



The Budget Bill Is Bad for Ohio

The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" will terminate health coverage, drive up costs and cut care across the country — eliminating health coverage for nearly 16 million people¹ and resulting in over 51,000 preventable deaths nationwide.² If Congress charges ahead with either the Senate or House version of the bill, at least 440,000 Ohioans will lose health coverage,³ and Ohio's uninsured rate will increase by 60%.⁴

The budget bill threatens the health and financial security of Ohioans in every community:

- Makes the largest cut to Medicaid in history, gutting a whopping \$859 billion from Medicaid⁵ and the low-income families, workers, veterans and people with disabilities who rely on it for their care, including 3,000,000 children and adults in Ohio.⁶
- Drains \$349 billion from Marketplace coverage,⁷ jeopardizing small businesses and entrepreneurs in Ohio.
- Forces another \$500 billion in mandatory cuts to Medicare by triggering federal spending laws on top of the Medicaid cuts that will already impact seniors and people with disabilities who are also covered by Medicare (dual-eligibles).

The budget bill will wreak havoc on Ohio's health system and economy

Ohio will be forced to offset budget holes caused by this bill by terminating coverage for families, eliminating essential health services, and cutting provider rates so drastically that doctors and hospitals are forced to close their doors — particularly in rural communities. Hospitals like Harrison Community Hospital in Cadiz and Twin City Medical Center in Dennison will be at greater financial risk of closing due to Medicaid cuts in the bill.⁸

> Congress should reject these harmful cuts and instead take steps to protect health coverage programs that serve as lifelines for Ohioans.

The budget bill will roll back the last decade of improvements to Ohio health coverage and care

Ohio Medicaid will face major cuts, forcing the state to make tough decisions about rolling back the services it provides – including dental care, prescription drugs and substance use treatment. The bill would also raise costs for Ohio's low-income seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare coverage but also rely on Medicaid to help pay for out-of-pockets costs and access services not covered by Medicare. These cuts undermine the core financial backbone of Ohio's health care system, as Medicaid pays for a significant portion of care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serves as a critical engine for the state's economy.

Ohio Medicaid covers 3,000,000 children and adults:9 Image: A state of the state of

The Marketplace will be undermined in its mission to provide access to health care for Ohioans who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have affordable coverage through their employers. The bill would make it harder for Ohioans to buy their own health coverage through the Marketplace without preexisting condition exclusions. Marketplace coverage provides comprehensive health benefits, including cancer screenings and treatment for diabetes and high blood pressure. The bill was also written with the assumption that Congress will allow enhanced premium tax credits to expire, which will make coverage even more unaffordable for Ohioans.



Coverage for **583,000 Ohio residents.**¹³

The Marketplace provides:



Coverage for **26,000 small-business owners** in Ohio and **43,000 selfemployed** Ohio residents.¹⁴



Premium tax credits to help 90% of Ohio enrollees pay their premiums.¹⁵

The budget bill will harm Ohio families, workers, and small businesses by wrapping health coverage and care in red tape, undermining critical consumer protections, and making health care unaffordable.

Making public and private coverage more expensive, harder to get and keep

The bill will impose higher out-of-pocket costs and cumbersome verification procedures for both Medicaid and the Marketplace. It will also eliminate automatic enrollment and shorten the annual open enrollment period for the Marketplace, threatening coverage for the **279,000 people in Ohio who will no longer be able to automatically re-enroll** in their Marketplace plans from year to year.¹⁶ Around 140,000 additional Ohioans will become uninsured if Congress fails to renew enhanced premium tax credits that help them afford plans offered through the Marketplace.¹⁷

Kicking working people off coverage by creating bureaucratic barriers

The act will attack Ohio's successful Medicaid expansion, which covers 761,000 Ohioans.¹⁸ In 2014, Ohio became the 27th state to provide Medicaid coverage to residents who earn less than \$21,597 per year.¹⁹ The act will make it hard for these Ohioans to keep their coverage, requiring them to reverify they are eligible every six months.

