

Congressional Budget Office Scoring of the American Health Care Act

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its long-anticipated score of the GOP health care repeal bill, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in early May. Below are some topline talking points to help you respond to press requests and messaging needs.

Topline

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the nonpartisan congressional scorekeeper for legislation, reaffirmed its analysis of the American Health Care Act, or Trumpcare, as a disaster for [STATE]-ians.
- According to CBO analysis, 23 million people would lose their health care coverage in 2026, all to finance tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
- Additionally, people living with preexisting conditions who reside in states that accept a waiver under the AHCA would likely be priced out of the market and lose access to critical care.
- States, including [STATE], would see an \$834 billion decline in federal funding for Medicaid, blowing a hole in state budgets and likely forcing our state to ration care and cut essential programs and services.
- This plan punishes working families, older adults, people with disabilities, communities of color and children who desperately need health care but can't afford it, in order to reward those who need help the least.
- Rather than drafting a plan that would wipe out health care for 23 million people, congressional Republicans should come up with a solution that builds on the progress we've made in getting more people covered and providing them with the health and economic security they need.
- We call upon Senators [LAST NAME and LAST NAME] to reject Trumpcare, or any other legislation that breaks promises each made on the campaign trail. We refuse to accept any plan that would raise premiums, gut Medicaid, rollback consumer protections or strip millions of people of their health coverage.

Medicaid

- One of the more devastating aspects of Trumpcare is its deep cuts to Medicaid, which we know will cause millions of children, older adults, people with disabilities and low-income [STATE]-ians to lose health coverage.
- Combined with the \$834 billion in cuts to Medicaid through the Trump budget, Republicans are taking a buzzsaw to the social safety net.
- [STATE] cannot afford these dramatic cuts to our Medicaid program, both because of the enormous pressure that will be put on our state budget and the emotional and financial toll on vulnerable [STATE]-ians.
- This should be a wake-up call for [GOVERNOR NAME]: per capita caps are a Trojan horse that will allow the federal government to reduce the federal deficit at the expense of state budgets.
- This analysis from the CBO, plus the release of Trump's budget, exposes as wishful thinking any governor's assumption that additional "flexibility" would help them weather the AHCA's cuts to Medicaid. Capping Medicaid funding through a 'cap' creates a dial that Congress and the administration could use to ratchet down any time they want additional savings from Medicaid to fund other priorities.

Additional Talking Points

- For Expansion States: [STATE] also has benefited hugely from expanding Medicaid, it has brought [NUMBER] [millions/billions] of federal funding to our state and strengthened our state's economy by creating jobs and providing health coverage to [NUMBER] [STATE]-ians.

- Furthermore, defunding Planned Parenthood, as proposed under the AHCA, would put the health care of millions of women and LGBTQ individuals at considerable risk of losing access to needed care.
- Republicans in Washington talk a lot about reform, but capping and cutting Medicaid is the wrong reform for kids, people with disabilities, older adults and working families. The CBO score makes it clear that the AHCA would harm [STATE] families and shift huge costs back to our state. It's a bad deal for [STATE].

Rather than working behind closed doors on legislation, opposed by an overwhelming number of voters, our nation's doctors, nurses, insurers and health care providers, the AARP, American Cancer Society, and countless other organizations, the Senate should come up with a solution that builds on the progress we've made in expanding coverage and providing people with the health and economic security they need.