



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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May 26, 2025

New York State Update on Medicaid After House Passes the Brutal Budget Bill

Medicaid: For the first time in Medicaid's 60-year history, the proposed bill would require certain recipients between the ages of 19 and 64 to work at least 80 hours per month to maintain their coverage. Alternatives to meet this requirement include participating in community service, attending school, or enrolling in a work program. Exemptions would apply to parents, pregnant individuals, medically frail people, and those with substance use disorders, among others. The mandate is set to take effect by the end of 2026. Earlier this week, Governor Hochul warned that the policy could cause 1.5 million New Yorkers to lose Medicaid coverage and lead to a [\\$13.5](#) billion loss for the state and its health care system. [See also](#) Fiscal Policy Institute's Report on the impacts to New York.

SNAP: The bill significantly expands work requirements for accessing food assistance. Currently, adults ages 18 to 54 without dependent children can only receive SNAP benefits for three months within a 36-month period unless they work at least 20 hours per week or qualify for an exemption. Under the new legislation, these requirements would extend to individuals ages 55 to 64 and to parents with children between the ages of 7 and 18. The bill would also make it harder for states to obtain waivers from work requirements during economic downturns, restricting eligibility to counties with unemployment rates above 10%. Additionally, the bill shifts more financial responsibility to states. Beginning in fiscal year 2028, states would be required to cover at least 5% of SNAP benefit costs for the first time.

Those with higher payment error rates could face up to 25% of the cost burden. States would also be responsible for 75% of administrative costs, up from the current 50%. In New York, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) [estimates that 670,000](#) residents could lose some level of SNAP assistance due to these expanded work requirements.

What comes next? The Senate is expected to advance its own budget reconciliation bill, which will eventually need to be aligned with the House version through a reconciliation process. Separately, the Trump Administration is preparing to release its full FY2026 budget proposal, which will guide federal appropriations for the fiscal year beginning October 1. So far, only the "skinny budget" has been released, outlining steep cuts to services, state block grant programs, and proposing two-year term limits for certain forms of assistance. Adding further uncertainty, both legislative efforts are taking place under the shadow of the expiring national debt limit, which must be addressed this summer.

Remember: Every single NYS Republican House member voted for this draconian bill. We must hold them accountable for their betrayal of their constituents and giving up on their misgivings about Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP cuts without also getting SALT deductions raised or reinstated in full.

Five Facts to Maintain Online Safety for Seniors

A majority of online seniors spend at least six hours a day online.

Media Technology has improved our lives in immeasurable ways. Our Media environment can also be challenging and not always beneficial. It is easy to get consumed and overwhelmed by the content, options and, even addiction. We must learn to manage our engagement;

1. Master your own Destiny - You can control your own media engagement. Limit online engagement and maintain the discipline of media downtime.
2. Know your source: Not all online content is created equal. Rely on trustworthy sources, not simply sources that sound official.
3. Understand that you are the product - the business of online platforms is to drive more engagement and keep you spending more time online. Don't take the bait.
4. Be on your guard - the online world can be a dangerous place. You are surrounded by bad actors misinformation, disinformation and even propaganda.
5. Use Media tools wisely...make it work for you, not against you.

Capital District Chapter

Program Reminder Wednesday June 11 at 11:00 am

Learn to Spot and Avoid Scams

Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post #1520
4 Everett Rd, Albany, NY

Seniors are often the victims of scams, fraud, identity theft and other crimes that can cause embarrassment, aggravation and cost thousands of dollars. Learn how to spot these con games and protect yourself, family and community.

Join us for a valuable program with Tracy Burns of the Town of Colonie Police.

Contact: Jack Rohl, CDNYSARA President (518) 275-5073

Save the Date NYSARA Biennial Election Convention

When: Thursday September 4, 2025 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: NYSUT Office, 800 Troy Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110

What to Expect: Representative of National ARA, NY Elected(s),
Update on the state of play nationally and in NYS election
of officers and installation of NYSARA Board of Directors.

Lunch and door prizes for those that stay till the end of the convention

Cost: \$15 for lunch, the full cost which is subsidized by NYSARA

Confirmed Keynote Speaker Robert Roach, President of the ARA.