The act also will impose **the most onerous work reporting requirements ever attempted**, requiring workers to prove that they have one or more jobs that meet the hourly minimum or that they are exempted. Based on the experience of states that previously – and unsuccessfully – tried to implement work reporting requirements, an estimated 224,000 people are at risk of losing their coverage in Ohio,²⁰ including seasonal farm and hospitality workers, caregivers, students, and people with disabilities. **An estimated 700 avoidable deaths will occur in Ohio each year when adults lose coverage because of work reporting requirements**.²¹

Rolling back consumer protections for children

For children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the act will eliminate current bans on annual and lifetime caps, enrollment waiting periods, and lockout periods for families who miss a premium payment because they cannot keep up with the cost of coverage.

Raising costs for the poorest and most vulnerable Ohioans covered by Medicare

Medicaid helps about 331,000 seniors and people with disabilities afford their Medicare expenses,²² including premiums and out-of-pocket costs when they see a doctor or need a hospital stay. The act will eliminate commonsense approaches like automatic data verification and streamlining applications, which will make it harder for these Ohioans to get the help they need to pay for their health care.



OHIO'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WILL LOSE AN ESTIMATED

\$4.3 BILLION PER YEAR IN FEDERAL FUNDING

The budget bill will create a crisis for Ohio's health system and state budget

With nearly half a million Ohioans set to lose access to their Medicaid and Marketplace coverage, **Ohio's health care system will lose an estimated \$4.3 billion per year in federal funding**, making it nearly impossible for the state to maintain current levels of coverage, benefits, and payments to providers.²³ Ohio taxpayers will have to spend at least that much each year to cover additional uncompensated care costs at hospitals and clinics that provide health care services to newly uninsured residents who lack the ability to pay. **The loss of federal funding will cause at least 38,000 total job losses (including jobs outside the health care sector) and \$6.4 billion in reduced economic output in the state.²⁴**

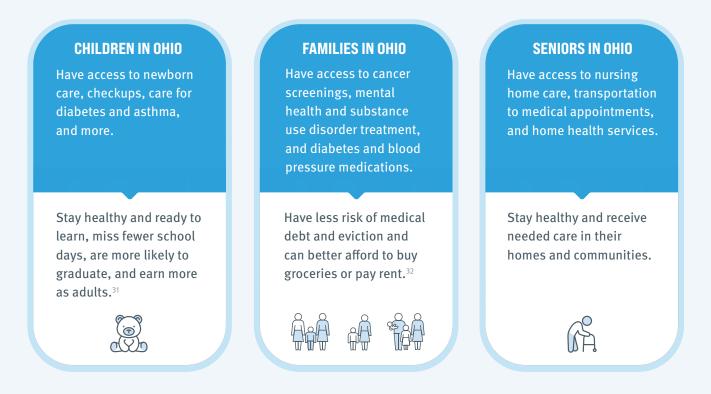
The act will eliminate Ohio's flexibility to fund Medicaid in a way that works best for the state by freezing taxes on health care providers at current rates. This will leave Ohio with few options to address budget shortfalls and meet future demands resulting from hardships caused by storms, public health emergencies and economic downturns.

- In fiscal year 2024, Ohio collected \$3.1 billion in provider taxes to fund the state Medicaid budget.²⁵
- A newly proposed increase in hospital provider taxes would bring in an additional \$912 million in fiscal year 2026 for the state Medicaid program critical revenue that would be blocked by this bill.²⁶

Cuts will make it much harder for Ohio to fund:

- 2 in 5 births for Ohio mothers.²⁷
- 2 in 3 Ohio nursing home residents.²⁸
- At least one-seventh of all hospital services at 153 Ohio hospitals.²⁹ For example, Medicaid pays for 32% of all hospital services at at Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital and 21% of all hospital services at Summa Health System Akron Campus.³⁰

The Senate should reject this ill-conceived proposal and instead vote to protect access to Medicaid, the Marketplace and Medicare so that:



The bill's proposed cuts to Medicaid, the Marketplace and Medicare are direct attacks on the health and financial security of Ohio residents and run counter to the will of the vast majority of voters from across political parties.³³

- 91% of Ohio voters want a "strong, sustainable Medicaid program."³⁴
- 69% of Ohio voters oppose cutting funding for Medicaid.³⁵
- 82% of adults nationwide including 67% of Republicans want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.³⁶

Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in Ohio and across the country by rejecting these cuts.

Endnotes

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