

DEFEND AMERICA

ACTION

FACT SHEET: Trump and Republicans Ignore Affordability Crisis and Rip Away Help As Working North Carolinians Face Skyrocketing Costs

- **COST-OF-LIVING IS A TOP CONCERN FOR NORTH CAROLINIANS:** North Carolina shoppers are [facing](#) high prices [due to Trump's tariffs](#). A recent poll from the right-leaning Carolina Journal [found](#) that 58 percent of North Carolina residents are not confident in the state of the economy, and **nearly 56 percent of North Carolinians believe Trump's tariffs are hurting their families' financial situation**. An Elon University poll [found](#) that the majority of North Carolinians say inflation and the job market have worsened since Trump took office.
- **FOOD COSTS ARE RISING IN NORTH CAROLINA:** Food costs are [rising](#) nationwide thanks to Donald Trump's tariffs and America-last trade policies – especially in North Carolina. [25 percent](#) of North Carolina children live in food-insecure homes, and local food businesses are [raising](#) prices due to increased ingredient costs attributed to inflation and Trump's tariffs.
- **NC HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE UP THANKS TO TRUMP & REPUBLICANS:** An Elon University poll [found](#) that a large majority (63 percent) of North Carolinians are “very or somewhat concerned” that it may become harder to get health care after the Trump-GOP budget [cut](#) \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), leaving **more than half a million North Carolinians at risk of losing** their health care. North Carolina will [lose billions](#) in funding for hospitals due to these cuts, and the state is [already seeking](#) \$1 billion from the federal government to shore up rural health care in anticipation of slashed budgets.
- **NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY COSTS ARE SKYROCKETING:** Since Trump took office in January, energy bills are [up a whopping 13 percent](#). Climate Power estimates that **electricity bills in the state have also risen \$240 annually**, and Duke Energy – which serves about 1.8 million people across Central and Western North Carolina – is [planning](#) to **hike customers' monthly power bills by a cumulative 37 percent by 2029**.
- **JOB LOSSES & LOST NC INVESTMENT:** Trump has **cancelled billions of dollars in North Carolina clean energy investments**, terminating [\\$1.3 billion](#) in clean energy funding for the state and **leading to an estimated 1,849 jobs in North Carolina being lost**. An Asheville-based energy company [declared bankruptcy](#), [laid off](#) more than 78 percent of its workforce, and is closing its local Asheville facility thanks to these cuts. Likewise, Natron Energy [canceled](#) a \$1.4 billion factory in Eastern North Carolina that would have created 1,000 jobs after it was [forced to close and liquidate](#) in September.

- **TAR HEEL HOUSING CRUNCH:** Affordable housing in North Carolina is [becoming more scarce](#) as **home affordability has declined across all 15 of North Carolina's metropolitan areas** since 2019. Buying a home has [become unaffordable](#) for median-income households in all but one metropolitan area market in the state as median home prices have [increased over 66 percent](#) since 2020. The National Low Income Housing Coalition [found](#) that there is a severe shortage of affordable rental homes as well, with **only 2 affordable rental homes available for every 5 extremely low-income North Carolina households**.
- **NC SMALL BUSINESSES ARE SUFFERING:** Many small business owners in North Carolina [say](#) they are struggling with rising costs, shipping delays, and economic uncertainty. **51 percent of Raleigh-area business owners listed higher prices as an extreme concern**, [higher than the national average](#).
- **NORTH CAROLINA K-12 EDUCATION IN CRISIS:** North Carolina teachers and schools are struggling amid [Trump and DOGE's budget cuts](#), Republican-caused funding disruptions, and higher costs. Tar Heel teachers are reportedly [bearing the second-highest classroom supply costs](#) in the nation this school year. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has [cancelled](#) **\$121 million in federal grants to North Carolina schools** and the Trump-GOP budget and government shutdown [disrupted](#) a further \$199 million in federal grants to North Carolina schools. In Western North Carolina, some school districts have even [considered closing schools](#) in order to address multi-million dollar budget shortfalls.
- **HELP RIPPED AWAY FROM NORTH CAROLINIANS:** Trump's budget cuts are **ripping away vital assistance** for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians.
 - North Carolinians who buy Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage are [facing](#) an **average premium increase of nearly 29 percent** for 2026, and **just under 900,000 people** [across the state](#) will see their coverage costs for next year [soar](#) after the Trump-GOP budget [ripped away](#) critical ACA tax credits.
 - Trump and Republicans in Congress [cut \\$187 billion](#) in food assistance, which could [leave](#) **142,000 North Carolina residents with reduced food aid** and leave the state [without](#) \$2.8 billion in annual federal funds that generate \$4.2 billion in economic impact.
 - The Trump administration's decision to **leave North Carolinians to fend for themselves in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene** [continues to impact](#) Western North Carolina's economy.