



THE KOCH-BACKED EFFORT TO KILL MEDICAID



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THE KOCH-BACKED EFFORT TO KILL MEDICAID

With the 50th anniversary of Medicaid coming on July 30th, the Koch brothers have made it clear that the only gift they would like to give the program is a death panel. Like social security, Medicare and disability insurance, the Koch brothers want to see Medicaid destroyed. They haven't been very subtle about it— Leaders from Koch-funded groups have even gone so far as to [claim that Medicaid creates a “disincentive for people to work harder” because they need the “fear of losing that benefit.”](#)

The Koch network has [worked to advance budgets](#) which [would have ended Medicaid as we know it](#) and have deployed paid staff to [at least 34 states](#) to advance their anti-government agenda. In Tennessee, [more than 350,000 people](#) lost the opportunity to access that benefit after the Koch-funded Americans for Prosperity group “[went all in,](#)” [running weeks of advertisements against GOP legislators who said they might vote for the Republican Governor’s legislation](#). After AFP [derailed the bill](#), they were “thrilled with the result” and publically hoped that the show of power would “[keep other Republicans from looking to expand Medicaid.](#)” In Florida, [more than 1.25 million people](#) were prevented from gaining access to Medicaid after AFP [targeted Republican legislators](#) and [pressured the Republican governor](#) to [change course](#).

The Koch brothers consistently wield the power their money gives them over the political process to intimidate legislators and force them to bend to their will. In Utah, they [launched a brand new AFP chapter](#) to fight against Medicare expansion for low-income Utahans. In Kansas, Americans for Prosperity overwhelmed the legislative process, [bringing in outsiders to stop Medicaid expansion from even coming to a vote](#) and leaving one legislator to remark that he had [never heard a conferee threaten members in testimony](#). Likewise, in Montana, a Republican state senator spoke of passing a bill to expand Medicaid over the [threats of people from AFP to make “life miserable”](#) if he dared to defy the Koch brothers and support a bill to give [tens of thousands of Montanans](#) access to Medicare. In Ohio, Governor John Kasich signed a bill to give almost [half a million people from his state](#) access to Medicare and has been denied access to “[mingle with the party’s rich and powerful](#)” at private Koch-funded seminars ever since. With an astroturf political operation deep-pocketed enough to “[deploy more than 500 staffers on Medicaid and other issues,](#)” it’s no wonder that when the Ohio state GOP said it would support lawmakers who vote for Medicaid expansion, it was written off as “[hardly a match](#)” for AFP.

When examining the actions and agenda of Koch-funded groups aimed at dismantling what they [insist is an unsustainable](#) and “[lavish entitlement,](#)” it’s important to keep in mind [the people served by Medicaid](#): Almost half of its recipients are children, and another quarter are either elderly or disabled.

The Koch-Backed Effort Against Medicaid Is Based In Their Anti-Government Agenda

AFP President Tim Phillips Called Medicaid “A Failing Program.” According to Politico, “‘We were deeply disappointed at Gov. Kasich’s actions on the Medicaid expansion battle in Ohio,’ said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative think tank supported by the Koch Brothers. [...] ‘It’s not compassionate to take a failing program and expand it by dumping millions of Americans in it,’ Phillips said.” [Politico.com, [6/20/15](#)]

LIBRE Executive Director Daniel Garza: “Medicaid Has Been Called A Caste System That Delivers Inferior Quality Care To Its Participants.” According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, “Daniel Garza, Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, released the following statement: ‘The states and the federal government should be focused on how to ensure that families have access to quality medical care at competitive prices. Unfortunately, the White House seems committed to forcing more families to sign up for government-run care that costs taxpayers hundreds of billions and which has been shown to have poor health outcomes. Medicaid has been called a caste system that delivers inferior quality care to its participants. We can and should do better. Efforts to expand Medicaid are focused on spending more money and enlisting more participants, rather than ensuring the program is actually providing the quality care that is needed. Such expansion may actually have negative effects on the very people the program was intended to help - the neediest among us.’” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [2/2/15](#)]

LIBRE: Medicaid Is “A Costly Program That Has Historically Done Little To Improve Health Outcomes.” According to a press release from the LIBRE Initiative, “As Florida leaders argue the merits of whether to expand the state’s Medicaid program to include more able-bodied, childless adults, elected officials must consider the risks of expanding a costly program that has historically done little to improve health outcomes, and which is supported by taxpayer dollars. The expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or Obamacare) is projected to cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars in the years ahead – a cost that grows as more states agree to expand Medicaid.” [LIBRE Initiative Press Release, [2/2/15](#)]

Koch Organizations Promoted “Slashing The Welfare System And Medicaid.” According to Politico Magazine, “This was the domain of the Cato Institute, Mercatus and the dozens of other free-market, antiregulatory policy shops that Charles, David and their foundations have supported. Organizations like these churned out reports, position papers and op-eds arguing for the privatization of Social Security; fingering public employee unions for causing state budget crises; attempting to debunk climate science; and making the case for slashing the welfare system and Medicaid.” [Politico Magazine, [September/October 2014](#)]

A Cato Institute Budget Analyst Claimed “Individuals Are Better Off Not Working” Because Of “Lavish Entitlement Benefits” Like Medicaid. According to an opinion by Cato Institute budget analyst Nicole Kaeding for FoxNews.com, “The minimum wage is coupled with lavish entitlement benefits. A household of three in Puerto Rico can earn \$1,700 a month in benefits from Medicaid, food stamps, utility subsidies, and aid for dependent children, compared to \$1,150 a month in take-home benefits from the minimum wage. Individuals are better off not working, and many chose that option. Only 40 percent of Puerto Rico residents are employed or looking for work, compared to 63 percent on the mainland.” [Nicole Kaeding – FoxNews.com, [7/2/15](#)]

Freedom Partners Senior Policy Advisor: Forcing People “Into A Broken Medicaid System Is The Last Thing We Should Do.” According to the Daily Caller News Foundation, “Nathan Nascimento, a senior policy advisor for Freedom Partners, said this is indicative of the greater problems Obamacare causes. ‘Instead of expanding access to quality care, the ACA has opened new doors to fraud and abuse,’ Nascimento told TheDCNF. ‘This is a broken law that encourages people to prey on the most vulnerable, and expanding it to force people into a broken Medicaid system is the last thing we should do,’ he continued. ‘It’s time to get Washington out of our healthcare system and empower the states to get healthcare right.’” [Daily Caller News Foundation, [7/1/15](#)]

State Level Koch Organizations Have Echoed The Anti-Medicaid Rhetoric Of The National Organizations

AFP State Policy Manager Nicole Kaeding Called Medicaid “A Broken, Costly System.” According to a letter to the editor by AFP state policy manager Nicole Kaeding for the Columbus Dispatch, “Adding more than 750,000 Ohioans to a broken, costly system isn’t the right answer. Medicaid underpays doctors while subjecting them to limitless paperwork and slow reimbursements. As a result, family physicians are seven times more likely to reject a new Medicaid patient than a new privately insured patient. At least 28 percent of doctors do not accept new Medicaid patients.” [Nicole Kaeding – Columbus Dispatch, 8/6/12]

AFP-Florida State Director Slade O’Brien Said Medicaid Was A “Broken System.” According to The Gainesville Sun, “The conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity labeled [Gov. Rick] Scott’s move as ‘flip-flop.’ Slade O’Brien, AFP’s Florida director, cited Scott’s long history in opposing the expansion of the federal-state health-care program. ‘But today he came out in support of the Medicaid expansion he vowed to oppose,’ O’Brien said in a statement. ‘Hopefully our legislative leaders will not follow in Gov. Scott’s footsteps and will reject expansion of this broken system.’” [Gainesville Sun, [2/20/13](#)]

AFP-Florida State Director Chris Hudson Attacked “The Broken And Bloated Medicaid System” While Promoting His Anti-Expansion Efforts. According to a press release from AFP-Florida, “A number of senators have indicated in previous votes that they are unwilling to stand for Florida families and the most needy of our state,’ said state director, Chris Hudson, ‘but there is still time to change course. We are reaching out to Floridians in every district of every member of the Senate that has taken a vote in favor of expanding the broken and bloated Medicaid system under Obamacare.’” [AFP-Florida Press Release, [3/30/15](#)]

- **Hudson Contrasted Medicaid Against “Quality Health Care Coverage.”** According to The Orlando Political Observer, “‘The problem is that there is a big difference between expanding quality health care coverage and expanding Medicaid,’ [AFP-FL State Director Chris] Hudson continues.” [Orlando Political Observer, [5/26/15](#)]

AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton: “Medicaid Is Flawed Enough As It Is.” According to an opinion by AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton for the Desert News, “Medicaid is flawed enough as is — enlarging its scope will just add more complications without necessarily doing anything to improve health care outcomes. If we want a healthy Utah, there are better ways to get there than expanding this broken federal program.” [Evelyn Everton – Desert News, [7/8/15](#)]

AFP-Alaska Derided Medicaid As A “Broken And Unsustainable Government Program” According to KTUU, “Gov. Bill Walker on Thursday morning delivered news many had been waiting to hear: ‘I’ve taken the next step. Today, Alaska becomes the 30th state to accept the benefits of Medicaid expansion,’ he said. [...] Americans for Prosperity Alaska, a conservative political group, opined on Twitter that ‘it’s a great day in Alaska for proponents of bigger government’ and that the move adds 40,000 people to a ‘broken and unsustainable government program while running a \$4 billion deficit.’” [KTUU, [7/16/15](#)]

AFP-New Hampshire State Director Greg Moore: “Putting People On Medicaid Gives A False Sense Of Security, Because The Quality Standards Of Medicaid Are Far Below Those Of Traditional Health Insurance.” According to Watchdog.org, “Greg Moore, state director for Americans for Prosperity-New Hampshire, declined to comment on Kasich’s visit but said Obamacare expansion is bad policy. ‘Putting people on Medicaid gives a false sense of security, because the quality standards of Medicaid are far below those of traditional health insurance,’ Moore told Ohio Watchdog.” [Watchdog.org, [7/24/15](#)]

Moore: Putting People On Medicaid Creates “Disincentive For People To Work Harder For Fear Of Losing That Benefit.” According to Watchdog.org, “‘Putting people on Medicaid gives a false sense of security, because the quality standards of Medicaid are far below those of traditional health insurance,’ Moore told Ohio Watchdog. Worse, Moore said, is the ‘disincentive for people to work harder for fear of losing that benefit.’ ‘Providing a disincentive to people to achieve their full potential is a completely backwards public policy,’ Moore said. Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion covers working-age adults with no kids and no disabilities. ‘The argument that somehow growing government is a good idea because it involves federal dollars as opposed to state dollars’ is ‘nonsense that most taxpayers see through in a heartbeat,’ Moore added.” [Watchdog.org, [7/24/15](#)]

Koch Opposition Extends Even To Medicare, Social Security, And Disability Insurance

David Koch On A Bill That Would Reduce Medicare Reimbursements: “True, The Government Will Have Succeeded In Its Goal Of ‘Lowering Costs,’ But At What Price To Patients, Employees And Communities?”

According to an article written by David Koch in Discovery, “Keep in mind that – to make matters worse – the bill recently approved by the Senate finance committee would reduce Medicare reimbursements by \$400 billion over the next 10 years. True, the government will have succeeded in its goal of ‘lowering costs,’ but at what price to patients, employees and communities?” [Discovery, [10/09](#)]

AFP’s VP Of Government Affairs Brent Gardner: “These Programs– Like Medicare, Medicaid, And Social Security– Are Driving Our Nation’s \$18 Trillion Debt, Saddling The Next Generation With A Seemingly Insurmountable Burden.”

According to a letter from AFP’s VP of Government Affairs Brent Gardner to Rep. Tom Price & Sen. Mike Enzi, “Reform mandatory spending entitlement programs. Mandatory spending now encompasses more than two-thirds of all federal spending, and continues to grow rapidly. Without reforms, it will soon crowd out funding for all other responsibilities of the federal government. Moreover, these programs – like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security – are driving our nation’s \$18 trillion debt, saddling the next generation with a seemingly insurmountable burden. When these programs ultimately do run dry, as SSDI is scheduled to very shortly, it will be people dependent on these programs who are hurt worst. Congress simply cannot afford to ignore mandatory entitlement spending reform.” [Brent Gardner - AmericansForProsperity.org, [2/20/15](#)]

Generation Opportunity: “We Are Paying More For College Tuition, For A Social Security System And A Medicare System We Won’t Get To Use, \$18 Trillion In National Debt And Now An Obamacare System.” According to a web post from Generation Opportunity, “We are the only generation in American history to be left worse off than the last one. We are paying more for college tuition, for a Social Security system and a Medicare system we won’t get to use, \$18 trillion in national debt and now an Obamacare system – all that steals from our generation’s paychecks.”

[GenerationOpportunity.org/articles, [4/15/15](#)]

At An AFP Event In New Hampshire, Jeb Bush Told The Crowd That He Wanted To “Phase Out” Medicare In Its Current Form For Future Beneficiaries.

According to Wall Street Journal’s Washington Wire blog, “At a forum Wednesday in Manchester, N.H., organized by Americans for Prosperity, a leading conservative group, Mr. [Jeb] Bush said he wanted to ‘phase out’ Medicare in its current form for the entitlement program’s future beneficiaries, while protecting it for people receiving benefits now. He said: ‘I think a lot of people recognize that we need to make sure we fulfill the commitment to people that already received the benefits, that are receiving the benefits. But then we need to figure out a way to phase out this program for others and move to a new system that allows them to have something because they’re not going to have anything.’” [Wall Street Journal, [7/23/15](#)]

Cato Institute Director Of Tax Policy Studies Chris Edwards: “Disability Benefits Encourage People Who Could Work To Drop Out Of The Labor Force.”

According to an opinion by Cato Institute director of tax policy studies Chris Edwards for the Washington Examiner, “Here are other examples of harmful side-effects caused by federal subsidies and regulations: Unemployment insurance induces more unemployment. Subsidized flood insurance induces people to live in riskier flood-prone areas. Irrigation subsidies cause over-consumption of water, which exacerbates droughts. Subsidized loans for housing and college induce people to borrow too much. Traditional welfare encourages people to work less. [...] Disability benefits encourage people who could work to drop out of the labor force.” [Chris Edwards – Washington Examiner, [7/13/15](#)]

Edwards: “Social Security And Medicare Discourage Saving For Retirement,” While “Health Mandates Raise Insurance Costs And Induce Firms To Drop Coverage.”

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The Koch Network Has Blocked Medicaid Expansion In Several States

FLORIDA: “WE’VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME, A LOT OF MONEY ON THAT EFFORT”

AFP President Tim Phillips: “Medicaid Expansion In Florida Was Just Decided. Our Side Won A Crucial Victory—They Did Not Expand Medicaid There. We’ve Spent A Lot Of Time, A Lot Of Money On That Effort.” According to an interview AFP President Tim Phillips gave on Fox News’ *Power Play with Chris Stirewalt*, “STIREWALT: Now across the network, across this organization, we’re talking about a number approaching \$1 billion American dollars. Now, there was a time in politics when spending \$1 billion would have been really astronomical, but that would still be like a sixth of the total spend for the 2016 cycle coming through. Your group and other groups as part of this network. That is a tremendous amount of money. Can it be raised and can it be spent and can it be spent fruitfully? PHILLIPS: It is a large amount of money to raise and it is a challenge to raise that, absolutely, so we’re working hard to do that. It is important to note that a lot of that money is for issue battles happening right now. Medicaid expansion in Florida was just decided. Our side won a crucial victory—they did not expand Medicaid there.” [Fox News – *Power Play with Chris Stirewalt*, [6/15/15](#)]

