



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Ben Watson
Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
325-A CLOB
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Honorable Kay Kirkpatrick
Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
421-B State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Support for SB 380

Dear Chairman Watson and Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick:

As a representative of Georgia's 1.3 million small businesses, Small Business Majority encourages you to support SB 380, legislation that would expand Medicaid statewide. Under this bill, Georgia would be able to draw on federal funding to cover low-income households and extend eligibility to cover a wider range of Georgians.

Georgia is one of only 10 states that has failed to expand Medicaid, resulting in the rejection of billions of dollars in federal funding to cover thousands of Georgians.¹ Therefore, it's not surprising that access to healthcare in our state is insufficient: we have the second highest uninsured rate in the nation with more than 1.3 million Georgians lacking health coverage.² Meanwhile, Georgia's Pathways to Coverage program has failed to meaningfully expand health coverage. It has cost taxpayers nearly \$110 million but only around 14,000 Georgians were enrolled last year.³

Therefore, Georgia is extremely vulnerable to deep cuts to healthcare coverage enacted by the federal government through H.R. 1. We're expected to lose \$5.4 million in federal Medicaid funds, resulting in 32,000 Medicaid recipients and 460,000 Georgia Access enrollees losing insurance over the next decade.⁴ This will harm our economy as we're projected to lose more than 45,000 across the state and the small business community will feel the effects.⁵

Access to affordable healthcare coverage is a top priority for Georgia's entrepreneurs, especially since it's commonly their highest business expense outside of payroll. The high cost of care is particularly problematic for new businesses and solo entrepreneurs, as offering health insurance often stands in the way of those businesses becoming an employer firm, thus creating major barriers to business expansion. Similarly, the cost of healthcare can impede small employers from attracting and retaining top talent. Small employers want to offer essential benefits like healthcare but often struggle to do so independently. This puts them at a disadvantage when competing with larger, well-established businesses for top talent.

This legislation would expand Medicaid in Georgia, with an estimated 400,000-500,000 people gaining access to health coverage.⁶ It would also bring in additional federal funding to help cover the cost of coverage. This would alleviate some of the burden for small businesses, as more small business employees

¹ "Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions." KFF. February 13, 2026. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions/>

² "Health Insurance Coverage by State: 2023 and 2024." U.S. Census Bureau. 2025. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2025/demo/acsbr-024.pdf>

³ "Current Enrollment." Georgia Pathways. 2025. <https://www.georgiapathways.org/data-tracker>

⁴ "Impact of Federal Policy Changes to Georgia's Health Care Landscape." Georgia Health Initiative. November 2025. https://georgiahealthinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Impact-of-Federal-Policy-Changes-to-Georgias-Health-Care-Landscape_Report_November_2025.pdf

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "What is Medicaid Expansion?" Cover Georgia. 2025. <https://coverga.org/medicaid-expansion/>

would be covered under the program. Medicaid expansion would not only benefit small businesses by reducing healthcare costs, but it would also lead to improved employee wellbeing as employees would have access to preventative health services.

We urge you to support SB 380 to create a healthier workforce, stimulate local economies and alleviate some financial pressures for small businesses. Medicaid expansion will lead to a more robust and dynamic small business community, making Georgia a better place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Rachel Shanklin
Georgia Director
Small Business Majority