

**DEFEND AMERICA**  
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ANNIVERSARY REPORT • JULY 2026

# One Year Later, Trump's *Big Ugly Bill* Is Making America Unaffordable

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*\$1 trillion ripped from Medicaid, 4 million+ off SNAP, 140,000 clean-energy jobs gone – and a \$92 billion utility-rate spike. The richest got a handout. Working families got the bill.*

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# One Year Later, Trump's Big Ugly Bill Is Making America Unaffordable

One year ago, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans passed their Big Ugly Bill, promising it would make America affordable again. That was a lie. Instead, Trump ripped health coverage from millions of Americans, kicked millions of people off food assistance, drove up energy bills, and killed hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs. Republicans sacrificed the American people's financial future, health care, and food security to pay for massive tax breaks for big corporations and the ultra-wealthy. The richest people on the planet got a handout, and working families got the bill.

## — BY THE NUMBERS

# The Big Ugly Bill, One Year *In*

## \$1T

\$1 trillion cut from Medicaid and the ACA, kicking 15 million Americans off health care, burying them in out-of-pocket costs, and drowning them in medical debt.

Source: CBO · CAP · Third Way

## 3.8M

3.8 million Americans have already lost Medicaid/CHIP coverage.

Source: Protect Our Care

## 4.2M

4.2 million Americans have lost their ACA marketplace plan.

Source: Protect Our Care

## 22M

22 million people had health tax credits ripped away, and premiums have more than doubled for millions.

Source: KFF

## ~1,000

Nearly 1,000 hospitals, nursing homes, and providers have shuttered, are at risk, or have cut services.

Source: Protect Our Care – Hospital Crisis Watch

## 4M+

More than 4 million people – 10 percent of SNAP participants – have already been cut off from food assistance.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

## \$92B

Since Trump took office, utilities have raised or sought to raise energy bills by more than \$92 billion, hitting 112 million electric customers across 49 states.

Source: Center for American Progress

## 140K

Over 140,000 clean energy jobs have already been lost or stalled and 382 projects canceled or delayed; \$29 billion in manufacturing cancellations in 2025 alone.

Source: Climate Power · EDF

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**SECTION 01**

## Health Care in Crisis

Trump and Republicans made the largest cuts to health care in American history, slashing over [\\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid and the ACA to fund tax breaks for billionaires. The results have been catastrophic: millions have already lost coverage, premiums have doubled or tripled, and hospitals and clinics across the country are closing their doors. Americans are delaying care, skipping prescriptions, and falling deeper into medical debt.

### *— The Coverage Collapse Is Already Underway.*

[Nearly 15 million Americans](#) are set to lose health coverage. Since passage, [2.5 million Americans](#) who relied on Medicaid have already lost coverage, as the bill's sweeping work requirements and six-month eligibility renewals kicked in.

### *— Premiums Have Doubled – or Worse.*

After Republicans allowed ACA tax credits to expire, premiums [increased by 114 percent](#) on average, triggering a [21.5 percent collapse](#) in marketplace enrollment. One in five [enrollees](#) in healthcare.gov states dropped their coverage entirely, [11 million low-income Americans](#) lost zero-dollar premiums, and deductibles [rose an average of 37 percent](#) for people buying insurance on their own.

### *— The Financial Pain Is Crushing Families.*

More than half of ACA enrollees report [cutting back](#) on food or basic household items to afford health care. [66 percent of Americans](#) worry about affording health care – more than utilities, food, housing, or gas – and [67 percent](#) say Congress did the “wrong thing” by not extending the credits.

— *Big Pharma Got a Giveaway While Seniors Got a Bill.*

The bill [shielded nearly one-third of high-priced drugs](#) from Medicare price negotiation, delayed negotiation of blockbuster cancer drugs that would have saved seniors [more than \\$3,000 a year](#), and eliminated [\\$2 generic drugs](#) for seniors.

— *Hospitals Are Closing Across the Country.*

[Over 900](#) hospitals, nursing homes, maternity wards, and other critical providers have shuttered, are at risk of closing, or have cut essential services since passage of the bill. [In California](#), state officials are warning rural communities to brace for devastating job losses and skyrocketing medical bills. [In Virginia](#), one-third of all rural hospitals are at risk of closure.

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**SECTION 02**

## Hunger by Design: The Assault on Food Assistance

The Big Ugly Bill enacted the largest cut to food assistance in American history – slashing \$187 billion from SNAP over ten years. The cuts tightened work requirements, expanded the population subject to them, shifted new costs to states, and ended eligibility for many people with lawful immigration status. Republicans made this choice at the exact moment grocery prices were already squeezing family budgets and food insecurity was surging.

### — *Over 4 Million People Have Already Lost Food Assistance.*

According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), SNAP participation has already fallen by more than 4 million people – 10 percent – with some states seeing enrollment collapse by 15 to 49 percent. Experts warn the full impact is still months away.