- **AFP-FL State Director Slade O’Brien On Gov. Scott Opting In To Medicaid Expansion: “Hopefully Our Legislative Leaders Will Not Follow In Gov. Scott’s Footsteps And Will Reject Expansion Of This Broken System.”** According to The Gainesville Sun, “Even before Gov. Rick Scott ran for office, the former hospital company CEO made a name as one of the nation’s leading opponents of President Barack Obama’s health-care reform plan. [...] But on Wednesday, Scott said he wouldn’t try to block the expansion, joining a majority of other governors in opting in to the health-care reform plan and sorely disappointing conservatives who had counted on his opposition in the nation’s fourth-largest state. [...] The conservative advocacy group Americans for Prosperity labeled [Gov. Rick] Scott’s move as ‘flip-flop.’ Slade O’Brien, AFP’s Florida director, cited Scott’s long history in opposing the expansion of the federal-state health-care program. ‘But today he came out in support of the Medicaid expansion he vowed to oppose,’ O’Brien said in a statement. ‘Hopefully our legislative leaders will not follow in Gov. Scott’s footsteps and will reject expansion of this broken system.’” [Gainesville Sun, [2/20/13](#)]
- **After The State Senate Rejected Medicaid Expansion, AFP-Florida Tweeted: “Victory Today For Taxpayers With Senate Rejection Of Medicaid Expansion. Not Counting As A Win Until We See The Alternatives They Push For.”** According to the Tampa Bay Times Blog, The Buzz, “Here is a round up of what folks are saying now that the Senate’s Affordable Care Act committee voted to reject Medicaid expansion, same as the House did a week ago. Instead, legislators say they will create an alternative for the state’s roughly 1 million uninsured. [...] Americans for Prosperity Florida, via Twitter (@AFPFlorida): ‘Victory today for taxpayers with Senate rejection of Medicaid expansion. Not counting as a win until we see the alternatives they push for.’” [Tampa Bay Times, [3/11/13](#)]
- **AFP-FL State Director Chris Hudson: “There Is Nothing Conservative About Adding Hundreds Of Thousands Of Able-Bodied Adults To A Taxpayer-Funded Healthcare Program.”** According to a press release from AFP-FL, “Governor Scott has been a reliable supporter of many limited government policies, and we appreciate that he wants to lower taxes further in our state and improve educational outcomes for all children by expanding school choice measures,’ explained Chris Hudson, Florida state director of Americans for Prosperity. ‘However, there is nothing conservative about adding hundreds of thousands of able-bodied adults to a taxpayer-funded healthcare program.’” [AFP-FL Press Release, [1/29/15](#)]
 - **AFP-FL: “It Is Disappointing For The Governor To Show Any Kind Of Support For A Measure That Will Add Hundreds Of Thousands Of Able-Bodied Adults To The State’s Taxpayer-Funded Healthcare Program.”** According to a press release from AFP-FL, “AFP noted that, given his fiscally conservative record, it is disappointing for the Governor to show any kind of support for a measure that will add hundreds of thousands of able-bodied adults to the state’s taxpayer-funded healthcare program.” [AFP-FL Press Release, [1/29/15](#)]
- **AFP Warned Members Of The Florida Senate That They “Would Be Held Accountable If They Continued To Slow Down The Appropriations Process Due To The Funding Issues With The Low Income Pool.”** According to a press release from AFP-Florida, “Americans for Prosperity put members of the Florida Senate on

notice that they would be held accountable if they continued to slow down the appropriations process due to the funding issues with the Low Income Pool (LIP). Senator Tom Lee of the Senate Appropriations Committee has announced that he will slow down the appropriations process until he receives clarity on federal healthcare funding.” [AFP-Florida Press Release, [3/6/15](#)]

- **Florida Senate Approved A Budget With Funding For Medicaid Expansion, Despite Opposition From AFP-Florida And The State House.** According to the Orlando Sentinel, “The House and Senate advanced competing budgets Wednesday, setting up what could be a weeklong showdown between the two chambers over Medicaid funding. The Senate’s \$80.4 billion spending plan is about \$4.2 billion more than the House version. That’s largely because the Senate includes a Medicaid expansion plan that draws \$2.8 billion from the federal government and an alternative Low Income Pool program within Medicaid of \$2.2 billion. The Senate unanimously approved its budget, while the House debated its spending plan ahead of a vote Thursday. Senate leaders pushed back against the House and advocacy groups such as Americans for Prosperity, which launched an ad campaign this week slamming senators for their support of Medicaid expansion.” [Orlando Sentinel, [4/1/15](#)]
- **AFP-Florida Praised Gov. Rick Scott For Backing Off His Support Of Medicaid Expansion.** According to the Miami Herald, “Republican Gov. Rick Scott backed off his support of Medicaid expansion Monday, triggering a political backlash and giving the Florida House ammunition in its ongoing budget battle with the Senate. [...] Scott stopped short of specifically saying he opposed Medicaid expansion in his statement on Monday. Still, his words were quickly described as a ‘flip-flop’ (Talking Points Memo); ‘walking back’ (National Journal); ‘disgraceful Obamacare reversal’ (Salon) and ‘change in course’ (by The Associated Press, which reported it first). The statement won praise from Americans for Prosperity Florida, an influential conservative group that opposes Medicaid expansion.” [Miami Herald, [4/6/15](#)]
- **AFP-FL Volunteers Knocked On Doors Throughout Florida “But Especially On Those Of Orange County Homes In The District Of Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, Who Has Led The Push For Medicaid Expansion.”** According to the Orlando Sentinel, “Americans for Prosperity volunteers are knocking on doors throughout Florida but especially on those of Orange County homes in the district of Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, who has led the push for Medicaid expansion.” [Orlando Sentinel, [5/11/15](#)]
- **AFP-Florida Mobilized Volunteers Against A Republican Proposal To Expand Medicaid In The State.** According to the National Journal, “AFP, one of the main arms of the Koch brothers’ conservative political machine, is best known for its corporate titan founders and multi-million-dollar ad campaigns blasting congressional Democrats. [...] But on that Wednesday, AFP’s volunteers were mobilizing against a Republican, blasting state Senate President Andy Gardiner’s proposal to take federal funds to put more low-income Floridians on Medicaid. The volunteers, armed with brochures and scripts (as well as lots of chilled Gatorade and water) were knocking on doors here in the hopes of driving conservatives to register opposition to the plan.” [National Journal, [6/7/15](#)]

By Not Expanding Medicaid Florida Left 1.25 Million People Without Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 1,253,000 Floridians won’t gain access to Medicaid and are likely to remain uninsured if the state does not expand Medicaid. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

KANSAS: “I HAVE NEVER HEARD A CONFEREE THREATEN MEMBERS IN TESTIMONY”

Emporia Gazette Editorial: “The 2015 Legislative Session Concluded Without Expansion Of Medicaid” Despite The Support Of “Virtually The Entire Health Community In Kansas” After AFP Dominated The Second Day Of Hearings With Conferees From Outside Of The State. According to an editorial by The Emporia Gazette, “The 2015 legislative session concluded without expansion of Medicaid. Why did it not pass when more than 150,000 Kansans and virtually every health care facility in Kansas could benefit? [...] Virtually the entire health community in Kansas supports Medicaid expansion as evident in the public hearings. ‘If you were an observer, after the first day of testimony, you would think, “How can they not expand Medicaid?’” Hill reflected. During the second day of public hearings, Americans for Prosperity coordinated the testimony, and none of the conferees was [*sic*] from Kansas. Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a conservative policy advocacy group supported by Wichita’s Koch brothers, and AFP is a strong lobbying force in Topeka; presentations to the Health and Human Services Committee underscored reasons that members should oppose expansion.

