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The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition Condemns Attacks on Healthcare Enacted in 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill

Healthcare costs are out of control, and families need relief. But instead of working to lower costs, the President signed into law the rushed budget reconciliation bill that includes the largest cuts (\$1 trillion) to healthcare in U.S. history.

The enacted cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are [estimated to strip healthcare from as many as 85,000 Rhode Islanders](#) over 10 years. Terminating health coverage for these friends, family, and neighbors does nothing to fix high costs or our struggling healthcare system; it only makes the system worse for all of us. As the number of uninsured rises, people will go without the care they need, rates of medical debt will increase and our hospitals, health centers, and other medical professionals will be further strained by lost funding and increased rates of uncompensated care. We will all suffer with higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs, and even more limited access to providers.

Instead of simplifying and streamlining access to coverage, the bill [imposes a bureaucratic nightmare on the health coverage system](#). Obstacles like work requirements and unnecessarily burdensome recertification rules will not only drive many to lose coverage; they will also add significant costs for the state and our health provider network. At the same time, debilitating [limits on the state's capacity to raise needed revenue through provider taxes will cut millions of dollars from](#) Medicaid and our healthcare system.

The [bill discriminates](#) against working adults, women, immigrants, and our LGBTQ+ neighbors by adding complex eligibility requirements to both Medicaid and our state's ACA Marketplace HealthSource RI (HSRI) and limiting – and even prohibiting – coverage for certain healthcare services. And the end of enhanced premium tax credits for those purchasing coverage on HSRI means that this population will be the first to feel the significant cost impact, with enrollees receiving financial assistance facing an average premium increase of 85% for 2026 coverage.

In 1993, the Rhode Island [General Assembly declared](#) its intention that “*Universal comprehensive coverage for all Rhode Islanders is a goal to be achieved over the course of several years.*” In the decades since, Rhode Island has accomplished much towards this goal, achieving one of the highest rates of health coverage nationally (only 2.2% of Rhode Islanders [were uninsured in 2024](#), down from 13.4% in 2012). The budget reconciliation bill is a direct attack on this progress. It will cause up to 7.6% of Rhode Islanders to lose coverage, and it robs our state of forward momentum to tackle our primary care crisis and the complicated issues of the cost and quality of care.

We all know and love someone who relies on Medicaid or the ACA's premium tax credits for their healthcare, and each of us relies on access to a quality healthcare system. In the face of the setbacks imposed by the passage of this bill, we must remain steadfast to our states' 1993 commitment. Real progress is possible only when we work together. While the challenges are considerable, collective efforts between state government and elected officials, advocates, health professionals, business, and individual constituents can mitigate the harms of this awful bill.

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition remains committed to a future where healthcare is recognized as a human right and every person has access to quality, affordable care. We invite everyone who shares this vision to visit www.protecthealthri.org to join us.

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone (CPO-HEZ), United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care