# FAQ: How the “Big Beautiful Bill” Could Harm People with Disabilities

## What is Medicaid, and why does it matter?

Medicaid is more than just health insurance. For many people with disabilities, it provides essential services that allow them to live independently, such as:  
- In-home personal care attendants  
- Durable medical equipment like wheelchairs or walkers  
- Case management and support services  
- Access to Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) care at home programs  
  
These supports help people avoid being placed in institutions and instead live safely in their own homes and communities.

## What changes are being proposed to Medicaid in this bill?

The 'Big Beautiful Bill' would:  
- Cut about $800 billion from Medicaid over 10 years  
- Require eligibility re-checks every 6 months, instead of once a year  
- Make many adults prove they are working or trying to find work  
- Reduce funding for state agencies, which means less help for people completing paperwork or understanding new rules

## How will these changes impact people with disabilities?

- Many people could lose Medicaid even though they still qualify, simply because of missed paperwork or confusing requirements  
- People with cognitive disabilities or limited internet access may struggle to keep up with new work and reporting rules  
- Less funding for state staff means fewer people to help with forms and questions, which increases the chance of mistakes  
- Cuts to hospital funding could cause closures in rural areas, making it harder to access care  
- States may reduce or eliminate services that support independent living

## What is SNAP, and how does it help people with disabilities?

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), also known as food stamps, helps people with low incomes buy groceries. About 37% of SNAP households include someone with a disability.

## What changes are proposed for SNAP?

The bill includes:  
- $267 billion in funding cuts to SNAP over 10 years  
- More paperwork and reporting requirements to stay in the program  
- Shifting administrative costs to states, with penalties for small mistakes

## How could these SNAP changes hurt people with disabilities?

- Many eligible people could lose food assistance because of confusing or hard-to-complete forms  
- Monthly benefits may be reduced, making it harder to afford healthy food  
- With less support from state offices, it may be harder for people to stay enrolled or ask for help  
- This could lead to more food insecurity and poor health outcomes

## What does this mean for Independent Living?

Independent Living means people with disabilities have the right to live in their homes and make their own choices. These policy changes would:  
- Make it harder to get the services needed to live outside of institutions  
- Cause more people to lose benefits—not because they don’t qualify, but because of paperwork or system barriers  
- Increase the risk of hunger and poor health  
- Undermine the goal of equality and autonomy for people with disabilities

## Who is most at risk from this bill?

- People with disabilities  
- Older adults  
- People living in rural areas  
- Families with low incomes  
- Anyone who needs services but may struggle with technology, paperwork, or understanding complex rules

## What’s the bigger picture?

This bill gives tax benefits to wealthier Americans while cutting vital services for low-income and disabled people.  
Experts estimate that 7 to 14 million people could lose Medicaid coverage.  
At the same time, people who rely on SNAP could go hungry due to more rules and less support.