



FHJP Statement On American Rescue Plan

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American Rescue Plan Brings Opportunity For Florida to Bring Healthcare to 1 Million More Floridians

(Miami, Florida) -- The American Rescue Plan signed by President Biden offers Florida an unprecedented financial incentive to provide healthcare coverage for approximately one million Floridians who currently have no access to affordable health care.

Florida is among 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid. With the added urgency of increasing coverage during the pandemic, the Plan provides Florida over \$3 billion additional dollars if the state expands Medicaid for low-income Floridians, including working poor Floridians, many younger or older workers earning low wages in service and tourism jobs that don't provide health insurance.

Under the American Rescue Plan, Florida would net **\$1.8 billion** over and above the cost of coverage for new enrollees. These new federal funds do not sit idle in the economy. The increased federal funds would generate an additional \$4.8 billion in economic activity. The argument by many in Tallahassee that the state cannot afford to expand Medicaid lacks all credibility.

Through our [STORIES! Project](#), Florida Health Justice Project hears again and again the stories of Floridians desperate for access to affordable health care. These are older Floridians; people with chronic conditions; low-wage workers and parents; and people impacted by COVID.

Denying health coverage to these residents is not just inhumane, it is also reckless.

The Florida Legislature should immediately take up this extraordinary opportunity to give Medicaid — life-saving health coverage — to the nearly one million Floridians who would benefit. The health of our residents should not be sacrificed at the hands of partisan debate. With economics indisputably in favor of Medicaid expansion, there is no excuse for the state's inaction.

[Read more](#) about the anticipated economic windfall of Medicaid expansion offered by the American Rescue Act.