

Marylanders' Health at Risk

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has generated enormous benefits through increased insurance coverage, groundbreaking patient protections, cost savings and new requirements for maternity care and mental health and substance use treatment among others. All are now at risk. This imperils the health of individuals, our communities and, in fact, our state. Why? Because the current repeal and replace efforts on Capitol Hill – the American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed in the House and the Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) - will reverse the important advances we have made. The impact will be seen across the health care and economic landscape:

Uninsured Rate

- By 2022, the uninsured rate in Maryland will rise from 9.8% to 21% among non-elderly adults and from 1.8% to 7.8% among children.¹

Medicaid

- 1 in 5 Marylanders is covered by Medicaid - 300,000 are newly insured under the ACA.
- 164,800 people would lose Medicaid coverage by 2026 under the BCRA.²
- Small shifts in the Medical Consumer Price Index would have even more devastating consequences – a 0.5% reduction in CPI-M would result in Maryland losing an additional \$1.5 billion in Medicaid funding from 2020-2026.³

Private Insurance

- 62,600 Marylanders would lose coverage in the individual market under the BCRA.⁴
- Tens of thousands would see their subsidies reduced and their out of pocket expenses rise,⁵ while 4,610 Marylanders would lose their subsidies altogether due to the reduction in eligibility from 400% FPL to 350% FPL.⁶
- A 60-year-old in Montgomery County with a \$40,000 annual income would see his Silver Plan premium rise from \$9,370 to \$12,590 and his tax credit decline from \$5,290 to \$3,860, for a net cost increase of \$4,650 annually.⁷

¹Linda J. Blumberg, Matthew Buettgens, John Holahan, Bowen Garrett, and Robin Wang, *State-by-State Coverage and Government Spending Implications of the Better Care Reconciliation Act*, 2017, <http://www.urban.org/research/publication/state-state-coverage-and-government-spending-implications-better-care-reconciliation-act>.

²Emily Gee, *Coverage Losses By State For The Senate Health Care Repeal Bill* (Center For American Progress) 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/06/27/435112/coverage-losses-state-senate-health-care-repeal-bill/>.

³Cindy Mann, Jocelyn Gruyer, April Grady and Adam Striar, *Expect the Unexpected: The Impact of Medicaid Caps*, (Commonwealth Fund) 2017, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2017/jun/impact-of-medicaid-caps>.

⁴See 2.

⁵*Premiums And Tax Credits Under The Affordable Care Act Vs. The Senate Better Care Reconciliation Act: Interactive Maps*, 2017, <http://www.kff.org/interactive/premiums-and-tax-credits-under-the-affordable-care-act-vs-the-senate-better-care-reconciliation-act-interactive-maps/>.

⁶Email from MHBE.

⁷See 5.

Medicare

- 119,800 Medicare beneficiaries (15%) in Maryland rely on Medicaid for assistance with Medicare premiums and cost sharing and services not covered by Medicare, particularly long-term care.⁸

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- \$593 million = estimated cost to treat individuals with opioid use disorder in Maryland in 2026. In contrast, the state's share of the money from the BCRA would be only \$105 million.⁹

Jobs and the Economy

- 21,200 = estimated number of jobs lost in Maryland by 2026. 15,000 of those would be in the health care sector.¹⁰
- -\$2.4 billion = estimated decline in gross state product by 2026.¹¹
- 27% = the percentage of health sector jobs supported by Medicaid spending.¹²
- -\$8.72 billion = projected reduction in federal support for Maryland's Medicaid program from 2017-2026,¹³ while the top 3.7% of Maryland taxpayers receive almost \$500 million in tax breaks *annually*.¹⁴
- \$1.5 billion = Maryland's projected structural deficit by FY2022 without taking into account any changes at the Federal level.¹⁵

Hospital Finances

- 54% = projected increase in uncompensated care costs (2017-2026) at Maryland's rural acute care hospitals, with a 49% projected increase at Maryland's acute care hospitals overall.¹⁶
- -17% = loss in Medicaid revenues (including DSH payments) for Maryland's rural acute care hospitals from 2017-2026.¹⁷

**For more information, visit www.consumerhealthfirst.org
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⁸ *Medicaid In Maryland*, 2017, <http://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-MD>.

⁹ Emily Gee & Richard Frank, *Senate's Opioid Fund Cannot Substitute For Health Coverage* (Center For American Progress) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/06/20/434708/senates-opioid-fund-cannot-substitute-health-coverage/>.

¹⁰ *The Impact Of The American Health Care Act On Employment*. (Commonwealthfund.Org), 2017, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives-and-data/maps-and-data/the-impact-of-aca-repeal-on-employment>.

¹¹ See 10.

¹² *Medicaid is Vital for Women's Jobs in Every Community* (NWLC), 2017, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Medicaid-Jobs-Report.pdf>.

¹³ *Maryland - Oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act*, (Maryland Hospital Association), 2017, <http://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/publications/update-links/bcra-one-page-summary---maryland-impact.pdf>.

¹⁴ *Affordable Care Act Repeal Includes a \$31 Billion Tax Cut for a Handful of the Wealthiest Taxpayers: 50-State Breakdown* (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy), 2017, <https://itep.org/affordable-care-act-repeal-includes-a-31-billion-tax-cut-for-a-handful-of-the-wealthiest-taxpayers-5/>.

¹⁵ Source: Simon Powell, Ph.D., Operating Budget Manager, Maryland General Assembly.

¹⁶ Haught et al., *How the American Health Care Act's Changes to Medicaid Will Affect Hospital Finances in Every State*, 2017, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2017/jun/how-changes-to-medicaid-will-affect-hospital-finances-in-every-state>.

¹⁷ See 15.