



Wisconsin Family Ties

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Proposed Federal Budget Cuts Would Hurt Children’s Mental Health in Wisconsin

Madison, WI – The Trump administration’s newly-released federal budget plan proposes painfully deep cuts that, if enacted, would deliver a stunning blow to children’s mental health in Wisconsin. The proposal, made public this morning, includes a \$610 billion cut to Medicaid, in addition to the \$880 billion Medicaid cut already proposed in the American Health Care Act (AHCA) – with total cuts approaching half of all Medicaid spending by 2027. The budget plan also proposes to slash more than one-fifth of the funding for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, which focuses on the needs of children with serious emotional disturbances and adults with serious mental illness.

“This is a monstrously inhumane budget,” said Hugh Davis, executive director of Wisconsin Family Ties. “It incorrectly presumes that people simply lack the motivation to get off of programs like Medicaid. It ignores the fact that Medicaid allows people with disabilities to work and pay taxes and to live in their communities. It callously disregards children with disabilities.”

“There is simply no way that this level of cuts to Medicaid and the mental health block grant would not be a devastating blow to Wisconsin’s children with mental health challenges and their families,” added Joanne Juhnke, Wisconsin Family Ties’ policy director.

An estimated 200,000 children and youth in Wisconsin face mental illness, and for over half of those, their challenges are severe. Wisconsin is a long way from getting all of its children and youth the mental health help they need, but for those who do access mental health services, almost two-thirds use some form of Medicaid.

Taken together, Medicaid and the mental health block grant provide a children’s mental health lifeline for thousands of families across our state. This is the funding that provides parent-peer support, therapies, school services, medications, day-treatment, respite, and more.

We at Wisconsin Family Ties must now consider the question we hoped we’d never have to ask: *Does children’s mental health matter in this country?* Here, in the final weeks of National Mental Health Awareness Month, the Trump administration has just proposed a heartbreaking answer – an answer that we must reject with all our might.

Wisconsin Family Ties, Wisconsin’s family voice for children’s mental health, is a parent-run nonprofit organization serving families that include children with social, emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges. Founded in 1987, its mission is to change lives by promoting children’s mental health.

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Wisconsin’s family voice for children’s mental health

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