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II. States Flexibility to Innovate in Medicaid

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III. Coverage Restrictions Cause Harm

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1115 Waivers: The Basics

- Must be an *experimental, pilot or demonstration project*
- Project must be likely to assist in *promoting the objectives of the Medicaid statute*
- State may "waive" certain provisions of federal law *to the extent necessary to carry out the demonstration*
- Project must be *budget neutral* to the federal government
- Subject to state and federal *public notice and comment* periods

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Evidence Demonstrates Harm from Coverage Restrictions

Premiums reduce coverage, create barriers to care

Cost-sharing decreases use of necessary services

Limited understanding of complex incentive programs leads to fewer benefits

Increasing documentation requirements decreases coverage

Many of those sanctioned under work requirements should have been exempt based on disability

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Restricting Access to Coverage Prevents Providers from Offering the Best Possible Care

When patients lose or experience interruptions in coverage, providers can't:

- Coordinate care
- Provide primary and preventive care
- Support medication adherence

When patient care is interrupted, providers struggle to:

- Achieve quality measurement goals
- Accept value-based payments
- Reduce patients' unnecessary use of ED services

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Medicaid Expansion Enrollees Report Coverage Helps Them Work and Look for Work

Category	Ohio	Michigan
Share of non-working adults saying coverage made it easier to look for work	75%	55%
Share of working adults saying coverage made it easier to work or made them better at their job	52%	69%

Note: Under the Affordable Care Act, states have the option to expand their Medicaid programs to provide coverage for more low-income adults.

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Alternatives to Work Requirements: Montana's HELP-Link Program

HELP-Link offers job training and career planning for low-wage workers and those between jobs

- Outreach with personalized assistance
- Provides workshops, tuition assistance, on-the-job training

Medicaid Enrollees Want Job Training Services

- 25,000 Montanans have enrolled and received employment services
- 62% are employed in the quarter after completing the training, and 70% are employed within a year
- 58% report wage increases in the year after participation, with a median increase of more than \$8,000 in annual wages.

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Educating Key Policymakers

- Basics of Medicaid
- Alternatives to work requirements
- Evidence from other states
- Administrative difficulties/costs
- Unintended consequences
 - Harm to children
 - Increased uncompensated care

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Comment Timeline

**If the federal government provides the notice of receipt to the state earlier than within 15 days of the state submission, the timelines for the end of the federal notice and comment period and earliest date for federal approval could be shorter.*

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Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

QUESTIONS?

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