

Federal Health Care Debate

Understanding Implications and Effects of Federal Reform on Idaho



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U.S. Senate Republicans recently developed the ‘Cassidy-Graham’ proposal, a repeal bill nearly identical to the one defeated in July. They are close to securing the 50 Senate votes needed to pass the bill. The plan would shift Medicaid funding into block grants with capped dollars, eliminate insurance marketplace subsidies, allow states to eliminate protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and eliminate the option for states to expand Medicaid. The plan would result in about 32 million Americans losing coverage.

Despite successfully protecting access to health care this summer, there are now multiple evolving threats to health care unfolding at the federal level, including the Cassidy-Graham proposal that would:

□ Cut Nearly \$1 Billion in Federal Funding to Idaho

- The provision to block grant Medicaid and cap per capita spending would result in significant cuts in federal funds. By 2027, Idaho will have lost \$987 million in federal Medicaid dollars.
- Because block grants provide static amounts of funding, any Medicaid costs Idaho incurs in providing care beyond the capped federal amount will be unpaid, and Idaho will be on the hook to cover any outstanding medical costs.

□ Result in Thousands in Idaho Losing Coverage and Access to Services

- The proposal would eliminate subsidies that currently help lower-income households purchase insurance on the marketplace, a successful component of the ACA that allows thousands to afford coverage.
- Without the subsidy, as many as 135,000 Idahoans will no longer be able to afford insurance.

□ Drive Up Costs for Individuals

- Premiums and deductibles would increase by thousands of dollars for millions of people.
- Individuals who are older and/or lower-income would be particularly hard hit by increasing premium costs. Without marketplace subsidies, average insurance premiums in Idaho could rise by as much as 50 percent.

□ Strip Essential Health Benefit Protections for Consumers

- The proposal would allow states to eliminate protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions, resulting in an estimated 660,000 Idahoans with pre-existing conditions facing significantly higher premiums.

TAKE ACTION — You can Help Influence the Health Care Debate!

Make your voice heard, and oppose the latest efforts to “replace and repeal” the Affordable Care Act. Members of Congress need to know that constituents do not support closed door health care negotiations or proposals that strip coverage from millions of Americans. Use our online action tool to contact Idaho Members of Congress and let them know you care about the health of Idaho. Mailing, emailing, calling, or sending a Tweet is quick and easy!

www.ClosetheGapIdaho.org/EmailAction/

