

— GEORGIA REPORT · AUGUST 2026

Health Care in *Crisis*

*Trump and Republicans are making
health care unaffordable for Georgians.*

A GEORGIA REPORT • AUGUST 2026

Trump promised to lower health care costs for Georgians. Instead, they're *losing coverage at breakneck speed.*

In February, Donald Trump flew to Rome, Georgia, where he declared, “we're fighting to reduce costs and bring down prices for hardworking citizens, including crushing costs on health care.” Time and again, Trump has promised to lower costs for Georgians; instead, working families, children, seniors, and small business owners across the state are losing coverage at breakneck speed and 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 ripped away life-saving ACA tax credits last year. The result? A deliberate, manufactured health care crisis that is forcing Georgia families off coverage, pushing premiums to historic highs, driving Peach State hospitals and clinics toward closure, and leaving rural communities without access to care. Now, Georgia residents are suffering under an unprecedented disaster that is the direct result of Trump’s failed policies, as hundreds of thousands lose coverage and over a million Georgians have watched 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

Georgia's health care affordability crisis, in figures.

721,000

Georgians who will lose health care coverage through Medicaid or Georgia Access due to Trump-GOP cuts.

Southern Poverty Law Center

428,000

Georgians on Medicaid, CHIP, or ACA coverage who have already lost or dropped their health care.

Georgia Recorder

~200%

Average ACA premium increase this year for the over 1.4 million Georgians who bought health insurance with tax credits.

Center for American Progress

\$217M

Annual loss to Georgia hospitals from the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts alone.

Third Way

\$4.6B

Net loss in Georgia state GDP from the Trump-GOP health care cuts.

Commonwealth Fund

41,700

Estimated net Georgia jobs lost due to the Trump-GOP health care cuts – the largest net percent employment loss of any state.

Commonwealth Fund

16

Georgia hospitals, wards, and clinics closed, cutting services, or at risk of closure since the Trump-GOP health care cuts passed.

Protect Our Care · Hospital Crisis Watch

42%

Of Georgians already concerned they will not be able to afford health care over the next 12 months.

Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

SECTION 01 · CONCERN

Georgians are deeply concerned about *rising health care costs*.

Health care affordability is a top issue for Georgia voters.

Health care is tied for the second-most important issue for Georgia voters, at a level of importance more than double that of the national average. Over 42 percent of Georgians are already concerned they will not be able to afford the cost of health care over the next 12 months. Overall, two-thirds 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.

Georgians 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 the more than one million Georgia 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, as they have in Georgia.

SECTION 02 · MEDICAID & ACA CUTS

Trump and the GOP cut Medicaid and the ACA for *working Georgians*.

— *Trump and Republicans enacted the largest Medicaid cuts in the program's 60-year history.*

Last year, Trump and Republicans in Congress slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, imposing sweeping Medicaid paperwork requirements, mandating Medicaid eligibility renewals every six months, and sharply restricting how states like Georgia fund Medicaid. Since Georgia has yet to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, the state already has one of the highest rates of uninsured residents in the country. Now, as a result of the Trump-GOP cuts, 721,000 Georgians will lose health care coverage entirely, including tens of thousands of residents currently relying on Medicaid. Already, nearly 80,000 Georgians have been kicked off of Medicaid and CHIP since last July.

— *Georgia kids rely on health care programs Trump and the GOP gutted.*

Georgia kids are disproportionately impacted by Trump and the GOP's massive cuts to health care. 55% of children and 45% of births in Georgia are covered by Medicaid. Last July, Trump's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also issued a memo announcing that it would no longer approve or renew Section 1115 waivers that provide continuous Medicaid eligibility for young children — a program that could have stabilized care for Georgia kids on Medicaid.

SECTION 02 · CONTINUED

Premiums *doubled overnight*. Enrollment collapsed.

Premiums doubled overnight after Republicans killed ACA tax credits.

After Trump and Republicans refused to extend critical ACA tax credits, over 1.4 million ACA enrollees in Georgia faced an estimated average premium increase of nearly 200% to keep their coverage for 2026. A 60-year-old couple in Georgia making \$85,000 a year, for example, saw their average annual ACA premium costs rise by \$24,935 to hit \$32,160 this year, costing them nearly 38% of their annual income before taxes and \$2,680 a month.

“
\$32,160 a year — nearly 38% of a Georgia couple’s
pre-tax income, just to keep their ACA coverage.

— CENTER ON BUDGET & POLICY PRIORITIES

Nearly 350,000 Georgians have already lost or dropped their ACA health coverage due to spiking costs.

