



New Report

The Republican Default Plan Threatens California Veterans' Health Care

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Fact Sheet: ***The Republican Default Plan Threatens California Veterans' Health Care***

California Has The Largest Veteran Population in the Country—And Stands To Lose the Most From GOP Cuts. [Over 1.7 million](#) Californians are veterans, the highest total veteran population in the country, around 44 percent of whom are enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) system. In addition to reducing access to outpatient visits, cutting funding for the VHA would create a backlog of 134,000 claims nationwide and cut up to \$565 million for critical upgrades to clinics and hospitals, delaying critical care for California veterans who rely on aging VHA facilities for life-saving care. The state accounts for more than 9 percent of VA Medical Care expenditures, meaning California veterans may stand to lose the most from GOP funding cuts.

The Republican Default Plan Threatens Medical Care for 524,200 California Veterans. House Republicans' "Default on America" Act [cuts funding](#) for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) by 22 percent, which would result in 30 million fewer outpatient visits for our nation's veterans all across the country and 81,000 jobs lost across the VHA. That means [524,200 veterans](#) could lose access to outpatient visits in California, leaving them unable to get appointments for care like wellness visits, mental health services, and substance disorder treatment. Moreover, top House Republicans [lied about their plans](#) to cut funding for veterans' care and even [threatened](#) to investigate the Department of Veterans Affairs for releasing impact projections.

- **California Veterans Of Color, Particularly Black Veterans, Could Be Disproportionately Impacted By The Republican Default Plan.** [Upwards of 40 percent](#) of California veterans are people of color, compared to about 37 percent of California overall. About 1 in 10 California veterans are Black, despite Black residents forming only [about 5.6 percent](#) of California's population.

California Veterans Risk Losing Medicaid Coverage Under The Republican Default Plan. Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it more difficult for California veterans on Medicaid to maintain coverage. Medicaid covers [nearly 1 in 10](#) non-elderly veterans nationwide and plays a [critical role](#) for low-income veterans. 39 percent of veterans with Medicaid coverage rely on it as their sole source of coverage.

The 30 Percent Of California Veterans with Disabilities Could Face New Barriers to Health Care. [Nearly 30 percent](#) of California veterans have disabilities, compared to about

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13.4 percent of California overall. The GOP plan stigmatizes people with disabilities, requiring them to seek a determination from their health care provider that they are “physically or mentally unfit for employment” in order to qualify for an exemption from burdensome paperwork requirements. [54 percent](#) of veterans with Medicaid coverage have a disability, and many Medicaid enrollees with disabilities or serious health conditions aren’t enrolled in SSI or SSDI due to narrow constraints and existing bureaucratic obstacles.

California Has The Highest Number Of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness—Who Face Significant Barriers To Maintaining Medicaid Coverage Under the Republican Default Plan. Veterans are [more likely](#) to face homelessness than the general population, and California has the [highest number](#) of veterans experiencing homelessness in the country—nearly 8x higher than the second-highest state. Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it [harder](#) for people experiencing homelessness to maintain Medicaid coverage. People experiencing homelessness face [significant barriers](#) to work, from physical and behavioral health conditions to [homelessness itself](#) acting as a barrier to employment. Furthermore, the Republican debt plan [cuts funding](#) for job training and job readiness counseling programs.

The GOP Plan Rips Health Care Away From California Veteran Caregivers. The GOP plan would cut Medicaid coverage for caregivers of adults with disabilities or chronic or temporary illness, including California veterans, who are [more than twice as likely](#) to have disabilities than the general population. For example, in many cases, if an adult child needed to leave the workforce to care for a veteran parent, they would lose health coverage.