



HEALTH CARE IN CRISIS:

**TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS
ARE MAKING HEALTH CARE
UNAFFORDABLE
FOR PENNSYLVANIANS**



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Donald Trump's destructive policies are throwing working families into economic turmoil, stoking a dire affordability crisis across the country. Pennsylvanians and Americans are suffering under an unprecedented affordability crisis that is the direct result of Trump's failed policies. When Trump visited Pennsylvania in December, he [declared](#), "We're also working to bring down the cost of health care." Instead, health care costs are skyrocketing for working families after Trump and Republicans in Congress launched an all-out assault on the health care system, slashing \$1 trillion from Medicaid and allowing life-saving ACA tax credits to expire. The result is a deliberate, manufactured health care crisis forcing families off coverage, pushing premiums to historic highs, driving hospitals and clinics toward closure, and leaving rural communities without access to care. Hundreds of thousands are seeing their premiums double, triple, and even quadruple this spring while Trump's billionaire buddies cash in with some of the biggest tax breaks in history. Trump promised to lower health care costs for Pennsylvanians, but instead working families, children, seniors, and small business owners across the commonwealth are paying more than ever for health care.

BY THE NUMBERS: Pennsylvania's Health Care Affordability Crisis

- As many as **600,000 Pennsylvanians** will [lose their health care coverage](#) entirely due to Trump and the GOP's health care cuts.
- **Premiums [increased](#)** by an average of **102 percent** this year for **420,000 Pennsylvanians** who [buy health insurance](#) through the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- **One in five** ACA enrollees [dropped](#) their coverage this year due to rising costs.
- **23 Pennsylvania hospitals and clinics** are [closing](#), have already announced cuts, or are at risk of closure.
- Out-of-pocket drug [costs](#) for Pennsylvania seniors **rose 26%** last year.

Pennsylvanians Are Deeply Concerned About Rising Health Care Costs

- **HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY IS A TOP ISSUE FOR PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS.** A majority of Pennsylvania voters [say](#) health care costs are a top political issue, according to a recent PennLive poll. A [Franklin & Marshall College Poll](#) also found that just 20% of Pennsylvanians say they are better off financially than a year ago. Overall, 66% of Americans [worry about affording health care](#) — more than utilities, food,

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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.

- **PENNSYLVANIANS WANTED TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS TO EXTEND ACA TAX CREDITS.** According to the PennLive poll, 62% of Pennsylvania voters said Congress should restore ACA tax credits, and 43% said enrollees are more [likely to drop coverage](#) without them. The poll matches national trends; a recent KFF Health Tracking Poll [found](#) 67% of Americans say Congress did the "wrong thing" by not extending the credits.

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

- **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 Pennsylvania fund the critical program. As a result of the Trump-GOP cuts, an [estimated 340,000 Pennsylvanians](#) will lose Medicaid coverage entirely.
 - **NEARLY HALF OF PENNSYLVANIA KIDS RELY ON PROGRAMS TRUMP AND THE GOP SLASHED.** Pennsylvania kids are disproportionately impacted by Trump and the GOP's massive cuts to health care. [Nearly half](#) of all children in Pennsylvania rely on Medicaid, CHIP, or the ACA for health coverage, and a December 2025 [report from PA Partnerships for Children](#) found that 153,000 Pennsylvania children are currently uninsured — the highest number in a decade, even before Trump's health care cuts took effect.
- **PREMIUMS DOUBLED OVERNIGHT AFTER REPUBLICANS KILLED ACA TAX CREDITS.** After Trump and Republicans refused to extend critical ACA tax credits, Pennie enrollees faced an [average premium increase of 102%](#) to keep their coverage. A 60-year-old couple in Pennsylvania making \$85,000, for example, [saw](#) their average annual ACA premium costs rise by \$22,438 to hit \$29,663 this year. [Pennie announced](#) that 85,000 Pennsylvanians — nearly 1 in 5 enrollees — dropped their coverage after Congress allowed enhanced ACA premium tax credits to expire.
- **100,000 PENNSYLVANIANS HAVE ALREADY DROPPED THEIR HEALTH COVERAGE DUE TO SPIKING COSTS.** In March, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro

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confirmed that [100,000 Pennsylvanians have already been forced off their health care coverage](#) due to skyrocketing premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

- **LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES ARE LOSING HEALTH CARE.** The Trump-GOP plan to [rip away](#) ACA tax credits is [hitting](#) Pennsylvania small businesses [especially hard](#). 101,000 small business owners and 63,000 self-employed workers in the commonwealth [rely](#) on the ACA for coverage – nearly one-third of the total ACA enrollees in Pennsylvania. 87% of small business owners [wanted](#) Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

Pennsylvania Hospitals Are Closing & Rural Health Care Is At Risk

- **PENNSYLVANIA WILL LOSE \$20 BILLION IN FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING, SLASHING CRITICAL HOSPITAL FUNDING.** The Trump-GOP cuts include caps to the provider taxes that Pennsylvania hospitals rely on in order to stay afloat. Pennsylvania's DHS estimates that the commonwealth will lose approximately [\\$20 billion over 10 years](#). Medicaid already reimburses Pennsylvania hospitals only [71 cents on the dollar](#), and once cuts take full effect, the reimbursement rate will drop to around 64 cents on the dollar.
- **23 PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALS AND CLINICS ARE ALREADY CLOSING, CUTTING SERVICES, OR ARE AT RISK.** Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch has [found](#) 23 health care facilities in Pennsylvania that have been severely impacted in the wake of Trump and the GOP's cuts to health care:
 - **AT-RISK:** UPMC Jameson, UPMC Northwest, UPMC Kane, UPMC Horizon, Highlands Hospital.
 - **CUTS ANNOUNCED:** Penn Highlands Connellsville, Penn Highlands Mon Valley, Tower Health, Jefferson Health, Pottstown Hospital.
 - **CLOSING OR CLOSED:** Bradford Regional Medical Center ER, AHN United Physicians, Tower Health Phoenixville Post-Acute Rehab, Planned Parenthood Bridgeville & Greensburg.
- **A THIRD OF PENNSYLVANIA'S RURAL HOSPITALS ARE AT RISK.** Pennsylvania officials estimate the Medicaid cuts could threaten the closure of [at least 25 rural hospitals](#) statewide. The Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform [found](#)

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that 17 Pennsylvania rural hospitals are already at risk of closing, with 9 at immediate risk, which amounts to over a third of Pennsylvania's critical rural hospital network. Pennsylvania officials estimate the Medicaid cuts could threaten the closure of [at least 25 rural hospitals](#) statewide.

- **OVER A DOZEN MORE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALS COULD CLOSE IN 5 YEARS.** A [January 2026 analysis](#) by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania found that 37% of commonwealth hospitals are already operating at a loss, and 12 to 14 more could close. These closures would [add](#) approximately 22 minutes to the average commonwealth resident's drive to the nearest hospital for care, and would [cost](#) Pennsylvania health care workers \$900 million in lost wages.
- **TRUMP'S PITY RURAL HEALTH FUND WON'T COVER HIS MASSIVE CUTS TO PENNSYLVANIA'S RURAL HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE.** In response to concerns from Pennsylvania officials about cuts to Medicaid, the Trump administration [doled out](#) a [pitiful, lower-than-average](#) rural health care grant that [will not make up for](#) federal budget cuts and [falls short](#) of covering budget discrepancies by hundreds of millions of dollars.

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

- **TRUMP IS PROTECTING BIG PHARMA'S PROFITS WHILE PENNSYLVANIA SENIORS PAY MORE.** While Trump has [publicly declared](#) that drug prices are dropping, his Big, Ugly Bill created 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 Pennsylvania's [2.4 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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