

Republicans Rob South Dakotans of Health Care to Fund Tax Breaks for Billionaires and Big Corporations

Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have triggered a health care emergency by making the largest cut to health care in history in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. By slashing over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, Republicans have put health care at [risk](#) for 33,838 South Dakotans and thrown our entire health care system into chaos. The damage will be felt in every corner of the country, including in South Dakota, all because Republicans wanted to give tax breaks to the uber wealthy.

The dire consequences of the GOP tax bill will be felt for years to come, but some of the worst provisions take effect in just a few months. Starting in 2026, premiums and out-of-pocket costs will skyrocket for South Dakotans, and many will lose coverage altogether due to miles of [red tape](#). Then, devastating cuts to Medicaid will begin to take effect, causing rural hospitals to shut down, seniors to be forced out of their nursing homes, and people fighting cancer or addiction to lose life-saving care. Taken together, these cuts will cause years of progress to be lost as the uninsured rate explodes to levels not seen in 15 years. This is the GOP's war on American health care playing out in real time, and every single consequence is on the lawmakers who voted for these devastating cuts.

- **An estimated [33,838](#) South Dakotans will lose Medicaid or ACA coverage and become uninsured under Trump and Republicans' bill, including:**
 - [12,000](#) older South Dakotans
 - [74,000](#) children
 - The [58.1% of adult South Dakotans](#) on Medicaid who are working
 - [19,000 South Dakotans](#) with disabilities
- **[91%](#) of South Dakota voters** do not support cuts to Medicaid.
- Republicans created *at least* a [\\$145.1 million hole](#) in the South Dakota state budget to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations.
- Republican cuts to Medicaid will result in [1,700 state jobs lost](#) alongside a [\\$164.2 million](#) loss in state economic output as well as a [\\$282 million](#) state GDP loss.
- **Republicans cut [\\$700 million](#) in critical funding for South Dakota hospitals**, leaving 3 hospitals statewide at risk of closure according to analysis from the [University of North Carolina](#), and [Families USA](#) including:
 - Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
 - Bennett County Hospital
 - Douglas County Memorial HospitalWhen 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.

- **Republicans are also risking the closure of [over a quarter](#) of nursing homes.**
- A 45 year old individual making \$62,000 in South Dakota will see coverage **costs increase by [\\$3,123](#)** without extending premium tax credits.
- At the end of 2025, [650](#) jobs will be lost in South Dakota due to the expiration of ACA tax credits.

Key Points: The GOP War On Health Care

Republicans Gutted Federal Funding for Medicaid, Slashing Benefits and Kicking People Off Coverage to Fund Tax Cuts for the Rich. Currently, the federal government pays between 50 percent and 77 percent of enrollees' Medicaid costs, and more for certain high-value services. The Republican tax bill slashed nearly a [trillion](#) dollars in federal funding from Medicaid, straining state budgets and leaving millions of people uninsured to pay for tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy.

Republicans Cut The Lifeline That Keeps Rural Hospitals Open. Medicaid helps fund rural hospitals by ensuring more patients can pay for their care. Rural hospitals in Medicaid expansion states are [62 percent](#) less likely to close. In 2023, over [600](#) rural hospitals were at risk of closing in the near future, almost all of which were within non-expansion states. Republicans' cuts to Medicaid leave rural hospitals in peril with [over 300](#) hospitals at "immediate risk" of closure.

Republicans' Big Ugly Bill Decimates Access To Essential Services Like Maternity Care And Long-Term Care. Medicaid is the single largest payer for [long-term care](#), [maternity care](#), and [mental health](#) services. Nearly a [third](#) of adults have received maternity care, home health care, or nursing home care through Medicaid. Nearly [one in five](#) adults struggling with mental illness have access to care through Medicaid. Republicans' Medicaid cuts will leave Americans with disabilities in need of long-term care, new mothers and infants, and those suffering from mental health issues at [risk](#) for loss of coverage, limited access to care, and creating economic instability in families.

Republicans Throw Millions Off Their Coverage By Adding Burdensome Work Reporting Requirements To Medicaid. Republicans' bill requires those enrolled in Medicaid, without a work exemption, to prove that they are working, doing community service, receiving work training, or enrolled in school part time. Research shows that work reporting requirements cost states money and do not improve people's ability to find work. In Georgia, a GOP alternative to Medicaid expansion emphasizing work requirements cost taxpayers [\\$26 million](#), only provided

coverage to 3,500 people, and resulted in consulting firms pocketing 90 percent of the funding. Work requirements will cost an estimated 5 million Americans their Medicaid coverage and are only being adopted to pay for tax breaks for billionaires and corporations.

Republicans Will Eliminate Tax Credits, Hiking Premiums For Over 24 Million Americans.

Without these tax credits, families will pay up to [90 percent](#) more for their health care and an estimated [5 million](#) Americans will lose their coverage altogether, including middle-class families, small business owners, and rural residents.

Republicans Are Making It Harder to Enroll and Obtain Health Coverage. Republicans are not only making it harder for families to enroll in coverage by shortening the enrollment period and taking away low-income families' ability to sign up for coverage outside of the six-week enrollment period, but they are also making it difficult to stay enrolled by establishing more paperwork burdens for enrolling and proving eligibility for tax credits. These policies will only end in millions of Americans being unable to access the coverage that they need to stay healthy.

Republicans Will Penalize Families With Unexpected Changes In Income. Under the GOP proposal, if low-income families experience a change in their circumstances, such as a promotion or a new job, they could be penalized with thousands of dollars in additional payments around tax time. These repayments could be devastating for freelancers, gig workers, and small business owners, who make up [a large share](#) of marketplace enrollees.