanded the network of providers willing to treat them, and reduced its per-client costs.

One head-scratcher, critics say, is Malloy’s proposal to ax a pilot program to coordinate care for some of the highest-cost Medicaid clients, an initiative that even the administration’s budget documents say could generate long-term savings.

Medical groups and client advocates also say Malloy’s proposal to cut more than \$225 million in payments to health care providers over two years could make it harder for Medicaid clients to find providers to treat them and could lead to job losses or home care agency closures.

Coverage group	Enrollment (Jan. 2015)	Monthly per-person cost (4th quarter 2014)	FY 2014 spending	Malloy's proposal
Parents and children	458,674	\$349	\$1.77 billion	About 34,000 would lose eligibility
Seniors, people with disabilities	96,134	\$2,467	\$2.74 billion	Care coordination plan won't start; some clients will have more drug copays
Adults without minor children	168,961	659	\$1 billion	Nothing specifically for this group

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In addition to the general rate cut, Malloy’s proposal calls for a \$20 million annual cut in payments to nurses for administering medications to patients at home or in other community settings.

***“If this rate cut happens I think we’re going to definitely see agencies walking away from the Medicaid program,” said Deborah Hoyt, president and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home. Other home care agencies will likely close, she said, because they don’t have enough non-Medicaid clients and can’t get by on Medicaid rates.***