

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**PROTECTING MEDICAID STABILITY AND SAFETY-NET INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ISSUE:** Federal policy changes—including Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts, new provider tax restrictions in H.R. 1, and reductions to State Directed Payments—threaten the financial stability of Riverside University Health System (RUHS), the County’s primary safety-net provider. These changes reduce essential federal Medicaid support at a time of rising demand, shifting significant costs and risk to local health systems and undermining emergency capacity, workforce stability, and access to care for working families in Riverside County.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group urges Congress to:

- Delay or repeal DSH cuts to preserve critical funding that offsets the cost of treating uninsured and underinsured patients.
- Delay or repeal reductions to State Directed Payments in H.R. 1 to maintain state flexibility and preserve stable, lawful Medicaid financing mechanisms.
- Protect Medicaid from further federal cuts to ensure safety-net systems like RUHS can continue delivering timely, high-quality care to vulnerable populations.

**BACKGROUND:** Riverside University Health System (RUHS) serves as the County health system for one of the fastest-growing regions in California, operating a large medical center, a countywide clinic network, public health functions, and extensive behavioral health programs. As a public safety-net institution, RUHS is legally required to serve all patients regardless of ability to pay and must maintain essential services—including trauma care, emergency response, and behavioral health—that are often not financially viable.

Medicaid already reimburses below the cost of care, and California relies on a layered financing structure of local funds, federal matching dollars, and supplemental programs to close part of that gap. Federal policy changes that restrict eligibility, limit financing tools, or reduce payments disrupt this structure and directly impact operations, access to care, and coverage for patients.

When coverage decreases, patients still require emergency, inpatient, and behavioral health services—but without insurance. The resulting financial burden shifts to county systems and local taxpayers. In a rapidly growing county like Riverside, maintaining stable federal Medicaid support is essential to prevent service reductions, workforce losses, and delays in access that affect the entire community.