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## Partnership Statement on U.S. House of Representatives **Budget Resolution**

Sonja Bjork, Chief Executive Officer

It is not only critical to protect Medicaid funding, but it is fiscally prudent. When individuals lose health care access, they don't simply stop getting sick – they end up in emergency rooms with more serious and expensive conditions, passing those costs onto hospitals, local governments, and, ultimately, taxpayers.

Medicaid provides essential health care to hardworking Americans struggling to make ends meet, including many in our rural communities where hospital systems are already facing significant challenges.

Medicaid makes a significant impact in local economies in Partnership's service area. In the 24 counties Partnership serves, more than 20,000 doctors and 89 hospitals treat the 900,000 local residents who are our members. This is in addition to the jobs, vendors, and community-based organizations that Partnership supports.

Many Medicaid recipients are working Americans, veterans, seniors in nursing homes, and children. With the majority of non-disabled Medi-Cal enrollees working, a healthy workforce is essential to a strong economy. This is particularly true in Northern California, where agriculture and service industries form the backbone of local economies.

California voters understand how critical Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) is to the state's economy and to the health of the state. Last November, 68% of the electorate passed Prop. 35, which will increase access to care and build the health care workforce. [County by county vote results on Prop. 35 here]



While Partnership is extremely concerned about devastating cuts to health care, we remain committed to fulfilling our mission to deliver the highest quality of care during these uncertain times. Members can be assured that right now they can continue to seek needed health care.

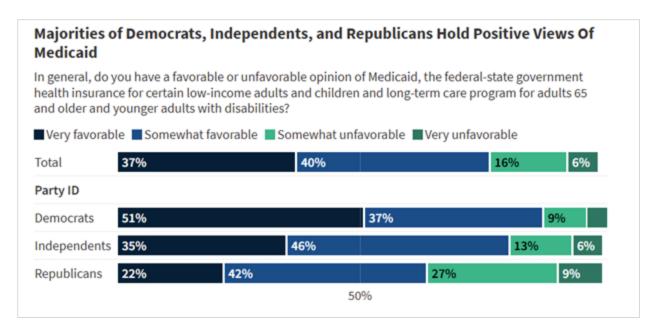
## **BACKGROUND**

- Partnership HealthPlan of California is a community-based, safety-net health plan, supporting the region's health care infrastructure and economy by providing access to high-quality health care for 902,000 enrollees in 24 Northern California counties.
- Partnership's economic impact includes:
  - o \$4.5 billion in health care and support services, including doctors, hospitals, clinics, long-term care and other ancillary services.
    - These dollars help stabilize the health care infrastructure serving all residents. Major federal Medicaid cuts could lead to closures of critical health facilities.
    - Many hospitals and clinics in Partnership's rural communities are already operating on thin margins. If people lose health coverage, more will seek care from crowded ERs, increasing rates of uncompensated care.
      - Higher rates of uncompensated care are made up by charging higher prices for people with commercial health coverage (from both large and small businesses).
  - Stabilizing the workforce for employers with part-time and minimum-wage workers by providing a regular source of health care for many of those workers.
  - o Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid program. Medi-Cal offers no-cost and low-cost health coverage to eligible people who live in California. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) oversees the Medi-Cal program.
  - o Partnership has a contract with the state to provide all covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program in 24 counties.
  - o A large percentage of the residents living in the Congressional districts within Partnership's service area rely on Medi-Cal for health care\*:

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE	MEDI-CAL ENROLLEES (#)	MEDI-CAL ENROLLEES (% of overall population)
1	LaMaifa (R)	326,823	43%
2	Huffman (D)	238,194	31%
3	Kiley (R)	174,941	23%
4	Thompson (D)	234,242	31%
6	Bera (D)	330,107	44%
7	Matsui (D)	324,237	43%



Results from a KFF poll in January 2025 show that majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans hold positive views of Medicaid.



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