

New Report

GOP HEALTH CARE MADNESS: Americans Beg for Relief as Trump and Republicans Perpetuate Their Health Care Crisis

*President Trump's SOTU 'Slam Dunk' Is Anything
But as Millions Lose Health Care*

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OUR CARE



As March Madness heats up and dozens of college basketball teams chase the national championship title, but another kind of madness millions of Americans are feeling isn't so hopeful: the Trump and Republicans' war on their health care. Trump spent his State of the Union address lying to Americans about his health care policies. While he and Congressional Republicans pretend their big, ugly bill is a slam dunk for the American people, they can't hide from reality: the only thing on Trump and Republicans' bracket is ripping away health care from millions of Americans.

Since taking power, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have launched an all-out assault on American health care — hiking premium costs on the middle class, slashing Medicaid, driving rural hospitals off a cliff, and creating chaos. Hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities across the country are shutting down in the wake of these draconian cuts, and premium costs are skyrocketing for families across the nation. More than 750 hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities across the country are reducing services, laying off workers, or closing their doors. Entire communities are being stranded without essential care. At the same time, Republicans eliminated key health care tax credits that helped 22 million Americans afford coverage. Combined, these changes mean millions are seeing their premiums double, triple, and even quadruple this spring.

Republicans are only just beginning to feel the heat as outraged Americans face the consequences of the Trump-GOP bill. This is no technical foul — they have created a disaster with no end in sight, and now they are facing the consequences. Polling shows that Americans are more worried about affording health care than any other expense, but President Trump has shown America he's only interested in giving billionaires and big corporations a layup at the expense of working families instead.

In this season of brackets and buzzer-beaters, the stakes for millions of Americans aren't a trophy — they're the ability to see a doctor, afford prescription drugs, and stay healthy.

Trump's Health Care Madness

The Trump administration has skyrocketed premiums, raised out-of-pocket costs, and put health care out of reach for millions throughout his second term, all to pay for huge tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations. Last year, Trump and Republicans in Congress passed the largest health care cuts in history, slashing over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and ended the health care tax credits. As a result, millions of Americans are paying more across the board: premiums, deductibles, co-pays, drug costs, and out-of-pocket costs.

Premium Disaster Fueling America's Affordability Crisis

From Alaska to Florida, families are being crushed by skyrocketing health insurance premiums after Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress ripped away the Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits that made coverage affordable for [nearly 22 million](#) Americans.

Trump and Republicans Doubled, Tripled, and Even Quadrupled Premiums For Millions of Working Families. Instead of protecting working families, Trump and Republicans prioritized tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations — triggering premium hikes that are [doubling, tripling, and even quadrupling](#) costs. Each day of open enrollment, millions were forced to make [gut-wrenching decisions](#) about their futures. A [Georgia mom](#) closed her small business to afford her son's insulin. A [Texas retiree](#) cut his budget down to the bare bones to afford his premium until he qualifies for Medicare. A [Louisiana woman](#) was forced to finish out her high-risk pregnancy without coverage at all.

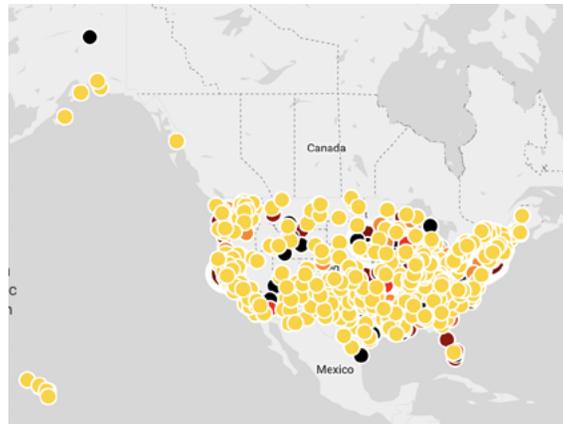
Millions Were Priced Out of the Coverage They Needed and Now Have to Rely on Reduced Coverage That Won't Cover Them When They Get Sick. Skyrocketing premiums have forced millions out of high-quality coverage and into bare-bones coverage with high deductibles and steep out-of-pocket costs. These bronze plans expose families to thousands in medical bills before coverage begins, leaving them vulnerable to debt if they face a serious illness or accident. In California, [73 percent](#) of people who switched plans moved to such a plan. In Maine, bronze plan selections now compose [60 percent](#) of plan selections. [Idaho](#), [New Jersey](#), and [Rhode Island](#) also reported an increase in bronze plan selections.

