

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT

Yair Oded, yairo@bazelon.org

[The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#) and Corporation for Supportive Housing Release New Guide to Help Protect Medicaid Coverage for People with Disabilities Before Historic Cuts Under the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” Take Effect.

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, in partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), released a new, comprehensive [guide](#) detailing what states must do to comply with federal disability rights laws and prevent wrongful Medicaid coverage loss as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA) is implemented.

The OBBBA **cuts \$1 trillion from Medicaid** and imposes significant new requirements, including an 80-hour-per-month work mandate and eligibility redeterminations at least every six months. While the law will create administrative challenges for millions of people, people with disabilities, many of whom rely on Medicaid for the services that enable them to live and participate fully in their communities, will face particular barriers.

The new guide outlines states’ legal obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act to ensure equal opportunity in their Medicaid programs. These protections continue to apply even as the new federal law takes effect.

“Taking steps that help people with disabilities avoid losing Medicaid coverage even though they remain eligible is not just good policy; it is also required by disability rights laws” said *Jennifer Mathis, Deputy Director and Director of the Bazelon Center.*

(Cont. on next page)

What the Guide Provides

The new publication offers detailed recommendations, including:

- Using existing data to verify eligibility rather than demanding new paperwork.
- Providing assistance with applications and renewals as a reasonable modification under federal law.
- Adopting broad definitions of “medically frail” and “special medical needs” consistent with OBBBA to ensure appropriate exemptions.
- Allowing self-attestation for work-requirement exemptions, as permitted under the OBBBA.
- Ensuring all communications and systems are accessible, including notices, online portals, phone systems, and in-person processes.

Compliance with federal disability rights laws is not optional - they impose legal requirements to avoid discrimination, including ensuring equal opportunity and providing reasonable modifications.

Why This Matters Now

States are currently preparing to implement the new requirements under the OBBBA. Without proactive steps, many people with disabilities are at risk of losing Medicaid coverage despite remaining eligible, potentially resulting in a loss of access to medication, mental health services, housing-related services, and other community-based services.

The Bazelon Center’s and CSH’s guide lays out the specific steps states may need to take to meet their obligations under the ADA, Section 504, and Section 1557 - helping agencies, policymakers, and advocates ensure Medicaid programs remain accessible.

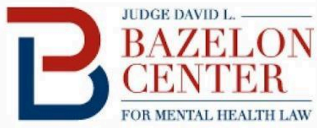
About the Bazelon Center

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is the nation’s leading legal advocacy organization advancing the rights of people with mental disabilities. For more than 50 years, the Center has worked to ensure community integration, protect disability rights, and challenge discriminatory policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

The full guide is available here:

<https://www.bazelon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-Medicaid-Guide.pdf>

(Cont. on next page)



Press Contact & Interview Availability

For interviews with **Jennifer Mathis**, or for additional background on federal disability rights obligations in Medicaid programs, please contact:

Yair Oded
yairo@bazelon.org
917-635-8908