

Lower Costs, Better Care for Pennsylvanians

There is an urgent need to lower health costs, expand coverage, and reduce racial health disparities across Pennsylvania. That is why it is essential to ensure critical health care measures supported by President Biden remain in upcoming budget reconciliation legislation, specifically empowering Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices for all Americans, creating a federal solution to close the Medicaid coverage gap, expanding Medicare benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing, and making the premium reductions included in the American Rescue Plan permanent, so Pennsylvanians can continue to access low-cost coverage.

Americans support bold action to lower health costs and curb soaring drug prices, with [88 percent](#) in favor of allowing Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical corporations to lower prices. President Biden is committed to tackling these issues head on, demonstrated by his commitment to expanding health coverage through [enhanced subsidies](#), closing the [Medicaid coverage gap](#), and [support](#) for Medicare drug price negotiation.

Pennsylvanians depend on affordable health care, expanded access to coverage, and drug pricing reform to live healthy lives. Empowering the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices would save Americans more than [\\$150 billion](#) at the pharmacy counter and create an additional [\\$500 billion](#) in savings for the federal government that could be reinvested to [reduce premiums](#), [expand Medicare benefits](#) to include dental, vision, and hearing, and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the 12 states that have [refused to accept expansion](#). We must act now.

The American Rescue Plan Has Helped 337,722 Pennsylvanians Access Affordable Care

- **Strong Marketplace Enrollment.** More than [337,000](#) Pennsylvania residents have signed up for coverage through the Marketplace in 2021.
- **Increasing Health Coverage Access For Thousands of Pennsylvanians.** The American Rescue Plan has [reduced or eliminated](#) Marketplace premiums for thousands in Pennsylvania. Under the plan, [109,900](#) uninsured Pennsylvanians are newly eligible for health coverage tax credits and 15,900 individuals have access to coverage with zero dollar premiums.
- **Meaningful Savings On Premiums.** Premium savings under the American Rescue Plan benefit all Americans. For example, a 60-year-old couple with an annual income of \$75,000 will see their monthly premiums drop from \$1,933, to just \$531, saving more than [\\$1,402](#) each month.
- **Improving Maternal Health Access.** For new mothers, the American Rescue Plan has created a pathway to coverage, providing states the opportunity to extend [postpartum coverage](#) under Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months following birth.

Lowering Prescription Drug Costs

- **Drug Price Hikes Are Outpacing Inflation.** In 2019, American prescription drug spending soared to [\\$369.7 billion](#), an increase of 5.7 percent, more than [three times](#) the inflation rate for the same period.
- **One Quarter Of Americans Struggle To Access Essential Medications.** [Nearly one in four](#) Americans taking prescription drugs struggles to afford needed medications, with 29 percent reporting not taking medications as instructed within the past year due to cost.
- **Drug Price Negotiation Would Save Billions.** The single most effective measure to bring down drug costs is to empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices. Negotiation would save patients more than [\\$150 billion](#) and create [\\$500 billion](#) in savings for the federal government.
- **Reinvestment Of Savings.** When the federal government saves on drug costs, those funds become available to [reduce premiums](#), [expand Medicare benefits](#) to include dental, vision, and hearing, and close the [Medicaid coverage gap](#) in the 12 states that have [refused to accept expansion](#).

- **Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Is Overwhelming Popular.** [Nearly nine in ten](#) Americans support empowering Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.

Drug Prices In Pennsylvania

- In 2019, Pennsylvanians spent [over \\$330 million](#) in cash on prescription drugs.
- A 2018 survey found [19 percent](#) of Pennsylvania respondents reported they were unable to fill a prescription due to cost. [Two in three](#) Pennsylvanians are “worried” or “very worried” about the cost of prescription drugs.
- [76 percent](#) of Pennsylvanians identified pharmaceutical companies overcharging for prescription drugs as the “major reason” for high health costs.
- [Millions](#) of Pennsylvanians have chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes, and asthma that require prescription drugs for treatment and management.
- Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly support allowing Medicare to negotiate better drug prices. A 2020 poll from AARP found that [90 percent](#) of older Pennsylvania voters were more likely to vote for candidates who support allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices.