Following the hearings, no action was taken to bring Medicaid expansion to the House floor for a vote.” [Editorial – Emporia Gazette, [7/10/15](#)]

- **AFP-Kansas State Director Jeff Glendening: “The Extreme Cost When You're Providing [Health] Coverage To Able-Bodied Kansans -- We Just Can't Afford It.”** According to The Wichita Eagle, “At a packed hearing Wednesday, Kansas lawmakers weighed whether to expand Medicaid, which could give health care coverage to an estimated 150,000 uninsured Kansans. [...] Jeff Glendening, Americans for Prosperity's state director, said the organization has concerns about the costs once the state must begin chipping in after 2016. ‘The extreme cost when you're providing coverage to able-bodied Kansans -- we just can't afford it.’” [Wichita Eagle, [3/18/15](#)]
- **AFP-Kansas Provided Free Shirts With The Words “Ideas Don’t Work Unless You Do” To “Several People” Who Attended Medicaid Expansion Hearings.** According to KCUR.org, “The recent legislative hearings on Medicaid expansion brought representatives from dozens of powerful groups to the Kansas Statehouse. [...] Walter Cunningham also has strong opinions on the issue. He was one of several people who attended the hearings wearing green T-shirts that said ‘Light the Fire of Freedom in Kansas’ on the front and ‘Ideas Don’t Work Unless You Do’ on the back. The shirts were supplied by Americans for Prosperity Kansas, a conservative group with ties to Wichita’s Koch brothers that lobbies for smaller government.” [KCUR.org, [3/23/15](#)]
- **One Of The AFP Reps Said AFP Would “Hold Accountable Every Legislator” Who Supported The “Misguided Scheme” Of Medicaid Expansion In Testimony Against The Bill.** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, “And another bill that would have extended health care coverage through the state Medicaid system to an estimated 180,000 uninsured Kansans appears likely to go nowhere, despite support for it from Kansas hospitals, the state medical society and virtually the entire health care industry in Kansas. [...] ‘We certainly plan to hold accountable every legislator who supports this misguided scheme and applaud those who choose to stand with Kansas taxpayers and patients instead,’ said Akash Chougule, an AFP senior policy analyst from Washington, D.C.” [Lawrence Journal-World, [4/5/15](#)]
- **State Rep Jim Ward Said He Was “Shocked” That The AFP Rep Would “Threaten Members In Testimony.”** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, “Rep. Jim Ward, D-Wichita, who had sponsored the bill, said he was shocked by the statement. ‘I have never heard a conferee threaten members in testimony,’ Ward said.” [Lawrence Journal-World, [4/5/15](#)]
- **AFP Teamed With The Kansas Policy Institute, “Part Of The State Policy Network And The American Legislative Exchange Council, Both Of Which Are Funded By The Koch Brothers.”** According to the Lawrence Journal-World, “Opponents included Kansas Policy Institute, a few individuals from Kansas, and two representatives from the national organization of Americans for Prosperity. [...] Kansas Policy Institute is a think tank and lobbying organization that is part of the State Policy Network and the American Legislative Exchange Council, both of which are funded by the Koch brothers.” [Lawrence Journal-World, [4/5/15](#)]

By Not Expanding Medicaid Kansas Left 126,000 People Without Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 126,000 Kansans won’t gain access to Medicaid and are likely to remain uninsured if the state does not expand Medicaid. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

TENNESSEE: “ONE OF THE CLEAREST ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE INCREASING POWER OF AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY”

“Advocates Have Blamed Advertising By The Koch-Backed Americans For Prosperity For Blocking” Medicaid Expansion In Tennessee. According to Politico, “Advocates have blamed advertising by the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity for blocking expansion, dubbed ‘Insure Tennessee,’ in part to differentiate it from ‘Obamacare.’ But it’s also true that Obama, and by extension his signature law, remains deeply unpopular in red states.” [Politico.com, [7/1/15](#)]

- **AFP-TN Announced It Was Running Ads, Sending Mail And Hosting A Town Hall Meeting “In An Effort To Scuttle” The Medicare Proposal.** According to the Chattanooga Times Free Press, “The Tennessee chapter of Americans for Prosperity, which receives funding from the billionaire conservative Koch brothers, says it plans to air

radio ads and send direct mail to voters in an effort to scuttle Haslam's proposal. [...] AFP-Tennessee also is hosting a 'town hall meeting' in Murfreesboro late this afternoon." [Chattanooga Times Free Press, [1/21/15](#)]

- **TN GOP Caucus Chairman Glen Casada On AFP Ads: “While I Wholeheartedly Agree With American For Prosperity’s Core Principles,” “The Attack Ads...Are Inaccurate, Ineffective, And Only Hurts Their Reputation.”** According to The Chattanooga.com, “GOP Caucus Chairman Glen Casada on Friday issued a statement hitting ‘attack ads’ by the group Americans for Prosperity. He said, ‘While I wholeheartedly agree with American for Prosperity’s core principles and am an opponent of expanding Medicaid in Tennessee, the attack ads in districts across the state paid for by AFP are inaccurate, ineffective, and only hurts their reputation within the Tennessee General Assembly.’” [The Chattanooga.com, [1/23/15](#)]
- **AFP Campaigned “Aggressively” Against Republican Gov. Bill Haslam’s “Insure Tennessee” Plan For Six Weeks, “Even Running Radio Ads Blasting GOP State Legislators Who Said They Might Vote For It.”** According to NBC News, “In December, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, got the deal he wanted from the Obama administration: Tennessee would accept more than \$1 billion in federal funding to expand Medicaid, as allowed for in the Affordable Care Act, but Obama aides would allow Haslam to essentially write staunchly conservative ideas into the program's rules for the state. He dubbed the reformed Medicaid program ‘Insure Tennessee.’ But the state's chapter of Americans for Prosperity, the national conservative group whose foundation is chaired by controversial billionaire David Koch, argued Haslam was just trying to trick conservatives into implementing Obamacare in their state by giving it a new name. AFP campaigned aggressively Haslam's plans for the next six weeks, even running radio ads blasting GOP state legislators who said they might vote for it.” [NBCNews.com, [2/6/15](#)]
- **AFP National Spokesman Levi Russell On Republicans Looking To Expand Medicaid: “I Would Hope Other Governors Look At Tennessee” As An Example.** According to NBC News, “AFP officials were thrilled with the result, arguing it will keep other Republicans from looking to expand Medicaid. ‘I would hope other governors look at Tennessee as a [*sic*] example,’ said Levi Russell, an AFP national spokesman.” [NBCNews.com, [2/6/15](#)]
- **AFP-Alaska State Director Jeremy Price Said He Hoped For The Same Success AFP-Tennessee Had In Defeating The Expansion In Alaska.** According to Alaska Public Media, “Stopping Medicaid expansion tops the group’s legislative agenda. Americans for Prosperity led a successful campaign to defeat a Medicaid expansion bill in Tennessee this year, even as the state’s Republican Governor supported it. [AFP-Alaska State Director Jeremy] Price is hoping for the same success in Alaska: ‘We think this is a huge issue that will have monumental impacts on the state budget for years to come.’” [AlaskaPublic.org, [2/19/15](#)]
- **“A Lobbying Blitz Led By Americans For Prosperity...Was Instrumental In Derailing The Proposed Medicaid Expansion In Tennessee, And Their Hope Is To Replicate That Success Across The Country.”** According to The Los Angeles Times, “A lobbying blitz led by Americans for Prosperity, the conservative group funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, was instrumental in derailing the proposed Medicaid expansion in Tennessee, and their hope is to replicate that success across the country. ‘Our opportunities for success and for good free-market prescriptions, especially around healthcare, government spending and energy, are out there in the states,’ said Luke Hilgemann, the group's chief executive, who said stopping Obamacare was a top priority of voters the group canvassed in last year's midterm election.” [Los Angeles Times, [2/16/15](#)]
- **Daily Times Editorial: AFP “Pronounced Their Success...In Cowing” Members Of The Tennessee State Senate Health Committee Into Killing Gov. Bill Haslam’s Insure Tennessee.** According to an editorial by the Daily Times, “With those words, Americans for Prosperity pronounced their success Wednesday in cowing seven members of the Senate Health Committee into killing a plan that — as Gov. Bill Haslam said — is a market-based, Tennessee specific approach to provide more Tennesseans with access to health care coverage while promoting personal responsibility and working to control the overall cost of health care.” [Editorial – Daily Times, [2/5/15](#)]
- **AFP-TN State Director Andrew Ogles: “With Health Care Being One Of The Largest Expenditures For Any State, It Was A Significant Issue For Tennessee. We Went All In To Make Sure We Defeated It.”** According to USA Today, “‘Yes, we did play hardball,’ [AFP-Tennessee State Director Andrew] Ogles said. ‘With health care

being one of the largest expenditures for any state, it was a significant issue for Tennessee. We went all in to make sure we defeated it.” [USA Today, [2/25/15](#)]

