



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$7.4 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR NEBRASKA 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, Nebraska residents would lose \$7.4 billion in health benefits, including \$1.5 billion for seniors, and 146,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 146,000 Nebraska Residents Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 201,100 Nebraska residents, with the federal government picking up 56.60% of Nebraska's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 146,000 Nebraska 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 \$1.5 billion in Health Care for Nebraska Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$1.5 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In Nebraska, over 51,600 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 43.50% of Medicaid spending in Nebraska 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 \$64,970 in Nebraska for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 222 Nebraska certified nursing homes, which serve 12,609 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 in Nebraska By Up to \$7.4 billion When the State Already Faces a Budget Crisis. The House Republican budget could slash \$7.4 billion in health benefits from Nebraska over the next ten years, including \$3.6 billion in federal investments and \$3.8 billion to expand eligibility in the state. Nebraska is already facing a \$166 million budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 2012, and the cuts could force the state to either ration health care benefits for 51,600 Nebraska 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 222 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]

