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Republicans Across The Country Are Waging War On Medicaid Threatening The Health Of Millions Of Americans

Republicans across the country are waging a relentless war on Medicaid, blocking expansion in state houses and running for Congress with an agenda to repeal the Affordable Care Act, dismantle expansion and throw millions of Americans off their care. Nearly 79 million Americans receive their care through Medicaid and are vulnerable to these GOP attacks. The Republican war on Medicaid is a war on children, seniors, people with disabilities, rural Americans, those fighting the opioid crisis, our schools, and everyone else who benefits from Medicaid.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE BLOCKING MEDICAID EXPANSION AND THROWING UP BARRIERS TO CARE

Florida: Republican leaders in Florida, led by Governor Ron DeSantis, have been blocking Medicaid expansion in Florida for years, preventing up to 1.3 million Floridians from obtaining desperately needed coverage. Even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has killed thousands of Floridians and left thousands more in need of health care coverage, DeSantis remains a "hard no" on expanding Medicaid.

Georgia: Governor Brian Kemp has been resisting full expansion of Medicaid in Georgia for years. Brian Kemp campaigned for office on his vehement opposition to expanding Medicaid. Kemp has dismissed Medicaid as a failed government program saying that "to add more people to a system where doctors aren't taking patients and they're losing 14 cents on the dollar is not the way to go." Kemp is now proposing a limited expansion of Medicaid that would leave hundreds of thousands of Georgians uninsured. Although the Biden administration has rejected Kemp's half measures, he has promised to keep fighting in court to impose onerous work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries in Georgia.

Missouri: Voters in Missouri passed a referendum to expand Medicaid in 2020, but Republicans in the state legislature have tried for years to roll back and block legislation to fund the expansionIn. Even after the courts ordered them to enact expansion, Missouri Republicans continue to drag their feet and erect barriers to enrollment.

South Dakota: Expanding Medicaid in South Dakota could provide coverage to up to 43,000 more people, but Governor Kristi Noem and her Republican allies have been blocking expansion for years. This fall, South Dakota voters will decide whether to expand Medicaid in the state, but Gov. Noem continues to campaign against it, claiming that expansion means increased taxes and that people who really need coverage already have it.

Texas: Expanding Medicaid in Texas could cover up to 1,665,000 more people. Last year, a bipartisan group of state legislators backed a plan to finally expand Medicaid in the state, but Gov. Greg Abbott and his allies continued to block the expansion as he has since becoming governor in 2015.

Wisconsin: Democratic Governor Tony Evers and Democrats in the State Legislature have repeatedly tried to expand Medicaid to cover more than 90,000 additional Wisconsinites. However, Republicans, led by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos continue to block the expansion with Vos saying that no amount of federal funding could ever convince him to allow more Wisconsinites to receive coverage under Medicaid.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS ARE RUNNING ON REPEALING THE ACA AND DEVASTATING MEDICAID EXPANSION

Arizona: Major candidates for Senate in Arizona are cheerleaders for repealing the ACA, a move which would devastate Medicaid. State Attorney General and Senate candidate Mark Brnovich was one of the lead attorneys general seeking to overturn the entire ACA in 2018. Blake Masters called the ACA a "disaster" and Jim Lamon is actively campaigning against the law, proposing to "redesign or eliminate" Obamacare as part of his platform.

Colorado: Three out of four Republican candidates running for the new Eighth District in Colorado have pledged to repeal the ACA. Tyler Alcorn, a former Green Beret; Lori Saine, a Weld County commissioner; and state Thornton Mayor Jan Kulmann all said they would repeal Obamacare if Republicans took control of the House.

Florida: Sen. Marco Rubio has voted for multiple Republican schemes to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Had Rubio and the Republicans been successful, they would have dismantled Medicaid expansion, and capped and cut Medicaid funding, stripping coverage from millions of Americans. Sen. Rick Scott, the chair of the NRSC, has gone even further, proposing a disastrous agenda for a Republican Senate majority that includes "sunsetting" every federal law after five years – including the Affordable Care Act and even Medicaid itself

Georgia: At a Senate candidate forum, four Republicans seeking to run against Senator Raphael Warnock offered support for repealing the ACA. Former state legislator Josh Clark said he "went office by office trying to make sure that we did not implement the Not Affordable Care Act in the state of Georgia." Latham Saddler said the U.S. should "get rid of the rest of Obamacare is what we need to do, for starters." State Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black said he was "disappointed" that Republicans haven't repealed Obamacare, and Kelvin King said, "obviously we need to eliminate" the law.

Missouri: Senate Candidate and Attorney General Eric Schmitt was another leader seeking to overturn the entire ACA in the courts in 2018. Reps. Billy Long and Vicky Hartzler, who are also running for Senate, are longtime opponents of the ACA and voted for the 2017 AHCA GOP repeal plan that would have slashed coverage protections and driven up costs. And Eric Greitens has backed GOP ACA repeal plans for years.

Nevada: Senate Candidate Adam Laxalt has campaigned against the Affordable Care Act for years, calling it the "most flawed piece of major legislation America has ever endured."

North Carolina: Two Republican Senate candidates in North Carolina – Ted Budd and Mark Walker – supported the 2017 GOP AHCA repeal plan, which would have thrown hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians off of Medicaid. And former Governor Pat McCrory, now running for Senate himself, spent his term in office working feverishly to block Medicaid expansion in North Carolina.

Ohio: Every GOP Senate candidate in Ohio has spent years cheerleading for repeal of the ACA. In 2012, Josh Mandel said he was "hopeful" that he would be the deciding vote to repeal the ACA. Jane Timken first got involved in politics because of her zeal to repeal Obamacare. In 2017, Mike Gibbons called the law "a disaster" and said "after we repeal ObamaCare, we need to start from scratch." And on his campaign website in 2022, Matt Dolan continues to claim that the ACA was "conceived wrongly, implemented poorly and has become a tool of partisan grift."

Pennsylvania: Dr. Mehmet Oz spent years supporting the ACA and promoting enrollment, but now that he's running for Senate as a Republican, he calls the ACA "wrong" and says he "would not have voted for Obamacare."

Wisconsin: Sen. Ron Johnson said in March 2022 that Republicans should repeal the ACA if they retake the Senate following on his comments from 2021 when he said he regrets that Republicans have failed to eliminate the law.