

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES  
**DATE:** JUNE 12, 2025  
**RE:** KEY FINDINGS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY IN NORTH CAROLINA

## WHAT WE DID

On behalf of Inseparable Action, Meeting Street Insights conducted a survey among 500 registered voters in North Carolina. Interviews were conducted June 5–8, 2025, by both live telephone interviewers and text-to-web interviewing. The margin of error on a survey of N=500 is plus or minus 4.38 percentage points.

## KEY FINDINGS

**#1 | Voters in North Carolina overwhelmingly oppose cutting Medicaid in order to pay for extending tax cuts.** Only about three-in-ten North Carolina voters (29%) support cutting Medicaid to pay for tax cuts, while two-thirds (67%) oppose. Nearly six-in-ten North Carolina voters (58%) *strongly* oppose. Key electoral groups are especially opposed to Medicaid cuts, including Unaffiliateds (27% support – 71% oppose), women (21% – 76%), seniors (31% – 60%), moderates (17% – 80%), voters most interested in the 2026 election (29% – 69%), and voters who are undecided on the generic U.S. Senate ballot (16% – 79%). In fact, majorities of all these groups *strongly* oppose the cuts.

When told that Medicaid is the largest funder of mental health services in the United States and that cutting Medicaid could reduce access to mental health services for low-income Americans, opposition to cutting Medicaid remains high at 66%.

**#2 | The effects Medicaid cuts could have on mental health are very concerning to North Carolina voters.** Majorities of North Carolina voters say they are *very* concerned about each of the nine potential consequences of cutting Medicaid we tested. Most concerning to North Carolinians is that the 300 rural hospitals around the country identified as being at immediate risk of shutting down—including seven in North Carolina—may have to close to their doors (77% concerned). About three-quarters are concerned that mental illness will go untreated in more people (75% concerned); that people will lose access to mental health treatment, leading to more suicide deaths (75%); that hospitals will have to provide more emergency care to uninsured patients, which will strain emergency departments and shift costs to Americans with health insurance (74%); that people experiencing a mental health crisis won’t receive needed emergency services, turning our jails and prisons into mental health providers of last resort (74%); and, that people will lose access to the help they need to hold down jobs and lead stable lives, increasing both homelessness (74%) and law enforcement interactions (74%).



**#3 | Medicaid cuts carry a political risk.** Almost six-in-ten North Carolina voters (58%) say they would be less likely to vote to re-elect their Senator if they voted to cut \$700 billion from Medicaid to pay for extending tax cuts. A Senator taking this position would be especially costly among key electoral groups, including Unaffiliateds (61% less likely to re-elect), women (65%), seniors (49%), moderates (73%), voters most interested in the 2026 election (62%), and voters undecided on the generic U.S. Senate ballot (63%).

**#4 | This issue strikes close to home.** Three-quarters of North Carolina voters (76%) say they personally know someone who has struggled with their mental or emotional health, and half (50%) say they or someone close to them has received mental health services from a mental health professional in the last 12 months. Opposition to these cuts is even higher among these groups.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

North Carolina voters show broad, intense opposition to cutting Medicaid to pay for tax cuts—particularly when the cuts are framed as threatening mental health services. Across key demographic groups, North Carolina voters reject proposals to reduce Medicaid funding and say such cuts would make them less likely to support their Senator. And this issue is personal—with three-quarters of voters saying they know someone who struggles with mental health, these cuts would be felt close to home.



## WHAT WE ASKED

### Question 1

As you may know, Congress is currently considering a bill that would cut funding from Medicaid—a government health insurance program, jointly funded by the federal and state governments, that provides coverage to low-income individuals and families, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Do you support or oppose cutting \$700 billion from Medicaid in order to pay for extending tax cuts.

19% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
10% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT  
9% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
58% STRONGLY OPPOSE  
  
4% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE  
\* REFUSED

**29% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**67% TOTAL OPPOSE**

### Question 2

As you may know, Medicaid is the largest funder of mental health services in the United States, helping millions of low-income children, adults, and seniors access mental health care. Knowing that cutting Medicaid could reduce access to mental health services for low-income Americans, would you be more likely to SUPPORT or OPPOSE cutting Medicaid funding in order to pay for tax cuts?

20% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
11% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT  
8% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
58% STRONGLY OPPOSE  
  
2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE  
-- REFUSED

**31% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**66% TOTAL OPPOSE**



### Questions 3–11

People who oppose cutting Medicaid say doing so could have a number of potential consequences. If Congress does decide to cut Medicaid, how concerned are you about each of the following potential consequences?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | TOTAL CONCERNED | TOTAL NOT CONCERNED | VERY CONCERNED | SMWT CONCERNED | NOT THAT CONCERNED | NOT AT ALL CONCERNED | DON'T KNOW | REF |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|-----|
| (3) Mental illness will go untreated in more people                                                                                                                                                                                         | 75%             | 25%                 | 59%            | 16%            | 9%                 | 16%                  | *          | --  |
| (4) People will lose access to treatment for drug addiction, which will lead to an increase in overdose deaths                                                                                                                              | 73%             | 27%                 | 55%            | 18%            | 9%                 | 17%                  | *          | --  |
| (5) People will lose access to mental health treatment, which will lead to more suicide deaths                                                                                                                                              | 75%             | 25%                 | 60%            | 15%            | 8%                 | 17%                  | --         | --  |
| (6) The 300 rural hospitals around the country identified as being at immediate risk of shutting down including seven here in North Carolina will lose a major source of funding and could potentially shut down                            | 77%             | 23%                 | 60%            | 17%            | 7%                 | 16%                  | *          | --  |
| (7) Rural hospitals will lose a major source of funding, forcing many to shut down and requiring patients to travel eight times farther to receive alcohol or drug treatment and dozens of miles more for outpatient psychiatric treatment. | 75%             | 25%                 | 59%            | 16%            | 8%                 | 17%                  | --         | --  |
| (8) People will lose access to the help they need to hold down jobs and lead stable lives, increasing homelessness                                                                                                                          | 74%             | 26%                 | 59%            | 15%            | 7%                 | 18%                  | *          | --  |
| (9) People will lose access to the help they need to hold down jobs and lead stable lives, increasing crime rates, law enforcement interactions, and incarceration                                                                          | 74%             | 26%                 | 59%            | 15%            | 9%                 | 17%                  | *          | *   |
| (10) Hospitals will have to provide more emergency care to uninsured patients, which will strain emergency departments and shift costs to Americans with health insurance                                                                   | 74%             | 26%                 | 58%            | 16%            | 10%                | 15%                  | --         | --  |
| (11) People experiencing a mental health crisis won't receive needed emergency services, turning our jails and prisons into mental health providers of last resort                                                                          | 74%             | 26%                 | 55%            | 18%            | 8%                 | 18%                  | --         | --  |



### Question 12

If your U.S. Senator voted to cut \$700 billion from Medicaid to pay for extending tax cuts, would that make you more likely or less likely to support them for re-election, or would it not really make a difference one way or the other?

- 19% MORE LIKELY
- 58% LESS LIKELY
- 22% NO DIFFERENCE
  
- 1% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- REFUSED

### Question D11

Do you personally know anyone who has struggled with their mental or emotional health?

- 76% YES
- 21% NO
- 3% PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

### Question D12

In the past 12 months, have you or someone close to you received mental health services from a doctor, counselor, or other mental health professional?

- 50% YES
- 45% NO
- 5% PREFER NOT TO ANSWER