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City Attorney Zach Klein sues feds over Trump's attempt to limit Medicaid coverage for Americans with serious and chronic health conditions

Says Trump administration continues its assault on healthcare access for vulnerable Americans, leading to higher prices for everyone

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced a lawsuit challenging President Trump's latest attempt to chip away at healthcare coverage—this time targeting sick and vulnerable Americans. A new rule being pushed by the administration would make it harder for those with serious and chronic health conditions to obtain Medicaid coverage by implementing additional requirements and administrative paperwork, leading to more people falling off the rolls.

“Creating barriers to healthcare coverage for the most vulnerable needlessly puts people’s lives at risk and inevitably drives up the cost of care for everyone,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“These are folks who should be focused on getting the help and care they desperately need, not overcoming even more obstacles. We cannot allow the Trump administration to continue to chip away at Americans’ access to quality, affordable healthcare.”**

The City's lawsuit challenges the Trump administration's attempt to narrowly define who qualifies for exemptions for Medicaid work requirements under recent legislation passed by Congress. Under Trump's new rule, Americans with serious and chronic health conditions would have to jump through additional hoops to qualify for coverage.

The rule requires people with covered physical, mental, or behavioral health conditions to show that their condition significantly impairs their ability to comply with the work requirement. That additional restriction is not found anywhere in the law and excludes people who have serious healthcare needs but may not be able to demonstrate the form or degree of impairment demanded by the rule. These restrictions would threaten care for many Americans when they need it most.

City Attorney Klein's lawsuit claims that people living with cancer, HIV, disabling mental health conditions, and other serious or complex medical conditions rely on continuous access to care. Interruptions in Medicaid coverage can cause people to miss appointments or lose access to

treatment or medications. When people lose access to healthcare coverage, those costs do not go away. Instead, they are passed on not only to the City's Health Department that is required to treat everyone, but also to everyone who accesses healthcare services.

Columbus is joined in the lawsuit by five Medicaid enrollees, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, Doctors for America, the New Hampshire Medical Society, and the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Columbus and other plaintiffs are represented by the National Health Law Program and Democracy Forward. Individual Medicaid enrollees are also represented by state-based legal aid and advocacy organizations including Legal Council for Health Justice (Illinois), Legal Aid of Western Missouri, and the Indiana Justice Project.

**Editor's Note: A copy of the filing can be viewed by clicking the link below.*

[Taylor-et-al.-v.-Kennedy-Jr.-et-al Complaint](#)