WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Major shift as Trump opens way for Medicaid work requirement

WASHINGTON — In a major policy shift that could affect millions of low-income people, the Trump administration said today it is offering a path for states that want to impose work requirements on Medicaid recipients.

Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said work and community involvement can make a positive difference in people's lives and in their health. Still, the plan probably will face strong political opposition and even legal challenges over concerns that some low-income beneficiaries will lose coverage.

Medicaid is a federal-state collaboration covering more than 70 million people, or about 1 in 5 Americans, making it the largest government health insurance program. It was expanded under President Barack Obama, with an option allowing states to cover millions more low-income adults; many have jobs that don't provide health insurance.

People are not legally required to hold a job to be on Medicaid, but states traditionally can seek federal waivers to test new ideas for the program.

The administration said 10 states have applied for waivers involving work requirements or community involvement. They are: Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin. Advocates for low-income people say they expect Kentucky's waiver to be approved shortly.

Advocates for low-income people said work has never been a requirement for Medicaid, a program originally intended as a health program for the poor and disabled. Congressional Democrats agreed.

"Health care is a right that shouldn't be contingent on the ideological agendas of politicians," said Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate committee that oversees the program. "Today the Trump administration has taken a big step in the wrong direction."

Search goes on for California mudslide victims; death toll at 17

MONTECITO, Calif. — Hundreds of rescue workers slogged through knee-deep ooze and used long poles to probe for bodies today as the search dragged on for victims of the mudslides that slammed this wealthy coastal town. Seventeen people were confirmed dead and eight others were missing.

Family members anxiously awaited word on loved ones who hadn't been heard from since the onslaught early Tuesday.

Santa Barbara County authorities sent a shudder through the community early today when they reported that the number of people unaccounted for had surged from 16 to 48. But later in the morning, they said they had made a clerical error, and the actual number of missing was down to eight.

Another GOP governor seeks exclusion from drilling proposal

WASHINGTON — Opposition to the Trump administration's plan to expand offshore drilling is mounting as Democrats from coastal states accuse President Donald Trump of punishing states with Democratic leaders and a second Republican governor asks to withdraw his state from the plan.

Democrats said Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke were being hypocritical by agreeing to a request by Florida's Republican governor to withdraw from the drilling plan, but not making the same accommodation to states with Democratic governors.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California said on Twitter that his state, "like Florida, has hundreds of miles of beautiful coastline and a governor who wants to keep it that way. Or is

Parking: Few Oregon cities follow rule

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20 feet between a parking space and an intersection. The woman warned councilors that the city could be liable if an accident happened. To follow the rule, the city would need to eliminate roughly 10 percent of the parking spots available downtown, according to Harrington.

But it is a rule that few Oregon cities appear to follow, and two months of research have done little to clear up the matter, Estes said at a work session to discuss the issue Wednesday.

"Nobody seems to know why nobody enforces or abides by this rule," Harrington said. He added, "Even in Salem, where the law was written, they do not abide by this rule."

City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard believes the city would not be held liable for



Astoria will take a deeper look at parking downtown.

accidents that resulted at intersections where people parked too close, even though spots have been marked indicating they can park there.

"The person that parks within 20 feet (of an intersection) is in violation of state law," he said. "The city is not in violation."

LoopNet

At issue is not only compliance with state law, but also that city councilors have taken an oath to uphold state law. The simple answer is to take out the parking spots, Henningsgaard said, though this could hurt downtown.

"As councilors you have to weigh decisions, (you) have to make practical decisions one way or the other," he said, adding, "If you decide that the costs of complying to this particular law are too high for the city of Astoria, you could make a policy choice that says we're going to take a look at each intersection and try to determine whether or not it makes sense here."

Pedestrian safety and the availability of downtown parking continue to be items of concern to merchants, said Heath and Dulcye Taylor, president of the downtown association. The councilors agreed that the work proposed by city staff and the downtown association is a necessary first step in understanding if and how the city should comply with the state rule.

Guilty: 'He had controlled my life since I was 15'

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"I have no doubt that you lived in fear for many years of this coming," McIntosh told Medina. "I absolutely believe both of these young women."

Cherish Nunnally, who testified during the trial, had moved in as a foster child in Medina's home when she was 17, along with her younger sister. To treat an ear infection and migraine one night in 2005, she was given medication and climbed into Medina's bed in between him and his wife, who has since died.

Medina rolled over in the middle of the night, placed one hand down her underwear and another on her chest, groping her. Nunnally, who is also Medina's cousin, decided not to report the incident out of fear of her and her younger sister's living arrangements, she said.

