Clinical trials often provide the best treatment options for patients with life-threatening conditions. But many can’t enroll because federal law doesn’t require Medicaid to cover the routine costs of participating. Medicaid is the only major payer that doesn’t guarantee coverage of routine care costs for trial participants. All other major payers—including Medicare—cover these costs. Covering routine costs would have a minimal impact on overall Medicaid spending; Medicaid covers these costs for patients who do not enroll in trials.  

Cost is one of the biggest barriers to clinical trial participation—particularly for low-income patients. Passage of the bipartisan CLINICAL TREATMENT ACT (H.R. 913) would put clinical trials within reach of millions more patients—including children, people with disabilities, and rural Americans. 

Closing this coverage gap would reduce racial/ethnic disparities and improve the validity of data and the quality of new treatments. Minorities are underrepresented in clinical research. 

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**CONGRESS:**
Pass the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act and give every patient on Medicaid the opportunity to access new treatments and participate in research. #ClinicalTrialAccess

**SOURCES**