



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$3.5 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS



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The new Republican budget reflects upside-down priorities – it would shower the wealthiest few Americans with an average tax cut of at least \$150,000 – paying for it by ending Medicare as we know it, taking away the benefits Americans enjoy as a result of health reform, and putting more of the burden on middle class families. Their plan to block grant and cut \$1.7 trillion in health care services through Medicaid would put an end to vital services that seniors depend on like nursing home care and home health aides. If Republicans get their way, North Dakota residents would lose \$3.5 billion in health benefits, including \$700 million for seniors, and 49,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 49,000 North Dakota Residents Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 63,900 North Dakota residents, with the federal government picking up 55.40% of North Dakota's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 49,000 North Dakota residents from the program. [CBPP, 3/20/12; Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/2011; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, 5/11]

Republican Budget Cuts \$700 million in Health Care for North Dakota Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$700 million in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In North Dakota, over 18,100 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 63.70% of Medicaid spending in North Dakota provides this critical care for seniors, and is often the only avenue they have to get the care they need. The cost of long-term care can be financially devastating to seniors and their families, with nursing home costs averaging \$63,875 in North Dakota for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 86 North Dakota certified nursing homes, which serve 5,689 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors. [Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; MetLife, 10/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

