

*New Report*

# The Year Trump and Republicans Gutted Health Care: The War on American Health Care Since Inauguration Day

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One year after Donald Trump took office, the damage to Americans' health care is staggering and undeniable. Since January 20, 2017, Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have launched an unprecedented assault on Americans' health care, all to shower billionaires and big corporations with tax breaks. By slashing \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, Republicans made the largest health care cuts in history. They ripped away health care from over 15 million Americans, and drove premium costs through the roof, while families across the country pay more for less. Hospitals are closing or cutting services, forcing seniors, expectant mothers, and people with cancer to travel farther to get basic care and endure longer wait times in emergency rooms.

At the same time, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has fueled distrust in science and weakened evidence-based federal health policies, undermining confidence in guidance and eroding protections that millions rely on. After creating this crisis, Republicans voted to lock in massive premium hikes and blocked a clean three-year extension of the tax credits, causing 1.4 million Americans to forgo ACA coverage this year due to skyrocketing costs. Now, Trump is rolling out a sham health care "agenda" that guarantees higher costs and more uninsured Americans for years to come. After a year of broken promises and deliberate cuts, Trump and Republicans own this health care disaster, and they have no plan to fix it.

The American people are paying attention, and they are furious. Trump and Republicans' health care wrecking spree is deeply unpopular, with a bipartisan majority opposing their cuts and rising premiums. Families struggling to afford life-saving care won't forget who left them out in the cold, and come election time, Republicans will pay for this crisis at the ballot box.

As hard-working Americans are already struggling to make ends meet, here is what Trump and Republicans have in store:



**The Largest Cuts to Health Care in History to Fund Tax Breaks for Billionaires**



**Doubling, Tripling, and Quadrupling Health Insurance Premiums for Millions**



**Over 600 Hospitals, Clinics, and Nursing Homes Facing Cuts or Closure**



**Steeper Prices for Lifesaving Drugs**



**Public Health Devastated by Trump and RFK Jr.**

#### **GOP Health Care Sabotage by the Numbers:**

- **Ripped health care away from over 15 million Americans**, including seniors, children, veterans, and people with disabilities, to pay for tax breaks for billionaires like Elon Musk and large corporations.

- Cut [over \\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid and the ACA to pay for handouts to the wealthiest Americans.
- Doubled and tripled premiums for over [20 million](#) hardworking Americans, including [small business owners, farmers](#), and [older adults](#).
- Raised [premiums](#) for millions covered through their employers, straining the budgets of families already struggling with tariffs and inflation.
- Put [600+ hospitals and clinics](#) at risk of closing or reducing services, forcing more Americans to travel farther for maternity care and emergency rooms, and face longer wait times and higher costs.
- Spread dangerous misinformation and discouraged vaccination while presiding over the [largest measles outbreak](#) in decades including the [deaths](#) of two unvaccinated children in Texas and a raging outbreak currently happening in South Carolina where [93 percent](#) of cases come from people who are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status.

## One Year of Republicans Putting Billionaires and Corporations Ahead of Working Families

Only one year out from being inaugurated, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have already cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA while billionaires got [\\$1.5 trillion](#) richer. Republicans have made clear that they don't care about making health care affordable for American families. In fact, they've done the opposite. Here are four policies that will continue to hit Americans the hardest in 2026:

**The GOP's Big, Ugly Bill Will Rip Coverage Away From More Than 15 Million Americans, Including Children, Seniors, and People With Disabilities.** Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have made the largest health care cuts in history. Their tax bill slashed more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), ripping coverage from [more than 15 million](#) people and raising premiums and costs for millions more, all to give massive tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations. The Big, Ugly Bill generates billions in tax breaks for the rich by choking seniors and working families in onerous red tape and making it harder to enroll in [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), and ACA coverage. Over [one million children](#) and nearly [one million seniors](#) are estimated to lose coverage due to the Big, Ugly bill. Without insurance, Americans will be unable to afford care when they need it and [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.

**Republicans Doubled And Tripled Premiums For Over 20 Million People Who Buy Health Insurance On Their Own.** Republicans voted to [end tax credits for working families](#), raising costs and ripping away health care from millions of Americans. Every day, Americans are logging onto healthcare.gov and finding that their premiums have [doubled or tripled](#) thanks to the GOP. [One in four](#) shoppers will decide they are unable to afford health care, and one in three will be forced to reduce their coverage and pay more out of pocket. Unable to absorb Republican cost hikes, [5 million people](#) will lose their health care altogether. [1.4 million](#) fewer Americans could afford to obtain health care through the ACA as of January 12, 2026. Last year, more people relied on the ACA [than ever before](#), but Republicans remain hell-bent on ripping tax credits away and we are already seeing the unsustainable ramifications of that. The Trump-GOP scheme is to rip away insurance and make health care completely unaffordable for working families.

