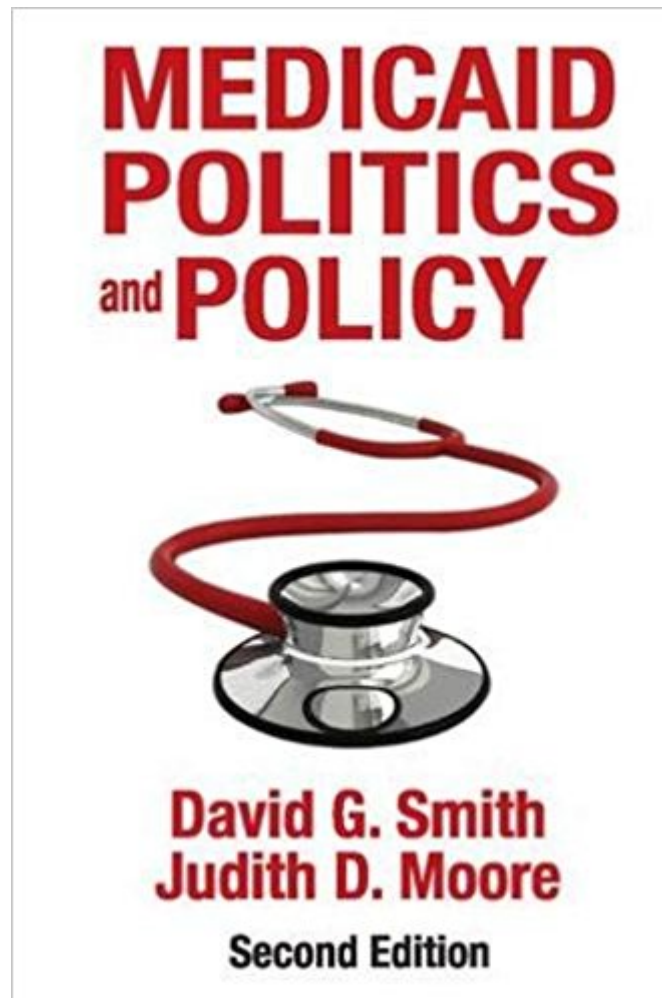




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# Medicaid Politics And Policy



## Synopsis

The story of Medicaid comes alive for readers in this strong narrative, including detailed accounts of important policy changes and extensive use of interviews. A central theme of the book is that Medicaid is a "weak entitlement," one less established or effectively defended than Medicare or Social Security, but more secure than welfare or food stamps. In their analysis, the authors argue that the future of Medicaid is sound. It has the flexibility to be adapted by states as well as to allow for policy innovation. At the same time, the program lacks an effective mechanism for overall reform. They note Medicaid has become a source of perennial political controversy as it has grown to become the largest health insurance system in the country. The book's dual emphasis on politics and policy is important in making the arcane Medicaid program accessible to readers and in distinguishing policy grounded in analysis from partisan ideology. This second edition features a new preface, three new chapters accounting for the changes to the Affordable Care Act, and an updated glossary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“What makes this successor to *Medicaid Politics and Policy* such an achievement and so worthy of praise is the authors' ability to explain Medicaid's evolution and resilience over five decades while placing its remarkable story within the broader context of national health reform.”  
—Sara Rosenbaum, George Washington University  
“*Medicaid Politics and Policy*, now updated to include the Affordable Care Act changes, provides the most

thorough and comprehensive review of the history, evolution, and dynamic role of Medicaid over the last 50 years. . . . It is a must-read for policymakers, analysts, and health reformers.~•

~•Diane Rowland, Kaiser Family Foundation ~•“The Medicaid program is at the very epicenter of the political and policy tensions between the federal government and states. Smith and Moore brilliantly chronicle the ebb and flow of this tension over time in this jointly funded \$500 billion health care entitlement program for low-income individuals. . . . I highly recommend this to anyone interested in the evolution of health care policy in a broader political context.~•

~•Raymond Scheppach, University of Virginia “Smith and Moore tell the story [of Medicaid] with rigor and skill, based on over 200 interviews that provided insights and anecdotes never before seen in print. The story is now updated to include the ACA, which brought the most significant changes to Medicaid since its inception. . . .~ Medicaid Politics and Policy is the most engaging, complete and up-to-date history of Medicaid yet.” ~•Vernon K. Smith, Health Management Associates On the first edition: ~•“Perhaps only a political and policy enthusiast like me would really enjoy this book.~• ~•Steven S. Sharfstein, Psychiatric Services On the first edition: “This book is going to be a classic (and standard reference) in the field.” ~•Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director, Government Learning Project On the first edition: “Experts discuss the interface of U.S. politics and health policies. This case study of Medicaid illustrates how good intentions to create health policy for vulnerable populations in the U.S. have been and continue to be influenced by state and federal economic issues; societal views of poverty, disability, old age, and charity care; and changing views of federalism, depending on the ruling political parties in office at state and national levels....Interviews with key players and historical documents illustrate three phases of Medicaid implementation and growth: 1966-81; 1981-95; and 1995-2007. Extensive references, bibliographic sources, and glossary. Recommended.” ~•J.E. Thompson, Choice On the first edition: “[S]tudents of health politics and policy will find this book the go to source for understanding~ how Medicaid became the nation’s go to program for filling the health system’s myriad gaps. Today, Medicaid expansions are fundamental to plans in, for example, Massachusetts and Vermont that aspire to universal coverage and in the health agenda of the leading Democratic presidential candidates.” ~•Lawrence D. Brown and Michael S. Sparer, Health Affairs On the first edition: ~•“Offering a panoramic sweep of the Medicaid program and its place in the U.S. health care policy and politics, Medicaid Politics and Policy: 1965-2007 represents an important addition to the health policy literature~•| Using an approach that organizes the story of Medicaid into distinct chapters that help explain this most complex of all social welfare programs, Medicaid Politics and Policy also illuminates the broader social, political, and

economic currents that enveloped and that continue to swirl around the program. Medicaid is no less than the fundamental means by which a society that values markets in health care has made a place at the health care table for the poor, the sick, and the medically underserved.

•Sara Rosenbaum, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law

David G. Smith is Richter Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Swarthmore College. He is the author of *The Children's Health Insurance Program and Paying for Medicare*. His book, *Paying for Medicare*, won the Elizur Wright Award from the American Risk and Insurance Association.

Judith D. Moore was senior fellow, National Health Policy Forum, George Washington University. She was a past director of the Medicaid program and the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs.

*Medicaid Politics and Policy* is a great book. It is well written and easy to read. By Gregg L. Friedman MD

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