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New Report: Nearly 500,000 Georgians face coverage loss as federal health changes hit home

A new analysis shows that the combined effects of H.R.1 and the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits will raise costs, weaken rural hospitals, and leave hundreds of thousands uninsured unless Georgia adopts state solutions.

ATLANTA, GA — [A new analysis commissioned by the Georgia Health Initiative](#) (GHI) and conducted by Manatt Health finds that the federal changes to Medicaid in One Big Beautiful Bill (H.R. 1) and the expiration of the premium tax credits will significantly increase the number of uninsured Georgians and weaken the state's health care system and economy. According to the report, *Impact of Federal Policy Changes to Georgia's Health Care Landscape*:

- 492,000 Georgians are projected to lose health coverage and become uninsured by 2034.
- Georgia health care providers stand to lose \$51.5 billion in revenue between 2025 and 2034, including \$10.5 billion in uncompensated care costs, as coverage declines and federal Medicaid financing is reduced.
- The expiration of [enhanced premium tax credits](#) alone is projected to cost Georgia 33,600 jobs and \$237 million in state tax revenue in 2026.
- Medicaid cuts would cause an additional 12,900 job losses and \$89 million in lost state tax revenue by 2029.
- Rural regions in southwest Georgia, middle Georgia, and the coastal area are expected to experience some of the steepest declines in coverage, provider revenue, and access to essential services.

*“Every Georgian deserves the security that comes with affordable, reliable health coverage. This new report makes it clear that Georgia is facing a serious challenge,” said **Whitney Griggs, Director of Health Policy at Georgians for a Healthy Future**. “Nearly half a million Georgians may lose coverage due to changes in federal policy. The impact will fall hardest on Georgia’s families, small business owners, and rural hospitals.*

However, Georgia is not powerless in the face of these changes. Georgia has realistic policy options to keep coverage affordable and prevent catastrophic financial and health care access issues. Lawmakers can create a state affordability program, strengthen reinsurance, and invest in enrollment assistance to keep people covered. Georgians for a Healthy Future urges state leaders to use this new data and take meaningful action in the upcoming legislative session to protect Georgia families.”

State policy solutions exist

Georgians for a Healthy Future is urging lawmakers to use the report's findings to guide a state-level response that protects families and stabilizes the health care system. Several proven tools are available to keep Georgians covered:

- **Create a state affordability program.**
 - Georgia does not currently provide state-funded premium or cost-sharing assistance, even though many other state-based marketplaces do. Lawmakers can create a state affordability program that lowers premiums and out-of-pocket costs for working families who will lose federal support when enhanced tax credits expire.
- **Strengthen the reinsurance program.**
 - Georgia’s reinsurance program is one of the most effective tools for lowering premiums statewide, especially in rural regions where prices are highest. Sustaining and strengthening this program can help blunt premium spikes and keep the individual market more stable.
- **Increase outreach and enrollment assistance.**
 - With many people facing higher premiums and more complex enrollment rules, Georgia can invest in navigators and community-based enrollment assistance to help eligible families stay covered and avoid losing coverage due to paperwork or confusion.
- **Modernize Medicaid eligibility systems.**
 - Updating and streamlining Medicaid eligibility and renewal systems can reduce application backlogs, prevent paperwork-driven coverage losses, and help ensure that people who remain eligible stay covered despite federal cuts and new administrative hurdles.

*“As lawmakers prepare for the upcoming legislative session, this report should be a wake-up call,” **said Griggs.** “Without state action, Georgia will see higher uninsured rates, weakened hospitals, job losses, and affordability challenges in every region of the state. The tools to protect Georgia families are available—now is the time to use them.”*

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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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