Traditional Medicaid and Expansion of Medicaid: A Timeline of Critical Legal Actions

- **1965** Congress creates Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare is a federal health insurance program for the elderly, disabled, and those suffering from end-stage renal disease. Medicaid, a federal/state partnership, provides health coverage for certain qualified low-income individuals. Although state participation is voluntary, all states have Medicaid programs.
- **1997** Congress enacts Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which covers children in families whose income is too high to qualify for Medicaid but who still cannot afford health insurance.
- **2010** Congress passes the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It includes a provision that extends Medicaid coverage to low-income, non-disabled, childless adults under age 65. This provision adds all low-income individuals with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level ($17,774 in 2021) to the Medicaid program.
- **2012** The US Supreme Court upholds the ACA, but rules that Congress cannot mandate that the states expand Medicaid. The Court leaves it up to the states to decide whether to expand Medicaid. The Medicaid coverage gap is created in states that opt not to expand their Medicaid programs to adults under age 65 without employer coverage who also do not have access to health insurance they can afford.
- **2014** ACA Medicaid expansion goes into effect.
- **2014-2021** 38 states opt to expand Medicaid.
- **2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act** provides an additional 6.2 cents per dollar of funding to traditional Medicaid during the COVID-19 emergency.
- **2021** For states that have not yet expanded Medicaid coverage, the **American Rescue Plan Act** provides an additional 5 cents per dollar funding to traditional Medicaid for two years. These 5 cents per dollar **are in addition to the 6.2 percentage points** from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

The League of Women Voters believes the U.S. health care system should provide a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost to all U.S. residents. For further information about Medicaid in North Carolina, go to **LWV-Wake: Healthcare**.

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