



*New Report*

# The Republican Default Plan Threatens Virginia Veterans' Health Care

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## ***Fact Sheet:***

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

#### **The Republican Default Plan Threatens Medical Care for 162,300 Virginia 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 [162,300 veterans](#) could lose access to outpatient visits in Virginia, 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 40 Percent of Virginia 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 Virginia veterans who rely on aging VHA facilities for life-saving care. [Over 730,000](#) Virginians are veterans—[nearly 34 percent](#) of whom are people of color—and around 40 percent are enrolled in the VHA system. Virginia accounts for around 2.5 percent of VA Medical Care expenditures, containing the seventh-largest veteran population in the country, and Virginia veterans stand to lose greatly from GOP funding cuts.

- **Black Veterans in Virginia Could Be Disproportionately Impacted By The Republican Default Plan.** [Nearly 1 in 4](#) Virginia veterans are Black, compared to about 18.7 percent of Virginia's population overall, and could be disproportionately impacted by cuts to outpatient services and processing delays.

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

Republican paperwork requirements will purposefully make it more difficult for Virginia 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 23 Percent Of Virginia Veterans with Disabilities Could Face New Barriers to Health Care.** [About 23 percent](#) of Virginia veterans have disabilities, compared to just under 15

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percent of Virginians 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.

**Virginia 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 Virginia 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 Virginia Veteran Caregivers.** The GOP plan would cut Medicaid coverage for caregivers of adults with disabilities or chronic or temporary illness, including Virginia veterans, who are [more than 1.5 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.