



*New Report*

# The Republican Default Plan Threatens Georgia Veterans' Health Care

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

### **The Republican Default Plan Threatens Medical Care for 210,900 Georgia 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 [210,900 veterans](#) could lose access to outpatient visits in Georgia, 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.

**Republican Cuts Would Cause Significant Processing Delays For Just Under Half of Georgia Veterans' Care.** In addition to reducing access to outpatient visits, cutting funding for the Veterans Health Administration (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 Georgia veterans who rely on aging VHA facilities for life-saving care. [Around 703,000](#) Georgians are veterans—[over 42 percent](#) of whom are people of color—and just under half are enrolled in the VA health system, meaning Georgia veterans stand to lose greatly from GOP funding cuts.

- **Black Veterans in Georgia Could Be Disproportionately Impacted By The Republican Default Plan.** [About 1 in 3](#) Georgia veterans are Black, compared to around 30 percent of Georgia's population overall, meaning Black veterans in Georgia could be disproportionately impacted by cuts to VHA services.

### **Georgia Veterans Risk Losing Medicaid Coverage Under The Republican Default Plan.**

Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it more difficult for Georgia 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 Georgia Veterans with Disabilities Could Face New Barriers to Health Care.** [30 percent](#) of Georgia veterans have disabilities, compared to around 16 percent of Georgians overall. The GOP plan stigmatizes people with disabilities, requiring them to seek a determination from their health care provider that they are "physically or

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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.

**Georgia Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Face Significant Barriers To Maintaining Medicaid Coverage Under the Republican Default Plan.** Veterans are [more likely](#) to face homelessness than the general population, and Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it [harder](#) for Georgia veterans 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 Georgia Veteran Caregivers.** The GOP plan would cut Medicaid coverage for caregivers of adults with disabilities or chronic or temporary illness, including Georgia veterans, who are [more than 1.9 times 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.