



*New Report*

# The Republican Default Plan Threatens Veterans' Health Care

May 2023

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## ***Fact Sheet:***

### ***The Republican Default Plan Threatens Veterans' Health Care***

After years of trying to take health care away from the American people, Republicans are back at it again with their 'Default on America' Act, which slashes veterans' health care funding and threatens to take health care away from millions of veterans who currently rely on the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for health care. The Republican default plan [cuts funding](#) for the VHA, and other critical federal health care programs that veterans rely on, by 22 percent, meaning:

- 30 million fewer outpatient visits
- 81,000 jobs lost across the Veterans Health Administration
- A backlog of 134,000 claims
- \$565 million in cuts earmarked for major construction projects, including critical upgrades to clinics and hospitals
- ...and so much more.

This plan has one goal in mind: rip away benefits and deny people access to health care. In addition to reckless cuts to critical health programs, Republicans' plan could rip health care away from 21 million people who count on it. It imposes onerous paperwork requirements on veterans enrolled in Medicaid and their caregivers that will take away health care from millions.

**The Republican Default Plan Threatens Medical Care for Millions of 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 [millions of veterans](#) would lose access to outpatient visits, 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 9 Million Veterans Served By VHA Facilities.** 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,

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delaying critical care for the [9 million](#) veterans who rely on aging VHA facilities for life-saving care.

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

Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it more difficult for 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 Veterans with Disabilities Could Face New Barriers to Health Care.**

[Over 30 percent](#) of veterans have disabilities, compared to about 15 percent of Americans 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.

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