



## Comparing the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) to the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

	<b>What the Affordable Care Act (ACA) did:</b>	<b>What the Better Care Reconciliation Act will do:</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 20 million people have gained health insurance under the current law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office CBO projects that if the BCRA were enacted as currently proposed, 22 million people would lose health coverage by 2026, (15 million Medicaid recipients and 7 million through the ACA marketplace<sup>i</sup>).</li> <li>• Losses would begin in 2018, with 15 million more people uninsured under BCRA compared to the current law.</li> </ul>
<b>Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketplace enrollees currently pay 74% less in premiums than they would pay under the BCRA.</li> <li>• Under ACA, plans cover 70% of the cost of healthcare.</li> <li>• Experts estimate that co-pays are less expensive under the ACA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under BCRA, older individuals would pay a higher share for a benchmark plan (a plan that each state designates as standard). Overall, marketplace enrollees would pay an average of 74% more toward premiums for a benchmark plan in 2020 under the BCRA than under ACA.</li> <li>• Adults aged 55-64 would see their monthly premiums more than double<sup>ii</sup>.</li> <li>• A plan issued under the BCRA would pay 58% of costs and would have a higher (deductible). BCRA would eliminate subsidies available under the ACA that reduce cost sharing and out-of-pocket limits for marketplace enrollees. This would result in higher cost-sharing (by thousands of dollars) under BCRA.<sup>iii</sup></li> <li>• Overall, co-pays are expected to increase under BCRA.</li> </ul>
<b>Protections</b>		
<b>Medicaid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current law does not impose a financial limit on services for qualified Medicaid recipients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CBO is projecting that the BCRA would reduce spending for Medicaid under the BCRA would be reduced by \$160 billion in 2026, compared with spending projected in the ACA<sup>iv</sup>.</li> <li>• BCRA calls for a per-person cap on spending for Medicaid recipients beginning in 2020.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, BCRA would end federal reimbursements for the Medicaid expansions made possible through the Affordable Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual Caps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Affordable Care Act prohibits lifetime and annual dollar limits on coverage under individual and group health plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BCRA does not include protections against lifetime/annual caps on coverage<sup>v</sup>. Under the BCRA, caps on the annual out of pocket costs for patients would no longer apply.</li> <li>BCRA funding for nursing home services through Medicaid could be cut as the federal government slowly declines payments to individual states<sup>vi</sup>.</li> <li>The annual/lifetime cap for coverage applies to the elderly, the blind and disabled, people who got health insurance through their state's expanded Medicaid program, and other adults who receive Medicaid<sup>vii</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Lifetime Limits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ACA prohibits lifetime limits in health plans.</li> <li>Insurers must include the 10 essential benefits in their health plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BCRA allows states to make changes to the essential benefit package by applying for 1332 waiver authority. If a particular benefit is no longer classified as essential, premiums for plans that cover essential benefits would go up.</li> <li>This also allows insurers to impose annual and/or lifetime limits on what the insurer spends on the patient for that essential health benefit<sup>viii</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Mandate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help even out the costs, the ACA required everyone sign up for health insurance or pay a penalty.</li> <li>If an individual fails to get health insurance, she must pay a tax penalty of \$695 or 2.5% of her household income.<sup>ix</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an individual goes 63 days without health insurance in a 12-month period, she must wait 6 months before she can buy health insurance again<sup>x</sup>.</li> <li>This punishes people who may want health insurance but are part of the system's "churn" through no fault of their own.</li> </ul>

More information on BCRA can be found on the websites listed below.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/06/27/534465505/chart-cbo-weighs-who-wins-who-loses-with-senate-health-care-bill>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/06/27/534465505/chart-cbo-weighs-who-wins-who-loses-with-senate-health-care-bill>

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<sup>iii</sup> [http://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/premiums-under-the-senate-better-care-reconciliation-act/?utm\\_campaign=KFF-2017-June-BCRA-Premium-Analysis&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=53609100&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-93L4gw1T8bDLzsD80hcv4FW-](http://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/premiums-under-the-senate-better-care-reconciliation-act/?utm_campaign=KFF-2017-June-BCRA-Premium-Analysis&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=53609100&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-93L4gw1T8bDLzsD80hcv4FW-RzlykbDeL9K6hqAVI4SWLVzy9tD1HAFI70jXhElN7yu_Run_6jFpn0jfEVL04QGEtSQ&_hsmi=53609100)

RzlykbDeL9K6hqAVI4SWLVzy9tD1HAFI70jXhElN7yu\_Run\_6jFpn0jfEVL04QGEtSQ&\_hsmi=53609100

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/52859-medicaid.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.kff.org/interactive/proposals-to-replace-the-affordable-care-act/>

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/06/27/534465505/chart-cbo-weighs-who-wins-who-loses-with-senate-health-care-bill>

<sup>ix</sup> <http://www.kff.org/interactive/proposals-to-replace-the-affordable-care-act/>

<sup>x</sup> Ibid