

PROTECT OUR CARE

Health Care Message Guidance (February 2025)

KEY POINT: *While people are struggling to pay their bills, Republicans will raise the cost of health care and take away the health care that millions of people count on while at the same time giving massive tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations. Republicans are breaking the promises they made to the American people to address the cost of living so they can cut more taxes for the ultra-wealthy.*

Democrats have fought to lower costs and improve care for Americans, and they know far too many families still lack access to affordable health care. Democrats are fighting to lower costs and protect coverage while Republicans are doing the exact opposite by:

- Threatening to take away Medicaid from the 72 million people who count on it, especially seniors, kids with disabilities, new moms, low-income families, and people who take care of their children or elderly parents.
- Repealing or sabotaging the Affordable Care Act which could take away health care from 24 million people who buy their insurance on their own.
- Ending protections for people with pre-existing conditions, meaning they could be charged unaffordable premiums or denied insurance completely.

Republicans will raise the cost of health care for people who are struggling to pay the bills.

Millions of middle-class families are one health care bill away from bankruptcy and patients pay 3 times more for medicines than they do in other countries. Republicans would make health care costs go up even more. They have proposed:

- Banning Medicare from negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs and removing the cap on the cost of insulin.
- Ending rules that cap annual costs for drugs for seniors at \$2,000/year.
- Taking away tax credits for working families, which would make health care premiums double for millions of families while 5 million people become uninsured.

It's a rip off. While they raise costs and take away coverage from working people and middle-class families, they're going to make the drug companies even richer and give tax breaks to the wealthiest people and the biggest companies. While Republicans try to cut coverage and raise costs for health care, Democrats are working to make sure your coverage is secure and your costs come down.

Medicaid

KEY POINT: Millions of Americans count on Medicaid for health care but the Republican budget would take it away. Losing their health care coverage altogether and becoming uninsured would have the biggest impact on the most vulnerable Americans, including low-income seniors, children, veterans, people with serious disabilities, and people who take care of their children or elderly parents. Republicans are doing this so they can give more big tax breaks to billionaires, wealthy CEOs, and the biggest companies.

The Republican budget could put the [72 million](#) Americans who count on Medicaid at risk of losing health care coverage. Republican cuts could:

- Put the care of over [8 million](#) seniors at risk, including many of the [5.6 million](#) who count on Medicaid for long-term care and [6 in 10](#) nursing home residents. Medicaid covers the largest share of long-term care.
- Take away coverage for people with disabilities and mental illness, jeopardizing care for over [15 million](#) adults with disabilities and kids with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.
- Force millions of Americans to buy private health insurance on their own which nobody can afford right now. Medicaid is a major source of health insurance for lower-wage workers who don't get health care through their jobs.
- Take away health care from children. Almost half of all children in America have Medicaid, helping over [30 million](#) children get the health care they need.
- Threaten health care for veterans. Nearly [a million](#) non-elderly veterans, many of whom suffer with chronic conditions, use Medicaid for all or part of their health care.
- Jeopardize health care for new mothers. Medicaid covers [4 in 10](#) births and is the largest share of maternity coverage.
- Force rural hospitals and clinics to close. [Half](#) of all children and [20%](#) of adults in rural areas get their healthcare through Medicaid.

Republicans are taking away Medicaid so they can give away tax breaks to billionaires, regardless of what they call it. Whether they do it through decreasing federal funding, imposing per capita caps, lifetime caps, or block grants, or adding other burdensome bureaucratic reporting measures known as work requirements, they will all have the same result – taking away Medicaid from people who are counting on it. They're doing it so they can hand that money out in tax breaks to the ultra-rich and big corporations.

Make no mistake, they may call it “work requirements” but it’s just a way to take away Medicaid from people so they can fund their new tax breaks for the wealthy. They expect to cut up to \$120 billion from Medicaid because of the huge number of people who will lose coverage. That's why physician organizations like the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others oppose Medicaid work requirements.

Stopping Republican Premium Hikes (enhanced ACA premium tax credits)

KEY POINT: *Republicans are raising premiums and health care costs for 24 million Americans.*

Republicans are going to raise health care costs for millions of Americans by taking away critical tax credits from working families. Working people will pay higher costs for their health insurance at a time when too many struggle to pay their bills.

Republicans are refusing to extend tax credits for working families, and that will raise costs and rip away health care from millions of Americans. If Republicans take away these tax credits, they'll be taking away health care. Costs will skyrocket by an average of \$2,400 for millions of families, and [5 million people](#) will lose their health care altogether.

Republicans are going to raise costs on middle-class families while they hand out tax breaks to the very rich and biggest corporations. Families will pay up to 90 percent more for their health care, while billionaires and CEOs will get another huge tax break.

Democrats are [united on this issue](#) and fighting to stop premium increases. As of January 2025, a record 24 million Americans are enrolled in quality, affordable coverage because of the tax credits passed by Democrats in Congress without a single Republican vote - that's more than twice as many people with insurance as when Trump held office.

The bottom line: Americans cannot afford Republican premium hikes. Hardworking families are depending on lawmakers to act. Every family should be able to afford health coverage, regardless of their zip code or income. Unless Congress acts now, costs will skyrocket, and millions will lose their insurance, including self-employed Americans, small business owners, people living in high-cost rural areas, farmers, people with pre-existing conditions, older adults, and more.

Prescription Drug Prices

KEY POINT: *Republicans want to ban Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices, increasing costs for seniors and taxpayers, and lining the pockets of big drug companies.*

Republicans want to hike prescription drug prices in order to line the pockets of big drug companies and their CEOs, while Democrats are fighting to expand lower drug costs to more Americans. With Republicans in full control of Washington, drug companies and their GOP allies are redoubling their efforts to hike drug costs for America's seniors by banning Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices. Drug companies are asking the Trump administration to pause drug price negotiations, and President Trump sent a strong signal that he plans to roll back lower drug prices by [revoking a Biden-era order](#) to lower drug prices.

In the wealthiest nation on earth, no one should have to choose between putting food on the table and affording the medications they need to survive. Democrats in Congress lowered drug prices for people with Medicare without a single Republican vote, and they have since been fighting to expand these drug savings to people with private insurance and give Medicare the authority to negotiate lower costs for more drugs more quickly. **Find the facts on the state-level impact of the Inflation Reduction Act [here](#).**

Six in ten seniors report they are concerned about their ability to afford prescription drugs, yet Republicans are trying to raise drug costs while big drug companies rake in multibillion-dollar profits. The seven biggest pharmaceutical companies made [\\$70 billion](#) in profits in 2023 alone, while a [third](#) of Americans can't afford the medicine they need. Meanwhile, Americans pay three times more for the same medications than people in other countries.

Thanks to Democrats in Congress, seniors can purchase insulin for \$35 a month, pay no more than \$2,000 on drugs each year, and pay less for some of the costliest drugs in Medicare. The law also guarantees free shingles and other recommended vaccinations for people on Medicare, and it protects people from egregious drug company price hikes.