

PROTECT OUR CARE

The GOP War on Medicaid Packet

Introduction	1
Message Guidance	2
FACT SHEET: 5 Ways Republicans Are Planning To Gut Medicaid	3
FACT SHEET: Republicans Want To Rip Away Health Care From Over 72 Million Americans	6

Special Online Resources

[NEW REPORT: The Republican War on Health Care: Medicaid Cuts for Millions, Tax Cuts for the Ultra-Wealthy](#)

[Latest Polling Deck](#)

[State-by-State Fact Sheets](#)

[Fact Sheets For Select Congressional Districts](#)

[Digital Toolkit](#)

[Reminder: MAGA Republicans Want to Raise Costs and Rip Away Health Care](#)

Introduction

In communities across the nation, Medicaid is a lifeline with over [72 million](#) Americans covered through the program. That amounts to one in five Americans, including moms, seniors, kids, people with disabilities, and hard-working people who don't receive health insurance through their employer. Medicaid has made people healthier and saved lives by expanding access to care. It has kept people employed and rural hospitals open and boosted state budgets. But Republicans continue to target Medicaid for deep cuts in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires.

The GOP's latest play is to [slash trillions](#) from Medicaid through block granting, lifetime caps, and other bureaucratic reporting measures designed to throw people off their coverage in order to hand out \$4.6 trillion in tax breaks to the wealthy. As a result, families, children, and seniors won't be able to see a doctor when they need it the most. Republicans are more concerned with taking care of their billionaire friends instead of protecting American health care. If the GOP gets their way, millions of Americans will lose critical health care coverage they need to stay healthy while the ultra-rich stuff their pockets with more money.

The politics: Voters have [favorable views](#) toward Medicaid and overwhelmingly [oppose](#) cuts to the program. For years, rising health care costs have been on the top of people's minds, and they have been a core part of the public's economic concerns. People want lower costs and better care – no matter their zip code, race/ethnicity, age, or other demographic characteristics.

Protect Our Care can help host both in-person and virtual events in many areas around the country, provide fact sheets, and identify local storytellers.

Here's a closer look at how your team can get involved:

- **Host a virtual or in-person event:** Protect Our Care can partner with other groups and elected officials and help manage the logistics of hosting an event as well as finding additional speakers, such as health care providers, advocates, and patient storytellers.
- **Draft an Op-Ed:** Protect Our Care can provide a template to modify for local and national outlets.
- **Join our regular health care communicators' call:** Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:45 AM ET, Protect Our Care hosts a brief conference call to go over the latest health care news, messaging, and activities: 813-906-1983 (no PIN needed).

If you would like to work with Protect Our Care, please contact Maddie Twomey at mtwomey@protectourcare.org.

Message Guidance

Every community has someone who counts on Medicaid: children, new moms, seniors, and working people who don't receive health insurance through their employer. 72 million Americans count on Medicaid for their health care. MAGA Republicans want to rip Medicaid away from millions of Americans so they can give massive tax breaks to the wealthy and big corporations. In America, affordable health care should be a right – not a privilege. **Find state-by-state factsheets on the impact of GOP cuts to Medicaid [here](#).**

- **Slashing Medicaid puts health care for seniors on the chopping block.** 5.6 million Americans count on Medicaid for their long-term care bills, including six in 10 nursing home residents.
- **Medicaid cuts would take away health care from working people.** The [vast majority](#) of families who count on Medicaid include people who work full-time. People who work hard in jobs such as construction, logging, or maintenance often don't have health insurance through work so they count on Medicaid.
- **Cutting Medicaid would put people with disabilities and those with mental illness at risk.** Over [6.6 million](#) children with disabilities and [11.1 million](#) adults with disabilities get their coverage from Medicaid. In addition, 14 million adults with mental illness count on Medicaid for their treatment.

[Two thirds](#) of Americans agree that large cuts to Medicaid proposed by the GOP are a bad idea. 77 percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of Medicaid, including 69 percent of Republicans and 72 percent of Independents.

Republicans in Congress are trying to take Medicaid away so they can fund more tax breaks for the wealthy and large corporations. . The latest GOP scheme [slashes trillions](#) from Medicaid through block granting, lifetime caps, and other bureaucratic reporting measures designed to throw people off their coverage - all to hand out \$4.6 trillion in tax breaks to the ultra-rich and big corporations, including the CEOs at some of the largest drug and insurance companies.

