

# TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

May 17, 2025

## Resolution No. 03 -25

**INTRODUCED BY:** EDWARD CAPPARELLI, MD  
EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

**SUBJECT:** MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN JAIL

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1   Whereas,    Medicaid coverage is suspended when an individual is placed in jail even for  
2                   a short-term; and  
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4   Whereas,    County jails do not have the resources to continue current expensive  
5                   medications for many inmates with chronic illnesses; and  
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7   Whereas,    Many jailed individuals are currently on TennCare and had been stable on  
8                   medications provided by TennCare prior to their incarceration; and  
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10   Whereas,   Stopping or changing chronic medications can have deleterious effects for  
11                  individuals being treated for serious chronic illnesses; and  
12  
13   Whereas,    A Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) 2024 Section 1115 Reentry  
14                  Demonstration Opportunity Waiver allows participating states to have state  
15                  Medicaid pay for 90 days coverage prior to release of incarcerated individuals.  
16                  This would include coverage even if the individual is incarcerated for 90 days  
17                  or less; and  
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19   Whereas,    18 states have already received this waiver allowing inmates to receive  
20                  their regular chronic medications; Now, therefore be it  
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22   **RESOLVED,**   That the TMA advocate for Tennessee to apply for the CMS Section 1115  
23                      Reentry Demonstration Waiver to pay for chronic medications for TennCare  
24                      individuals entering jail; and be it further  
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26   **RESOLVED,**   That TennCare coverage for all chronic medications be continued during  
27                      the individual's time incarcerated to prevent adverse health effects from  
28                      the termination of previously established and proven drug therapies.

*Sunset: 2032*

*Fiscal note: To be determined by Finance Committee*