

## Fragmented Democracy

Medicaid is the single largest public health insurer in the United States, covering upward of 70 million Americans. Crucially, Medicaid is also an intergovernmental program that yokes poverty to federalism: the federal government determines its broad contours, while states have tremendous discretion over how it is designed and implemented. Where some locales are generous and openhanded, others are tightfisted and punitive. In *Fragmented Democracy*, Jamila Michener demonstrates the consequences of such disparities for democratic citizenship. Unpacking how federalism transforms Medicaid beneficiaries' interpretations of government and structures their participation in politics, this book examines American democracy from the vantage point(s) of those who are living in or near poverty, (disproportionately) black or Latino, and reliant on a federated government for vital resources.

Jamila Michener is Assistant Professor of Government at Cornell University. She is a faculty affiliate of the Center for the Study of Inequality, the American Studies Program, and the Africana Studies Department. She studies poverty, racial inequality, politics, and public policy in the United States. Her work has been supported by the Russell Sage Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. Her research appears in numerous journals including *Political Behavior*, the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, the *Journal of Poverty and Public Policy*, and *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*. She received her PhD in political science from the University of Chicago and completed a postdoctoral fellowship as a Health Policy Scholar at the University of Michigan.

# Fragmented Democracy

*Medicaid, Federalism, and Unequal Politics*

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*To Jace and Jax – my sweet, beautiful boys. I hope that you  
will always uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed  
(Psalm 82:3)*

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