



BCRA Talking Points

High-quality, efficient care depends on broad-based, continuous coverage. Because the Senate bill reduces coverage, hospitals across the nation and in Maryland oppose the bill, as it impairs hospitals’ ability to care of those entrusted to them.

- In Maryland, an estimated 216,000 people would lose coverage in 2018, increasing to more than 256,000 by 2026.
- The proposed cuts to Maryland’s Medicaid funding – \$148 million in 2018 and \$8.72 billion through 2026 – place the most vulnerable at risk. Some 57,000 Marylanders who rely on Medicaid would lose their coverage in 2018 alone.
- Without coverage, hundreds of thousands more Marylanders will have to cope with their health care needs on their own, including those suffering with drug addiction and mental health challenges. It will be expensive, if not impossible, for many to get the care they need.

The proposed bill devastates the state budget, as well as Marylanders’ financial health.

- As Marylanders lose coverage, the cost of care they receive, but can't pay for, gets passed on to everyone else in the form of higher health care costs and higher insurance premiums.
- The cuts leave our state with an enormous budget hole and grim options: Raise taxes, cut state health care spending, cut spending for other activities, or care for fewer people.

The loss of broad-based, continuous coverage jeopardizes Maryland’s unique All-Payer Model.

- For 40 years, the all-payer system has delivered innovative, cost-saving health care – improving outcomes and holding costs down.
- The All-Payer Model encourages hospitals to direct patients to the right care, at the right time, in the right setting: doctor’s offices, pharmacies, nursing homes and more. But without coverage to access these services, more Marylanders will turn to hospital emergency departments – health care’s highest-cost setting – for care.
- The increased costs and increased hospital utilization make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to meet the stringent metrics under the All-Payer Model.
- The cost of caring for people in the hospital who had no insurance or could not afford their care dropped by \$350 million as a result of the coverage they gained under the Affordable Care Act, whereas the Senate bill would drive up the cost of health care for everyone in Maryland.

Number of People Who Would Lose Coverage

	CY 2018	CY 2026
Nationwide	15 Million	22 Million
Maryland	216 Thousand	256 Thousand

Reduction in Federal Medicaid Spending

	FY 2018	FY 2017-2026 (Cumulative)
Nationwide	\$12 Billion	\$772 Billion
Maryland	\$148 Million	\$8.72 Billion