Top Five Hardest Hit States by Premium Increases	Change in Enrollment: January 3, 2025 vs. January 3, 2026
North Carolina	-202,271
Georgia	-192,347
Florida	-159,350
Ohio	-105,818
Tennessee	-70,696

Sources: [CMS 2025 Open Enrollment Period Report](#) and [CMS 2026 Open Enrollment Period Report](#)

**Republicans Put Health Care on the Chopping Block For Over 70 Million Americans Who Rely On Medicaid.** Republicans cut nearly [\\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for billionaires, and now working families are paying the price. [More than 6 in 10](#) seniors count on Medicaid to pay for a nursing home. [Nearly 50 percent](#) of kids count on Medicaid or CHIP for their health care, and [41 percent](#) of moms have health care when they give birth because of Medicaid. The cuts are already hitting Medicaid programs across the country. Lawmakers in Idaho are considering [repealing](#) Medicaid expansion, which would rip coverage away from [100,000](#) Idahoans. Low-income Americans struggling with obesity in Pennsylvania, California, North Carolina, Michigan, New Hampshire, and South Carolina [will lose access to lifesaving drugs](#). [Five hundred Idahoans with severe mental illness](#) will be booted from a program that ensured they stayed on their medications and out of homelessness. GOP cuts [slashed](#) the funding that ensured Colorado families do not go bankrupt to get children with disabilities the care they need. Families who rely on Medicaid face [grave uncertainty](#), not knowing what services will be slashed next year.

**Republicans Failed to Address the Real Driver of Costs: Corporate Greed.** Instead of addressing the anti-competitive behaviors and corporate greed fueling the skyrocketing cost of health care,

Republicans handed big companies gigantic tax breaks and giveaways. They pointed their fingers at families living paycheck to paycheck to deflect from the fraud, waste, and abuse driven by greedy corporations. Trump's Big, Ugly bill helped highly profitable health care corporations save [hundreds of billions](#), while ripping away health care from working families. According to Americans For Tax Fairness, "just four corporate tax breaks in the Big, Ugly bill will cost [\\$732 billion](#) in lost revenue over 10 years. That's enough revenue to cover the great bulk of the [\\$1.02 trillion](#) cut to Medicaid." Then Republicans added a cherry on top for Big Pharma: an [\\$8 billion](#) giveaway at the expense of seniors on Medicare, who will now pay thousands more for lifesaving drugs such as [Keytruda and Opdivo](#).

## **GOP Health Care: Higher Costs for Everyone, Everywhere, Regardless of Where They Get Their Coverage**

**Hundreds of Millions of Americans Are Paying Higher Premiums Thanks to the GOP.** Premiums are increasing an average of [9 percent](#) for the 160 million Americans covered through their employer, [10 percent](#) for the 60 million seniors on Medicare, [11 percent](#) for the 10 million people who rely on small group insurance, and [26 percent](#) for the 24 million Americans who count on the ACA — all because of the GOP's refusal to address corporate greed, reckless tariffs, out-of-control inflation, and devastation of risk pools. Because Trump's Big, Ugly Bill does nothing to address the root causes of skyrocketing health care costs, premium increases for employer-sponsored coverage are [rapidly outpacing](#) the rate of inflation and salary gains. In addition, emergency rooms will become packed with uninsured patients who are unable to cover the cost of their care because of GOP cuts, and millions of families with job-based insurance could see their premiums rise by as much as [\\$627](#) due to the costs of this uncompensated care.

**Seniors, Low-Income Families, and People Who Buy Insurance on Their Own Are Paying Thousands More Out of Pocket for Health Care.** Since Trump and Republicans in Congress ended tax credits and spiked health care costs for millions, [1 in 3 people](#) buying insurance on their own through the ACA marketplace will be forced to settle for [high-deductible plans](#) and pay thousands [more out of pocket](#) before their coverage kicks in. Republicans are also demanding new copayments or sick taxes from millions of hardworking families on Medicaid who make as little as \$33,000 a year. Over [20 million](#) low-income Americans will be forced to pay new fees every time they see a specialist for their diabetes, need [dialysis for failing kidneys](#), or need to see an immunologist for arthritis starting in 2028. A family of four on Medicaid making \$33,000 per year will be forced to pay up to [\\$1,650](#) in new annual out-of-pocket costs due to the Trump sick tax. Trump's Big, Ugly bill will also kick over [1.3 million low-income](#)

[seniors](#) off the Medicare Savings Program, forcing them to pay [thousands](#) more each year in premiums and out-of-pocket costs. An older couple on Medicare with an annual income of \$21,000 could see an additional [\\$8,340](#) in health care costs each year due to the GOP.

**GOP Cuts Are Burying Working Families in Medical Debt.** The Trump-GOP budget will drive an estimated [4.6 million Americans](#) into medical debt. Families who are unable to afford health insurance and lose their coverage could [see](#) their medical debt increase by as much as \$22,800 thanks to Trump and Republicans in Congress. Americans are left more vulnerable than ever to medical debt because the Trump administration [overturned a regulation](#) earlier this year that would have protected Americans' credit scores from being affected by medical debt.

