

Concerns are with nearly \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid

IHS CUTS continued from front page

hiring at this time,” she said.

Concerns ramped up in mid-May, with nearly \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid in the Trump administration’s proposed budget. The cuts could end coverage for millions of people, eliminate a federal incentive to states that expanded Medicaid coverage and add work requirements.

“There is no way for us to identify the number of Grand Ronde Tribal members enrolled in Medicaid because not all Tribal members utilize the clinic and Tribal affiliation is not data collected by Oregon Health Authority,” Rowe said. “However, in the state of Oregon, as of February 2025, there were 62,175 enrolled Medicaid members with the HNA (Heritage Native American) indicator designated in their file, which means they are designated as American Indian/Alaska Native.”

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek issued a statement in response to the proposed cuts, saying, “I am outraged by the proposed Medicaid cuts. It’s a reckless plan that will hurt people and Oregon’s health care system. One in three Oregonians rely on

Medicaid – the Oregon Health Plan – for their health insurance. That’s 1.4 million neighbors and loved ones. Their proposal is not just shortsighted – it’s morally indefensible.”

The proposed budget would cut nearly \$3 billion from federal nutrition programs including the Supplemental Assistance and Nutrition Program, generally called SNAP, and transfer some of the cost to states, something Kotek has said Oregon cannot afford.

The legislation must pass the House of Representatives and then go before the Senate.

A January report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted that one in six Oregonians received assistance from SNAP in 2024, and that more than half of those were families with children. More than 41% were working families, it stated, and more than 37% were families with older adults or disabled adults. The average benefit was \$176 per household member, per month, the report said – about \$5.77 per person, per day.

An average of about 400 people in Oregon received benefits through the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations federal program. ■



PATHWAYS MEETING WITH CASINO LEADERSHIP

Tribal members are warmly invited to an informal, in-person meeting with the Spirit Mountain Casino Executive C-suite team on

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 at 2PM

in the SMC Event Center.

This gathering is a opportunity to hear updates on casino operations, learn about what’s on the horizon, and engage in open, two-way conversation with the key executives. Questions and feedback are welcome as we work together to strengthen the information sharing of our enterprise.

We ask that everyone approach the conversation with a spirit of respect and collaboration. Let’s create a welcoming space where all voices can be heard and thoughtful dialogue can take place.



All Tribal members are welcome — we look forward to seeing you there!

Light refreshments will be provided.

