

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

June 11, 2025

The Honorable Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Oz:

During your nomination hearing on March 14, 2025, I invited you to join me in Malheur County to meet with Oregonians who are enrolled in Medicaid, known in my home state as the Oregon Health Plan. In the intervening months, our offices have exchanged dates, tentatively planning for a trip in August 2025. Meanwhile, Trump and House Republicans passed a tax bill that cuts working Americans' health care by more than [\\$1 trillion](#), all to give tax giveaways to the wealthiest.

Because Trump has demanded Congressional Republicans send him this bill to sign no later than July 4, 2025, I am compelled to arrange this important visit as soon as possible, so you can hear directly from Eastern Oregon how this legislation would devastate rural life. Senate Republicans appear committed to this rushed timeline, even willing to bypass long-standing procedures to refine policies and solicit public input, despite Senate Democrats' [requests](#) to the contrary. There is good reason to fear Senate Republicans will jam through the [largest health care cuts](#) in the nation's history. House Republicans—including Oregon's U.S. Representative Bentz—wrote this disastrous bill entirely behind closed doors, voting on every procedural step, including final passage, in the dark of night.

As the person appointed by Trump to oversee the Medicaid program, you need to look my rural constituents in the eye, hear their stories, answer their questions, and explain Republicans' harmful health care cuts. The time for that conversation is now, *before* Trump and Congressional Republicans exact devastating health care cuts to line the pockets of their billionaire buddies and corporate interests. I am rearranging my schedule during the upcoming Congressional recess to host a meeting on Friday, June 20, 2025, with the residents of Malheur County. I urge you to join me.

Asked about the House-passed bill, you recently said that to have Medicaid, a person needs to “[...prove that you matter. Get agency into your own life.](#)” Perhaps you should say this directly to someone like Andrea Carr, a mother from Sprague River, Oregon. Ms. Carr was recently featured in the [Malheur Enterprise](#) urging Representative Bentz to vote against Trump's “reckless” bill on the House floor. Ms. Carr shared, “My daughter has complex medical needs. We can't afford more red tape, more hoops to jump through, or terminated coverage when we

need it most. And when rural health care providers have to close their doors, families like ours will have to travel hours for care.”

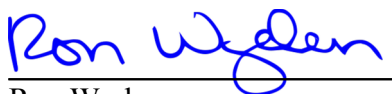
Ms. Carr, her daughter, and all residents of rural Oregon *matter*, and they have agency over their own lives. *They have nothing to prove*. They deserve access to preventive services and screenings to help them stay healthy; the ability to see the doctor of their choice when they are sick; the stability that comes with being able to afford their premiums, copayments, and medical bills; and the security of knowing Medicaid will be there when they and their families need it. Oregonians have a right to affordable health care, just as all people do.

Trump and Republicans are eager to hide the ugly realities of a bill that terminates health coverage for almost [11 million Americans](#) to ladle out tax handouts to the ultra-wealthy and big corporations. It’s clear you intend to do the same, going so far as to *blatantly lie* to the American people. Asked about the Republican bill, [you responded](#), “We’re not cutting Medicaid...There is no proposal I’ve seen, in fact, in fairness, that doesn’t increase spending on Medicaid.” The independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) confirms the House-passed bill *cuts* federal spending on the Medicaid program by more than [\\$800 billion](#). These cuts will kick almost [135,000 Oregonians](#) off the Oregon Health Plan.

These lies are beneath the job Congress entrusted you with to oversee Medicaid and other federal health care programs, and they are an abdication of your sworn oath as a physician to practice medicine with honesty and integrity. I invited you to Malheur County to hear directly from citizens and health care workers about what Medicaid means to one of Oregon’s poorest counties, and it’s clear you would be well served by face-to-face conversations with the residents of this community for whom Medicaid is a lifeline.

Again, I implore you to hear firsthand about what the Oregon Health Plan means to Malheur County *before* Trump and Republicans rush ahead with the largest ever cuts to Medicaid. I look forward to you attending my meeting on Friday, June 20, 2025.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance