

DEFEND AMERICA
ACTION



— HEALTH CARE IN CRISIS • MAY 2026

Trump and Republicans Are Making Health Care *Unaffordable* for Michiganders

*A manufactured crisis: 555,000 Michiganders set to lose coverage,
premiums up 131%, and rural hospitals on the brink.*

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Trump and Republicans Are Making Health Care Unaffordable for Michiganders

When he visited Detroit in January, Donald Trump declared one of his top priorities would be to “make America affordable again” and “put more money into the pockets of American consumers.” Trump promised to lower costs for Michiganders; instead, working families, children, seniors, and small business owners across the state are paying more than ever for health care. Trump and Republicans in Congress are the reason health care is becoming less affordable by the minute. They launched an all-out assault on the health care system when they slashed \$1 trillion from Medicaid and allowed life-saving ACA tax credits to expire last year. The result? A deliberate, manufactured health care crisis that is forcing Michigan families off coverage, pushing premiums to historic highs, driving Great Lakes State hospitals and clinics toward closure, and leaving rural communities without access to care.

Now, Michigan residents are suffering under an unprecedented disaster that is the direct result of Trump's failed policies, as tens of thousands lose coverage and hundreds of thousands watch their premiums more than double this year – all while Trump and his billionaire buddies cash-in with some of the biggest tax breaks in history.

— BY THE NUMBERS

Michigan's Health Care *Affordability* Crisis

555K

As many as 555,000 Michiganders will lose their health care coverage entirely due to Trump and the GOP's health care cuts – including up to 355,000 on Medicaid and 200,000 people who buy ACA insurance.

Source: Michigan Public · CRC Michigan

85K

At least 85,000 Michiganders on Medicaid or ACA coverage have already lost or dropped their health care. Nearly 35,000 dropped ACA coverage; over 50,000 lost Medicaid since July.

Source: Bridge Michigan · CMS

+131%

Premiums are increasing by an average of 131 percent this year for over 470,000 Michiganders who buy health insurance through the ACA.

Source: Center for American Progress · KFF

45%

45 percent of Michiganders say their health care costs have risen over the past year.

Source: Detroit News / WDIV-TV poll, January 2026

15

Michigan hospitals and clinics are closing, have already announced cuts, or are at risk of closure in the wake of Trump and the GOP's health care cuts.

Source: Protect Our Care – Hospital Crisis Watch

SECTION 01

Michiganders Are Deeply Concerned About Rising Health Care Costs

— *Health Care Affordability Is A Top Issue For Michigan Voters.*

A recent EPIC-MRA poll reportedly found that [67% of Michigan voters](#) agree that rising costs for essentials, including groceries, goods affected by tariffs, health insurance and child care, are hitting Michigan working families hardest, and will continue to worsen. [45% of Michiganders](#) say their health insurance costs have risen over the past year, according to a January 2026 Detroit News and WDIV-TV poll. Overall, 66% of Americans [worry about affording health care](#) – more than utilities, food, housing, or gas. 80% of ACA enrollees [say](#) their 2026 costs are higher, and 55% are cutting back on food or basic household items to afford health care.

— *Michiganders Wanted Trump And Republicans In Congress To Extend ACA Tax Credits.*

Trump and Republicans' refusal to extend ACA tax credits that make health care affordable has created a [living nightmare](#) for hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents. A recent KFF Health Tracking Poll [found](#) 67% of Americans say Congress did the “wrong thing” by not extending the credits. As many as [1 in 4 people](#) enrolled in ACA coverage said they were “very likely” to go without insurance in 2026 if premiums more than double in cost.

SECTION 02

Trump and the GOP Cut Medicaid and the ACA For Working Michiganders

— *Trump And Republicans Enacted The Largest Medicaid Cuts In The Program's 60-Year History.*

Last year, Trump and Republicans in Congress [slashed](#) nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, imposing sweeping work requirements, mandating eligibility renewals every six months, and sharply restricting how states like Michigan fund the critical program. As a result of the Trump-GOP cuts, [up to 355,000 Michiganders](#) will lose Medicaid coverage entirely. [Over 50,000](#) Michiganders have already lost their Medicaid coverage since Trump and Republicans passed their health care cuts last July.

— *Michigan Kids Rely On Health Care Programs Trump And The GOP Gutted.*

Michigan kids are disproportionately impacted by Trump and the GOP's massive cuts to health care. [Around 45%](#) of all children in Michigan rely on Medicaid, CHIP, or the ACA for health coverage. According to nonprofit Michigan's Children, [99% of children in foster care](#) are covered by Medicaid, [45% of all births](#) in Michigan are covered by Medicaid, and [half of the children with special needs](#) in Michigan rely on Medicaid for care.

— *Premiums Doubled Overnight After Republicans Killed ACA Tax Credits.*

After Trump and Republicans refused to extend critical ACA tax credits, Michigan ACA enrollees faced an estimated [average premium increase of 131%](#) to keep their coverage. A 60-year-old couple in Michigan making \$85,000, for example, [saw](#) their average annual ACA premium costs rise by \$19,533 to hit \$26,758 this year.

