



News Release

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Cassidy-Graham Bill Would Deeply Cut Health Coverage Funding for Connecticut

NEW HAVEN – A new ACA repeal bill would cut Connecticut’s federal funding for health coverage by \$2.48 billion by 2026, according to a new report by the Washington DC based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Connecticut would be among the hardest hit states under the plan, with cuts of 50 percent or more to federal funding for health coverage in 2026, compared to current law.

Congressional Republicans’ efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have failed in recent months in large part because a large majority of Americans oppose taking coverage from millions of people, raising costs for millions more, gutting Medicaid and undermining consumer protections.

This has opened the door to another path: a transparent, bipartisan effort to strengthen our health care system without taking people’s coverage away or gutting Medicaid. The public supports this approach and bipartisan Senate hearings slated for September offer a first step forward.

Senators Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham are reportedly working with the White House to block this emerging, bipartisan path and instead revive the ACA repeal effort by pushing their own version of a repeal bill, the Cassidy-Graham proposal.

“Despite claims to the contrary, the Cassidy-Graham plan is just another ACA repeal bill and would have the same devastating effects on Connecticut as the previous, failed GOP repeal bills,” said Karen Siegel, Health Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. “Like every other ACA repeal bill, it would take coverage from hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents and tens of millions nationwide.”

The plan would eliminate the ACA Medicaid expansion, which covers more than 216,000 residents. It would also eliminate tax credits that help more than 75,000 moderate-income Connecticut residents afford marketplace coverage and subsidies that help low-income individuals with out-of-pocket health costs like copays.

A far smaller block grant would replace both Medicaid expansion funding and marketplace subsidies, and the plan would also cap and deeply cut the rest of the Medicaid program just like previous Senate and House repeal bills. And, after 2026, the block grant would disappear entirely leaving Connecticut residents high and dry.

“The public, experts across the political spectrum, and groups representing patients, hospitals, physicians, seniors, people with disabilities and others have forcefully and repeatedly rejected this misguided approach,

said Sharon Langer, Advocacy Director at Connecticut Voices for Children. “It’s time to focus on bipartisan solutions that strengthen – rather than weaken – our health care system.”

About Connecticut Voices for Children: Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that all Connecticut children have an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential. In furtherance of its mission, Connecticut Voices for Children produces high-quality research and analysis, promotes citizen education, advocates for policy change at the state and local level, and works to develop the next generation of leaders.