Expanding Coverage

- **Millions Nationwide Would Gain Stable Coverage.** [4.2 million](#) uninsured people would gain coverage if the American Rescue Plan’s subsidies are made permanent, and millions more would continue to save on health care costs.
- **Permanent Health Coverage Subsidies Would Benefit Older Pennsylvanians.** More than [337,000](#) Pennsylvanian’s selected a plan on the Marketplace in 2021, with older adults between [55 and 64](#) making up more than a third of enrollees. The American Rescue Plan offers [significant relief](#) for older individuals, including those at 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

Expanding Medicare Benefits

- **More than 1.5 Million Pennsylvanians Would Benefit From Expanded Coverage.** Nearly [38 million](#) traditional Medicare enrollees would gain dental, vision, and hearing coverage if Medicare benefits were expanded. Due to lack of coverage, [nearly half](#) of Medicare beneficiaries did not seek dental care in the past year.
- **Medicare Beneficiaries Are 21 Percent Of Pennsylvania’s Residents.** In 2018, more than [one in five](#) Pennsylvanians were Medicare beneficiaries. Recent reports have found between [47](#) and [64](#) percent of Medicare beneficiaries do not have dental coverage, [74 percent](#) lack vision coverage, and [76 percent](#) go without hearing coverage.
- **Income And Racial Inequity Increase Health Disparities.** Half of all Medicare beneficiaries live on annual incomes below [\\$29,650](#), pushing dental, vision, and hearing coverage out of reach. For [beneficiaries of color](#) or those living in [rural](#) areas, accessing these essential benefits has become increasingly challenging.

Senator Bob Casey Is Standing Up For Pennsylvanians’ Care

Senator Casey Was An Enthusiastic Supporter Of The American Rescue Plan, Providing Relief For Pennsylvania Families. Casey [voted for](#) the American Rescue Plan, historic legislation that includes measures to expand coverage and to dramatically lower health care costs for thousands of Pennsylvania families. In addition to providing critical pandemic relief, the ARP lowers premiums for people purchasing coverage through the marketplaces and expands access to financial assistance for more middle-class families. Casey [praised the law](#), stating “This historic legislation will put more money in the pockets of working families, help children return to school safely, ensure everyone who wants to be can be vaccinated, and help our Nation put this vicious virus behind us. Congress must work to ensure that the American Rescue Plan is fully implemented and supported by additional measures to help working families recover from the effects of this public health crisis and build back better than ever.”

Representative Wild Is Fighting For Pennsylvanians’ Care

Representative Wild Is Leading The Effort To Lower Prescription Drug Prices. In July, Wild authored a [letter](#) with 14 other Democrats urging leadership to include giving Medicare the power to negotiate prescription drug prices in the upcoming reconciliation legislation, [stating](#), “American families are forced into an impossible choice: to not take their medicine, to ration it, or to put food on the table and keep a roof over their head. As you know, pharmaceutical corporations are charging Americans prices that are three, four, and even ten times higher than what they charge for the same drugs in other countries...giving Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices to ensure that Americans are no longer price-gouged for life-saving medications is critical.”

Representative Wild Voted For Historic Legislation To Lower Prescription Drug Prices. Representative Wild voted for the 2019 Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act ([H.R. 3](#)), historic legislation to drastically reduce Americans’ prescription drug prices by up to 55% and save taxpayers nearly \$500 billion over the next 10 years. H.R. 3 included the most comprehensive drug pricing reform in American history and the largest expansion to Medicare’s benefits in decades. Wild [praised](#) the bill, saying “The days of putting profits over people must come to an end...No one should have to live in fear of the cost of their health care. Our system has failed the American people, and today we committed to putting their health and well-being first.”

Representative Wild Supported Providing Relief For Pennsylvania Families With The American Rescue Plan. Wild [voted for](#) the American Rescue Plan, which includes measures to expand coverage and to dramatically lower health care costs for thousands of families across Pennsylvania. In addition to providing critical pandemic relief, the ARP lowers premiums for people purchasing coverage through the marketplaces and expands access to financial assistance for more middle-class families.

Senator Pat Toomey Is Part Of The Problem

Toomey Opposed The American Rescue Plan And Relief For Pennsylvanians

Senator Toomey Voted Against The American Rescue Plan And Relief For Pennsylvania Families. Alongside all of his Republican colleagues, Pat Toomey [voted against](#) the American Rescue Plan, historic legislation that expands coverage and dramatically lowers health care costs. In addition to providing essential pandemic relief, the ARP lowers premiums for people purchasing coverage through the marketplaces and expands access to financial assistance for more middle-class families.

Toomey Has Received Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Pharmaceutical Contributions

Senator Toomey Has Received Over \$850,000 In Contributions From Pharmaceutical Companies And Executives. Over the course of his career, Patrick Toomey has received \$869,735 in [contributions](#) from pharmaceutical PACs and executives.