

PROTECT OUR CARE

Day of Action: Congress Must Take Action Now to Stop Premium Hikes

Health Care Activists, Advocacy Groups, and Concerned Citizens Will Raise Alarm About Threat of Premium Hikes on Thursday, June 23

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Intro: Sounding the Alarm on Health Insurance Premium Hikes

Next year, millions of Americans will see dramatic increases in their health care costs if Congress fails to extend the enhanced premium tax credits in the American Rescue Plan – and millions will no longer be able to afford insurance at all. The first glimpse into how these increases will play out across the country arrived last month when private insurers in Vermont proposed rate increases as high as 24 percent.

What is happening in Vermont should serve as a wake up call. Similar premium price hikes are what Americans have in store if the premium savings provided in the American Rescue Plan are not extended. Experts say insurers are likely to seek double digit increases in state after state, due to issues like supply chain shortages, projected COVID costs, and increased hospital costs. Congress must move swiftly to prevent skyrocketing premium increases and protect health coverage for millions.

Day of Action: Lawmakers must hear the dire consequences if they fail to act. On Thursday June 23, health care activists, advocacy groups and concerned citizens across the country will engage in a day of action calling on Congress to act urgently to keep health care premiums low. Only Congress can prevent dramatic premium increases and widespread coverage loss by extending the American Rescue Plan’s tax credits now.

Background:

The American Rescue Plan saved American families thousands on their premiums, but the expanded tax credits that powered those savings will end this year, driving up 2023 premiums for Americans who buy insurance on their own. This will force nearly nine million Americans to pay significantly more for their health coverage and cause three million to become uninsured.

Open enrollment for 2023 plans begins on November 1, 2022, a week before Election Day, and rate increases are locked in during summer and fall. If Congress does not act, news of premiums skyrocketing will be front and center just as Americans begin signing up for coverage and as people go to the polls in November.

If Congress Fails to Act:

- **Millions Will Lose Coverage.** More than [3 million](#) people will become uninsured if the American Rescue Plan's enhanced premium tax credits expire—increasing the number of uninsured Americans by 11 percent.
- **Premium Increases Will Be Widespread.** Insurers are already pursuing double-digit premium [increases](#). Nearly [nine million](#) Americans will retain their marketplace coverage but will be forced to pay significantly higher rates.
- **Geographic And Racial Disparities Will Grow.** Three states—Florida, Georgia, and Texas—will make up [half](#) of the increase of uninsured Americans if the tax credits are allowed to lapse. Americans living in rural areas, like West Virginia, will suffer disproportionately, with premiums already an average of [10 percent](#) higher than in urban areas.

Timeline For Premium Increases:

- **Currently Underway:** Insurance providers are currently negotiating premium rates for 2023. If Congress does not act to extend the ARP's premiums savings, insurers will be forced to assume the tax credits will expire at the end of the year, which will result in [sizable premium price increases](#). Already, private health insurers in Vermont have requested approvals for [double-digit premium increases](#) from state regulators in 2023.
- **July:** Many premium rate changes on state exchanges will be [finalized and public](#) beginning at the start of July.
- **September & October:** Insurers planning to offer health plans on the ACA marketplaces are required to submit their premiums for 2023 to state or federal regulators. Enrollees will be [notified](#) of plan price changes officially in September and October, with rates required to be [finalized](#) by October 15.
- **November 1:** The annual [open enrollment period](#) for ACA marketplaces begins November 1.

- **November 8:** Election Day is [November 8](#), one week after open enrollment for 2023 is set to [begin](#).

Polling Shows Americans Strongly Support Premium Savings

Americans Support Lowering Health Insurance Premiums In Navigator Poll. 75 percent of Americans backed President Biden's plan to lower health coverage premiums by up to \$2,400 a year for people purchasing their own insurance. [Navigator, [5/6/22](#)]

- **Voters From Across The Political Spectrum Want Action To Lower Premiums.** 87 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of independents, and 63 percent of Republicans support government action to cut premium costs by up to \$2,400 a year for those purchasing coverage on the marketplaces. [Navigator, [5/6/22](#)]

Data For Progress Poll Finds Voters Overwhelmingly Support Biden's Plan To Lower Health Care Premiums. 79 percent of voters back Biden's plan to lower health insurance premiums for people buying coverage on the marketplaces. [Data For Progress, [5/4/22](#)]

KFF Poll Finds Americans Overwhelmingly Support Biden's Plan To Lower Health Care Costs. [KFF, [3/31/22](#)]

- **ACA Premium Savings.** 63 percent prioritize making permanent the financial help for people buying marketplace health coverage that was included in COVID-19 relief law. [KFF, [3/31/22](#)]

Pew Survey Finds Health Care Ranked Third Most Important Issue For Americans. [Pew Research, [3/24/22](#)]

