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Graham-Cassidy Races Against the Reconciliation Clock

ACTION ALERT: Reach out to your [Senators](#) and urge them to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan that threatens the health care of millions of Americans.

Earlier this week, Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) released the latest, and perhaps most alarming, Affordable Care Act repeal-and-replace effort: the [Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan](#).

The Graham-Cassidy plan attacks Medicaid and the ability of states to provide quality, affordable health insurance through state Marketplaces. It eliminates the Medicaid expansion program. It also establishes a dangerous block grant system which will significantly reduce Medicaid funding, particularly in states that expanded Medicaid access. It also destabilizes the Marketplace private health insurance system by eliminating premium and cost-sharing subsidies that make private health insurance more affordable to low-income Americans. The bill will result in millions of people losing health care coverage.

Republican Senators have until **11:59 pm, September 30** to pass this bill using an expedited legislative process. As politicians race against the clock, advocates must call on Senators to oppose this bill and protect access to care to millions of people, including children, seniors, and people living with chronic illness and disability.

Elimination of Medicaid Expansion, Block Granting Medicaid, and Funding Cuts

The Graham-Cassidy proposal eliminates the ACA Medicaid expansion. The proposal [guts Medicaid funding by an estimated \\$239 billion](#) over the next ten years. The bill puts vital state Medicaid programs at risk and slashes funding for states who have made significant investments in expanding Medicaid to over 12 million Americans.

Graham-Cassidy instead establishes a temporary “Medicaid Flexibility” program, which offers states per-capita block grants. Under this plan [every single state will experience harmful drops in funding](#). These cuts will mean reduced access to care for the sickest and most vulnerable among us. This plan would also give governors, who have previously refused to expand Medicaid, the flexibility to spend billions of dollars without assurances that the funding will be used to provide high-quality and affordable health care to vulnerable populations.

States that have already expanded Medicaid coverage under the ACA will be particularly harmed by Graham-Cassidy’s funding formula. The formula would [significantly and substantially cut funding for over 20 states](#), including Alaska, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Washington and West Virginia. This plan takes away billions from states that have expanded Medicaid and would endanger improved access to care to millions of low-income Americans.

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For example, Kentucky [covered an additional 300,000 low-income people](#) with federal funding for ACA Medicaid expansion. This new coverage resulted in more preventive care and fewer emergency room visits. However, with the Graham-Cassidy bill, Kentucky is estimated to lose around \$3 billion in federal funding by 2026. Similarly, Ohio [covered an additional 712,000 residents](#) through ACA Medicaid expansion, and would lose an estimated \$2.5 billion in federal funding by 2026. (For estimates on how much Medicaid expansion states stand to lose under the Graham-Cassidy bill, click [here](#).)

The gutting of the ACA Medicaid expansion program will significantly undermine recent health care gains. Studies have shown that Medicaid expansion has resulted in [increased utilization of preventive services and care for chronic conditions](#). Health care providers in expansion states have also seen a [sharp drop in uncompensated care and an estimated savings of \\$6.2 billion](#). By eliminating Medicaid expansion and leaving millions uninsured, the Graham-Cassidy proposal puts states at risk of seeing uncompensated care rise again and health care costs increase.

Ending Affordability of Quality Health Insurance

The Graham-Cassidy bill also leaves millions of lower-income individuals and families without the means to afford quality private health insurance coverage. The bill eliminates the premium tax credits and subsidies that significantly reduce the cost of insurance plans sold on the Marketplace. These subsidies [helped over 8.7 million Americans purchase coverage](#) for themselves and their families in 2017. Without this help, many individuals and families will lose their health insurance.

Urgent Action Needed!

The ACA's provisions, including Medicaid expansion, premium tax credits, and cost-sharing subsidies, have helped millions of Americans to become insured and access the health care they need. Health care reform is working. Yet Republican Senators insist on trying to push last-minute repeal-and-replace efforts through, which do nothing but undermine access to high-quality and affordable health care.

Using an expedited process that limits debate and prevents filibusters, the Senate has about two weeks left to get the Graham-Cassidy bill passed. Advocates need to call their Senators and urge them to vote against this bill now!

Stay tuned for more information on how advocates can defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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