Earlier that year, Medina, who had turned 30 years old, had sex with Nunnally's 15-year-old friend. Medina maintained an off-and-on relationship with the second victim for another 10 years. During the relationship, the victim gave birth to two children before the couple separated for the final time.

The victim reported the incident to police in February. Astoria police then interviewed her, her sister and a friend who confirmed her story. With a detective present, the victim made a recorded phone call to Medina in an attempt to force him to admit to the crime on the record. "I've already told you I'm sorry for everything I've done," Medina said during the call. When she asked him what he had done wrong specifically, he refused to specify and berated her in an expletive-laden rant. "I'm tired of being tossed around and blown around

'I have no doubt that you lived in fear for many years of this coming.'

Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh

for everybody's problems," Medina said. "Your life has been terrible since even before you met me. The Medinas saved you."

McIntosh referenced the call when explaining her verdict.

"There is no question who had the power and control in that relationship," the judge said.

A little more than a week after the call, Astoria police and a Coast Guard investigator interviewed Medina for more than two hours at Beaverton High School, where he worked at the time. Medina had continued to have a relationship with the victim when he was an officer and she was an unranked enlistee, a violation of military code.

Already indicted by a grand jury on a third-degree rape charge for the relationship, he was arrested and taken back to Astoria immediately after the interview.

The victim's report came days after Medina told her he had purchased a home with his fiancee. Christine Mascal, Medina's Portland-based attorney, called a number of witnesses who testified that the victim was untruthful, still in love with her client and worried that he would limit her access to her children. away from me," she said. "I was tired of being under his control. He had controlled my entire life since I was 15."

Mascal also pointed to the fact that the victim could not recall the date when she and Medina had sex and also named the wrong infant who was sleeping in the room during the encounter.

"Her money was running dry. Her jealousy was running high," Mascal said. "She's always had this in the back of her mind, and now she's using it. And she's using it in a despicable way."

Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard, meanwhile, argued that whether the victim still held feelings for Medina was irrelevant as to whether they had sex when she was underage.

"Those two things can exist together," Buzzard said. McIntosh said that while the

victim may have employed the charge strategically, it did not

alter the facts. "I think she absolutely has fulness as well. Nunnally's ex-fiance testified during the trial that she had told him about the incident in 2006, though he also questioned her honesty.

Mascal referenced a message from late 2016 in which Nunnally, who to that point had maintained a relationship with the Medina family, expressed anger for not being invited to a Thanksgiving dinner and said she did not want to associate herself with them anymore.

"She's on the outs with her family and wants to support her friend," Mascal said.

Lawyers also debated the significance of Nunnally's repeated statements that Medina, characterized as a heavy drinker at the time, likely didn't know what he was doing during the incident. McIntosh found it irrelevant.

"I hope and pray it was a one-time incident and that you didn't remember it," McIntosh said.

Buzzard praised both victims during her closing arguments.

"It's never easy for people to come forward about sex abuse, but they're both brave women," Buzzard said.

Nunnally, who testified for about four hours, expressed her relief with the verdict. The Daily Astorian does not typi cally identify victims of sexual abuse, but Nunnally agreed to have her name disclosed. "All I know is that he's done hurting people. He's done manipulating people. He's just done," Nunnally said in a video shared with the newspaper and posted on Facebook. "At the end of the day, I still pray for that man. I still hope his soul can change. I hope that one day he can see how he's affected people and what he's done and how many lives he has ruined."

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coastline and a governor who wants to keep it that way. Or is that not enough for blue states?"

"If local voices matter why haven't they excluded Virginia?" asked Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. "Is it because the governor of Florida is a Republican and the Virginia governor is a Democrat?"

The complaints came as South Carolina's Republican governor said Wednesday he is seeking an exemption from the proposed drilling expansion, a move that will test the relationship between Trump and one of his earliest supporters.

Gov. Henry McMaster told reporters that risks associated with drilling pose a serious threat to South Carolina's lush coastline and \$20 billion tourism industry.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said on Twitter that "the only science @SecretaryZinke follows is political science. He'll reverse course to protect fellow Republicans in Florida, but not to protect coastlines and jobs across the rest of the country? Totally unacceptable."

The victim did admit that she had grown weary of the dynamic between her and Medina and even that he was a good father to the children.

"I've expressed concerns with Gary for a long time that he was going to take my kids been holding this over your head. There were a lot of people who suspected, who should have done something and didn't. And you took advantage of that," McIntosh said. "This is not a custody battle ongoing. It just wasn't."

Nunnally brought the two other charges forward after Medina's first arrest.

Witnesses, some of whom testified that they were made aware of the incident prior to the charges being pressed, questioned Nunnally's truth-

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