



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$22.3 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR ARKANSAS 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, Arkansas residents would lose \$22.3 billion in health benefits, including \$4.7 billion for seniors, and 435,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 435,000 Arkansas Residents Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 527,000 Arkansas residents, with the federal government picking up 70.70% of Arkansas's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 435,000 Arkansas 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 \$4.7 billion in Health Care for Arkansas Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$4.7 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In Arkansas, over 190,100 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 35.50% of Medicaid spending in Arkansas 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 \$59,860 in Arkansas for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 243 Arkansas certified nursing homes, which serve 18,557 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]

Arkansas Would Receive Far Less Federal Investment Than Other States Under Republican Block Grant Plan. Arkansas Medicaid expenditure levels are relatively low (\$4,408 per enrollee) compared to the US average (\$5,337 per enrollee). Because the block grant funding levels are based on current state Medicaid spending, Arkansas would receive less block grant funding than other states. [KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

