



Repealing the Trump Sick Tax Act

Introduced By: Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

Background:

Over 15 million Americans stand to lose health insurance coverage as a result of the so-called '*One Big Beautiful Bill Act*,' (*OBBBA*) representing the largest-ever loss of health insurance coverage due to federal policy. The bill is also set to drastically raise health care costs for hardworking families and weaken Medicare's ability to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors—all to secure tax cuts for billionaires and give handouts to Big Pharma.

The *OBBBA* directs states to impose new cost-sharing requirements of up to \$35 per service for certain Medicaid enrollees before they can see a provider or visit a hospital. As a result, seniors, children, people with disabilities, and working families already fighting to make ends meet will be forced to pay an out-of-pocket cost before they can receive vital health care services. This "sick tax" imposed by President Trump and Congressional Republicans will force Medicaid enrollees to choose between paying their bills and receiving vital care every time they need to see a provider.

The bill also explicitly allows providers to refuse to provide care to Medicaid enrollees if they are unable to pay the cost-sharing requirement. In consequence, patients who are unable to afford this new "sick tax" may choose to forgo care, making them sicker and oftentimes in need of even more expensive health care later.

Legislation:

The *Repealing the Trump Sick Tax Act* would repeal changes to Medicaid cost-sharing requirements in order to ensure working class Americans can get the care they need. The bill also repeals provisions in the *OBBBA* which exclude orphan drugs from the Medicare drug price negotiation program and allow pharmaceutical companies to evade accountability for high-price prescription drugs.

Supporting Organizations:

The *Repealing the Trump Sick Tax Act* is supported by Protect Our Care and Patients for Affordable Drugs.