

# DOGE Has Found \$14 Billion in Medicaid Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, Dr. Mehmet Oz Says

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Dr. Mehmet Oz speaks during a confirmation hearing with the Senate Finance Committee in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington on March 14, 2025. Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images



By Jack Phillips

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Dr. Mehmet Oz, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administrator, said his agency and the Department of Government

Efficiency (DOGE) have identified at least \$14 billion in fraud, waste, and abuse.

“There’s about \$14 billion we’ve identified with DOGE, of folks who are duly enrolled wrongly in multiple states for Medicaid,” Oz [told](#) Fox News’s “Sunday Morning Futures.”

As an example, Oz said: “You live in New Jersey, but you move to Pennsylvania, and which state gets your Medicaid? Turns out both states collect money from the federal government.”

There are other areas, he said, that constitute abuse of the federal health care system. He said some people who are eligible to get a job or seek education are receiving Medicaid. Oz echoed statements made by GOP lawmakers, including House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), who in recent days said that able-bodied individuals and illegal immigrants have received Medicaid benefits.

Oz urged that Medicaid be cleaned up so that it can provide services to individuals such as people with disabilities and others, suggesting that Republicans keep a work requirement to be eligible for the program.

“I think there’s a moral hazard if we don’t, because you’ve got people who are not working who could work, who should work, and it’s better for them and better for the country if they do,” he said, referring to Republicans’ having added work requirements to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that passed in the House of Representatives on May 22.

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that [helps](#) cover medical costs for certain people with limited income or resources, while Medicare is federal health insurance for people ages 65 and older and some individuals under that age with certain disabilities or conditions.

The bill, which is now in the hands of the Senate, would impose work requirements for low-income adults to receive Medicaid health insurance and would increase those requirements for food assistance. Supporters of the bill say the moves will save money, root out waste, and encourage personal responsibility.

Starting next year, many able-bodied Medicaid enrollees under age 65 would be required to show that they work, volunteer, or go to school in exchange for the health insurance coverage under the measure. Only Arkansas has had a work requirement that kicks people off for noncompliance.

Established by President Donald Trump earlier in 2025, DOGE is tasked with finding fraud, waste, and abuse, although some of its efforts in federal agencies have been blocked by courts. A U.S. district judge in Maryland, for example, in March blocked the agency from accessing Social Security Administration systems, prompting the Trump administration to submit an emergency petition to the Supreme Court earlier in May.

The task force has been effectively led by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, senior adviser to Trump. Musk is a special government employee, meaning that he has 130 days to complete his work. Musk said during a Tesla earnings call in April that he would be stepping back from his government duties in May to focus on his company.

Over the past weekend, Musk wrote in a post on social media platform X that he is now working more at his companies, including Tesla and X.

“Back to spending 24/7 at work and sleeping in conference/server/factory rooms,” Musk [said](#) in a May 24 X post. “I must be super focused on X/xAI and Tesla (plus Starship launch next week), as we have critical technologies rolling out.

“As evidenced by the X uptime issues this week, major operational improvements need to be made. The failover redundancy should have worked, but did not.”

Oz, a former daytime television personality and doctor known as Dr. Oz, was confirmed as the 17th CMS administrator by the Senate in early April.

The Epoch Times contacted the CMS for comment on May 26.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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