By Not Expanding Medicaid Tennessee Left 352,000 People Without Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 352,000 Tennesseans won't gain access to Medicaid and are likely to remain uninsured if the state does not expand Medicaid. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

UTAH: “MEDICAID IS FLAWED ENOUGH AS IT IS”

AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton: “Our Legislators Wisely Opposed Medicaid Expansion During The Last Legislative Session.” According to an opinion by AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton for the Desert News, “Utahns know this isn't sustainable. Polling shows that support for Medicaid expansion wanes when we learn what it really means — and how much it will cost us. That's why our legislators wisely opposed Medicaid expansion during the last legislative session.” [Evelyn Everton – Desert News, [7/8/15](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Koch Brothers Group Launches Campaign Against Healthy Utah.”** [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]
- **“The First Action” By The New Utah Chapter Of AFP Was A Campaign Against An Alternative To Medicaid Expansion Which Would Provide Health Care To Low-Income Utahns.** According to the Deseret News, “Americans for Prosperity Utah announced Monday it has launched a ‘thank you’ mail campaign to support state lawmakers who opposed Gov. Gary Herbert's Healthy Utah alternative to Medicaid expansion. The campaign is the first action by the new Utah chapter of the main political advocacy group for the Koch brothers, the billionaire industrialists pouring millions of dollars into conservative and libertarian causes. The mailer is going out in the districts of 11 GOP House members, who last session helped defeat the governor's plan to provide health care to low-income Utahns using \$258 million available under President Barack Obama's health care law.” [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]
- **AFP-Utah’s Mailer Was Set To Go Out In The Districts Of 11 GOP House Members, Who Last Session Helped Defeat The Governor's Plan To Expand Medicaid In The State.** According to the Deseret News, “The mailer is going out in the districts of 11 GOP House members, who last session helped defeat the governor's plan to provide health care to low-income Utahns using \$258 million available under President Barack Obama's health care law.” [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]
- **Everton: Any Form Of Medicaid Expansion “Is A Risky Proposal Based On Fuzzy Math, Shaky Promises And A False Hope That Congress Will Hold Up Their End Of The Deal” That Could Force Tax Increases.** According to the Deseret News, “[AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn] Everton said any form of Medicaid expansion ‘is a risky proposal based on fuzzy math, shaky promises and a false hope that Congress will hold up their end of the deal’ that could force tax increases.” [Deseret News, [6/1/15](#)]
- **AFP-Utah Signed An Open Letter To State Leaders That “Outlined Significant Risks” To “Vulnerable Residents” And To State Taxpayers Under Existing Medicaid Expansion Proposals.** According to UtahPolicy.com, “In an open letter to the state leaders tasked with resolving Utah’s Medicaid expansion problem, several Utah organizations outlined significant risks to Utah taxpayers and the state’s most vulnerable residents under existing Medicaid expansion proposals. Sutherland Institute, Libertas Institute, the Utah Chapter of Americans for Prosperity, and the Utah Eagle Forum sent the letter today to Governor Gary Herbert, Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, Senate President Wayne Niederhauser, House Speaker Greg Hughes, Senator Brian Shiozawa and Representative James Dunnigan.” [UtahPolicy.com, [6/8/15](#)]
- **Open Letter: “Instead Of Embracing Obamacare By Expanding Medicaid, We Urge You To Find A Way Out From Under Washington, DC’s Thumb.”** According to an open letter to lawmakers signed by various groups, including AFP-Utah, “Instead of embracing Obamacare by expanding Medicaid, we urge you to find a way out from under Washington, DC’s thumb. We applaud your willingness to reconsider the prospect of Medicaid expansion and instead work to find common-sense Utah solutions.” [UtahPolicy.com, [6/8/15](#)]
- **AFP-Utah Announced The Launch Of An Ad Promoting A Website Where Citizens Could Learn About The “Risks Of Medicaid Expansion” And Sign A Petition To Legislators.** According to UtahPolicy.com, “Today,

Americans for Prosperity Utah is announcing the launch of a new campaign to educate Utahns on the risks of Medicaid Expansion. The chapter will be running a new 30-second ad promoting ExpansionFacts.org where concerned citizens can get the facts, learn more, and sign a petition to legislators.” [UtahPolicy.com, [6/10/15](#)]

- **Everton: “If Legislators Expand Medicaid, They Could Imperil The Budget.”** According to an opinion by AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton for the Desert News, “Why is this decision so critical? If legislators expand Medicaid, they could imperil the budget and risk funding for critical state services taxpayers rely upon, including transportation and education.” [Evelyn Everton – Desert News, [7/8/15](#)]
- **Everton: “Medicaid Is Flawed Enough As It Is” And “There Are Better Ways” The Achieve A Healthy Utah.** According to an opinion by AFP-Utah State Director Evelyn Everton for the Desert News, “Medicaid is flawed enough as is — enlarging its scope will just add more complications without necessarily doing anything to improve health care outcomes. If we want a healthy Utah, there are better ways to get there than expanding this broken federal program.” [Evelyn Everton – Desert News, [7/8/15](#)]

By Not Expanding Medicaid Utah Left 116,000 People Without Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 116,000 Utahns “won’t gain access to Medicaid and are likely to remain uninsured” if the state does not expand Medicaid. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

Americans for Prosperity Began Signaling Intent to Pressure State Legislatures and Governors On Medicaid Expansion Immediately After The 2014 Elections

AFP “Poured More Money And Resources Than Anyone Else Into Convincing Republicans Around The Country To Repel State Efforts” To Expand Medicaid. According to the Washington Examiner, “Meet the group persuading states to block Medicaid expansion. The D.C.-based advocacy group Americans for Prosperity has poured more money and resources than anyone else into convincing Republicans around the country to repel state efforts to grow the federal health insurance program for the low-income and disabled.” [Washington Examiner, [4/8/15](#)]

AFP “Won’t Disclose How Much Money It Has Spent In Total On The Effort” To Block Medicaid But President Tim Phillips Said It’s “In The Millions.” According to the Washington Examiner, “It has pelted swing districts with mailers, filled the airwaves with paid advertising, sent volunteers door to door and hosted town hall meetings in a concentrated effort to sway legislators away from approving Medicaid expansion, which is a key way Obamacare extends health coverage to the poor. The group won’t disclose how much money it has spent in total on the effort. But it’s ‘in the millions,’ says AFP President Tim Phillips.” [Washington Examiner, [4/8/15](#)]

After The 2014 Elections, Phillips Attacked Governors Who Expanded Medicaid In Their States: “I Think It Was A Dramatic Mistake For Them To Do That, Policy-Wise And Politically. I Think It’ll Hurt Them” In 2016. According to The Washington Examiner, “And governors who expanded Medicaid in their states, such as New Jersey’s Chris Christie or Ohio’s John Kasich, might face pushback, [AFP President Tim] Phillips predicted.[...] ‘I think it was a dramatic mistake for them to do that, policy-wise and politically. I think it’ll hurt them [in 2016],’ Phillips said. ‘I don’t know that it will disqualify them. I mean, there’s no perfect candidate. But I do think it’ll hurt them.’” [Washington Examiner, [12/1/14](#)]

- **After 2014’s Elections, AFP Pledged to Run Ads On “Medicaid Expansion Causing Doctor Overload.”** According to Bloomberg Politics, “Watch for AFP to continue with ads about environmental regulations putting business owners under water and Medicaid expansion causing doctor overload, [AFP President Tim] Phillips said.” [Bloomberg Politics, [11/17/14](#)]
- **AFP-PA’s Anna McCauslin On 2014 Midterm Election: “Medicaid Expansion Completely Depressed The GOP Base—It Was One More Nail In The Coffin... Every GOP Senator That Won Last Tuesday Won On Repealing Obamacare.”** According to a post on the Heartland Institute’s website, “‘Medicaid expansion completely depressed the GOP base—it was one more nail in the coffin,’ said Anna McCauslin, director of policy for the free-market group Americans for Prosperity Pennsylvania. ‘Every GOP Senator that won last Tuesday won on repealing Obamacare.’” [News.Heartland.org, [11/24/14](#)]