- **Health Care Remains Top Issue.** 60 percent of voters ranked health care as a top issue for the fall election, with 74 percent of Democrats saying it is very important to their vote and 44 percent of Republicans voters saying the same. [Pew Research, [3/24/22](#)]

Navigator Finds Lowering Health Care Premiums For People Purchasing Coverage Remains Priority. Four out of the five top priorities are health provisions included in President Biden's agenda. [Navigator, [1/28/22](#)]

- **Lowering Premiums.** Overall, 78 percent believed lowering premiums for people purchasing health coverage on their own was a good reason to pass Biden's agenda, including 91 percent of Democrats, 77 percent of independents, and 64 percent of Republicans. [Navigator, [1/28/22](#)]

Fact Sheet: At Risk: Health Care Savings Millions Depend On

More Than 14.5 Million People Have Coverage Through The Individual Market. In 2021, [14.5 million](#) people signed up for health coverage through an ACA Marketplace. This is the highest number of Americans to ever enroll and it is thanks to President Biden's [American Rescue Plan](#). Premium savings under the American Rescue Plan benefit millions of Americans, with families now saving an average of [\\$2,400](#) a year on their health insurance premiums.

Guarantees Coverage That Costs Less Than 8.5 Percent Of Income. The American Rescue Plan builds on the ACA by ensuring enrollees have the option to purchase health care for less than 8.5 percent of their income. Previously, families earning just above 400 percent of the federal poverty level spent an average of [15 percent](#) of their incomes on health insurance.

Eliminates Premiums For Low-Wage Workers. The American Rescue Plan [eliminated premiums](#) for Americans earning up to [150 percent](#) of the federal poverty level (roughly \$20,000 for a single person and \$41,000 for a family of four) who buy their coverage on the Marketplace and for those receiving unemployment insurance due to the pandemic.

Make Coverage More Affordable For Millions Of Americans. The American Rescue Plan temporarily expanded the eligibility for premium tax credits above 400 percent of the federal poverty level – [roughly](#) \$54,000 for a single person or \$111,000 for a family of four.

Reduces Racial Disparities In Health Coverage. The premium savings provided in the American Rescue Plan have made more than [65 percent](#) of uninsured Black adults eligible for zero dollar premium plans and [75 percent](#) eligible for plans less than \$50 a month. For uninsured Hispanic and Latino adults, now more than [68 percent](#) are eligible for zero dollar premium plans and nearly [80 percent](#) can access plans for less than \$50 a month. Health coverage access is imperative to reducing racial disparities in health coverage across the nation.

Cuts Costs For Rural America. Thanks to the ARP, roughly [65 percent](#) of rural Americans can access zero dollar premium health coverage and more than [76 percent](#) are able to find a plan for less than \$50 a month, narrowing the coverage differences between rural and urban America.

State Examples

Arizona

- A 30-year-old Arizonan earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$70](#), a 7000 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Arizona earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 72 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.

- An Arizona family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 62 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Colorado

- A 50-year-old Coloradan earning \$25,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$94](#), a 294 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Colorado earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$163](#), or a 71 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Colorado family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 62 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Florida

- A 30-year-old Floridian earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$70](#), a 2333 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Florida earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 71 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Florida family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 61 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Georgia

- A 30-year-old Georgian earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$70](#), a 1750 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Georgia earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 70 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Georgia family of four with an annual income of \$40,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$138](#), or a 4600 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Iowa

- A 50-year-old Iowan earning \$25,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$94](#), a 313 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Iowa earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$163](#), or a 72 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Iowa family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 63 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Nevada

- A 30-year-old Nevadan earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$70](#), a 1750 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Nevada earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 70 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Nevada family of four with an annual income of \$40,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$138](#), or a 4600 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

New Hampshire

- A 30-year-old Granite Stater earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$69](#), a 6900 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in New Hampshire earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$163](#), or a 71 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A New Hampshire family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 62 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

New Jersey

- A 50-year-old New Jerseyan earning \$25,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$93](#), a 321 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in New Jersey earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 74 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A New Jersey family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 64 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Pennsylvania

- A 50-year-old Pennsylvanian earning \$25,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$94](#), a 783 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Pennsylvania earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$163](#), or a 79 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Pennsylvania family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 71 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

West Virginia

- A 50-year-old West Virginian earning \$25,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$93](#), a 344 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in West Virginia earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 74 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A West Virginia family of four with an annual income of \$80,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$247](#), or a 64 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.

Wisconsin

- A 30-year-old Wisconsinite earning \$20,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$70](#), a 1750 percent increase, if the tax credits are not extended.
- A single parent with one child in Wisconsin earning \$50,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$164](#), or a 70 percent increase without continued federal subsidies.
- A Wisconsin family of four with an annual income of \$40,000 will see a monthly premium hike of [\\$138](#), or a 4600 percent increase without an extension of the American Rescue Plan's tax credits.