IMPACT OF MEDI-CAL EXPANSION: RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM MEDICAL CENTER

What happens to Riverside County if coverage expansion is repealed?

More Uninsured: An estimated **268,000 individuals** would lose coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California in Riverside County.

Economic Impact: Riverside County is projected to lose **$892 million** in GDP as a result of an ACA repeal.

Job Loss: An estimated **12,000 individuals** could lose their jobs in Riverside County.

What has coverage expansion meant to RUHS Medical Center?

Fewer Uninsured Patients: In Riverside County, Medi-Cal expansion and Covered California have reduced the uninsured rate **from 19.5% to 9.6%.**

Riverside University Health System is the primary care provider to **more than 45,000 people** who have gained coverage through Medi-Cal since 2014.

Higher Value Care: The expansion of Medi-Cal has created a more stable coverage landscape, which has enabled Riverside University Health System to **focus investments** on better care coordination, increased access, and improved health outcomes for patients through an emphasis on primary and preventive care. RUHS has increased access and capacity at its family care clinic, resulting in a **40% increase in visits.**

These improvements help ensure that patients can be seen in more appropriate and cost-effective primary and preventive care settings, rather than in very costly emergency settings.

What happens to California if coverage expansion is repealed?

More Uninsured: CA's uninsured rate is expected to double, to **over 17%.**

Economic Impact: The state estimates a **$16 billion loss** in federal revenue with the repeal of the Medicaid expansion and **another $5 billion** with the elimination of tax subsidies for enrollees in Covered California.

Job Loss: An estimated **200,000 Californians** could lose their jobs.

We urge that any action to repeal the Affordable Care Act preserve the Medicaid expansion and be coupled with an adequate, simultaneous replacement that ensures the same level of coverage and quality of benefits.

A repeal of the Medi-Cal expansion could result in RUHS Medical Center losing **$113 million** in revenue every year.

A dramatic increase in the number of uninsured, coupled with a loss of funding, could destabilize Riverside County's health care delivery system.

Personal Impact - Sonya Ward

Photo: Riverside University Health System

Sonya Ward is a 40 year-old certified nursing assistant who became eligible for Medi-Cal through California's expansion efforts.

Sonya was recently diagnosed with cancer after she underwent mammography and a breast biopsy at RUHS Medical Center – tests she may not have afforded without her health coverage.

With chronic hypertension and a family history of breast cancer, she is grateful for the "quality and caring" services she receives from RUHS through coverage from the Medi-Cal program.

"People are really in need of the smallest things like medications," Ward says. "When they talk about cutting this program, they're not thinking about your rent, your utilities and all the things you've got to pay. **When it comes to healthcare, there's no money left."**

Without Medi-Cal expansion, patients like Sonya would lose access to the care they need to get healthy and stay healthy. People like Sonya should not have have to choose between a potentially life-saving test or meeting other basic needs.

ABOUT RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM

Riverside University Health System (RUHS) is Riverside County's public health care system, and is at the heart of the county's health care safety net, providing emergency, primary, and specialty care. The integrated system comprises the Medical Center and clinics, Behavioral Health and Public Health services.

RUHS is one of Riverside County's largest employers with more than **6,000 workers** and a direct annual economic impact of **$1.6 billion.**

RUHS serves a half million lives each year. More than **1,000 medical residents and students** and **2,500 nursing students** are trained annually at RUHS.