

# Federal Threats to Medicaid and Affordable Care Act

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# Community Catalyst

- A national non-profit health advocacy organization
- Works to ensure everyone has access to high quality, affordable health care
- Collaborates with national, state and local consumer organizations, policymakers and foundations
- Builds and supports consumer advocacy networks in over 40 states

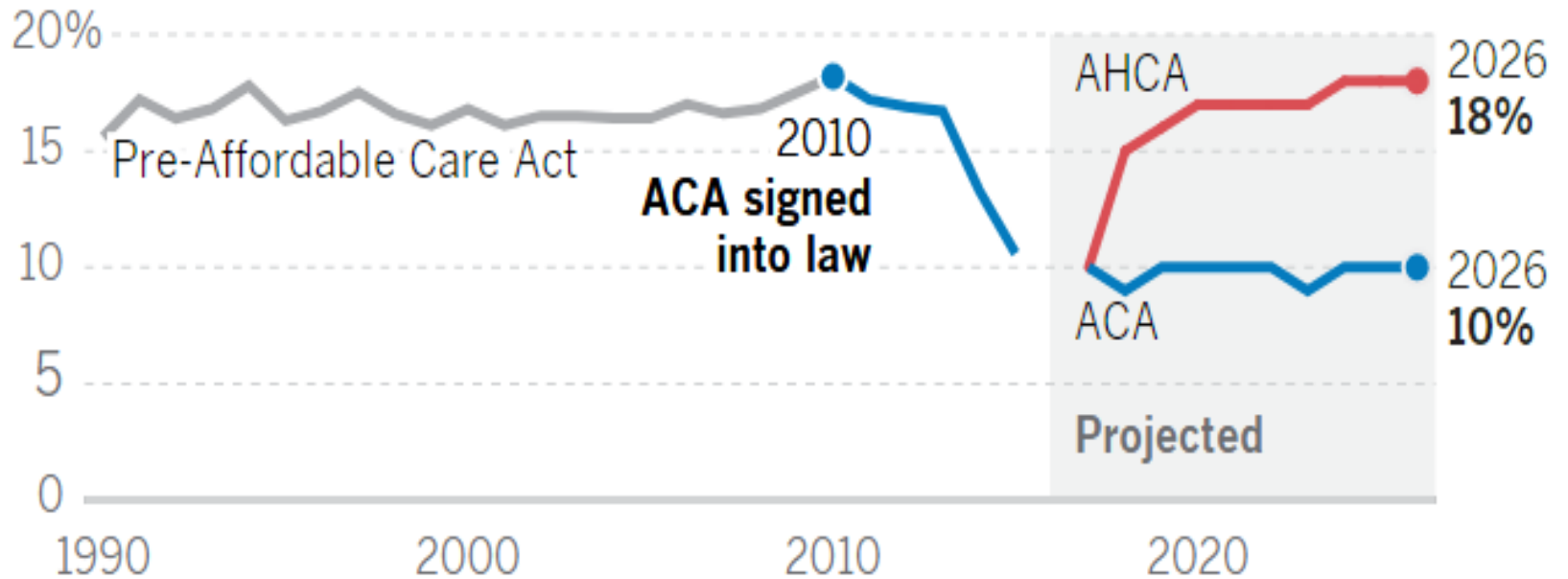
# AGENDA

1. American Health Care Act (AHCA)—what does it do? A review.
2. Senate proposal—what do we know?
3. What is the timeline—what can we do?

