

How federal cuts could devastate healthcare in Riverside County

Karen Spiegel and V. Manuel Perez Special to The Desert Sun

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Raul Ruiz, local healthcare leaders discuss worries over Trump cuts to Medicaid

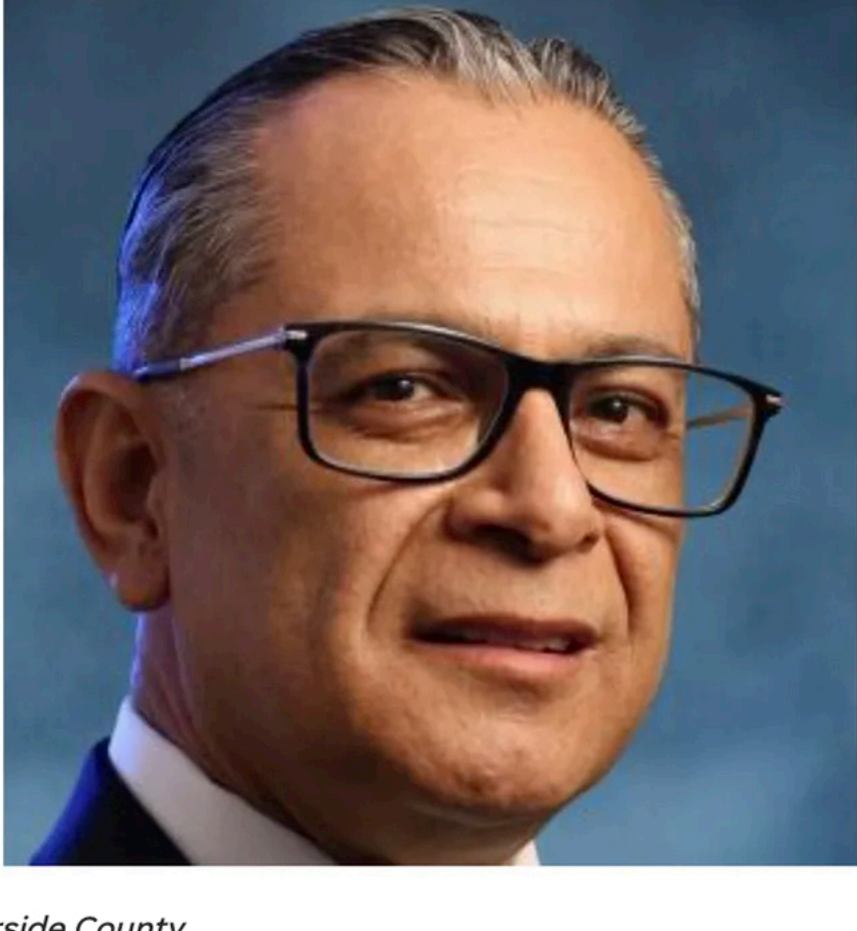
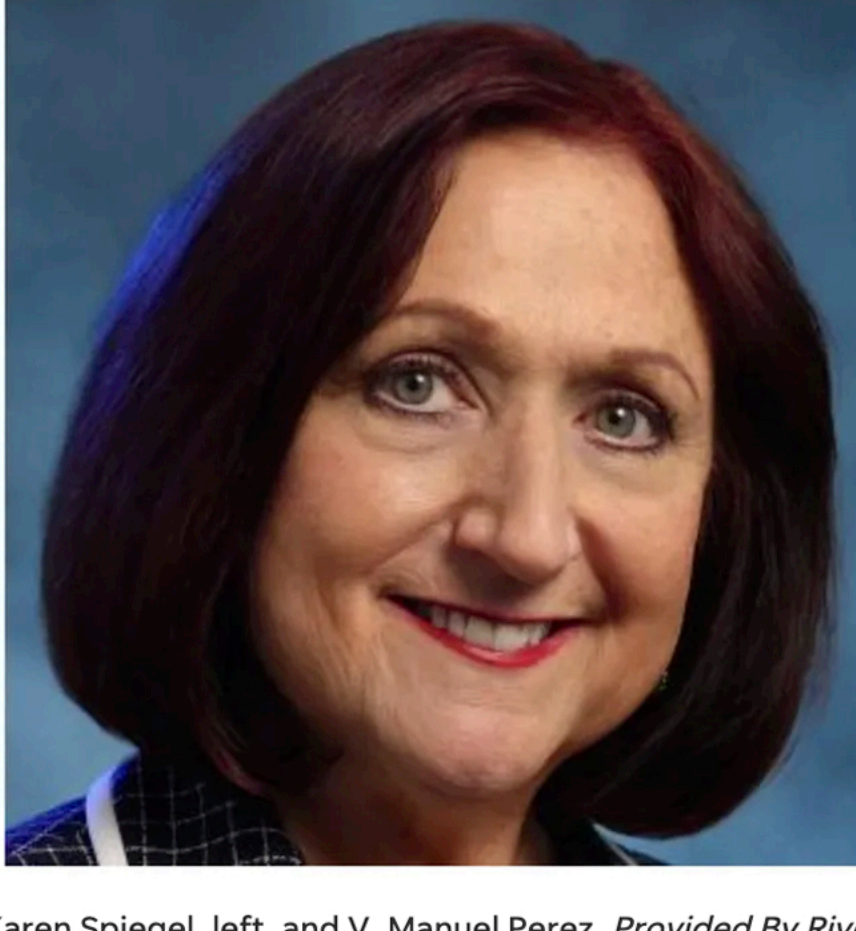
U.S. Rep. Raul Ruiz holds forum with local health leaders to discuss President Trump's 'One Big Beautiful Bill' in Palm Desert, Calif., July 30, 2025.

