

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:**

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PRESS RELEASE: Proposed Federal Medicaid Cuts Could Strip Health Coverage from Hundreds of Thousands in Georgia

ATLANTA, GA — Early this morning, the U.S. House passed a sweeping budget proposal that threatens to dismantle key components of Georgia's health care system. The proposal, which includes the largest cuts to Medicaid in the program's 60-year history, would upend coverage and care for hundreds of thousands of Georgians and put immense pressure on rural hospitals and already-strained state health resources. Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) has released a new blog outlining how the proposal would harm Georgia's Medicaid program, the ACA Marketplace/Georgia Access, and Georgia families.

[Read the blog here.](#)

*"Health care is one of the most basic building blocks of a thriving Georgia. This budget proposal would rip coverage away from 160,000 Georgians, leaving our state sicker. Families with young children, seniors, and people with disabilities will struggle with gaps in coverage and higher medical costs. Rural communities will be at higher risk of losing their local hospitals," said **Laura Colbert, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future**. "Georgians have seen firsthand that work requirements don't work. They're simply paperwork penalties that leave more Georgians without the care they need. At a time when we should be investing in better care and closing Georgia's coverage gap, the U.S. House has advanced a plan that moves us backward. Georgians deserve a health system that adequately meets their needs, not one dismantled for the sake of tax cuts for ultra-wealthy Americans. "*

Key Threats to Georgia Under the Federal Budget Proposal

- **Massive Coverage Losses:** Between [120,000 and 200,000 Georgians](#) are projected to lose public or private health insurance under the proposed federal

changes. That number could climb to **610,000** if enhanced ACA subsidies expire at the end of 2025, with no current plans in Congress to extend them.

- **Medicaid Red Tape:** The proposal introduces new administrative barriers at the national level, like frequent renewals, strict verification, and mandatory paperwork, that would likely force eligible Georgians off Medicaid. Georgia's own experience with the [Pathways to Coverage program](#) (a Medicaid program that includes work and paperwork requirements) demonstrates the failure of this approach.
- **Marketplace Disruptions:** Cuts to special enrollment periods and increases in out-of-pocket costs would erode Georgia's record-high ACA enrollment (more than [1.5 million enrollees in 2025](#)) and drive the state's uninsured rate even higher.
- **Funding Cuts to Georgia's Health System:** The proposal slashes Medicaid funding by restricting how states finance the program. For Georgia, this means
 - A freeze on provider taxes
 - Reduced federal matching funds
 - Caps on hospital payments

These changes would drain critical funding from Georgia's Medicaid program and put rural hospitals at greater risk of closure, threatening access to care across the state.

GHF will continue to monitor the progress of this legislation and provide updates, advocacy resources, and tools for Georgians to raise their voices.

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Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at healthyfuturega.org

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