AFP Could “Deploy More Than 500 Staffers On Medicaid And Other Issues In 33 States, Up From Fewer Than 100 In 2010.” According to Reuters, “‘We hold politicians accountable, regardless of their party, particularly if they use the mantle of 'conservative' or 'limited government principles' and then they do the opposite,’ said Adam Nicholson, a regional communications manager for Americans for Prosperity. Tennessee has also felt the influence of the group's field operation, which can deploy more than 500 staffers on Medicaid and other issues in 33 states, up from fewer than 100 in 2010.” [Reuters, [4/9/15](#)]

Phillips: “We’re Having To Oppose A Lot Of Republican Initiatives At The State Level Right Now” Including Medicaid Expansion. According to an interview with AFP President Tim Phillips in the National Journal, “[W]e're having to oppose a lot of Republican initiatives at the state level right now. There's gas tax increases in Georgia, South Carolina, Nebraska, Iowa; there's potential Medicaid expansion we're really battling in Tennessee and Florida and Montana. We are seeing some Republicans who've had power for a few years doing some things that we've had to oppose.” [National Journal, [3/15/15](#)]

Phillips: “What AFP Is Calling For Is A Budget That Genuinely Reforms Medicare, That Block Grants Medicaid To The States, And That Genuinely Caps Discretionary Spending At Sequester-Level Numbers.” According to an interview with AFP President Tim Phillips in the National Journal, “National Journal: You've finally got a fully Republican-controlled Congress. What's are the big items on AFP's federal agenda? Tim Phillips: [...] The third one is the budget, and there, I think we find the true test for the Republican majority in both chambers. What AFP is calling for is a budget that genuinely reforms Medicare, that block grants Medicaid to the states, and that genuinely caps discretionary spending at sequester-level numbers. That's going to be a huge challenge for them. They failed miserably the last time they had the Congress, and they've been given a second chance in a relatively short period of time.” [National Journal, [3/15/15](#)]

AFP’s National VP of Government Affairs Sent Letter Saying Group’s Fifth Budget Principle Is To “Reform Mandatory Spending Entitlement Programs,” Including Medicaid. According to a letter from AFP’s VP of Government Affairs Brent Gardner to Rep. Tom Price & Sen. Mike Enzi, “Reform mandatory spending entitlement programs. Mandatory spending now encompasses more than two-thirds of all federal spending, and continues to grow rapidly. Without reforms, it will soon crowd out funding for all other responsibilities of the federal government. Moreover, these programs – like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security – are driving our nation’s \$18 trillion debt, saddling the next generation with a seemingly insurmountable burden. When these programs ultimately do run dry, as SSDI is scheduled to very shortly, it will be people dependent on these programs who are hurt worst. Congress simply cannot afford to ignore mandatory entitlement spending reform.” [Brent Gardner - AmericansForProsperity.org, [2/20/15](#)]

In States Which Have Expanded Medicaid, AFP Has Targeted Pro-Expansion Republicans And Promised To Make Their “Lives Miserable”

MONTANA: “WE’LL BE TAKING WHATEVER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO STOP THIS MONSTROSITY”

Despite AFP’s Campaign, Gov. Steve Bullock Signed Legislation “To Expand Medicaid Eligibility To About 70,000 Low-Income Residents In Montana.” According to Modern Healthcare, “Montana Gov. Steve Bullock signed legislation Wednesday to expand Medicaid eligibility to about 70,000 low-income residents. The CMS must approve the plan, which includes premiums equaling 2% of a beneficiary's income. Montana would be the 29th state to expand Medicaid if the CMS grants its request for a waiver. Under the proposal, participants would be offered assistance to find employment or a better-paying job. There were many attempts to derail the Medicaid legislation along the way, including a campaign backed by the well-funded Americans for Prosperity, which has been credited with derailing expansion efforts in Kansas and Tennessee, and it continues to be an active force of opposition in Florida.” [Modern Healthcare, [4/29/15](#)]

- **Great Falls Tribune: Americans For Prosperity Made “Killing” Gov. Bullock's Medicaid Proposal “Its Top Priority In Montana.”** According to the Great Falls Tribune, “Americans for Prosperity has made killing [Gov.] Bullock's Medicaid proposal its top priority in Montana, and last week it took aim at Republicans such as Welborn who refused to join its cause.” [Great Falls Tribune, [2/9/15](#)]

- **AFP-Montana Targeted “Republican State Legislators Who Won’t Sign A Pledge To Oppose Medicaid Expansion In Montana” With Postcards And Telephone Calls In The Republicans’ Districts.** According to the Ravalli Republic, “A conservative group is targeting Republican state legislators who won’t sign a pledge to oppose Medicaid expansion in Montana, holding events this week in the lawmakers’ districts to publicize the no-pledge stance. Americans for Prosperity-Montana also is sending postcards and making telephone calls in the Republicans’ districts, telling voters to call the lawmakers and ask them to oppose Medicaid expansion as part of ‘Obamacare.’” [Ravalli Republic, [2/2/15](#)]
 - **AFP-Montana Target Rep. Jeff Welborn: “I Think My Constituents Appreciate The Fact That I’m Willing To Listen And Have Conversations With Them, Rather Than Sign A Pledge From An Out-Of-State Group.”** According to the Ravalli Republic, “[Rep. Jeff] Welborn echoed [Rep. Frank] Garner’s comments, saying he doubts AFP-Montana knows what his constituents truly want, and he’ll be listening to them before deciding how to vote on Medicaid expansion. ‘I think my constituents appreciate the fact that I’m willing to listen and have conversations with them, rather than sign a pledge from an out-of-state group,’ he said.” [Ravalli Republic, [2/2/15](#)]
- **AFP-Montana’s Healthcare Town Hall “Backfired” And Was “Frequently Derailed By Laughter, Booming And Shouts From The Crowd.”** According to the Associated Press, “A conservative group’s effort to target Republican lawmakers who won’t sign a pledge to oppose Medicaid expansion backfired during a northwestern Montana meeting. [...] The Flathead Beacon reports the AFP presentation was frequently derailed by laughter, booming and shouts from the crowd.” [Associated Press, [2/9/15](#)]
- **AFP-Montana State Director Said The “Message Had Been Received” About The Group’s Lawmaker Targeting Tactics.** According to the Associated Press, “A conservative group’s effort to target Republican lawmakers who won’t sign a pledge to oppose Medicaid expansion backfired during a northwestern Montana meeting. [...] The Flathead Beacon reports the AFP presentation was frequently derailed by laughter, booming and shouts from the crowd. AFP State Director Zach Lahn said the ‘message had been received’ about the group’s tactics targeting specific lawmakers.” [Associated Press, [2/9/15](#)]
- **AFP-Montana State Director Zach Lahn On Healthy Montana Plan: “We’ll Be Taking Whatever Actions Necessary To Stop This Monstrosity And Save Our State.”** According to the Missoulian, “[Gov. Steve] Bullock brought his fight to expand Medicaid coverage to 70,000 low-income Montanans to the hospital, and brought along state Rep. Dan Salomon, R-Ronan, as well – on the same day the conservative group Americans for Prosperity Montana announced a ‘major new initiative’ opposing it. ‘We’ll be taking whatever actions necessary to stop this monstrosity and save our state,’ AFP Montana state director Zach Lahn said. ‘Lawmakers need to be reminded that Medicaid expansion is Obamacare expansion, and Gov. Bullock is the driving force behind implementing it here in Montana.’” [Missoulian, [2/18/15](#)]
- **AFP-Montana Spent “Over \$21,000” On TV And Radio Ads Against Medicaid Expansion In The State Since February 2015.** According to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, “A political attack on the moderate wing of House Republicans continued this week with an advertising campaign in Great Falls aimed at whipping up grassroots opposition to Medicaid expansion. Americans for Prosperity, the tea party-affiliated organization backed by brothers Charles and David Koch, has spent over \$21,000 on TV and radio ads since the beginning of February, \$10,000 of which began airing on broadcast channels in Great Falls on Monday.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [3/3/15](#)]
- **The Medicaid Expansion Bill’s GOP Sponsor, Sen. Edward Buttrely: “I Was Told Personally By People From Americans For Prosperity, ‘We Will Take You Out, We Will Make Your Life Miserable.’”** According to Modern Healthcare, “The bill that ultimately passed in both chambers of the Montana Legislature was introduced by Republican state Sen. Edward Buttrely. ‘I was told personally by people from Americans for Prosperity, ‘we will take you out, we will make your life miserable,’ Buttrely said, noting that the threats were political, not criminal, in nature.” [Modern Healthcare, [4/10/15](#)]

