

2026 Cover Georgia Legislator Meeting Guide



We created this resource to help advocates and constituents effectively prepare for, conduct, and follow up on meetings with state lawmakers.

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Georgia Can't Wait!
CLOSE THE COVERAGE GAP

The Cover Georgia coalition includes a range of community partners. Georgians for a Healthy Future provides administrative and technical support.

Connect with us:

coverga.org

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Know Before You Go! Preparing for Your Meeting

Before the meeting:

- Do your homework: Know how your lawmakers have voted on key bills and their stance on key issues.
- Prepare your story and key points that you want to communicate to your lawmaker. Writing these down or practicing them out loud will help you feel more confident and comfortable during your meeting.

During the meeting:

- Be respectful: Tone matters, even if you and the lawmaker disagree.
- Tell your story: Use your own experiences or other local examples/data.
- Don't forget: Listen and engage throughout your conversation, including pausing to allow the legislator to ask questions and share their perspective. Be open to dialogue.

After the meeting:

- Share a “leave-behind”: Lawmakers will start a file if you give them a simple one-pager that outlines your key points. Find your county's factsheet and leave it with your lawmaker.
- Make it clear that you want to keep the discussion going. Encourage them to reach out if they need more information.
- Thank the lawmaker for their time. Send a thank you note within 48 hours.
- Share your interaction with your advocacy group.

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Key Messages About Medicaid Expansion in Georgia

In addition to sharing **your personal story** that highlights the need for Medicaid expansion in Georgia...

- Georgia has the **second-highest uninsured rate** in the nation, with over **1.3 million** people estimated to be without health care coverage. [Source 1 & 2]
- The state's supposed solution — the Georgia Pathways to Coverage program — has **cost taxpayers nearly \$110 million**, but only 14,000 Georgians are enrolled (as of January 31, 2025). [Source 3]
- **Nearly 7 in 10 Georgians who are uninsured and fall in the coverage gap** live in working families, yet they still struggle to afford health coverage. [Source 4]
 - Closing the gap helps these individuals access care or fill prescriptions and strengthens the state's workforce.
- Georgia is **one of only 10 states that has not yet accepted billions** of dollars in federal funding that would expand Medicaid to cover 400,000 Georgians in the coverage gap. [Source 5]
- Insuring Georgians in the coverage gap could **create 30,000-64,000 jobs** in the state. One in every 6 of those jobs would be in rural communities. [Source 6]

Sources:

1 <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2025/demo/acsbr-024.pdf>

2 <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2025/acs/acsbr-024.html>

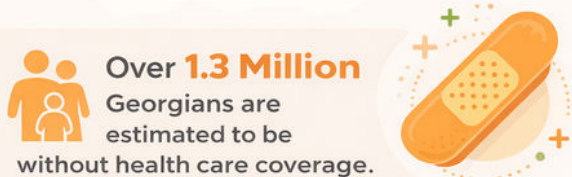
3 <https://www.georgiapathways.org/data-tracker>

4 <https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/4-3-24health-factsheet-ga.pdf>

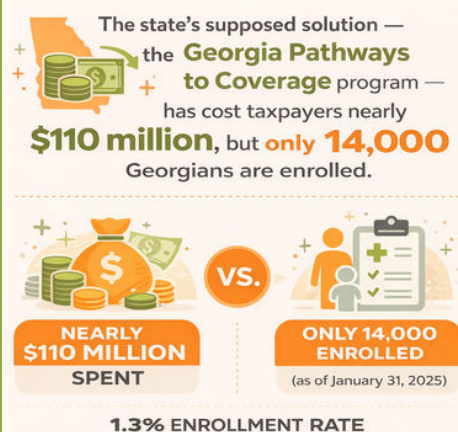
5 <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions/>

6 <https://georgiahealthinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Closing-the-Coverage-Gap.pdf>

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Georgia has the **SECOND-HIGHEST UNINSURED RATE** in the nation



Sample Conversation Guide

1. **Introduce yourself :** State your name, your town or district number, and thank them for meeting with you.
 - *“Hello, Senator/Representative [Name], I’m a constituent from [Town/District #]. Thank you for meeting with me today and for your service to Georgians.”*
2. **Share your purpose and story:** State why you’re reaching out to the legislator. Be concise and direct about the issue you came to discuss, as well as a brief personal or professional story related to the issue.
 - *“I am here today to advocate for Medicaid expansion in Georgia because... (examples follow):*
 - *I am a Medicaid recipient*
 - *I am a health care provider to recipients of Medicaid*
 - *I am a mother to three children on PeachCare, etc.*
 - *My personal experience with accessing quality care in my community...[share your story].”*
3. **State your ask :** Clearly state your specific policy request. Include 2-3 compelling data points to support your ask.
 - *“I am asking for your support for policy solutions to expand Medicaid, to keep hundreds of thousands of Georgians from becoming uninsured.”*
4. **Get their answer and make a note**
 - Listen carefully to their response to the ask.
 - Make notes on what they say.
 - Share notes with your advocacy organization contact who set up the meeting for you.
5. **Thank them and provide leave-behinds:** Thank the legislator for his/her time. Provide the legislator with a fact sheet (ideally 1-2 pages max) with data supporting the issue you discussed (Note: You can find helpful resources on [Cover GA’s Resources page](#)).
 - *“Thank you for meeting with me today. I appreciate you listening to my story about [issue]. I will leave you with this factsheet from [organization] about [issue].”*
6. **Keep the conversation going :** Provide your contact information in case the legislator wants to follow up for more information. Offer a future meeting to discuss the issue in more detail.