



## Maryland Oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act

The Congressional Budget Office analysis of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) reinforces hospitals' concerns regarding the negative impact of the legislation on Maryland. The bill threatens:

- Health coverage
- Affordability of care
- Maryland's fiscal health

In the first year under the new law, **216,000 Marylanders would lose coverage**, according to an analysis from the American Hospital Association<sup>1</sup>.

1. **The bill reduces health care coverage.** Nationally, 15 million people will lose coverage in the first year, increasing to 22 million by 2026. Four million people will lose Medicaid coverage in 2018, nearly quadrupling to 15 million by 2026. The loss of coverage means Marylanders will have to cope with health care needs on their own, including those suffering with drug use disorders and mental health challenges. It will be expensive, if not impossible, for many to get the routine care they need, or pay for medicines to keep chronic conditions like diabetes under control.

### Number of Marylanders Who Would Lose Coverage

	2018	2026
Medicaid	57 Thousand	153 Thousand
Employment-based Coverage	60 Thousand	5 Thousand
Non-group Coverage, Including Marketplaces	99 Thousand	98 Thousand
<b>Total</b>	<b>216 Thousand</b>	<b>256 Thousand</b>

2. **The bill makes health care less affordable.** In 2018 alone, federal subsidies nationwide are expected to decrease by \$12 billion; through 2026 the reduction will total \$56 billion. Reduced subsidies to purchase coverage means Marylanders, particularly older people, will not be able to afford insurance. The bill would force an estimated 146,000 Marylanders aged 50 to 64 to pay thousands of dollars more.

### Reduction in Federal Subsidies to Marylanders

2018	2026
\$130 Million	\$694 Million

3. **The bill devastates Maryland's budget.** Cuts to federal Medicaid spending are expected to be \$12 billion in 2018, totaling \$772 billion for fiscal years 2017 to 2026. These cuts leave Maryland with a large budget hole. The choices for the state are grim: raise taxes, cut health care spending, cut spending for other activities or care for fewer Medicaid enrollees.

### Reduction in Federal Support for Maryland Medicaid

FY 2018	Cumulative Total for FY 2017-2026
\$148 Million	\$8.72 Billion

<sup>1</sup>This data analysis is tied to the BCRA CBO estimate released June 26. These estimates do not reflect the following aspects of the BCRA: (1) state selection of base period for establishing Medicaid per-capita caps; (2) state selection of block grants instead of being subject to the per-capita caps; (3) state stability funds; (4) modifications to Medicaid DSH allotments.