Facing Skyrocketing Premiums, Working Families Are Forced to Choose Between Basic Necessities and Affording Health Care. Americans dealing with the fallout of the GOP premium disaster are still figuring out if they can make ends meet and manage to make their monthly premium payments. On average, families buying insurance on their own are facing a \$1,000 premium increase. Polling shows that when confronted with a hike of that size:

- [31 percent](#) of people buying insurance through the ACA are likely to cut back on food, clothing, or other basic necessities
- [22 percent](#) are likely to try to find an extra job or work more hours
- [15 percent](#) are likely to skip or delay paying other bills

Many Americans who were auto-renewed into coverage have not yet seen their new premium bills. When those higher bills arrive — often [two or three times](#) larger — the sticker shock of the bills is likely to catch those who were auto-enrolled off guard, potentially leading to nonpayment of premiums. Because insurers allow a 90-day grace period before terminating coverage, additional coverage losses will unfold in the months ahead.

Hospitals in Crisis



Over 750 providers are at risk, facing service cuts, ward closures, clinic closures, nursing home closures, and hospital closures. [[Hospital Crisis Watch](#)]

Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have made the largest health care cuts in history: [shuttering](#) hospitals, [closing](#) emergency rooms, and [devastating](#) maternity wards. Everyone will pay the price because Republicans put tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations above the needs of working people — whether it is through higher taxes, higher premiums, or care that comes too late. Local economies are suffering as health care jobs vanish. The consequences of the GOP’s big, ugly bill are already happening and will only get worse as [deeper cuts to hospitals](#) take effect in 2027 and 2028.

Trump’s Hospital Crisis by the Numbers

The Trump-GOP’s big, ugly bill **cut over [\\$500 billion](#)** from hospitals and other essential care facilities, creating an unmitigated disaster across the country.

- **Over [750 health care providers](#)** across the country are facing cuts or closure, including:
 - [330+ rural hospitals](#)

- [100 urban hospitals](#)
- [570 nursing homes](#)
- [Nearly 200 Planned Parenthood health centers.](#)
- **Twelve hospitals, 25 maternity wards, and over 200 clinics** have already announced closure since the passage of the bill.
- **Over 6,000 hospital workers** have lost their jobs since the passage of the bill. Entire communities are finding themselves without nearby care.
- Patients are **driving hours for basic doctor visits and prescriptions.**

Americans Are Forced to Travel Further to Give Birth, Get Emergency Care, or Have Surgery.

By passing the largest cuts to health care in history, Republicans put countless moms and babies, like [Deanna Florez](#) in Lavonia, Georgia, farther away from the care they need. GOP cuts have already shuttered over 25 maternity care units and put over [140 units](#) at risk of closing their doors since the passage of the big, ugly bill. Hospital closures will mean crowded emergency rooms, fewer patient beds, and [greater patient mortality](#) at nearby facilities that remain open. Some hospitals cite a [27 percent increase](#) in emergency department patient volume after the closure of nearby facilities, meaning excruciating wait times before patients can get the care they need, as well as [worse health outcomes](#). Overwhelmed emergency departments also mean [longer wait times](#) to receive surgery, whether it is a coronary bypass to treat a heart attack or an emergency appendectomy. Delays in surgical treatment often result in a [higher likelihood of complications](#) and greater mortality. Studies also find that ambulance transport times increase by [11 to 16 minutes](#) following a rural hospital closure – a life or death difference for patients having a stroke, heart attack, or internal bleeding.

The GOP-Fueled Hospital Crisis Forces Americans to Pay Higher Bills and Higher Taxes.

