

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Medicaid Expansion

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Kaiser Foundation estimates that 104,400, or 13 percent, of South Dakotas are without health insurance. An estimated 89,200 (85 percent) are adults and 15, 200 (15 percent) are children. An estimated 39,600 (38 percent) are under 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a new minimum Medicaid eligibility level of 138 percent FPL for adults not previously eligible for the program. Currently, South Dakota Medicaid covers children 0-19 up to 200 percent FPL, pregnant women up to 133 percent FPL, the poor elderly, and disabled persons who receive social security benefits.

A 2012 Supreme Court ruling limits the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) authority to enforce the proposed Medicaid expansion and makes it optional for states to expand coverage. For states that decide not to participate in Medicaid expansion, those above 100 percent of FPL could qualify for federal subsidies to buy private coverage through new health insurance exchanges. This leaves individuals below 100 percent FPL without coverage unless a state elects to expand Medicaid.

As advocates for South Dakota physicians and their patients, the SDSMA believes that Congress should address the issue created by the 2012 Supreme Court ruling in which individuals below 100 percent of FPL are left without options for coverage in states that elect not to expand Medicaid eligibility.

We believe in a health care system that provides the greatest possible access to basic quality health care that is affordable for all South Dakota citizens. Further, we believe that coverage should be available to those living below the defined poverty level. The SDSMA is concerned that individuals not currently eligible for Medicaid in South Dakota and below 100 percent of FPL may be left without health care coverage while ACA provides financial assistance to those making from 100 percent up to 400 percent of FPL; therefore, the SDSMA supports the expansion of the eligibility for Medicaid in South Dakota to include uninsured individuals up to 100 percent FPL.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians, 6/1/2013; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 11/5/2020.