

— ARIZONA REPORT · SEPTEMBER 2026

Health Care in *Crisis*

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

AN ARIZONA REPORT · SEPTEMBER 2026

Trump promised “better health care at a much lower cost.” In Arizona, families are *losing coverage at breakneck speed*.

In February, Donald Trump stood before Congress and promised Americans that his new health care plan would deliver “better health care at a much lower cost.” Two months later, Trump rallied his supporters in Phoenix – where affordability tops the list of local voters’ concerns – and offered no plan to bring their cost-of-living down. Today, health care costs have gone through the roof in Arizona thanks to Trump and his allies in Congress.

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 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 Arizona families off coverage, pushing premiums to historic highs, driving Grand Canyon State hospitals and clinics toward closure, and leaving rural communities without access to care. Now, Arizona residents are suffering under an unprecedented disaster that is the direct result of Trump’s failed policies, as hundreds of thousands lose coverage and hundreds of thousands more watch their premiums skyrocket this year – all while Trump and his billionaire buddies cash in on some of the biggest tax breaks in history.

— BY THE NUMBERS

Arizona's health care affordability crisis, in figures.

500,000

Arizonans who could lose health care coverage through Medicaid alone due to Trump-GOP cuts.

UA Center for Rural Health

300,000

Arizonans who have already lost the Medicaid, CHIP, or ACA coverage they depended on since the Trump-GOP cuts passed.

Georgetown CCF · KFF

~140%

Average ACA premium increase this year for the roughly 300,000 Arizonans who buy through the marketplace.

Center for American Progress

\$43B

Federal Medicaid funding Arizona will lose over the next decade under the Trump-GOP bill.

KFF

21.1%

Federal Medicaid funding cut Arizona faces in 2029 alone – among the deepest cuts of any state.

Commonwealth Fund

\$1.2B

Loss for Arizona's rural hospitals over the next decade from the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts.

KJZZ

19

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

Protect Our Care · Hospital Crisis Watch

700,000+

Arizona children covered by Medicaid and CHIP – over 4 in 10 of everyone on the program in the state.

Medicaid.gov

SECTION 01 · CONCERN

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

Health care affordability is a top issue for Arizona voters.

When Trump came to Phoenix in April, affordability and the economy topped the list of concerns Arizona voters raised, and local analysts noted he has offered few solutions. Health care costs top the list of what Americans worry about affording, with nearly two-thirds of the public worried about paying for health insurance and out-of-pocket costs. 80% of returning ACA enrollees say their 2026 costs are higher, and 55% are cutting back on food or basic household items, just to afford health care.

“*Every one of Arizona’s six Republican members of Congress backed the cuts anyway — despite Governor Katie Hobbs urging them to protect Arizonans’ health care.*”

— ARIZONA MIRROR · JULY 2025

Arizonans wanted Trump and Republicans in Congress to protect their health care.

Governor Katie Hobbs urged Arizona’s congressional delegation not to vote for the health care cuts, but every one of Arizona’s six Republican members of Congress backed the cuts anyway. A recent KFF Health Tracking Poll found 67% of Americans say Congress did the “wrong thing” by not extending the ACA tax 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 · MEDICAID & ACA CUTS

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

— *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 work reporting requirements, mandating eligibility renewals every six months, and sharply restricting how states like Arizona fund Medicaid. Roughly 1.8 million Arizonans, about 1 in 4 residents, rely on AHCCCS, the state's Medicaid program. State officials estimate as many as 190,000 Arizonans could lose coverage under the new work reporting requirements, and nearly 430,000 must now navigate the new red tape and paperwork to keep their insurance – even though the vast majority already work.

— *Trump-GOP cuts threaten to wipe out Arizona's Medicaid expansion entirely.*

Arizona law automatically ends the state's Medicaid expansion if federal funding for the expansion population ever drops below 80%, with no waiting period, and AHCCCS itself warned that pulling that trigger would eliminate coverage for newly eligible adults. Coverage for more than 450,000 additional childless adults is tied to the same 80% threshold, meaning further Trump-GOP cuts could unwind health care for hundreds of thousands of Arizonans at a stroke.

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

More than 700,000 Arizona children are covered by Medicaid and CHIP. Kids make up more than 4 in 10 of everyone on the program in the state, leaving Arizona's children disproportionately exposed to Trump and the GOP's massive cuts to health care.

SECTION 02 · CONTINUED

Premiums *doubled overnight*. Nearly 300,000 already lost coverage.

Premiums doubled overnight after Republicans killed ACA tax credits.

After Trump and Republicans refused to extend critical ACA tax credits, the roughly 300,000 Arizonans who rely on the ACA marketplace faced an estimated average premium increase of nearly 140% to keep their coverage for 2026. A 60-year-old Arizona couple earning \$80,000 a year, for example, saw their monthly premium more than triple from \$567 to \$2,026, an increase of \$17,500 a year.

