



New Report

Republicans' Big Ugly Bill Will Shutter Local Hospitals And Throw Critical Care Out Of Reach For Millions

Over 330 Hospitals May Be Forced To Close Under The GOP Bill

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House Republicans passed their reconciliation bill before Memorial Day, and it includes the largest cuts to health care in American history. If Senate Republicans are successful in passing the bill, not only will hardworking families lose coverage and access to care, but rural hospitals will shut down, seniors will be forced to leave their nursing homes, and people fighting cancer or addiction will lose lifesaving care. The GOP bill will cut hundreds of billions in critical funding for hospitals, bury hospitals under the burden of uncompensated care, and force hundreds of hospitals to close their doors.

By closing the nation's most vulnerable hospitals, the GOP bill will rip health care away from seniors, children, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and hard-working families across the country. Hospital closures will lead to job cuts and hurt local economies, particularly in rural America. Expectant mothers will be forced to travel further to get to the nearest maternity ward. More cancer patients will have to pay for travel and overnight stays in major cities to get the treatment they need to survive. Patients will have to travel hundreds of miles to get to an emergency room. Families will be forced to choose between seeing a doctor and putting food on the table, sick people will go without care, and people will die. Their big, ugly tax scam will kick 16 million Americans off their health care, cut Medicare, and throw our entire health care system into chaos.

By The Numbers:

- Over [330](#) hospitals will likely be forced to close or scale back their services after GOP policies gut over [\\$400 billion](#) in critical funding – forcing more Americans to travel further for maternity care and emergency rooms, and face longer wait times.
- Hospitals count on Medicaid to keep their doors open. Medicaid accounts for [one fifth](#) of spending on hospitals, [one fifth](#) of hospital discharges, and at least [one in five](#) inpatient days in nearly every state.
- Hospitals are the [sixth largest employer](#) in the country. Republicans will undermine an industry that employs nearly [7 million community servants](#), from doctors to nurses to social workers, to hand out tax breaks to the ultrawealthy. An estimated [477,000](#) health workers will lose their jobs as a result of GOP cuts to Medicaid.

How GOP Policies Will Hurt Local Hospitals And The Patients Who Rely On Them

GOP Policies Will Kick 16 Million Americans Off Their Coverage, Increasing The Burden Of Uncompensated Care And Driving Up Health Care Costs For Everyone. The GOP tax scam takes a sledgehammer to Medicaid, Medicare, and the ACA, which will raise costs and make health care unaffordable for millions of seniors and families. [16 million Americans](#) from seniors to children

to people with disabilities, are expected to lose their health care. When people are thrown off of their health care, they [won't seek treatment](#) for their chronic conditions until they're severe and more costly to treat. This means more ER visits, more late-stage cancer diagnoses, and more complications from lack of preventive care. The financial burden of uncompensated care for those who lose their coverage then get passed on to others through higher bills and increased premiums, [increasing costs](#) for everyone.

Republicans Want To Gut And Deeply Restrict The Funding That Helps Hospitals Keep Their Doors Open. The GOP tax scam will limit the ways states fund Medicaid, including provider taxes and state-directed payments, shuttering struggling hospitals, and make it nearly impossible for states to manage the burden of the largest cuts to Medicaid in history without kicking millions off their coverage and taking away benefits. [49 states](#) rely on taxes on health care providers to finance their share of Medicaid spending. The American Hospital Association, the nation's largest health care provider association, [opposes](#) restrictions on provider taxes and warns that it will increase the burden of uncompensated care on hospitals and force facilities to close. Republicans also want to [restrict](#) states' ability to provide state-directed payments. [State-directed payments](#) allow states to provide supplemental funding to Medicaid medical providers to preserve access to health care and ensure facilities have the resources to stay open and meet the unique needs of their communities. States are expected to lose at least [\\$150 billion](#) in essential funding for hospitals thanks to these policies. Republicans' big, ugly bill also takes away critical financial incentives for states to expand Medicaid at a time when hospitals in non-expansion states are deeply struggling. [10 states](#) have yet to fully expand Medicaid: Georgia, Wisconsin, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Wyoming, Kansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina. [45 hospitals](#) across these states are already at grave risk of closure and will be further than ever from the financial relief they need if this critical incentive to expand Medicaid is eliminated.

The Devastating Consequences Of The Republican Scheme To Gut Medicaid

“This unprecedented level of Medicaid cuts would devastate the program, undermining the ability of essential hospitals to provide critical services, including trauma care, behavioral health, maternal health, and public health emergency response. These hospitals, which already operate on thin margins, cannot absorb such losses without reducing services or closing their doors altogether. We urge lawmakers to reconsider this dangerous path. Cutting Medicaid to pay for tax breaks is not fiscal responsibility — it is a direct assault on our nation's health care system.”

