

FHIX will provide flexibility and is a Florida solution to providing health coverage.

FACT:

The federal Medicaid dollars available for expansion come with federal Medicaid strings – 45 years of laws and regulations – that are the opposite of “flexible.” Those most important to the Senate plan’s flexibility cannot be waived.

No expansion state can choose what populations to cover. It is all or nothing – just as the federal government told the Senate in 2013.

FHIX has conservative guardrails.

FACT:

The Senate proposal will not be accepted as-is by the federal government.

The aspects of the Senate plan that they consider “guardrails” are not acceptable to the federal government, as shown by the federal rejections of other states’ proposals, for conditions like work requirements or loss of coverage for failure to pay premiums.

The federal government will quickly knock down any “conservative guardrails” the Senate feels they have attached to their plan and it will just be Medicaid.

FHIX saves Florida taxpayers money.

FACT:

Medicaid spending already accounts for nearly one-third of the state budget.

The estimated savings from FHIX are only in the short-term. According to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, FHIX will cost the state \$1.28 billion over 10 years.

The actual FHIX savings are achieved by *dis-enrolling people currently eligible for coverage*. FHIX eliminates the Medically Needy program, which covers high-need people not eligible for regular Medicaid. Some Medically Needy clients could shift to FHIX, but others will lose coverage entirely – which is where the state saves money.

The first step in the Senate plan is to implement regular Medicaid expansion, putting the entire expansion population in the existing Medicaid program for 6 months until FHIX is approved by the federal government

At that point, the expansion population would move to the FHIX Medicaid program. However, when the federal government does not approve FHIX, the Senate bill automatically terminates the Medicaid expansion. Everyone in the expansion population would lose coverage.

If Florida repealed the FHIX sunset and kept the expansion population in regular Medicaid, it would cost the state \$3.89 billion over a 10 year period.

FHIX will provide health coverage to 800,000 Floridians.

FACT:

The first step in the Senate plan is to implement regular Medicaid expansion, putting the entire expansion population of about 800,000 Floridians in the regular Medicaid program for 6 months until FHIX is approved by the federal government.

After 6 months, the population would move to the FHIX Medicaid program. But if the federal government does not approve FHIX, the Senate bill automatically terminates the Medicaid expansion. Everyone in the expansion population would lose coverage.

In the unlikely event the federal government actually approved FHIX, about half of the 800,000 people covered would drop out – for failing to meet FHIX requirements like premium payments and work. Half of the expansion population would lose coverage.