— *Nearly 35,000 Michiganders Have Already Lost Or Dropped Their Health Coverage Due Spiking Costs.*

According to data [released by](#) the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Open Enrollment 2026, [nearly 35,000](#) Michiganders dropped their ACA coverage for 2026 after Trump and Republicans ripped away ACA tax credits – a nearly 4% drop in enrollment.

— *Local Small Businesses Are Losing Health Care.*

The Trump-GOP plan to rip away ACA tax credits is hitting Michigan small businesses especially hard. A recent poll of Michigan small business owners showed that 89% are facing higher business costs compared with past year, with 40% saying their health insurance premiums rose at least three times faster than overall inflation. 94,800 small business owners and 60,700 self-employed workers in the state rely on the ACA for coverage – more than one in five ACA enrollees in Michigan. 87% of small business owners wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

SECTION 03

Michigan Hospitals Are Closing & Rural Health Care Is At Risk

— *Michigan Will Lose Nearly \$3 Billion In Federal Medicaid Funding As GOP Slashes Critical Hospital Funding.*

The Trump-GOP cuts include caps to the provider taxes that Michigan hospitals rely on in order to stay afloat. The Commonwealth Fund estimates that, by 2029, the state will lose \$2.9 billion in federal Medicaid funding – a nearly 14% reduction – in addition to Michigan communities losing \$224 million in state and local tax revenue. Michigan hospitals alone are losing just shy of \$1 billion in critical funding. Michigan's rural hospitals, particularly in the Upper Peninsula, are slated to lose an additional 21 cents out of every dollar they currently receive in Medicaid funding, which will push hospitals with high numbers of patients enrolled in Medicaid to the brink.

— *15 Michigan Hospitals And Clinics Are Already Closed, Cutting Services, Or Are At Risk.*

Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch has found 15 health care facilities in Michigan that have already been severely impacted in the wake of Trump and the GOP's cuts to health care, including:

- **AT RISK:** UP Health System, Memorial Healthcare, Munson Healthcare, Aspirus Ontonagon Clinic, Carson City Hospital, McLaren Central Michigan, Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital, and more.
- **CUTS ANNOUNCED:** Aspirus Iron River and Trinity Health.
- **CLOSED:** Aspirus Ironwood Hospital's Labor & Delivery Unit; Planned Parenthood's Jackson Health Center, Marquette Health Center, and Petoskey Health Center; and Pain Free Life Centers.

— *Rural Michigan Hospitals Are Most At-Risk.*

Michigan's rural hospital network was already operating on razor-thin margins even before Trump and the GOP even passed their massive cuts to critical hospital funding. A 2024 analysis found that roughly half of Michigan's rural hospitals were operating at a loss. Now, Becker's Hospital Review estimates that the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts could threaten the closure of nearly one in six rural hospitals statewide. Data shows that rural residents in Michigan's Upper Peninsula currently face a median drive time of 55 minutes just to reach a facility equipped for safe surgical care, and each local hospital closure adds 11 minutes to ambulance transport times.

— *Trump's Pity Rural Health Fund Won't Cover His Massive Cuts To Michigan's Rural Health Care Infrastructure.*

In response to concerns from Michigan state officials about cuts to Medicaid, the Trump administration doled out a pitiful award 13% lower than the average grant – the 8th-lowest nationwide, despite Michigan being the 10th-largest state by population. The rural health care grant will not make up for the massive federal budget cuts, offers no guarantees that the money will go to the hospitals that need it the most, and falls far short of covering budget discrepancies by tens of millions of dollars.

SECTION 04

Out-of-Pocket Costs Are Rising In Michigan, Despite Trump's Promises

— *Trump Is Protecting Big Pharma's Profits While Michigan Seniors Pay More.*

While Trump has [publicly declared](#) that drug prices are dropping, his health care cuts carved out an [expanded orphan drug exemption](#) shielding nearly one-third of high-priced drugs from the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program passed by President Biden and Democrats in Congress. The carve-out gives Big Pharma [\\$8.8 billion over 10 years](#) at the expense of taxpayers and seniors, raising out-of-pocket costs for Michigan's [1.8 million](#) prescription drug beneficiaries on Medicare. Meanwhile, Medicare premiums [rose](#) to \$202.90 a month in 2026 (up \$17.90), and the annual deductible rose to \$283. Last year, monthly out-of-pocket costs for brand-name drugs under Medicare Part D [jumped 26%](#) to \$108 a month.

— *688 Drug Prices Have Gone Up Since Trump Took Office.*

A September 2025 [Senate HELP Committee report](#) found that 688 prescription drugs have increased in price since Trump took office, with a median increase of 5.5% and 25 drugs more than doubling. Of the 17 pharmaceutical companies Trump personally asked to lower prices, [15 raised prices regardless](#).

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Michigan families can't afford another year of manufactured crisis.

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to standing up for the working families, children, seniors, and small business owners Donald Trump's policies are leaving behind.

This report draws exclusively on publicly reported sources. Every link in this PDF is clickable and leads to the original reporting.