

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8650

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase payments to States with respect to outreach and enrollment under the Medicaid program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Ms. McCLELLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase payments to States with respect to outreach and enrollment under the Medicaid program.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Medicaid Outreach and  
5       Assistance for Communities Act of 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) Research has shown that access to health  
9       insurance coverage reduces financial hardship, in-  
10      creases utilization of preventive and primary care

1 services, improves management of chronic condi-  
2 tions, and is associated with better overall health  
3 outcomes.

4 (2) Medicaid coverage in particular produces  
5 meaningful health and financial benefits, especially  
6 for vulnerable populations.

7 (3) In 2025, Congress passed Public Law 119–  
8 21 that imposed many barriers to accessing Med-  
9 icaid, including work reporting requirements and  
10 more frequent eligibility redeterminations in sections  
11 71119 and 71107.

12 (4) Evidence from jurisdictions that have  
13 adopted work requirements has shown that many in-  
14 dividuals do not enroll or lose coverage at renewal,  
15 despite being eligible and compliant, because of ad-  
16 ministrative complexity and documentation burdens.

17 (5) Effective outreach programs can help indi-  
18 viduals navigate these new systems, increasing en-  
19 rollment and retention among eligible individuals.

20 (6) States have systems in place to help individ-  
21 uals navigate the Medicaid enrollment process but  
22 need additional support to handle these new require-  
23 ments. Navigators extend the capacity of State gov-  
24 ernment by helping to offset the additional adminis-  
25 trative burden and need for assistance that State eli-

1       gibility and call center workers will encounter when  
 2       work requirements and semi-annual renewals are im-  
 3       plemented.

4           (7) Without additional navigation support, eligi-  
 5       ble individuals will go without insurance coverage,  
 6       jeopardizing the health, well-being, and financial se-  
 7       curity of children, working families, and older  
 8       adults.

9       **SEC. 3. INCREASING PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID**  
 10       **OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT.**

11       (a) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR OUTREACH AND EN-  
 12       ROLLMENT.—Section 1903(a) of the Social Security Act  
 13       (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)) is amended—

14           (1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
 15       graph (8); and

16           (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
 17       lowing new paragraph:

18           “(7) an amount equal to 100 percent of the  
 19       sums expended during such quarter which are at-  
 20       tributable to the costs of outreach to and enrollment  
 21       of individuals eligible for medical assistance under  
 22       this title or for child health assistance under title  
 23       XXI (including individuals described in section  
 24       1943(b)(1)(F)).”.

1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply with respect to calendar quarters  
3 beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this  
4 section.

