



*New Report*

# The Republican Default Plan Threatens Pennsylvania Veterans' Health Care

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

**The Republican Default Plan Threatens Medical Care for 272,600 Pennsylvania 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 [272,600 veterans](#) could lose access to outpatient visits in Pennsylvania, 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 The 41 Percent of Pennsylvania Veterans Enrolled In VHA 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 Pennsylvania veterans who rely on aging VHA facilities for life-saving care. [Over 813,000](#) Pennsylvanians are veterans—roughly [16 percent](#) of whom are people of color—and around 41 percent are enrolled in the VHA system. Pennsylvania accounts for more than 3 percent of VA Medical Care expenditures and ranks fourth in the country for total veteran population, and the state stands to lose greatly from GOP funding cuts.

**Pennsylvania Veterans Risk Losing Medicaid Coverage Under The Republican Default Plan.** Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it more difficult for Pennsylvania 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 29 Percent Of Pennsylvania Veterans with Disabilities Could Face New Barriers to Health Care.** [About 29 percent](#) of Pennsylvania veterans have disabilities, compared to just over 16 percent of Pennsylvanians 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

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serious health conditions aren't enrolled in SSI or SSDI due to narrow constraints and existing bureaucratic obstacles.

**Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania Veteran Caregivers.** The GOP plan would cut Medicaid coverage for caregivers of adults with disabilities or chronic or temporary illness, including Pennsylvania veterans, who are [more than 1.8 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.