FACT SHEET: Graham-Cassidy-Heller Would Devastate Alaska

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller plan is even worse for the states than previous Republican so-called health care bills. It would cause millions of people to lose their health care coverage, deeply cut Medicaid and other health care funding for states, eliminate or weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and increase out-of-pocket costs for tens of thousands of Alaskans.

Over 40 Thousand Alaskans Would Lose Their Health Care Coverage

Previous repeal-without-replace plans would have left 32 million Americans uninsured. The Cassidy-Graham bill would likely result in even deeper coverage losses than that in the second decade because it does the same thing as repeal-without-replacement, but also effectively ends Medicaid.

- In Alaska, an estimated 41,000 people would lose their coverage in 2027

Alaska Would Lose Billions in Health Care Funding

Graham-Cassidy-Heller would make huge cuts to federal health care funding over the next decade and likely be even more damaging than a straight repeal-without-replace bill because it would add large cuts to the rest of Medicaid — on top of eliminating the Medicaid expansion.

- Alaska would lose $255,000,000 in health care funding in 2026.
- They would lose even more—$844,000,000—in 2027.
- Between 2020-2036, they would lose a whopping $14,000,000,000 in funding.

Nearly 10,000 Alaska Seniors Would be Unfairly Penalized with Dramatically Increased Health Care Costs

The plan also discriminates against 6.1 million older Americans in the individual health insurance market by potentially allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times what others pay for the same coverage. At the same time, it eliminates tax credits now available to lower and middle-income older people to help pay premium costs.

- About 8,653 Alaskans between the ages of 50 and 64 are enrolled in the individual market and would be impacted by the age tax rating changes.
- In 2015, half of all Alaskans ages 50-64 buying insurance in the individual market had incomes of $28,000 or less a year.
- For a 60 year-old Alaskan earning $25,000, in order to maintain their current health coverage, their health care costs could increase by $31,790 in 2020 due to potential premium and out-of-pocket cost increases.
326 Thousand Alaskans with Pre-Existing Conditions Would Pay Thousands More a Year

Graham-Cassidy-Heller would be devastating for Alaskans with pre-existing conditions. Graham-Cassidy would allow states to eliminate protections for millions with pre-existing conditions, meaning skyrocketing premiums of tens of thousands of dollars or more.

There are 326,400 Alaskans with preexisting conditions under the age of 64. Some examples of the surcharges these Alaskans with common preexisting conditions, on average, would face:

- Asthma, increase of $4,340 per year
- Diabetes, increase of $5,600 per year
- Pregnancy, increase of $17,320 per year
- Metastatic cancer, increase of $142,650 per year
- Rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune disorders, increase of $26,580 per year

-Center for American Progress

Alaska Women Could Lose Coverage, Pay More for Vital Services like Maternal Care and Cancer Screenings

Graham-Cassidy-Heller would let states cut requirements that insurers cover essential health benefits, meaning insurance companies could stop offering maternal care or prescription drug benefits. Thirteen million women nationwide could lose access to maternal care.

Tens of thousands of Alaska women would also lose access to care because of new restrictions on how they can pay for treatment at Planned Parenthood, often women’s only health care option, essentially barring Medicaid funds for care at Planned Parenthood Clinics.

- 40% of them live below the poverty line and many are Medicaid recipients.
- 11% of the people who visited these clinics in 2015 did so for annual exams and cancer screenings.

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands

The Leading Patient and Provider Groups Oppose This Bill

The largest patient advocacy organizations in the United States – organizations with hundreds of thousands of Alaska members - including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Physicians - have called on Senators to stand against Graham-Cassidy-Heller. So has the American College of Physicians, the Children's Hospital Association, and the American Association of Retired Persons.