### — *The Cuts Hit the Most Vulnerable Hardest.*

Nearly [3 million young adults ages 18–24](#) are at risk of losing food assistance. Tightened work requirements now strip protections from people in areas with limited job openings, young adults who aged out of foster care, and veterans.

### — *Losing SNAP Often Means Losing Health Coverage Too.*

Because [78 percent of SNAP recipients](#) are also on Medicaid, millions of families face the simultaneous loss of both food assistance and health coverage. Medicaid covers [88 percent of children who receive SNAP](#) – approximately 13 million kids.

### — *Food Insecurity Has Already Reached Pandemic-Era Levels.*

A May 2026 Federal Reserve Bank of New York survey [found](#) food insecurity has reached levels not seen since 2020 – even before the full impact of the SNAP cuts has been felt. [Grocery prices rose 2.9 percent](#) in April year-over-year, the highest rate in years, and are up nearly one-third since 2020. [61 percent of Americans](#) said they had cut back on groceries altogether.

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**SECTION 03**

## Killing Jobs and Driving Up Energy Costs

The Inflation Reduction Act sparked an unprecedented American clean energy and manufacturing boom – generating \$321 billion in private investment across 4,500 domestic facilities and hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs. Trump and Republicans gutted it, eliminating clean energy tax credits and kicking the legs out from under thousands of projects and the workers building them. The result: jobs gone, energy bills rising, and American families locked into more expensive fossil fuels right as Trump's war in Iran sent gas prices surging.

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*Over 140,000 Clean Energy Jobs Have Already Been Lost or Stalled.*

According to [Climate Power](#), over 140,000 clean energy jobs have been lost, put on the chopping block, or delayed because of HR1 – from 382 canceled or delayed projects representing more than \$69 billion in investment, enough to have powered more than 17 million homes.

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*Energy Bills Are Soaring Across the Country.*

Since Trump took office, gas and electric utilities have raised or sought to increase bills by more than [\\$92 billion](#), affecting more than 112 million electric customers and 52 million gas customers across 49 states. Clean energy – the cheapest and fastest source of new power – is being replaced by fossil fuels with higher operating costs.

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*The Big Ugly Bill Handed Americans a More Expensive Car to Fill With More Expensive Gas.*

The bill killed the \$7,500 EV tax credit and [gutted fuel efficiency standards](#) that had [saved drivers \\$5 trillion at the pump](#) – locking Americans into gas-powered cars right as Trump's war in Iran sent gas prices [surging 60 percent](#) year-to-date.

## SECTION 04

# Working Families Left Behind

The Big Ugly Bill didn't just cut health care and food assistance – it reached directly into the financial lives of working Americans and small business owners, while delivering its biggest rewards to the wealthy and corporations.

### — *Republicans Killed Affordable Student Loan Repayment Plans.*

The bill eliminated most income-driven student loan repayment options, stripping millions of borrowers of the affordable monthly payments they had budgeted around. It also ended the Grad PLUS loan program, capping graduate school borrowing at a \$100,000 lifetime maximum. And under the new law, student loan forgiveness is once again taxable income – meaning borrowers who finally get relief will face a substantial “tax bomb” on their forgiven debt.

### — *Small Business Owners and the Self-Employed Got Left Behind.*

5 million small business owners and self-employed workers rely on the ACA for health coverage. Self-employed Americans enroll in ACA coverage at three times the rate of the overall population – meaning massive premium spikes hit them with no employer contribution and no safety net. 87 percent of small business owners wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits. Republicans ignored them.

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**SECTION 05**

## The Big Ugly Bill Is as Unpopular as It Is Harmful

Trump [claimed](#) on the day he signed the Big Ugly Bill that it was “the most popular bill ever signed in the history of our country.” The polling tells a very different story. One year later, the American people have rendered their verdict – and it isn't close.

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*The Big Ugly Bill Is the Most Unpopular Major Legislation in Decades.*

[CNN data analyst Harry Enten](#) reviewed every piece of major legislation passed since 1990 and concluded the Big Ugly Bill takes the crown as the most unpopular of them all – worse even than the ACA, which was 8 points underwater at passage. At passage, [four major polls](#) – Washington Post, Fox News, KFF, and Quinnipiac – averaged 55% opposition and just 31% support.

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*One Year Later, It's Still Deeply Underwater.*

According to a new national survey from Navigator Research, favorability of the Big Ugly Bill remains deeply underwater – by 18 points (34% favor, 52% oppose). The bill has never been popular, and as its consequences have rippled through American life, it hasn't gotten any more so.

“*The most unpopular major legislation passed since 1990 – worse than the ACA at passage.*”

– HARRY ENTEN · CNN DATA ANALYST

# DEFEND AMERICA *ACTION*

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## *The richest got a handout. Working families got the bill.*

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to standing up for the working families, children, seniors, and communities 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.