“*\$567 to \$2,026 a month – a \$17,500-a-year hit for one Arizona couple after Trump-GOP ripped away ACA tax credits.*”

– ARIZONA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Nearly 300,000 Arizonans have already lost the health care coverage they relied on.

Since the passage of Trump and Republicans’ massive health care cuts, nearly 300,000 fewer Arizonans are enrolled in health care coverage through Medicaid/CHIP and the ACA.

Over 192,000 lost Medicaid/CHIP.

Over 192,000 Arizonans have already lost Medicaid/CHIP coverage since Trump and Republicans cut around \$1 trillion from health care last year, with enrollment falling from 1,774,801 in June 2025 to 1,581,891 by August 2026.

Over 107,000 lost ACA coverage.

Over 107,000 Arizonans have already lost or dropped their ACA health care coverage, a nearly 30% collapse and one of the largest declines in the nation, after Trump and Republicans ripped away tax credits and premiums skyrocketed. In 2025, ACA effectuated enrollment was 363,110. By 2026, it had declined to 255,927.

— *Arizona's uninsured ranks are set to swell.*

University of Arizona health policy experts warn that 100,000 to 125,000 Arizonans will not be able to afford the higher premiums forced on them by the loss of their tax credits. As more healthy people drop coverage, uncompensated care will spike and drain hospital finances while premiums climb even higher for everyone who stays insured.

— *Local small businesses are losing health care.*

70,400 small business owners and 43,300 self-employed workers in the state rely on the ACA for coverage, more than one in five ACA enrollees in Arizona. 87% of small business owners wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

SECTION 03 · HOSPITALS

Arizona 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, Arizona is bracing for as much as a \$43 billion decrease in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade. The Commonwealth Fund projects that Arizona will lose 21.1% of its federal Medicaid funding in 2029 alone, among the deepest cuts in the nation, as part of an economic shock expected to destroy 1.2 million jobs nationwide, hitting doctors, nurses, and the small-town economies that depend on them. The chaos is so costly that AHCCCS has requested \$71.4 million just to administer the new red tape.

SECTION 03 · HOSPITAL CRISIS WATCH

19 Arizona hospitals and clinics *already closed*, cutting services, or at risk.

Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch has found 19 health care facilities in Arizona that have already been severely impacted since Trump and the GOP passed their cuts to health care last July:

AT-RISK

Copper Queen Community Hospital · North Country Healthcare · Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center · Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital · Page Hospital · Phoenix Children's Hospital · Winslow Memorial Hospital

**CUTS
ANNOUNCED**

Flagstaff Medical Center

CLOSING

Banner Casa Grande Medical Center – Labor & Delivery · Select Specialty Hospital – Tucson East

**CLOSED OR
CLOSING**

North Country HealthCare – Bullhead City · Evernorth Care Group – Chandler · The Hope Institute at CUSD · Evernorth Care Group – Paseo, Arrowhead Ranch, Sun City, Westridge, Paradise Valley, and Scottsdale Norte

SECTION 03 · RURAL ARIZONA

Rural Arizona hospitals are *most at-risk*.

Rural Arizona hospitals are most at-risk.

Rural communities have the most to lose from Medicaid cuts. Eight of Arizona's 15 counties are fully rural; nearly 38% of working-age adults in rural Arizona rely on Medicaid compared to 17% in urban areas, and in several rural counties, close to half the population or more is covered by AHCCCS. Consumer advocates have identified eight Arizona hospitals at risk of closure or reduced services because of the Trump-GOP law, and the National Rural Health Association estimates the state's rural hospitals will lose \$1.2 billion over the next decade.

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

In response to concerns about cuts to Medicaid, the Trump administration doled out a pitiful \$167 million annual rural health grant to Arizona. That is \$33 million less than the state requested and just \$22 per resident, among the lowest per-person awards in the country, while deep red states collect many times more. The grant covers at most two-thirds of what Arizona hospitals stand to lose and offers no guarantees that the money will go to the hospitals that need it the most.

SECTION 04 · OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

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

— *Trump is protecting Big Pharma's profits while Arizona 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 Arizona's [nearly 1.2 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 Arizonans living on fixed incomes, for whom even a small premium hike can force a choice between prescriptions, groceries, and the power bill.

— *Hundreds of 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. Trump has continued inking opaque deals with other drug companies in 2026, with [at least one company](#) suggesting Trump granted it immunity from drug pricing negotiations in exchange for the deal.

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION • SEPTEMBER 2026

Arizona 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 University of Arizona Center for Rural Health, AHCCCS, and Arizona's independent newsrooms.

DefendAmericaAction.org

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