

DEMOCRATS SECURE HEALTH CARE RELIEF

Delivering Higher Medicaid & Community Health Center Funds

House Republicans released remaining FY26 appropriations bills for passage by January 30. Thanks to the tireless work of Democrats, this package includes bipartisan health care policies held up by Trump and Republicans in December 2024. As Republicans' largest health care cuts in history devastate communities nationwide, Democrats are fighting day and night to bring patients and providers relief.

Democrats fought and won, getting:

- The **most possible relief for Medicaid** providers, eliminating two years and \$16 billion of hospital cuts for facilities that disproportionately serve vulnerable patients; and
- **Expanded access to primary care** with the largest increase in mandatory funding for community health centers in a decade, equivalent to a rate of \$4.6 billion through the end of the year—nearly \$1.2 billion more than Republicans put on the table.

Republicans' devastating agenda is causing hospital and clinic closures; cutbacks on labor and delivery, mental health care, primary care, and other key services; and job loss and layoffs for essential workers—all while spiking health care costs and premiums across insurance markets, from employer-sponsored insurance to Medicare to Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage.

Other key highlights championed by Democrats include policies and funding that:

- **Go after health care middlemen** that drive up costs by transforming the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) business model. Included priorities to rein in PBM abuses that drive up Medicare and commercial costs for patients and taxpayers, help sustain community pharmacies, and require PBMs to report on how much money they make;
- **Improve cancer care for kids and seniors** by covering new preventive screenings for people with Medicare and giving the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to require drug companies to conduct certain cancer drug trials for children;
- Ensure **increased, faster access to care for children who rely on Medicaid** and need out-of-state care to address complex medical conditions;

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- **Lower the cost of prescription drugs** by guaranteeing access to no-cost generic medications for low-income seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare and making it easier for low-cost generics to enter the market;
- **End Big Insurance abuses** involving “ghost networks” that mislead people with Medicare about their access to behavioral health care providers and improve mental health parity;
- **Strengthens the health care workforce as shortages persist**, including significant funding increases for the National Health Service Corps (13% increase over 2023), Teaching Health Centers (137% increase from 2023 to 2029), and nearly \$2 billion in value-based Medicare payments for doctors; and
- **Offer stability to health care providers and patients** through the extension of expiring programs, ranging from 1 to 5 years. These priorities:
 - protect access to telehealth and virtual diabetes care for millions of seniors;
 - secure Medicare payments for rural hospitals;
 - fund non-biased, community-based Medicare counselors; and
 - reauthorize programs that support new mothers and babies, bolster health care providers’ mental health, support the behavioral health workforce, and more.