What's Going On

State governments take an estimated $200 million intended to help the country's most vulnerable and divert the money to unions. Money taken from Medicaid, Child Care and Development Fund, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds reduce resources for those in need. In 13 states, caregivers—most of whom are taking care of sick friends and relatives, or friends, families, or neighbors taking care of disadvantaged children—have been classified as public employees, enabling unions to skim off dues from government support checks before the assistance ever reaches the patient, child, or their caregiver.

Why Is This So Wrong?

Dues skimming robs the vulnerable who need this help the most. Every dollar of Medicaid funds that state governments divert to SEIU and other unions is one less dollar available to help those in need.

Dues skimming perverts the law. Both Medicaid and child care-assistance programs have a narrowly defined purpose to help our country's most vulnerable. Redirecting these funds to unions that aren't directly helping program recipients should be prohibited to maintain program integrity.

Dues skimming just isn’t right. Many of these healthcare providers serve a family member or friend from their home. No parent should be coerced into paying a union just to care for their own disabled child.

Dues skimming isn’t about care. It is unfair that money skimmed from care providers is used by the unions to further legislative and political interests, pay executives, and even cover administrative costs—things that have nothing to do with serving these workers or the care recipients.

How Is This Happening?

In certain states, the government allows unions like the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to automatically withdraw union dues from home healthcare providers' Medicaid funds. This scheme costs Medicaid patients and their caregivers in 11 states an estimated $150 million each year from their Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waiver funds. States also allow unions to operate the same scheme against childcare providers who receive payment through the Child Care and Development Fund and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds, collecting an estimated $50 million annually in nine states.

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WHAT’S THE BACKSTORY?

Union-supporting governors and state legislatures in these states declared home healthcare and daycare providers “public employees” simply because they are receiving state subsidies to take care of the needy. In states that aren’t right-to-work, this means that caregivers were forced to pay union dues.

Thankfully, a 2014 Supreme Court ruling in *Harris v. Quinn* questioned the “public employee” status and declared that unions could not force these caregivers to pay the unions.

However, the decision did not end the problem. Unions continue to pressure and deceive caregivers into membership so they can collect dues.

HOW THEY DO IT

State governments and unions developed unfair and confusing rules that trap caregivers in the dues skim. For example, some caregivers can only opt-out of their union during a 15-day annual period that varies by member. In Minnesota, caregivers have alleged that unions forged signatures on membership cards. Unions have similar arrangements in other states.


8 out of 10 AMERICANS SUPPORT ENDING THE DUES SKIM

A recent nationwide survey found that a vast majority of Americans oppose dues skimming and two-thirds find the current opt-out procedures unfair. Home healthcare providers deserve a permanent fix so they can have freedom of choice to focus on providing care to their patients instead of fighting off unions that rob a portion of their payment.

Congress and the US Department of Health and Human Services have the authority to comprehensive fix the dues skimming and prevent states from acting as unions’ dues collection agents by:

- **PRESERVING** Medicaid funds for important services by prohibiting their diversion to union fees.
- **PROTECTING** childcare program funding such as TANF from going to unions.
- **ENSURING** care providers remain independent and not classified as state employees.

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