Emergency rooms will soon become packed with patients who lost their coverage thanks to GOP cuts, which will result in hospitals dealing with an estimated [\\$85 billion](#) in uncompensated care. The financial burden of uncompensated care will get passed on to others through higher bills and higher premiums for everyone, regardless of where they get their coverage. Health care costs will also spike for everyone as rural hospitals [close](#), driving up costs at nearby facilities by an estimated [\\$500](#) per hospital stay.

- **Counties Are Raising Property Taxes to Prevent Hospital Closures.** Counties from [California](#) to [Minnesota](#) to [Alabama](#) are instituting higher property taxes to stop their hospitals from closing. Countless hospitals still are [begging](#) for an infusion from their state government to stay afloat because the Republicans’ meager pity fund doesn’t do anything to help.

Trump and Republicans Are Coddling Big Drug Companies as Prescription Drug Prices Soar

Under the Trump-GOP war on health care, big drug companies are reporting eye-popping profits while

working families struggle just to afford the medications that keep them alive. Trump and congressional Republicans are giving big drug companies everything on their wishlist — blocking efforts to negotiate lower prices on medications that millions of older Americans rely on, showering them in tax breaks, and siding with industry lobbyists over patients. As patients suffer, drug company CEOs and shareholders are cashing in, pocketing billions in stock buybacks and executive bonuses.

Trump Is Putting Drugmakers Above Working Families. Trump is putting drugmakers above the American people. After he was elected in 2024, Trump [entertained](#) drug company CEOs at Mar-a-Lago, [solicited](#) millions in donations from big drug companies, and then spent the past year handsomely [rewarding](#) them for their support:

- **Major Tax Breaks.** Republicans handed out major tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations in the big, ugly bill, which included a [\\$9 billion](#) giveaway to drug companies at the expense of seniors and taxpayers.
- **Trump-Assisted Tax Evasion.** Trump has helped big drug companies [evade billions](#) in taxes and escape tariffs. As a result, five of the biggest drugmakers have paid [zero dollars in federal taxes](#) since 2018, courtesy of tax laws from Trump. If that wasn't enough, Trump recently issued an IRS guidance, handing big drug companies [another huge tax loophole](#) to write off expenses with.
- **Soaring Profits.** While families across America rationed doses, skipped refills, and dove deeper into their savings to afford prescriptions, the largest drug companies [made over \\$130 billion](#) in earnings in 2025 and spent over \$80 billion rewarding their shareholders:

Table 1: The Ten Biggest Drug Companies Raked In Over \$130 Billion In Profits In 2025, After Spending Over \$80 Billion Rewarding Shareholders

Drug Manufacturer	2025 Revenue	2025 Shareholder Compensation	2025 Research & Development Spending	2025 Net Profits
Johnson & Johnson	\$94 billion	\$13 billion+ (9M)	\$15 billion	\$27 billion
Novartis	\$55 billion	\$17 billion	\$11 billion	\$14 billion
AbbVie	\$61 billion	\$10 billion	\$9 billion	\$4 billion
Merck	\$65 billion	\$6 billion+ (9M)	\$16 billion	\$18 billion
Pfizer	\$63 billion	\$10 billion	\$10 billion	\$8 billion
Amgen	\$35 billion	\$5 billion	\$7 billion	\$8 billion
Novo Nordisk	\$49 billion ^a	\$8 billion ^a	\$8 billion ^a	\$16 billion ^a
GlaxoSmithKline	\$44 billion ^b	\$5 billion ^b	\$10 billion ^b	\$8 billion ^b
Bristol Myers Squibb	\$48 billion	\$4 billion+ (9M)	\$10 billion	\$7 billion
Eli Lilly	\$65 billion	\$6 billion+ (9M)	\$13 billion	\$21 billion
Total	\$579 billion	\$84 billion	\$109 billion	\$131 billion

Data obtained from SEC filings and quarterly reports. (9M = through 3rd quarter, Q4 data unavailable)