- **Despite Opposition From AFP, Montana’s Republican Controlled House Approved Medicaid Expansion.** According to Modern Healthcare, “Montana lawmakers approved a Medicaid plan backed by the state's Democratic governor despite an aggressive campaign by Americans for Prosperity, a conservative lobbying group funded by the billionaire Koch brothers. On Thursday, the Republican controlled House voted 54-46 to approve the legislation, with 13 Republicans and all 41 Democrats supporting it.” [Modern Healthcare, [4/10/15](#)]
- **AFP-Montana Released A Statement Claiming That There Were “Millions Of Montanans” Who Were Against The Medicaid Expansion Bill, But “Montana’s Estimated Population In 2014 Was 1.02 Million.”** According to the Great Falls Tribune, “On Thursday evening, the Montana House passed the HELP Act, which is expected to expand Medicaid to 45,000 people. Thirteen Republicans joined House Democrats to pass the bill. Shortly after the passage, Americans for Prosperity Montana state director Zach Lahn released a statement that said, ‘We are deeply disappointed in the legislature's decision tonight to expand Medicaid. This decision stands directly against the voices of millions of Montanans who have made it clear that they do not want more Obamacare.’ Montana's estimated population in 2014 was 1.02 million.” [Great Falls Tribune, [4/11/15](#)]

Expansion Would Allow 55,000 Montanans Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 55,000 Montanans could gain access to Medicaid in the state as a result of expansion. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

OHIO: “THE STATE GOP... IS HARDLY A MATCH” FOR AFP

AFP President Tim Phillips: “We Were Deeply Disappointed At Gov. Kasich’s Actions On The Medicaid Expansion Battle In Ohio.” According to Newsmax, “‘We were deeply disappointed at Gov. Kasich’s actions on the Medicaid expansion battle in Ohio,’ said Tim Phillips, president of the Koch-supported Americans for Prosperity.” [Newsmax.com, [6/20/15](#)]

- **AFP State Policy Manager Nicole Kaeding: “Health Outcomes For Medicaid Patients” Can Be “Even Worse Than Whose Are Uninsured.”** According to a letter to the editor by AFP state policy manager Nicole Kaeding for the Columbus Dispatch, “Numerous studies show that health outcomes for Medicaid patients are worse than for those with private insurance and, in some cases, even worse than whose are uninsured. Handing an individual a card with Medicaid emblazoned on the front doesn't guarantee quality health care. Instead of subjecting Ohioans to this failed health-insurance program, Kasich and Ohio policymakers should reject this expansion and push Washington for real, patient-centered reforms.” [Nicole Kaeding – Columbus Dispatch, 8/6/12]
- **AFP Ran An Ad Against Gov. Kasich’s Medicaid Expansion “To Sow Doubts About Obamacare.”** According to the Columbus Dispatch, “the conservative Koch brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity kicked off a \$1 million ad campaign in Ohio and Virginia that is designed to sow doubts about Obamacare. That ad does not mention Kasich, but one of the group's stated goals is to stop states from expanding Medicaid programs with funds from the Affordable Care Act. Kasich, up for re-election next year, is pushing for Medicaid expansion in Ohio. [...] That ad, titled ‘Questions,’ features a woman who says she's concerned about how the Affordable Care Act could affect the health care her sick child receives. The Americans for Prosperity-Ohio website links to the ad and also includes a stiff denunciation of Medicaid expansion.” [Columbus Dispatch, [7/10/13](#)]
- **AFP-Ohio Listed Medicaid Expansion As First Among “Issues We Will Be Watching” In The Fall 2013 Legislative Session.** According to an Americans for Prosperity-Ohio web post, “Please see below information on a couple of the issues we will be watching when the Legislature returns. First, ObamaCare Medicaid expansion – ObamaCare is expected to decrease the number of doctors available to patients and increase the cost of obtaining care. Unfortunately, State Representative Barbara Sears wants to bring ObamaCare to Ohio by expanding Medicaid and place nearly 275,000 of our most vulnerable citizens into the already broken, bloated and bureaucratic Medicaid system.” [AmericansForProsperity.org/Ohio, [8/19/13](#)]

- **AFP “Spent Millions” Fighting Medicaid Expansion In States Like Ohio.** According to The New York Times, “In June 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that states could opt out of Medicaid expansion. The ruling opened the door for conservative opponents of the law. Americans for Prosperity, with paid staff members in 34 states, walked through it. So did another group, Tea Party Patriots, which recently gave \$20,000 to organizers of a referendum drive to put the question of Medicaid expansion on the Arizona ballot. Americans for Prosperity has spent millions in states around the country, including Arkansas, Florida, Ohio, Louisiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania, to run the kind of aggressive campaign that it is now waging here in Virginia. [...] So far roughly half the states are moving forward with Medicaid expansion, and an increasing number of Republican governors are expressing interest. Michigan, where Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed Medicaid expansion legislation into law, was ‘a tough loss,’ Mr. Phillips conceded. In Ohio, Gov. John R. Kasich wants to expand.” [New York Times, [10/18/13](#)]
- **AFP-Ohio Targeted A “Popular Legislator With A Strong Conservative Voting Record” With Billboards, “Door Hangers Throughout Her District” And “A Heavy Splurge Of Negative Talk Radio Ads” Because Of “Her Support” For Medicaid Expansion.** According to the L.A. Times, “State Rep. Barbara Sears is the kind of Republican the party would want to highlight these days: a woman and former business owner, fluent in health insurance issues, who has managed to repeatedly win reelection in a district where Republicans and Democrats are almost evenly divided. But this year, the popular legislator with a strong conservative voting record has found her photo on door hangers throughout her district, pictured as the conductor of the Obamacare train to disaster. Her image has been plastered next to President Obama's on billboards. She has been targeted in a heavy splurge of negative talk radio ads. It's all part of a campaign against her by Americans for Prosperity, the free-market advocacy group backed by billionaires Charles and David Koch. The reason: Sears has championed a key element of Obamacare. Her support for the expansion of Medicaid to cover more of the state's poor is also backed by Ohio's Republican Gov. John Kasich and nearly three-quarters of Ohioans, according to an AARP poll.” [L.A. Times, [11/6/13](#)]
- **The State GOP “Made It Clear That It Will Support Lawmakers Who Vote For Medicaid Expansion, But It Is Hardly A Match For” AFP, Which “Has Promised A ‘Years-Long’ Campaign To Repeal The President's Affordable Care Act.”** According to the Los Angeles Times, “The Americans for Prosperity campaign against her pits one of the Republican Party's biggest benefactors against state GOP leaders and illustrates how dominant wealthy independent groups have become at a time when the weakened GOP is trying to contend with ideological fissures and rebuild its operations around the country. The state GOP has made it clear that it will support lawmakers who vote for Medicaid expansion, but it is hardly a match for an organization that spent more than \$190 million in the 2012 election cycle and has promised a ‘years-long’ campaign to repeal the president's Affordable Care Act.” [Los Angeles Times, [11/6/13](#)]
- **In The Months After Defending Expansion Of Medicaid, Kasich Was Not “Invited Back To A Koch Seminar,” Denying Him Opportunities “To Mingle With The Party’s Rich And Powerful” For His Presidential Run.** According to Politico, “Kasich’s temper has made it harder to endear himself to the GOP’s wealthy benefactors. Last year, he traveled to Southern California to appear on a panel at a conference sponsored by the Republican mega-donors Charles and David Koch. At one point, according to accounts provided by two sources present, Randy Kendrick, a major contributor and the wife of Ken Kendrick, the owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, rose to say she disagreed with Kasich’s decision to expand Medicaid coverage, and questioned why he’d expressed the view it was what God wanted. The governor’s response was fiery. ‘I don’t know about you, lady,’ he said as he pointed at Kendrick, his voice rising. ‘But when I get to the pearly gates, I’m going to have an answer for what I’ve done for the poor.’ The exchange left many stunned. About 20 audience members walked out of the room, and two governors also on the panel, Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, told Kasich they disagreed with him. The Ohio governor has not been invited back to a Koch seminar — opportunities for presidential aspirants to mingle with the party’s rich and powerful — in the months since.” [Politico, [6/19/15](#)]
- **Kasich Was “Conspicuously Absent From The Lineup Of Speakers Scheduled For A Koch-Brothers” August 2015 Gathering In Ohio.** According to the Columbus Dispatch, “Gov. John Kasich is conspicuously absent from the lineup of speakers scheduled for a Koch-brothers gathering in Columbus next month. Four GOP presidential hopefuls — former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio — are slated to attend the Defending the American Dream Summit on Aug. 21 and 22 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The gathering is sponsored by the organization bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, business owners ranked among the richest people in the world.” [Columbus Dispatch, [7/15/15](#)]

