

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## **FACT SHEET: Every Republican Voted To Keep Drug Prices High And Charge Millions Of Americans More For Health Insurance**

While President Biden and Congressional Democrats fought tirelessly to pass the historic health care investments included in the Inflation Reduction Act, every Republican in the House and Senate opted to keep drug prices high and charge millions of Americans more for health care by voting against the bill. And now Republican leaders like [Rick Scott](#) and [Chip Roy](#) are even threatening to shut down the federal government to try and roll back this law and force Americans to pay more for their health care and prescription drugs.

This historic legislation reduces the cost of prescription drugs by reining in Big Pharma and slashes costs for millions of Americans purchasing coverage on their own through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces. Not only does this law address our most pressing health care challenges, it also puts downward pressure on rising costs and is [backed](#) by more than 120 world renowned economists. But Republicans stood against all of that by giving in to hundreds of millions of dollars in Big Pharma pressure and standing in unified opposition to the Inflation Reduction Act.

Republicans have worked relentlessly for over a decade to repeal and sabotage the ACA and now they're continuing their campaign for higher costs and worse care by opposing the historic investment in health care made by the Inflation Reduction Act, which improves the health and well-being of seniors, people of color, rural Americans, and people with disabilities, strengthens families, and will save lives.

### ***Republicans Voted To Let Big Pharma Keep Controlling Prescription Drug Prices***

**Every Republican In Congress Voted To Block Medicare From Negotiating Lower Drug Prices.** For nearly 20 years, Medicare has been banned from negotiating the price of prescription drugs for seniors, and Big Pharma has been able to dictate prices while Americans pay three times more for their medications than people in other countries. Every Republican voted to leave that ban in place by voting against the Inflation Reduction Act. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare is empowered to negotiate prices for select drugs for Medicare Part D's [49 million](#) beneficiaries.

**Every Republican In Congress Opposed Capping Out-Of-Pocket Spending For Seniors.** Every Republican in Congress voted against helping the more than [1.4 million](#) Medicare enrollees who paid more than \$2,000 in out-of-pocket costs in 2020. Seniors with serious conditions like cancer, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis will save thousands of dollars on prescriptions under the Inflation Reduction Act, which caps Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs at [\\$2,000](#) per year beginning in 2025.

**Every Republican In Congress Voted For Higher Insulin Prices For Americans With Diabetes.** Every Republican in Congress voted against capping insulin copays for Medicare beneficiaries at [\\$35](#) each month starting in [2023](#). Almost all Republicans in the Senate also voted to [block](#) applying the \$35 monthly cap to people with private insurance, forcing higher prices onto millions of Americans with diabetes.

**Every Republican In Congress Voted To Let Big Pharma Keep Raising Prices.** The Inflation Reduction Act stops Big Pharma from raising Medicare drug prices faster than the rate of [inflation](#) beginning in 2023. For example, Humira, a medication commonly used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, is one of the nation's highest revenue generating drugs, raking in \$21 billion in sales in 2019. AbbVie, Humira's manufacturer, has hiked the price of Humira [27 times](#), including in January 2021 when it raised its cost by [7.4 percent](#). Over the [past 20 years](#), price increases for brand-name drugs in Medicare Part D have risen at more than twice the rate of inflation.

### ***The Inflation Reduction Act Lowers Health Insurance Premiums***

**Every Republican In Congress Voted For Higher Health Insurance Premiums for Millions of Americans.** A record breaking 14.5 million Americans enrolled in an ACA marketplace plan in 2021. Right now, [nearly 13 million](#) people, or 89 percent with an ACA plan, are receiving enhanced premium tax credits, making their coverage affordable and accessible. The Inflation Reduction Act saves the average American family [\\$2,400](#) a year and is extended through 2025.

**Every Republican In Congress Voted Against Capping the Amount of Money Families Pay for Health Insurance.** The Inflation Reduction Act ensures families pay no more than [8.5 percent](#) of their income towards coverage. This [helps middle and working class families](#) facing excessive premiums or living in high-premium areas. Every Republican in Congress voted to go back to the days before the American Rescue Plan, when middle class families spent an average of [15 percent](#) of their incomes on health insurance.

**Every Republican In Congress Opposed Expanding Coverage for Communities of Color.** The Center on Budget Policy and Priorities estimates the increased savings continued under the Inflation Reduction Act will cause a sharp decline in the uninsured rate across every racial group, with [one in three](#) uninsured Black adults gaining coverage. Health coverage access is imperative to reducing racial disparities in health coverage across the nation and every Republican in Congress voted against it.

**Every Republican In Congress Voted To Make Low-Wage Workers Pay Higher Premiums.** The Inflation Reduction Act ensures no American with an income at or below [150 percent](#) of the federal poverty level buying their coverage on the Marketplace pays a premium.

**Every Republican In Congress Voted For Higher Costs For Rural America.** Thanks to the provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, which every Republican in Congress voted against, roughly [65 percent](#) of rural Americans will have access to zero dollar premium health coverage and more than [76 percent](#) will be able to find a plan for less than \$50 a month, narrowing the coverage differences between rural and urban America.