Hundreds of thousands of Georgians have lost or dropped their health insurance through Georgia’s ACA marketplace, Georgia Access, after Trump and Republicans ripped away tax credits. Enrollment tumbled from roughly 1.3 million before the passage of the Trump-GOP health care cuts to just 950,000 as of April 2026.

Local small businesses are losing health care.

The Trump-GOP plan to rip away ACA tax credits is hitting Georgia small businesses especially hard. 270,800 small business owners and 163,300 self-employed workers in the state rely on the ACA for coverage — nearly one in four ACA enrollees in Georgia. 87% of small business owners wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

SECTION 03 · HOSPITALS

Georgia hospitals are *closing* & rural health care is at risk.

— *Trump-GOP cuts are sucking billions out of the state economy.*

Thanks to the Trump-GOP bill, Georgia is losing a net \$4.6 billion in state GDP, a net \$293 million in state and local tax revenue, and an estimated net 41,700 jobs between cuts to Medicaid and the ACA, siphoning billions out of the state economy and leaving tens of thousands of workers jobless all to give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations. Georgia faces the largest net percent employment loss of any state in the country due to the combined effect of the health care cuts.

— *Georgia hospitals are losing over \$200 million every year as GOP slashes critical funding.*

The Trump-GOP cuts include caps to the provider taxes that Georgia hospitals rely on in order to stay afloat. Georgia hospitals alone are estimated to lose \$216.8 million a year in critical funding.

SECTION 03 · HOSPITAL CRISIS WATCH

16 Georgia hospitals and clinics *already closed*, cutting services, or at risk.

Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch has indicated that sixteen health care facilities in Georgia have already been severely impacted since Trump and the GOP passed their cuts to health care last July:

AT-RISK

Fannin Regional Hospital · Evans Memorial Hospital · Eisenhower Army Medical Center · Clinch Memorial Hospital · Flint River Community Hospital · Irwin County Hospital · Washington County Regional Medical Center · Shellman Medical · Your Choice Healthcare

**CUTS
ANNOUNCED**

Emory Healthcare · Wellstar Health System

**WARD
CLOSED**

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital's Labor & Delivery Unit

CLOSED

Therapy Works Clinic · Clear Creek Obstetrics and Gynecology · Savannah Birth and Wellness Center · Fayette CARE Clinic

SECTION 03 · RURAL GEORGIA

Rural Georgia hospitals are *most at-risk*.

— *Rural Georgia hospitals, most already in the red, are most at-risk.*

Georgia's rural hospital network was already operating on razor-thin margins even before Trump and the GOP ever passed their massive cuts to critical hospital funding. 57% of Georgia's rural hospitals are operating at a loss. Now, Becker's Hospital Review estimates that the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts could threaten the closure of 30% of rural hospitals statewide.

— *Trump's pity rural health fund won't cover his massive cuts to Georgia's rural health care infrastructure.*

In response to concerns from Georgia state officials about cuts to Medicaid, the Trump administration doled out a pitiful rural health care grant that will not make up for the massive federal budget cuts, falling billions of dollars short of lost funding ripped away by the Trump-GOP bill. It doesn't even make up for the lost state and local tax revenue, let alone the massive, multi-billion-dollar-hole in federal funding deficit. The grant also offers no guarantees that the money will go to the state hospitals that need it the most.

SECTION 04 · OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

Out-of-pocket costs are rising in Georgia – despite *Trump's promises*.

— *Trump is protecting Big Pharma's profits while Georgia 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 Georgia's [1.5 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.

— *Trump killed a program that keeps seniors' Medicare drug coverage affordable.*

In July, the Wall Street Journal [revealed](#) that the Trump administration is [ending](#) a Medicare Part D subsidy program that holds down premiums for seniors' prescription drug coverage, starting in 2027. On top of the Big Pharma carve-outs and \$1 trillion in health care cuts, ending the program means [“countless seniors will soon pay more”](#) just to keep the drug coverage they rely on for life-saving medications. This is a direct hit to older Georgians living on fixed incomes, for whom even a small premium hike can force a choice between prescriptions, groceries, and the power bill.

— *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](#). The companies that signed deals with Trump also [made huge profits](#) during the first full year of Trump's second term, raking in a combined \$177 billion in profits – an [explosive 66% increase](#) in profits from 2024.

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION • AUGUST 2026

Georgia families are losing coverage. It's time to fight back.

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to defending working families from the destructive policies of the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans.

Every figure and citation in this report links to its source – from KFF and the Commonwealth Fund to Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Georgia's independent newsrooms.

DefendAmericaAction.org

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