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Contact: Logan Dennis
Cell: (208) 830-7653
Email: ldennis@jannus.org

Close the Gap Idaho Applauds 3-0 Appeals Decision Against Work Reporting Requirements

BOISE, ID –This morning a federal appeals court [ruled 3-0](#) to uphold a lower court ruling against the Trump Administration in a strong rebuke of work reporting requirements for Medicaid. The ruling upheld Judge Boasberg’s decision that HHS does not have the authority to implement work reporting requirements for Medicaid, and that the additional bureaucratic restrictions are ‘arbitrary and capricious’. This ruling once again affirms that work reporting requirements don’t hold up to the test of the law, and put the health of Medicaid enrollees at risk.

“This ruling is an enormous victory for the tens of thousands of Idahoans and millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid to make ends meet. If Idaho’s work reporting requirement waiver is approved, as many as 21,000 Idahoans could lose their health coverage due to paperwork issues” said Liz Woodruff, coordinator of Close the Gap Idaho. “We are finally closing our coverage gap with over 60,000 enrolled in Medicaid expansion, and we are set to save millions of dollars in our state budget because of it. Idahoans don’t want expensive restrictions that would undo that enormous progress.”

Today’s ruling again brings into question the feasibility of states implementing these programs. As litigation continues several states including Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, and Arizona have moved to suspend or delay their work reporting requirements. If Idaho’s waiver is approved, it is very likely to be challenged in front of the same judges who have now decisively ruled that work requirements are illegal. This will cost the state money and waste precious state resources fighting a losing court battle.

“We’ve seen in countless studies that access to health care helps people find and maintain jobs. Entangling Idahoans in bureaucratic paperwork only puts unlawful hurdles in their way at the taxpayers’ expense; in Arkansas thousands lost coverage, and employment actually decreased” Woodruff continued. “Through Medicaid expansion our state already has a way to provide lifesaving coverage that helps Idahoans get back on their feet and stay there, and today’s ruling underscores just

how vital that coverage is. Idaho lawmakers should take note regarding today's decision and proceed with caution" Woodruff concluded.

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](#). Quotes from additional member organizations and Idahoans in the gap are shared below.

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