

AMERICA'S PHYSICIAN GROUPS

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Federal District Court Ruling Blocking Proposed Medical Frailty Provisions of New Medicaid Work Requirements Constitutes Victory For Rule of Law, Medical Ethics, and Common Sense, Says America's Physician Groups

Washington, DC, October 29, 2026 – Federal District Judge Richard Stearns' ruling today blocking provisions of a proposed federal rule implementing Medicaid work requirements "is a victory for the rule of law, medical ethics, and common sense," Susan Dentzer, president and chief executive officer of America's Physician Groups (APG), said today.

In [comments](#) filed earlier in response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' proposed rule, APG had written that the now-blocked medical frailty provisions would undoubtedly cause "millions of even potentially very ill people to lose Medicaid coverage." APG also contended that the provisions in question would implicitly require physicians to "sit as judge and jury" on their very sick Medicaid patients' ability to work, and in so doing, "violate nearly every core principle of medical ethics: the obligation to act for benefit of the patient; the obligation to not to harm the patient; the obligation to respect the patient's autonomy; and the obligation to ensure the fair, equitable, and appropriate treatment of patients."

APG recognizes that Judge Stearns's decision is likely to be appealed and that litigation over this important issue is far from over. Nonetheless, "the ruling makes clear for now that a regulatory agency cannot go far beyond underlying statute with impunity and gives the body politic time and latitude to draft more sensible and humane regulations governing this highly controversial area of the 2025 reconciliation law," Dentzer said.

About America's Physician Groups

APG's more than 300 physician groups comprise roughly 260,000 physicians and other clinicians providing care to nearly 90 million patients, including an estimated 1 in 4 Americans and 1 in 3 Medicare Advantage enrollees. APG's motto, 'Taking Responsibility for America's Health,' represents our members' commitment to clinically integrated, coordinated, value-based health care in which physician groups are accountable for the costs and quality of patient care. Visit us at www.apg.org.

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