# American Health Care Act (AHCA) A Review.

# More Uninsured.

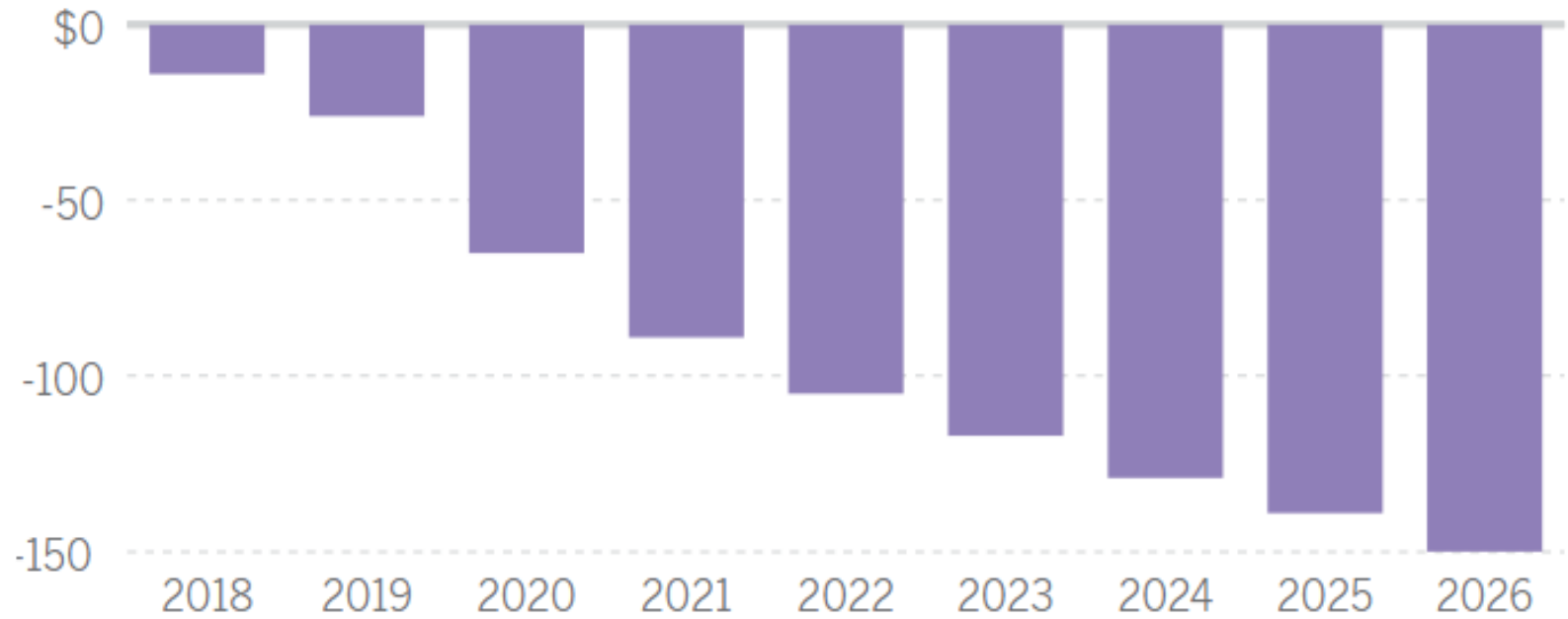
Percentage of uninsured could nearly double under GOP plan by 2026



*Adapted from the Congressional Budget Office for consumers under age 65*

# Reduces Federal Medicaid Spending.

Estimated annual change in federal Medicaid spending (in billions)



# Dismantles Medicaid.

Under the block grant option, Connecticut would see a 21 percent cut in federal Medicaid spending for children

State impact of per capita cap approach for traditional children:

State	Dollar Change (Millions)	State	Dollar Change (Millions)
Alabama	-\$578	Montana	-\$113
Alaska	-\$180	Nebraska	-\$135
Arizona	-\$1,487	Nevada	-\$223
Arkansas	-\$529	New Hampshire	-\$127
California	-\$4,700	New Jersey	-\$665
Colorado	-\$571	New Mexico	-\$608
Connecticut	-\$476	New York	-\$2,640

*Avalere's forecasting and simulation model uses a combination of CMS' Medicaid statistical information system (MSIS) and Medicaid budget and expenditure system (MBES) data to estimate recent and historical Medicaid spending and enrollment.*

