

PROTECT OUR CARE

FACT SHEET: After 60 Years, Medicaid and Medicare Are Under Attack

Republicans Decimated Medicaid And Medicare in GOP Spending Bill, Ripping Coverage Away From Millions of Americans

This week marks the 60th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare – two of the most vital and popular health care programs in the country. For 134 million Americans, Medicaid and Medicare are a lifeline, providing essential coverage from routine doctor's office visits to life-saving surgeries. Medicaid and Medicare are the foundation of the American health care system, keeping a [majority](#) of hospitals afloat and covering [three-quarters](#) of all nursing home residents, [half](#) of all births, and more than [40 percent](#) of our nation's kids. Despite the millions of Americans who rely on these programs for life-saving coverage, Donald Trump and Republicans are hell bent on dismantling them, all to fund tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations.

Trump and Republicans' spending bill made the largest health care cuts in history, ripping health care away from [millions](#) of hard-working families. It will shutter hundreds of hospitals, force nursing home residents out, drive up costs for working families, leave children with disabilities and people fighting cancer without lifesaving care, and increase the number of uninsured to a level not seen in years. Trump and Republicans have turned their backs on the American people, leaving entire communities behind, just to help the rich get richer. After 60 years of progress, they're dragging us backwards, putting politics and profits ahead of people's lives.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress passed a reconciliation package that guts Medicaid and Medicare.** Their big ugly bill:
 - **Rips health care away from [10 million Americans](#) on Medicaid**, including seniors, children, veterans, and people with disabilities, to pay for tax breaks for billionaires like Elon Musk and large corporations.
 - **Cuts [\\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid** to pay for handouts to the wealthiest Americans.
 - **Threatens to shutter over [330 hospitals](#), [570 nursing homes](#), and [hundreds of clinics](#) across the country that rely on Medicaid funding** to keep their doors open, forcing more Americans to travel further for maternity care and emergency rooms, and face longer wait times.
 - **Generates billions in tax breaks for the rich by choking seniors and working families in red tape** and making it harder to enroll in [Medicare](#) and [Medicaid](#)
 - **Forces low-income seniors to pay [thousands](#) more each year for health care** by raising their premiums and out-of-pocket costs
 - **Imposes a sick tax on over 20 million people on Medicaid**, hitting them with new bills each time they see a doctor for cancer, diabetes, or other illnesses

- Contains a [\\$5 billion](#) giveaway to drug companies at Medicare's expense, which will drive up the cost of prescription drugs for seniors and taxpayers
- Triggers nearly [\\$500 billion](#) in cuts to Medicare by exacerbating the national deficit
- Around **134 million** Americans, or **around 40 percent** of the country, are enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, or both
 - Medicaid provides coverage and lifesaving care to **more than 71 million Americans**, including:
 - [Nearly half](#) of all children in America (over 30 million kids)
 - [6 in 10](#) nursing home residents
 - [Nearly one million](#) non-elderly veterans
 - [4 in 10](#) births
 - [20 percent](#) of adults in rural areas
 - [Over 8 million](#) seniors
 - [5.6 million](#) who count on Medicaid for long-term care
 - [More than 1 in 3](#) people with disabilities
 - [More than 68 million](#) Americans rely on Medicare for health care coverage, including:
 - [More than 55 million](#) Americans who are enrolled in Medicare Part D, which covers prescription drugs
 - [8 million](#) non-elderly Americans who qualify for Medicare due to a disability
 - [Over 1.2 million](#) Americans with limited income and resources enrolled in Extra Help, which lowers prescription drug costs

MEDICAID AND MEDICARE UNDER FIRE: REPUBLICAN POLICIES ARE GUTTING KEY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

Trump and Republicans In Congress Just Made the Largest Cuts to Health Care In History.

Earlier this month, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress pushed through their big, ugly bill, making the largest cuts to health care in American history. These cuts will rip health care away from [at least 10 million](#) people on Medicaid, including hardworking families and some of the most vulnerable Americans – low-income seniors, children, people fighting cancer or addiction, veterans, people with serious disabilities, and people who take care of their children or elderly parents.

- **Trump and Republicans In Congress Are Cutting Medicare And Driving Up Seniors' Health Care Costs.** By blowing up the federal deficit by over [\\$3 trillion](#), Trump and Republicans in Congress have triggered nearly [\\$500 billion](#) in cuts to Medicare. Their fiscal irresponsibility will harm millions of seniors. Republicans have also generated billions in tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy by cutting health care for low-income seniors. CBO estimated that [1.3 million](#) seniors enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid will lose

their health care due to the Big, Ugly Bill. Out-of-pocket costs will soar for millions more as the Big, Ugly bill drives up the cost of Medicare premiums and co-pays. An older couple on Medicare living on an annual income of only \$21,000 could face an additional [\\$8,340](#) in health care costs each year. Republicans also slipped a [huge giveaway](#) to Big Pharma that will drive up prescription drug costs for people on Medicare, meaning Big Pharma's multimillion-dollar investments at [Mar-a-Lago](#) are paying off big time. Their scheme to exempt drugs that treat rare diseases from negotiation will create a major loophole for drug companies to exploit in order to continue padding their profits and price-gouging the seniors who rely on these drugs. Countless seniors fighting cancer and other diseases who rely on drugs such as Keytruda and Opdivo will be robbed of financial relief and will suffer the consequences of the Big, Ugly bill, while corporations like Big Pharma get more tax breaks.

- **Trump and Republicans In Congress Passed Wasteful Paperwork Requirements Designed to Throw Millions of Eligible Americans Off Medicaid to Pay for Tax Breaks for the Wealthy and Corporations.** The GOP bill imposed wasteful paperwork requirements designed to kick millions of people off the Medicaid rolls to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations. In reality, the vast majority of people on Medicaid who can work already do. 92 percent of people with Medicaid are either [working](#) in a job that doesn't provide health care, in school, serving as the primary caregiver to a small child, elderly parent, or person with a disability, or they have a disability that prevents them from working. Research [shows](#) that bureaucratic work reporting requirements don't in fact increase labor activity among Medicaid beneficiaries, but just kick people off of Medicaid rolls. In fact, Medicaid helps people [stay employed](#), because making unemployed people sicker makes it more difficult for them to find work. Furthermore, work reporting requirements have been a [colossal waste of money](#) in every state that has implemented them. Taking away Medicaid doesn't help people find jobs.
- **Trump and Republicans In Congress Are Limiting The Way States Fund Medicaid, Forcing The Closure of Hundreds of Rural Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Clinics Nationwide.** The GOP bill cuts hundreds of billions in critical funding for hospitals and nursing homes, buries them under the burden of uncompensated care, and forces hundreds to close their doors. It limits the ways states fund Medicaid, including [provider taxes](#) and state directed payments, which will shutter over [330 rural hospitals](#), [570 nursing homes](#), and countless clinics across the country 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. Expectant mothers will be forced to travel further to get to the nearest maternity ward. Patients will have to travel hundreds of miles to get to an emergency room. More may be forced to delay lifesaving sexual and reproductive health care. Seniors will be forced to leave their nursing homes.

