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Feds Open Comment Period for Idaho's Work Reporting Requirement Waiver

BOISE, ID – Despite intense public opposition and thousands of comments denouncing Idaho's proposal to put new restrictions on Medicaid, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare submitted an 1115 application to the federal government without addressing any concerns or flaws highlighted in comments. Officials took only four days to review over [700 pages](#) worth of public concerns, technical flaws with the proposal, and [stories from Idahoans who will suffer](#) if the proposal is approved, before submitting the exact same proposal to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The federal comment period runs until November 2. After the comment period ends, CMS will review the proposal and all comments, then make a decision to approve or reject the waiver. Decisions on 1115 waiver applications do not have a set deadline and CMS can take months or years to reach a decision. Work reporting requirements have been deemed illegal in 3 states so far, (Kentucky, Arkansas and New Hampshire). Just last week, litigation was also filed to stop work reporting requirements from being implemented in Indiana. If approved, Idaho's proposal will join the line of work reporting requirement proposals being challenged in federal court.

Those who commented during the state comment period can comment again, and because the proposal implicates federal Medicaid policy, this comment period is open to the entire country. Along with Idaho health policy experts and stakeholders, numerous national organizations are expected to oppose this dangerous and illegal restriction. The portal to receive federal comments [can be found here](#).

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About Close the Gap Idaho: Close the Gap Idaho is a network of over 5,000 organizations and individuals statewide, working to support a complete solution to the coverage gap and to preserve health coverage for Idahoans. Close the Gap Idaho has led the effort to expand Medicaid in Idaho since 2014. A list of Close the Gap Idaho steering committee members can be found on the [Close the Gap Idaho website](#).