Expansion Would Allow Nearly Half A Million Ohioans Access To Medicaid. According to Families USA, 454,000 Ohioans could gain access to Medicaid in the state as a result of expansion. [Families USA, [4/23/15](#)]

AFP Supported Ryan Budget Plans Which Would Have Ended Medicaid As We Know It

AFP Supported FY 2012 Ryan Budget, Which Would Have Converted Medicaid To A Block Grant And Eliminated Federal Coverage Mandates. In 2011, AFP supported converting Medicaid to a block grant and eliminating federal coverage mandates, as part of House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2012 to 2021. According to the House Budget Committee, the budget would "convert[] the federal share of Medicaid spending into a block grant tailored to meet each state's needs, indexed for inflation and population growth. [...] States will no longer be shackled by federally determined program requirements and enrollment criteria. Instead, they will have the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of their unique populations." The vote was on passage; the resolution passed by a vote of 235 to 193. [House Vote 277, [4/15/11](#); House Budget Committee, [4/5/11](#); AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]

- **CRS Said That Ryan's Proposal Would Shift The Cost Of Medicaid To The States, Which Would "Make It Difficult For States To Maintain Their Current Medicaid Programs" Potentially Leading To Reduced Payments To Providers, Benefits Cuts Or Eligibility Restrictions.** According to the Congressional Research Service, "this proposal would shift the responsibility for the growth in Medicaid spending over the federal block grant amount to states. According to CBO, the magnitude of the federal Medicaid spending reductions under this proposal would make it difficult for states to maintain their current Medicaid programs. As a result, states would have to weigh the impact of maintaining current Medicaid service levels against other state priorities for spending. They could choose to constrain Medicaid expenditures by reducing provider reimbursement rates, limiting benefit packages, or restricting eligibility. These types of programmatic changes could also impact access to and the quality of medical care for Medicaid enrollees. For example, if states reduced the Medicaid reimbursement rates to providers, such as hospitals, physician, and nursing homes, these providers may be less willing to accept Medicaid patients." [CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]
- **Ryan's Plan Would Have Reduced Medicaid Spending by \$750 Billion over 10 years.** According to the House Budget Committee, the budget's Medicaid Proposal would "Save \$750 billion over ten years, contributing to the long-term stabilization of the federal government's fiscal path and encouraging fiscal responsibility at the state level." [House Budget Committee, [4/5/11](#)]
- **Medicaid Was An Entitlement Program, Giving States Guaranteed Funding For Part Of The Costs Of Coverage And Covering The Cost Of Providing Benefits To All Who Legally Qualify.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Medicaid is an 'entitlement' program, which means that anyone who meets eligibility rules has a right to enroll in Medicaid coverage. It also means that states have guaranteed federal financial support for part of the cost of their Medicaid programs." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/8/13](#)]
- **Ryan's Plan For Block Grants Would Have Caused Roughly 14 Million To 27 Million People To Lose Medicaid Coverage By 2021.** According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "In the second scenario, states are able to slow annual increases in Medicaid spending per person to match growth in the economy as a whole.[...] Medicaid enrollment in 2021 would fall by [...]13.8 million from the block grant). [...]In the third scenario, states protect eligibility for the elderly and disabled (thus disproportionately making enrollment cuts among adults and children). [...] Medicaid would cover 43.8 million fewer people in 2021 than under current projections ([...] 26.8 million from the block grant). [Kaiser Family Foundation, [5/2011](#)]
- **Medicare Provided Coverage To 67 Million People In 2012, Including 32 Million Children 19 Million Adults, 6million Seniors And 11 Million Disabled.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; "In 2012, Medicaid provided health coverage for 67 million low-income Americans over the course of the year, including 32 million children, 19 million adults (mostly low-income working parents), 6 million seniors, and 11 million persons with disabilities, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/8/13](#)]

- **Children Accounted For About Half Of Medicaid Enrollees.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Children account for nearly half of all Medicaid enrollees but just one-fifth of Medicaid spending.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/8/13](#)]
- **Medicaid Programs Were Operated By The States With Minimum Eligibility Requirements Set By The Federal Government.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “In order to receive federal funding, states must cover certain ‘mandatory’ populations: children under age 6 in families with income below 133 percent of the federal poverty line (\$25,975 for a family of three in 2013); children aged 6-18 in families with income below the poverty line; pregnant women with income below 133 percent of the poverty line; parents whose income is within the state’s eligibility limit for cash assistance that was in place prior to welfare reform; and most seniors and persons with disabilities who receive cash assistance through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. States may also receive federal Medicaid funds for the costs of covering additional, ‘optional’ populations, including: pregnant women, children, and parents with income above ‘mandatory’ coverage income limits; seniors and persons with disabilities with income below the poverty line; and ‘medically needy’ people — those whose income exceeds the state’s regular Medicaid eligibility limit but who have high medical expenses (such as for nursing home care) that reduce their disposable income below the eligibility limit.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/8/13](#)]

AFP supported FY2013 Ryan Budget, Which Would Have Cut \$810 Billion In Medicaid Spending Over Ten

Years. In 2012, AFP supported cutting \$810 billion in Medicaid spending over ten years, as part of House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s (R-WI) proposed budget resolution covering fiscal years 2013 to 2022. According to the Congressional Research Service, “The unofficial estimate provided in Chairman Ryan’s ‘Path to Prosperity’ report states that the proposed budget would reduce federal outlays for Medicaid by about \$810 billion over 10 years. When compared to CBO’s baseline projection for federal Medicaid spending, the proposal would reduce federal Medicaid outlays by 17.6 percent from FY2013 to FY2022.” The vote was on passage; the resolution passed by a vote of 228 to 191. The Senate took no substantive action. [House Vote 151, [3/16/12](#); CRS, [3/29/12](#); AFP Scorecard for the 112th Congress, [2/1/13](#); CRS Report #R41767, [4/13/11](#)]

- **Ryan’s Budget Suggested Repealing Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid Expansion To Make Cuts.** According to the Congressional Research Service, “The Medicaid provisions of ACA represent the most significant reform to the Medicaid program since its establishment in 1965. In general, ACA (1) raises Medicaid income eligibility levels for nonelderly individuals up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, (2) adds both mandatory and optional benefits to Medicaid, (3) increases the federal matching payments for certain groups of beneficiaries and for particular services provided, (4) provides new requirements and incentives for states to improve quality of care and encourage more use of preventive services, and (5) makes a number of other Medicaid program changes. The major expansion and reform provisions in ACA are slated to take effect in 2014. One of the “illustrative policy options” offered in the House Budget Committee report (H. Rept. 112-421) includes repealing the Medicaid expansion included in ACA.” [CRS, [3/29/12](#)]