- Bruce Siegel, M.D. M.P.H, President and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals

“The sheer magnitude of the level of reductions to the Medicaid program alone will impact all patients, not just Medicaid beneficiaries, in every community across the nation. Hospitals — especially in rural and underserved areas — will be forced to make difficult decisions about whether they will have to reduce services, reduce staff, and potentially consider closing their doors. Other impacts could include longer waiting times to receive care, more crowded emergency departments, and hospitals not being able to invest in technology and innovations for clinical care.”

-Rick Pollack, President and CEO of the American Hospital Association

- **Hundreds Of Hospitals Will Be Forced To Close Or Cut Back On Their Services.** From 2010 to 2022, over [130 rural hospitals](#) have closed. Since 2020 alone, [36 rural hospitals](#) have closed, and as of 2024, over [700 rural hospitals](#) were found to be at risk of closing in the near future, almost all of which were within non-Medicaid expansion states. In Medicaid expansion states, rural hospitals are [62 percent](#) less likely to close, though Republicans are dead set on ripping expansion away from nearly 14 states and stopping 10 states from ever expanding. A 2025 analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that over [338 rural hospitals](#) are at particular risk of closure, conversion, or service reduction from substantial health care cuts because the hospitals either take a high relative share of Medicaid patients, or have experienced 3 years of negative total margins, or both. Republican cuts will force these hospitals to gravely cut back on services or close entirely, shutting entire communities off from health care.
- **Patients Will Face Longer Travel Times And Wait Times In Emergency Rooms.** A 2023 NICHM study found that around [80 percent](#) of rural Americans are medically underserved and that [12 percent](#) of rural residents had to drive 60 minutes or more to the nearest hospital. With Republicans gutting Medicaid and hundreds of hospitals in the crosshairs, more Americans will be further from the care they need. Since GOP proposals will also cause 16 million Americans to go uninsured, everyone will face longer [wait times](#) at the emergency room since countless Americans will lack the health care they need to see a primary care doctor for their conditions.
- **Maternity Care Deserts Will Expand Across The Country.** Rural hospitals rely on Medicaid funding to keep their doors open. The GOP proposal means states will lose over \$800 billion in federal Medicaid funding and be forced to cut back on how much they pay hospitals, putting more moms at risk of losing access to care at a time when [35 percent](#) of counties already lack birthing hospitals and birth centers.
- **Rural Economies Will Be Devastated.** Hospitals employ [10 percent](#) of all employees in rural counties that report having any hospital employment. When rural hospitals close, communities can lose a staggering number of jobs, both [within and outside](#) of the health care sector. The closure of one rural hospital can eliminate [220 jobs](#) immediately.

Appendix A: Likely Rural Hospital Closures by State

The increase in rural hospital closures over the past decade is a national crisis. With over [130 rural hospitals](#) closing between 2010 and 2022, thousands more Americans every year are at risk of having no access to vital medical care. 2024 has seen even more hospital closures than in previous years, indicating a “startling new phase” of this crisis where [half of all rural hospitals](#) are operating at a loss and 20 percent are at risk of closure in the next few years. Rural hospitals have consistently seen higher rates of uncompensated care, especially within states that have refused to expand Medicaid where uncompensated care is nearly [2.5 times](#) higher than in expansion states. *Click [here](#) to see the full list of rural hospitals across the country at risk of closure from devastating GOP cuts to Medicaid.*

The following is the number of hospitals that meet one or both of two financial criteria: (1) the hospital is in the top 10% Medicaid payer mix of rural hospitals across the country, (2) the hospital has experienced three consecutive years of negative total margin. This means these rural hospitals face greater risk of being forced to stop providing some services, converting, or closing.	
STATE	NUMBER OF AT-RISK RURAL HOSPITALS
ALABAMA	5
ALASKA	5
ARIZONA	5
ARKANSAS	1
CALIFORNIA	28
COLORADO	6
CONNECTICUT	1
DELAWARE	1
FLORIDA	1
GEORGIA	4
HAWAII	6
IDAHO	3
ILLINOIS	9
INDIANA	12
IOWA	2
KANSAS	6
KENTUCKY	35
LOUISIANA	33
MAINE	2
MASSACHUSETTS	1
MICHIGAN	4
MINNESOTA	2
MISSISSIPPI	8
MISSOURI	4
MONTANA	8
NEBRASKA	2
NEVADA	2
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1
NEW MEXICO	15
NEW YORK	11
NORTH CAROLINA	5
NORTH DAKOTA	3
OHIO	11
OKLAHOMA	21
OREGON	4
PENNSYLVANIA	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	5
SOUTH DAKOTA	2
TENNESSEE	9
TEXAS	15
UTAH	3
VIRGINIA	6
WASHINGTON	14
WEST VIRGINIA	7
WISCONSIN	3
WYOMING	2
TOTAL	338