Keynote Speakers Approached: NYS Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, NYS
Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Congressman Paul Tonko

New York Employment Impacts From Federal Medicaid Cuts in the Big, Brutal Budget Bill

Key Findings

- Governor Hochul recently released estimates indicating that the current House Republican reconciliation proposal would result in over \$10 billion in lost federal funding for New York's healthcare system.
- A reduction of \$10 billion in federal Medicaid funding would result in the direct loss of over 78,000 jobs in healthcare across the state and over 136,000 additional jobs lost through economic spillovers.
 - Overall, New York could lose a total of 215,000 jobs, over 2 percent of the State's employed workforce.
 - Losing 78,000 jobs in healthcare and social assistance would be an overall decline in healthcare and social assistance jobs of 4.4 percent.
- New York City alone stands to lose over \$5.4 billion in federal Medicaid funding, resulting in total job losses of approximately 116,000 (direct and economically induced).

House Passes One Big, Brutal Budget Bill — Seniors' Health and Security at Risk

In the early hours of Thursday morning, House Republicans [narrowly passed](#) their budget proposal, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (H.R. 1), by a vote of **215-214**. The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.

The vote was deeply divided. Only two Republicans — Representatives **Thomas Massie** (KY) and **Warren Davidson** (OH) — joined all Democrats in opposing the measure. Representatives **David Schweikert** (AZ) and **Andrew Garbarino** (NY) missed the vote but indicated they would have supported it.

The bill includes \$715 billion in cuts to Medicaid and \$300 billion to food assistance programs over the next decade. These cuts would be used to fund massive tax breaks for billionaires and large corporations. According to analysts, individuals earning \$1 million or more per year would receive nearly \$90,000 annually in tax breaks, while families earning under \$50,000 would get less than \$1 a day in relief.

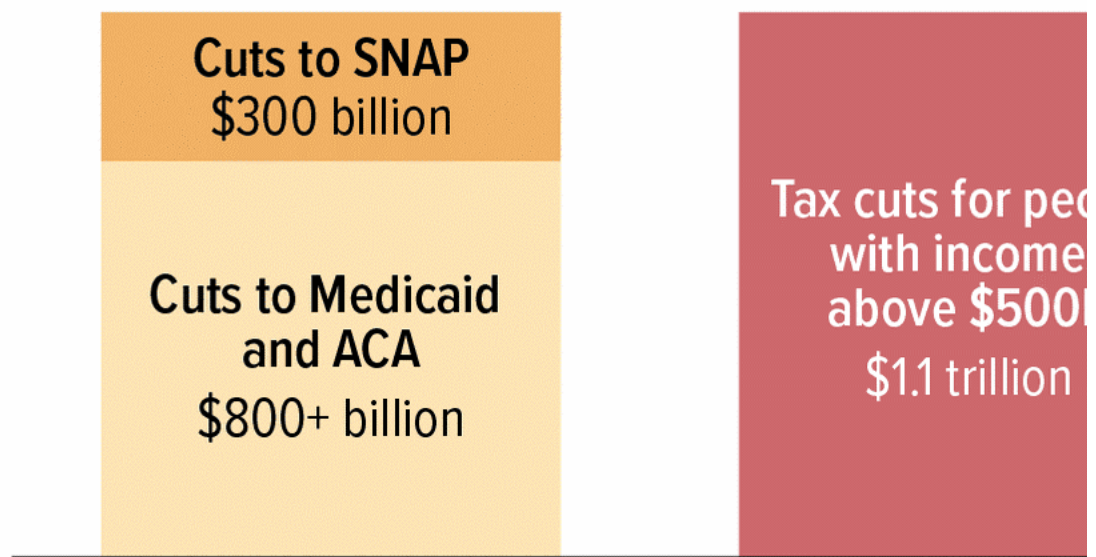
The scale of the health care cuts is historic and is expected to cause at least 13 million Americans of all ages to lose coverage and jeopardize the operation of hospitals and nursing homes, particularly in rural communities.

