

Medicaid at a Crossroads



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Medicaid's Ideological Divide

Welfare Program

- ❑ Temporary
- ❑ Needy
- ❑ Hard to get on
- ❑ Easy to get off
- ❑ Disincentive to work
- ❑ Protect public resources

Universal Coverage

- ❑ Standardization
- ❑ All low income
- ❑ Easy to get on
- ❑ Hard to get off
- ❑ Right
- ❑ Social responsibility

Policy Preferences

Welfare Program

- ❑ Work requirements
- ❑ Redeterminations
- ❑ Cost sharing
- ❑ Asset tests
- ❑ Detailed applications
- ❑ Time limits
- ❑ Minimal benefits
- ❑ Waitlists

Solid Safety Net

- ❑ Income based eligibility
- ❑ Presumptive eligibility
- ❑ No out of pocket
- ❑ No asset tests
- ❑ Streamlined application
- ❑ Annual enrollment
- ❑ Generous benefits
- ❑ Transitions

Political Pathways

- ❑ Waivers
- ❑ Executive orders
- ❑ Legislation
- ❑ Courts
- ❑ Federalism/State flexibility

Axioms

- ❑ Conservatives use the federal government as much as liberal, they just have different goals.
- ❑ State flexibility is code word for “I can’t nationalize it.”
- ❑ Progressive states are progressive with federal money.
- ❑ Federalism is grease for the system.

Middle Ground or Battle Grounds?



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