- **Millions of Americans will have their health care ripped away from them immediately if the GOP succeeds in gutting funding for Medicaid expansion.** [Nine states](#), including North Carolina, Arizona, and Virginia, have trigger laws that will end coverage for tens or hundreds of thousands of families if federal funding for Medicaid expansion is reduced.
- **Republicans will cut a lifeline for rural hospitals.** Medicaid helps fund rural hospitals by ensuring more patients can pay for their care. Rural hospitals in Medicaid expansion states are [62 percent](#) less likely to close. In 2023, over [600](#) rural hospitals were at risk of closing in the near future, almost all of which were within non-expansion states. If Republicans cut Medicaid expansion, more rural hospitals will be at risk of shutting down.
- **GOP proposals would decimate access to essential services like long-term care and maternity care.** Medicaid is the single largest payer for [long-term care](#), [maternity care](#), and [mental health](#) services. Nearly a [third](#) of adults have received maternity care, home health care, or nursing home care through Medicaid. If Republicans have their way, millions of people will lose access to essential care.

The contrast with Republicans could not be clearer. MAGA-Republicans in Congress are dead set on gutting Medicaid, which would mean fewer kids and struggling seniors could see a doctor when they need it the most. Families will lose the care they need to stay healthy, lose the ability to age with dignity, and lose control over their financial future.

FACT SHEET: 5 Ways Republicans Are Planning To Gut Medicaid

The GOP war on Medicaid is alive and well. Republicans are [targeting](#) Medicaid for deep budget cuts as part of a reconciliation bill coming early next year in order to fund tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. Medicaid is an essential pillar of our health care system. It is the largest health insurance program in the country, providing health care to more than 70 million Americans – nearly a quarter of the country. Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal government and the states, and it is supported by [76 percent](#) of Americans. It covers one in five Americans, including kids, moms, seniors, people of color, rural Americans, and people with disabilities.

Five key ways Republicans could cut federal Medicaid funding and leave millions of Americans uninsured and unable to afford health care include: imposing lifetime caps on coverage,

slashing the federal matching rate for traditional Medicaid and Medicaid expansion, implementing bureaucratic reporting requirements, block granting Medicaid, and introducing per capita caps. All of these policies mean that millions would lose their coverage, state budgets would be strained, and rural hospitals would be more likely to close. Every family knows someone who counts on Medicaid. If MAGA Republicans get their way, Medicaid will be decimated – taking health care away from hardworking families across the country all to pay for more tax breaks for the wealthy.

By The Numbers

- Republican threats to Medicaid put health care at risk for [72 million](#) (21 percent) of Americans including:
 - [31.5 million](#) children
 - [9.1 million](#) people with disabilities
 - [8.3 million](#) seniors
- Republicans will create a [\\$50 billion](#) hole in state Medicaid budgets to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations.
- If Republicans decrease federal funding for people in the Medicaid expansion population, it would immediately rip health care away from [over 4.2 million](#) Americans across eleven states and jeopardize health care for about [21 million](#) people.
- Republicans threaten care for [18.5 million](#) people on Medicaid by imposing lifetime caps.
- Republicans could deny coverage to [21 million](#) Americans through burdensome bureaucratic reporting requirements.

Five Ways The GOP Plans To Gut Medicaid

1. **The GOP Will Impose Lifetime Caps For People On Medicaid.** Republicans want to [enact](#) the Project 2025 playbook by [imposing](#) lifetime caps for people on Medicaid. Proposals have suggested people remain eligible for just 36 months, potentially over their entire lifetime. If enacted, the Center For American Progress found that these caps would strip benefits from hardworking families and people with complex medical conditions, particularly in states that have not expanded Medicaid, endangering coverage for the [18.5 million](#) people with Medicaid who qualify based on income alone.
2. **Republicans Want To Slash Federal Funding for Medicaid By Reducing the Amount of Federal Funding That Matches State Medicaid Funding.** As part of their plans to slash spending, Republicans could achieve their longtime goal of eliminating federal funding for Medicaid expansion and decreasing funding for traditional Medicaid. The Affordable Care Act provided for states to expand Medicaid eligibility by offering matching federal funds as an incentive. Some recent proposals have suggested lowering the federal match rate to 90 percent or lower, which would create a [\\$50 billion hole](#) in state Medicaid budgets. Research shows Medicaid expansion improves people's health, keeps hospitals open, increases families' financial security, and saves lives – and, in turn, helps reduce racial and ethnic, rural, and other health disparities. As of 2024, 41 states

(including DC) have [expanded](#) Medicaid under the ACA. However, eleven of these states – Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, and Utah – have a trigger law, which means that health care will be at risk or immediately be ripped away from [4,291,000](#) people across the country if the GOP succeeds in gutting funding for Medicaid expansion.

