



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$1.7 TRILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR AMERICANS



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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, Americans would lose \$1.7 trillion in health benefits, including \$550 billion for seniors, and 30 million could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 30 Million Americans Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to over 50 million Americans, with the federal government picking up an average of half of each state's Medicaid costs. The Ryan Plan could remove as many as 30 million Americans 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 Over \$550 Billion in Health Care for Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$550 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. Over 12 million seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, one-third of Medicaid spending 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 \$97,235 for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 15,622 certified nursing homes, which serve over 1,385,251 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]

Republican Budget Would Shift Costs to State Taxpayers, Slashing Health Benefits By Up to \$1.4 Trillion When 42 States Already Face a Budget Crisis. The House Republican budget could slash \$1.7 trillion in health benefits from states over the next ten years, including \$810 billion in federal investments and \$931 billion to expand eligibility in states. 42 states are already facing a total budget shortfall of \$102.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2012, and the cuts could force the state to either ration health care benefits for 12 million seniors and disabled, restrict eligibility rules and leave thousands uninsured, raise taxes to cover the shortfall, or cut payment rates to healthcare providers, possibly forcing some of the 15,622 certified nursing homes to close their doors. [KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; CBPP, 3/21/12; KFF, 5/11; KFF accessed on 3/27/12]



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