## Republican Cuts Have Devastated the American Health Care System and Destroyed Public Health

**Trump and Republicans Are Driving Hospitals, Clinics, and Nursing Homes Into the Ground.** Trump's Big, Ugly bill cut over [\\$500 billion](#) from hospitals and other essential care facilities. As a result, over [330 rural hospitals](#), [100 urban hospitals](#), [570 nursing homes](#), and [nearly 200 Planned Parenthood health centers](#) across the country are at risk of closure. [Thirteen hospitals](#), 26 maternity wards, and 150 clinics announced closure since the passage of the bill. Hospital closures have a detrimental effect on their communities. Hospital closures mean [crowded emergency rooms](#), longer waits for ambulances, [longer hospital stays](#) for patients, fewer patient beds, and [greater patient mortality](#) for Americans.

Worse still, Trump and Republicans' hospital closures will raise prices for a hospital stay an average of [\\$500](#) at nearby facilities that remain open. Republicans even knew the threat their massive cuts posed to hospitals, and launched a pity fund to distract from the rural health care collapse they are causing — with funding that [falls far short](#) of closing the gap left by gutting Medicaid and defunding hospitals. Some rural counties are even forced to [hike taxes](#) to make up for the funding shortfall. The impact won't be limited to rural areas, however. An analysis by Harvard researchers found that [85 percent](#) of hospitals most exposed to the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts are in [urban areas](#). Protect Our Care's [Hospital Crisis Watch](#) is tracking the harm Donald Trump and Republicans' spending bill is inflicting on American health care in real time — community by community, hospital by hospital.

Top Five Hardest Hit States by Hospital Cuts	Number of Hospitals at Risk or Immediate Risk for Closing
Texas	103
Kansas	98
Oklahoma	70
Mississippi	59
Alabama	51

Source: [Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform](#)

**Trump and RFK Jr. Are Destroying Our Public Health Infrastructure.** In the [past year](#), RFK Jr. has slashed over \$4.5 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), terminating and freezing thousands of jobs for scientists and staff members in the process, [including](#) an NIH whistleblower who warned that the steps taken by the Trump administration were endangering public health. Trump and RFK Jr. have also blocked [hundreds of millions](#) in funding for CDC health programs that addressed topics such as youth violence prevention, gun injury and death prevention research, and efforts targeting diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and tobacco use.

**RFK Jr. Is Putting Lives on the Line by Eliminating Vaccine Requirements.** RFK Jr. instructed HHS to stop [recommending](#) the measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella combined shot for children under age 4 despite no scientific evidence backing this decision. He also eliminated [recommendations](#) for children and pregnant people to receive COVID-19 vaccines and restricted [access](#) to the COVID-19 vaccine by recommending that only people with certain health conditions or those aged 65 and older get the updated vaccine. The results to this have been expected: the [largest measles outbreak](#) in the 21st century impacting [eight states](#) so far and hitting South Carolina the worst, with the vast majority of cases coming from [unvaccinated children](#).

**RFK Jr. Jeopardized Future Vaccine Development.** After [firing](#) all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), RFK Jr. has filled the committee with [COVID-19 deniers, vaccine skeptics, critics of the pandemic response, and spreaders of misinformation](#). In January 2026, he also added [two more anti-vaccine members](#) to the ACIP board who self-proclaim that they are “critical of mainstream vaccine science.” He also [kicked](#) top medical organizations out of workgroups for establishing vaccine recommendations. Trump and RFK Jr. have also put future vaccine research at stake by canceling over [\\$500 million](#) in contracts and funding for the development of mRNA vaccines to fight respiratory illnesses, canceled [contracts](#) worth nearly \$600 million for vaccines for flu subtypes that could trigger future pandemics, and ended [two major](#) HIV vaccine studies.

**Trump and RFK Jr. Continue to Spread Deadly Misinformation.** Senate Democrats [called out](#)

RFK Jr. for spreading misinformation during his confirmation hearings, and his lies have continued while serving as Trump's HHS Secretary. In September, RFK Jr. and Trump [promoted](#) an unproven link between autism and Tylenol with no evidence. Several experts in the medical community denounced these remarks as irresponsible and “dangerous advice.” In October, RFK Jr. tried to walk back his claimed link between Tylenol and autism by [saying](#), “We’ve all said from the beginning that the causative association between Tylenol given in pregnancy ... is not sufficient to say it definitely caused autism, but it is very suggestive.” Regardless, polling suggests that damage from RFK Jr.’s reckless lies has already started setting in. A KFF poll found that [77 percent](#) of people have heard RFK Jr.’s link between Tylenol and autism, with a majority reporting they weren’t sure whether it was true or not.