3. Republicans Want To Impose Burdensome Bureaucratic Reporting Requirements.

Several recent Republican budget proposals have [included](#) plans to introduce bureaucratic work reporting requirements as a mandatory part of Medicaid enrollment and verification. By imposing work reporting requirements, Republicans are only seeking to cut Medicaid and kick millions of people off the rolls. Research shows that work reporting requirements cost states money and do not improve people's ability to find work. In Georgia, a GOP alternative to Medicaid expansion emphasizing work requirements cost taxpayers [\\$26 million](#), only provided coverage to 3,500 people, and resulted in consulting firms pocketing 90 percent of the funding. If Republicans succeed in implementing work reporting requirements, up to 21 million Americans could be denied Medicaid coverage.

4. Republicans Want To Radically Restructure Medicaid Through Block Grants, Resulting In Deep Cuts. Another way MAGA Republicans want to radically restructure Medicaid is by changing it into five block grants. In March, the Republican Study Committee [released](#) a proposal to do just that. Block grants would shift costs to states and inevitably result in deep cuts to Medicaid programs by [capping](#) the amount of federal Medicaid funding states receive. As CBPP found in 2017, a block grant would force states to make [deep cuts](#) to their Medicaid programs to compensate for the federal funding cuts. Currently, the federal government pays between 50 percent and 77 percent of enrollees' Medicaid costs, and more for certain high-value services. Republicans' proposals to slash billions in federal funding from Medicaid would strain state budgets and leave tens of millions of people uninsured.

5. Republicans Want To Introduce Per Capita Caps For Medicaid, Shifting Costs To States.

Past Republican budget proposals have established a [per capita cap](#) for states on Medicaid enrollment. This type of spending cap imposes a restriction on the amount the federal government will contribute per capita to states' Medicaid budgets. The proposals also increase the amount states must contribute to their Medicaid programs. In practice, per capita caps only increase costs for Medicaid beneficiaries – often in the form of higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs, all but ensuring that even if one qualifies for Medicaid, the services may not be affordable. It also means Medicaid would not have the flexibility to take on an influx of new patients during public health emergencies.

FACT SHEET: Republicans Want To Rip Away Health Care From Over 72 Million Americans

Republicans Eye Medicaid Cuts to Fund Tax Breaks for Their Billionaire Friends

Medicaid is an essential pillar of our health care system, but Republicans are dead set on gutting it. As the largest health insurance program in the country, providing health care to [more than 72 million people](#), Medicaid covers one in five Americans, including kids, moms, seniors, people of color, rural Americans, and people with disabilities.

But Republicans are targeting Medicaid for deep budget cuts in order to fund tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, putting the health care of [more than 72 million](#) Americans at risk. Working families will lose the care they need to stay healthy, people with disabilities will lose access to the services they need, seniors will be kicked out of nursing homes and lose home-based long term care, and millions of kids, including those with special needs and cancer, will be left behind. If Republicans get their way, hard-working Americans will have their health care ripped away from them while the ultra-rich get trillions in tax breaks.

By The Numbers

- **The GOP is putting health care at risk for [more than 72 million](#) Americans. Medicaid disproportionately serves children, older people, and people with disabilities, this includes:**
 - [7.2 million](#) seniors
 - [37.6 million](#) children
 - [15.2 million](#) working adults
 - [36.9 million](#) non-elderly Americans of color
 - [52.4 million](#) women
 - [26.2 million](#) Americans with disabilities
- **Republicans will create *at least* a [\\$50 billion](#) hole in state budgets annually to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations.**
- **[12 states](#) have a Medicaid expansion trigger law, which means that if Republicans gut funding for Medicaid expansion, [3.7 million people](#) would quickly lose their health care.**

Who Would Lose Coverage?

Approximately half of America's children have health care coverage through Medicaid. [Over 37 million](#) children are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. This represents nearly half of all people who depend on Medicaid and CHIP. Access to health care coverage allows children to stay healthy and avoid health complications when they grow older. [Increasing access](#) to

Medicaid for children results in lower high school dropout rates, higher college enrollment and completion rates, and higher wages later in life. For each additional year of Medicaid eligibility as a child, adults by age 28 had higher earnings and made \$533 additional cumulative tax payments due to their higher incomes.

