

PROTECT OUR CARE

Lower Costs, Better Care: How Democrats' Health Bill Will Benefit South Carolinians

House Democrats are taking concrete steps to reduce health care costs and improve care for millions, including those with health insurance through their employers, by introducing the *Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions And Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019*. By putting an upper limit on how much insurance can cost a family, expanding the number of middle class families who can get financial support, and other cost reduction programs, millions of Americans will see their premiums reduced.

The bill's extended eligibility for tax credits and reinsurance programs would cut premiums for ACA plans sold on the individual market, reducing premiums or deductibles for [13 million](#) with current individual market coverage, including 183,200 in South Carolina, and creating lower cost options for [12 million](#) uninsured people eligible for coverage, including 307,920 in South Carolina, through the marketplace.

How South Carolina Families Would Benefit From House Democrats' Plan:

Those who purchase health care in the marketplaces because they depend on the ACA for care or because their employer-sponsored plan is too expensive, could see the following savings:

A typical South Carolina **family of four making \$50,000** would **pay \$165 rather than \$271 per month for benchmark coverage** on a commonly purchased silver plan. Thanks to (existing) cost sharing assistance, the plans available to them have deductibles averaging about \$850.

A typical South Carolina **family of four making \$75,000** would see their **premiums fall by \$178 per month**. That would cut their premium for benchmark coverage by 29 percent, from \$613 to \$435 a month.

A typical South Carolina **family of four making \$110,000** would see their **premiums fall by \$987 per month**. That would cut their premium for benchmark coverage by 56 percent, from \$1,766 to \$779 a month.

A typical **60-year-old in South Carolina making \$50,000** would see their **premiums fall by \$819 per month**. That would cut their premium for benchmark coverage by 70 percent, from \$1,173 to \$354 a month.

How The Plan Works:

Lower Health Care Costs. The House bill would reduce health care premiums and deductibles, expand eligibility for financial assistance that helps consumers afford coverage, and expand access to affordable health care by guaranteeing affordable care options.

- **Coverage for less than ten percent of your income.** Under the bill, nearly all Americans, including those with coverage through their employer, would be guaranteed an option to purchase health care for less than 10 percent of their income. The bill would let people with employer coverage whose premiums [exceed 9.86 percent](#) of their income to instead purchase individual market coverage with financial assistance.

- **Financial assistance for more people.** For the first time, premium tax credits would be made available to more middle class Americans buying coverage through the ACA, including those with incomes above 400 percent of the federal poverty line or roughly \$100,400 for a family of four.
- **Lowering premiums.** By creating a national reinsurance program the House legislation would help further reduce premiums.

Better Care For More People. The bill would restrict insurance companies' ability to sell plans that gut circumvent important consumer protections. By helping to lower costs, the House bill would also expand access to comprehensive, affordable care for even more people.

- **Lowering premiums for more than 183,200 South Carolinians and making lower-cost options available to as many as 307,920 South Carolinians.** In all, the bill's extended tax credits, reinsurance programs and premium assistance would cut premiums for all ACA-compliant plans sold on the individual market, reducing premiums or deductibles for [13 million](#) with individual market coverage and creating lower cost options for [12 million](#) uninsured people eligible for coverage through the marketplace.
- **Protecting 1,997,600 South Carolinians with pre-existing conditions.** The legislation would stop the Trump administration's plans to allow insurance companies to sell junk plans that deny people with pre-existing conditions coverage or charge them more.
- **Guaranteeing that insurance companies cover basic health services.** The bill would reverse the Trump administration's junk plans that do not require insurance companies to cover essential health benefits, such as prescription drug coverage, hospital care, and maternity coverage. Among junk plans offered in South Carolina, 53 percent exclude mental health coverage, 65 percent exclude substance use treatment, 71 percent exclude prescription drugs, and *all* exclude maternity care.
- **Taking power away from insurance companies and gives it back to patients.** While the Trump administration gives insurance companies the power to flood the market with junk plans and rewards them with massive tax breaks, this bill reinstates important protections for American consumers, giving power back to patients.

End Sabotage. Since taking office, the Trump administration has [worked relentlessly to sabotage](#) Americans' health care, expanding access to junk plans that allow insurance companies to deny coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions and slashing funding to help people sign up for comprehensive, affordable care.

- **Restoring funding for education.** The House bill would restore marketing funding for health care sold through the marketplace, which the Trump administration has cut by [90 percent](#) since taking office.
- **Restoring funding for groups that help people sign up for coverage.** Funding for health navigator groups that help people sign up for comprehensive care would also be restored. This would restore funding for South Carolina groups, which have seen [80 percent](#) funding cuts since 2016.