During [their recent passage of the state budget](#), California legislators voted to prioritize the local healthcare system and social safety net to prevent a socioeconomic disaster.

The federal government’s [passage of H.R. 1, the “One Big Beautiful Bill,”](#) last year teed up a \$450 million burden on the County of Riverside. This would-be financial deficit comes from a \$300 million cut in federal funding and a \$150 million increase in the cost of new medical indigent services.

As legislators continue to negotiate the budget with the governor, everyone must confront the reality that the consequences of this federal law will be felt most critically in communities like ours. H.R. 1 will shift significant healthcare and food assistance costs from the federal government to states and counties, while simultaneously making it harder for people to maintain coverage.

The need for care does not disappear when coverage does.



Karen Spiegel, left, and V. Manuel Perez. Provided By Riverside County

Riverside County residents like Toni illustrate why. Toni was in the middle of a job transition when she experienced sudden kidney failure. Her new employer’s health insurance had not yet taken effect, leaving her uninsured during a life-threatening medical emergency. [Medi-Cal](#) provided access to the care she needed at Riverside University Health System, helping save her life.

Without coverage, people delay treatment. Chronic conditions worsen. Preventive care falls away. Eventually, those same patients show up in emergency rooms sicker, requiring more intensive and expensive treatment.

Riverside County estimates that more than 100,000 residents could lose Medi-Cal coverage as a result of H.R. 1. Public hospitals and healthcare providers could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. Another estimate reveals an estimated 62,000 residents could turn to county indigent care programs for basic medical services.

The impacts do not stop there.

When people lose coverage, hospitals lose funding, emergency rooms become more crowded, and wait times get longer. These consequences affect everyone, not just Medi-Cal recipients. Every family that relies on emergency care depends on a healthcare system that has the capacity to respond when needed.

As members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, we see every day how important health coverage is to our communities.

The question California policymakers understood is simple: if the federal government is no longer paying, who will?



Failure to get preventive care lands more people in emergency rooms when they get seriously ill, two county supervisors write. *The World's Biggest Tech Company Forgot To Show You Something, But A Few Wall Street Analysts And The Fool Didn't Miss A Beat: There's A Small Company That's Powering Their Brand-new Gadgets And The Coming Revolution In Technology. And We Think Its Stock Price Has Nearly Unlimited Room To Run For Early In-the-know Investors! To Be One Of Them, Just Click Here .*