^a DKK converted to USD based on the [average quarterly exchange rate](#) of 6.355 kr. to \$1.00

^b GBP converted to USD based on the [average quarterly exchange rate](#) of £0.743 to \$1.00

Trump’s Scam Deals are Failing to Deliver Lower Drug Prices for Working Families. Drug companies are celebrating Trump’s scam deals, which have allowed them to save face, dodge tariffs, and [escape future drug pricing efforts](#) without any regard for the American consumer. Trump’s signature drug pricing policy, TrumpRx, benefits big drug companies far more than everyday Americans. Trump “negotiated” some of the [worst discounts](#) on the internet and is scamming Americans into paying more for drugs than they likely would through generics, their insurers, or other discount websites like Amazon and GoodRx. The [majority of top drugmakers projected revenue increases](#) in 2026 when including their deals with the Trump administration.

Drug Companies Are Profiting as Prices Rise. Over the past year, big drug companies have raised prices by an [average of 5.5%](#) for 688 top prescription drugs. Trump’s response? [Charging Americans higher prices](#) for prescription drugs through TrumpRx than they would pay for them through their insurance or for a low-cost generic version.

Coverage Losses, Skimpy Plans, High Out-of-Pocket Costs

Trump and Republicans’ massive cuts are ripping away coverage from [15 million](#) Americans, hiking out-of-pocket costs for millions, and driving millions more into skimpy plans that leave patients paying thousands out-of-pocket before insurers pay a dime. These high costs, fueled by Trump’s health care agenda, will also drive an estimated [5 million Americans](#) into medical debt, which will hurt their credit scores after Trump overturned Biden-era consumer protections.

Trump and Republicans Are Cutting Medicaid, Kicking Millions Off Coverage, and Raising Costs. Thanks to the Trump-GOP big, ugly bill, more than [10 million Americans](#) on Medicaid are losing health care, including seniors, children, veterans, and people with disabilities, all to pay for tax breaks for billionaires like Elon Musk and large corporations. The bill cuts [around \\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid alone, primarily by kicking Americans off Medicaid coverage. [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. Thanks to the GOP Medicaid cuts, 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. Colorado families will [go bankrupt](#) to get children with disabilities the care they need. In addition, the big, ugly bill will choke millions of Americans in red tape designed to rip away their coverage and will impose a sick tax on over [20 million](#) low-income people who rely on Medicaid, hitting them with an average of [\\$1,650](#) in new bills each year.

GOP Premium Hikes Cut Enrollment by 1.2 Million Across the Country. More than [one million Americans](#) have dropped ACA coverage entirely due to the GOP gutting tax credits for working families — a number that will continue to snowball month after month as the Trump-GOP premium hikes become unbearable for more and more families. By the end of the decade, [5 million](#) Americans are expected to lose coverage because of Republican cuts to the ACA.

Some of the hardest-hit states include:

	2025 Enrollment	2026 Enrollment	Difference
United States	24,319,713	23,036,917	-1,282,796
North Carolina	975,110	761,457	-213,653
Georgia*	1,510,852	1,301,254	-209,598
Florida	4,735,415	4,538,772	-196,643
Ohio	583,443	469,616	-113,827
Tennessee	642,867	569,310	-73,557

Sources: [KFF](#), State-based marketplace data

*State-based marketplace data publicly unavailable; data based on the CMS snapshot updated Jan. 28, 2026

Coverage Losses Result in Higher Costs for Everyone, Everywhere, Regardless of Where They Get Their Coverage. When people lose coverage, costs rise across the system. Uninsured patients turn to emergency rooms they can't afford to pay for, driving up premiums and hospital costs for [everyone](#), including those with employer coverage. Hospitals will struggle to stay open following the deep federal cuts, often falling victim to consolidation — a practice that drives up costs for patients. Some rural hospitals will be forced to close, also [driving up costs](#) for patients at nearby facilities.