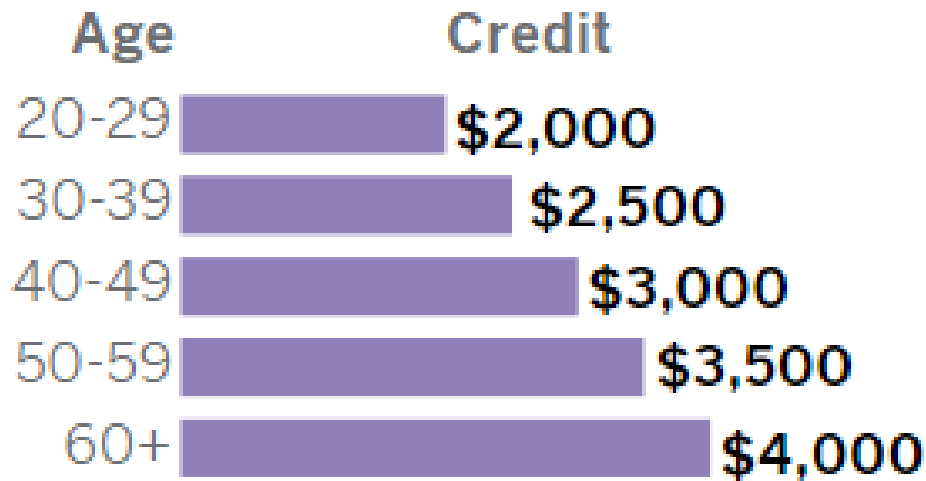
# Scaled Back Benefits.

- States can use waivers to opt out of some consumer protections.
- Sick people can be charged more and older consumers can be charged **5 times more** than younger people.
- With less federal funding, scaled back coverage is a strategy to lower premiums.



# Less Financial Support.

## New tax credit proposal



The subsidies would not vary with the cost of insurance, so people in high cost areas would also not get as much help.

# No Individual Mandate.

Anyone who goes without insurance for more than two months would face a **30% premium surcharge** when they try to buy a new plan

# What Does Mean for Connecticut?

**DEEP CUTS TO FEDERAL FUNDING +  
AGENDA TO REDUCE COVERAGE =**

**VERY BAD.**

# Senate Side—What Is Next?

# What Do We Know?

- A Senate bill is moving in secret.
- Senate leaders are working hard to solidify the votes
- Must have a CBO score.
- Current intel is that the bill is very similar to AHCA.

# Why Won't They Release the Bill?

“We aren't stupid.”

*Republican Senate Aide to Axios reporter, June 12*

# Senate Timing.

## Goal: Pass a Bill Before 4<sup>th</sup> of July Recess

- Bill could move to a vote within days of its CBO score.
- No public hearings.
- Likely that the bill will be substituted at the last minute during final passage.
- Strategy depends on a handful of senators.

# Our Best Guess.

- **MEDICAID:** Per capita with tweaks on timing and maybe growth rate
- **MEDICAID EXPANSION:** Delayed phase out
- **TAX CREDITS:** Additional funding for older people (ages 50-65)



# Our Best Guess.

- **TAX CUTS:** Delayed but included
- **CONSUMER PROTECTIONS:** Keeps state waivers for essential health benefits but removes provision allowing insurers to charge sick people more
- **WOMEN'S HEALTH:** Leverages stability fund to deny women access to abortion services

# What Can Advocates Do?

# Make Noise.

- Nationally, we are working to support advocates in key states to show up for health care.
  - Rallies
  - Petitions
  - Social Media
  - Town Halls
  - Meetings with Legislators
  - Champion Building
- Where?
  - **Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alaska, West Virginia, Maine, Nevada, Colorado, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee**

# What Can Connecticut Advocates and Consumers Do?

# Step 1: Support your Congressional Members

- **STORIES**: Collect, vet and support storytelling. Share these through earned media and with Congressional offices.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**: Continue to communicate your concerns.

**What is their plan is to stop the bill?  
How can we help?**

# Step 2: Engage in Friends & Family Campaign

## How many degrees of separation?

January 10, 2017  Facebook  Twitter

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On May 4, 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act, which repeals major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and makes severe cuts to the Medicaid program. If enacted into law, this bill would be devastating to health care in Massachusetts and throughout the country. Nationally, this bill would result in 23 million people losing coverage, up to 445,000 in Massachusetts alone.

***Please contact your friends and family who live in the states listed below, and ask them to call their Senators!***

Tell them **what is at stake** if this bill passes, and direct them to [www.savemycare.org](http://www.savemycare.org).

There they just have to click the "Call Your Senator" box, enter their zip code and phone number. The system connects them directly to their Senators' offices, and provides them with instructions and suggested talking points. Or, they can call (866) 426-2631 directly and ask to be connected to their Senator(s).





# QUESTIONS?



# Thank You!