Medicaid is particularly important to seniors, serving some of the most vulnerable Americans including 860,000 who rely on it to pay for nursing home care and another 5.6 million who receive home care services and supports funded by Medicaid. 11.5 million Medicare beneficiaries also rely on Medicaid to help pay for prescription drugs, co-pays, and other medical services.

In the case of food assistance, [nearly 11 million people](#) could see at least some cut in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits due to expansions to burdensome paperwork requirements included in the legislation and shifting costs to the states. 6.5 million seniors receive food assistance today.

House Republican Bill Would Take Health Care and Food Assistance Away from Low-Income Families to Pay for Tax Cuts for Wealthy

Bill would cut health coverage by at least \$800 billion and Medicaid and SNAP by nearly \$300 billion, while giving the wealthy \$1.1 trillion in tax cuts



Note: ACA (Affordable Care Act). All estimates are through 2034. Households with income over \$500K make up 2% of total households in 2027.

Source: CBPP calculations using JCT tables JCX-22-25R and JCX-23-25 and the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate of the House reconciliation bill (May 20, 2025)

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

"This bill takes food and health care away from those who need it most, just to fund tax giveaways for the wealthiest," said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans. "It's outrageous, and we cannot let it become law. We must raise our voices and demand the Senate put a stop to this insane cruelty."

ACTION NEEDED: [Click here to send a message to your senators demanding they vote against draconian cuts.](#)

CBO Warns: New House Budget Proposal Could Slash Medicare by \$490 Billion

A [new report](#) from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has sounded the alarm: the budget recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives could result in nearly \$500 billion in automatic Medicare cuts over the next ten years.

The bill would add **\$2 trillion to the federal deficit**, triggering automatic cuts under existing budget rules. Beginning in 2027, these cuts would slash Medicare payments by 4 percent each year — affecting hospitals, doctors, Medicare Advantage plans, and prescription drug plans.

“This bill is not just a broken promise — it’s a betrayal,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. “Older Americans worked a lifetime to earn their Medicare benefits, and this legislation puts those benefits at risk while handing out tax breaks to the wealthiest.”

Drug Industry Quietly Funds “Patient Advocacy” Groups to Fight Medicare Drug Price Negotiations

A [new investigation](#) by Patients for Affordable Drugs (P4AD) has uncovered a troubling tactic used by the pharmaceutical industry to protect profits and keep drug prices high: secretly funding so-called “patient advocacy” groups.

The report profiles six such groups all of which have deep financial ties to the drug industry.

These groups receive substantial funding from PhRMA, the powerful trade group representing drug manufacturers, as well as other wealthy pharmaceutical donors. Many are also staffed with former drug company executives and lobbyists. Despite their names, these organizations are not advocating for patients — they are working to protect corporate profits.

Their latest target? Medicare's new power to negotiate lower drug prices, a long-overdue reform that could bring real relief to seniors. These front groups are spending thousands on misleading ads and social media campaigns designed to scare the public and weaken support for lower drug prices.

"Our voices are powerful - that's why the drug corporations invest millions to create the illusion of public support," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "We must keep the focus on the high prices Americans are paying for prescription drugs and stand up to these powerful corporations."

KFF Health News: Trump's DOJ Accuses Medicare Advantage Insurers of Paying 'Kickbacks' for Primo Customers

By Julie Appleby

When people call large insurance brokerages seeking free assistance in choosing Medicare Advantage plans, they're often offered assurances such as this one from eHealth: "Your benefit advisors will find plans that match your needs — no matter the carrier."

About a third of enrollees do seek help in making complex decisions about whether to enroll in original Medicare or select among private-sector alternatives, called Medicare Advantage.

Now a blockbuster lawsuit filed May 1 by the federal Department of Justice alleges that insurers Aetna, Elevance Health (formerly Anthem), and

Humana paid “hundreds of millions of dollars in kickbacks” to large insurance brokerages — eHealth, GoHealth, and SelectQuote. The payments, made from 2016 to at least 2021, were incentives to steer patients into the insurer’s Medicare Advantage plans, the lawsuit alleges, while also discouraging enrollment of potentially more costly disabled beneficiaries.