Medicaid covers 42 percent of all births and prevents maternal mortality. As of 2020, [48 percent](#) of maternal deaths occurred during pregnancy and delivery, but more than half, [52 percent](#), occurred in the year following the birth of a child. 2022 CDC data shows that [4 in 5](#) maternal deaths were preventable. [12 percent](#) of maternal deaths are deemed “late,” occurring between six weeks to one year following delivery, demonstrating the immense need for continuous health access and coverage for a minimum of one year following the birth of a child. [47 states](#) have begun offering continuous Medicaid or CHIP coverage for 12 months after pregnancy. Maternal mortality rates decreased by 10.6 deaths per 100,000 mothers between 2021, the year postpartum coverage under Medicaid was expanded, and 2022. Between 2018 and 2022, the maternal mortality rate in America was [23](#) deaths per 100,000 births.

Medicaid covers rural Americans. Health care for rural Americans is especially important due to the higher prevalence of pre-existing conditions and [barriers](#) to accessing health care. Medicaid expansion also reduces poverty and income inequality by helping low-income families access care without [jeopardizing](#) income that they may use for other basic living expenses, such as rent or groceries. Rural hospitals also benefit from Medicaid funding and are at risk of closing if there are cuts to the program. Rural hospitals in Medicaid expansion states are [62 percent](#) less likely to close. In 2023, over [600](#) rural hospitals were at risk of closing in the near future, almost all of which were within non-expansion states. If Republicans cut Medicaid expansion, rural hospitals could be at risk.

Americans with disabilities rely on Medicaid. Medicaid is a vital source of care for people with disabilities across the country, [over 10 million](#) people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for access to health care. [Half](#) of all long-term care in the United States, which includes essential home- and community-based services for people with disabilities, is provided by Medicaid. Individuals with disabilities living in Medicaid expansion states are also [more likely](#) to be employed than are those living in non-expansion states. They are able to access and maintain Medicaid coverage while earning at levels that previously would have made them ineligible. For people with disabilities in non-expansion states, health disparities may widen. Medicaid also offers essential mental health services. Nearly [one in five](#) adults struggling with mental illness have access to care through Medicaid. If Republicans have their way, millions of people with physical or mental disabilities will lose access to essential care.

Medicaid supplements coverage for seniors. The benefits of Medicaid for America’s aging population often go unnoticed but are essential to their health and well-being. For seniors and older Americans with lower incomes, Medicare [premiums](#) are paid by Medicaid, as well as deductibles and health care that requires cost-sharing. [63 percent](#) of nursing home residents are primarily covered by Medicaid. Without Medicaid’s supplemental coverage, millions of seniors would be forced to go without needed care.

Medicaid is a lifeline for Americans of color. Generations of structural racism have resulted in people of color experiencing lower rates of health coverage, worse health outcomes, and staggering health inequities. As a result, Medicaid coverage remains a critical source of coverage, especially for Black, Latino, and Indigenous families in America who experience poverty at a higher rate than white Americans and remain less likely to have access to quality care – an important driver of health. [60.5 percent](#) of those covered by Medicaid are people of color. Research confirms that Medicaid expansion saves lives and [drastically reduces](#) racial/ethnic health disparities. States that expanded their Medicaid programs saw a [51 percent](#) reduction in the gap between uninsured white and Black adults after expansion, and a [45 percent](#) reduction between white and Hispanic/Latino adults.

Key Points: The GOP Plan for Medicaid

Republicans Want to Gut Federal Funding for Medicaid, Forcing States to Cut Benefits and Kick People Off Coverage. Three proposals would dramatically reduce federal funding for Medicaid: block grants, per capita caps, and reducing Medicaid matching rates. The federal government is an essential source of funding for Medicaid programs and Republicans' proposals to slash billions in federal funding from Medicaid would strain already tight state budgets and leave tens of millions of people uninsured.

Republicans Want To Throw Millions Off Their Coverage By Adding Burdensome Work Reporting Requirements To Medicaid. By imposing so-called work requirements, Republicans are only seeking to cut Medicaid and kick millions of people off the rolls. Research shows that work reporting requirements cost states money and do not improve people's ability to find work. In Georgia, a GOP alternative to Medicaid expansion emphasizing work requirements cost taxpayers [\\$26 million](#), spending [more than 90%](#) of those funds on administrative and consulting costs while providing care to only [5,500 people](#) while [359,000 Georgians](#) would be eligible for coverage if Georgia expanded Medicaid. If Republicans succeed in enacting work requirements, up to 21 million Americans could be denied Medicaid coverage.