Trump Is Pushing Millions of Americans Onto Skimpy Plans With Reduced Coverage That Won't Cover Them When They Get Sick. In addition to the big, ugly bill ripping away health care from over [15 million](#) Americans, Trump has proposed multiple rules to push people into plans that don't cover them when they get sick and raise their out-of-pocket costs. The latest rule proposed by Trump will:

- **Push families into plans that force them to pay [an arm and a leg](#) before insurers pay a single dollar**, replacing their once affordable, high-quality coverage options with plans that make them pay an average of \$10,000 before insurance kicks in.
- **Raise the out-of-pocket cost maximum by [13 percent](#)**, forcing Americans who buy insurance on their own to pay more for their care at a time they are already [struggling to afford their premiums and deductibles](#).

Trump and Republicans Are Tearing Down Public Health

Trump and his HHS Secretary RFK Jr. have spent the past year trashing America's public health infrastructure, gutting budgets, and emptying top health agencies. From chaos at HHS to the GOP war on vaccines to public health cuts, Republicans are tearing down the system brick-by-brick.

Trump & RFK Jr.'s War on Vaccines

Trump and RFK Jr. Are Destroying America's Vaccine Infrastructure. Trump and RFK Jr. overruled [experts](#) on vaccine policy, kicked top medical organizations out of workgroups for [establishing](#) vaccine recommendations, and [replaced](#) every member of the nation's top national vaccine advisory panel. Subsequently, they have radically altered the U.S. vaccine schedule.

Since taking office, Trump and RFK Jr. have:

- **Shrunk the national childhood immunization schedule** to just 11 diseases, [down from 17 diseases](#).
- **Ended guidance recommending the measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella combined shot** for children under age 4, [despite no scientific evidence](#) backing this decision.
- **Ended** long-standing federal vaccine recommendations that all newborns [receive](#) a **hepatitis B shot**.
- Cracked down on **COVID-19 vaccines** and [restricted access](#) instead of promoting COVID-19 vaccines as cases [shot up](#) late last year.
- **Slashed cutting-edge mRNA vaccine research**, pulling funding for [developing vaccines](#) for certain forms of cancer, HIV, bird flu, and more.

Trump and RFK Jr. Are Tearing Down America's Public Health Institutions. Trump and RFK Jr. have 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. They laid off [thousands of workers](#) at the CDC, FDA, and other critical health agencies. RFK Jr. has proven that America is less prepared to address public health threats under his leadership; he hampered emergency medical response [efforts](#), even as measles [surged](#) in West Texas, stalled CDC [reports](#) on the bird flu outbreak, even as cases [surged](#), and scaled back [surveillance](#) of foodborne illnesses, even as outbreaks increased. He has even removed critical information from the CDC's website, [censoring public health data](#) on HIV, hepatitis, STIs, tuberculosis, and more.

Trump and Republicans' Dangerous, Unpopular Health Care Agenda Is Tanking In the Polls

Americans Continue to Reject Trump and Republicans' Health Care Agenda

- 67% of Americans believe Republicans in Congress did the “[wrong thing](#)” by not extending ACA enhanced tax credits (KFF Health Tracking Poll).
- Voters give Democrats a 21-point advantage over Republicans on [handling health care](#), and trust Democrats over Republicans by 16 points when it comes to [vaccines](#) (Fox News Poll).
- Over two-thirds of voters [trust Democrats more than Republicans](#) to handle major health care issues like Medicaid, the ACA, and bringing down the cost of health care (KFF Health Tracking Poll).
- 57% of Americans say Trump is [focused on the wrong issues](#) (New York Times/Siena University Poll).
- [Half of the public](#) says Trump has hurt the cost of healthcare so far in his second term (Associated Press-NORC Poll).

Trump Disapproval Soars as Americans Struggle to Afford Health Care

- Americans are now [more worried](#) about the cost of health care than any other expense (KFF Health Tracking Poll).
- 71% of American adults are [very concerned about the cost of health care](#) (Pew Research Poll).
- 71% of Americans are [very concerned about the cost of health care](#) (Pew Research Poll).
- 55% of Americans say their health care costs have [gone up in the past year](#) (KFF Health Tracking Poll).