

The Facts about the Better Care Reconciliation Act Discussion Draft
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Charge: **This bill guts Medicaid.**

Response: The Senate bill strengthens Medicaid for those who need it most by slowing the growth of the program over a responsible period of time. Under the Senate bill, spending on Medicaid in 2026 will be \$466 billion, a 26 percent increase over 2016.*

Charge: **The bill leaves too many people uninsured.**

Response: This bill effectively removes the individual and employer mandates which allows people to choose which type of health insurance coverage they would like and can afford.

Charge: **The bill takes health insurance coverage away from millions of people across the country.**

Response: This legislation frees the American people from the Obamacare mandate that requires them to purchase insurance they don't want or can't afford.

The Senate health bill restores individual freedom allowing Americans to choose the health care plan they want at a price they can afford. It effectively repeals the individual mandate so no one will be forced to purchase something they don't want.

Charge: **This bill is a tax cut for the rich, and a tax hike for the poor.**

Response: Obamacare raised taxes on millions of Americans. The non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation identified significant widespread tax increases on taxpayers earning under \$200,000 that Obamacare imposed on Americans. Obamacare increased taxes by nearly \$1 trillion. The draft legislation repeals hundreds of billions of dollars in Obamacare taxes that directly contribute to higher healthcare cost for working Americans.

Charge: **The bill cuts funding and coverage for combating opioid addiction.**

Response: FALSE. The bill in fact increases funding to combat the opioid crisis; it includes \$45 billion for substance abuse treatment and recovery support services. It also provides new flexibility to assist states with substance abuse treatment under Medicaid.

Charge: **This bill imposes an "age tax," allowing seniors to be charged more for care.**

Response: The bill makes absolutely NO legislative changes to Medicare benefits. Period. Furthermore, it helps reduce premiums. How? By giving states more control over insurance policies in order to get younger, healthier individuals, to purchase health insurance, which drives down costs for everyone. Importantly, the Senate bill also limits what older, middle-income Americans pay toward the purchase of health insurance to ensure they have access to a plan that fits within their financial means.

Charge: The bill raises premiums and deductibles.

Response: According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) - the bill lowers premiums by 30 percent by 2020, compared to current law.*

Charge: The bill hurts rural hospitals and will make it harder for Americans in rural areas to get the care they need.

Response: FALSE. The bill better supports our rural hospitals and helps them better take care of low-income patients with special needs.

It restores Obamacare cuts to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital - or "DSH" hospitals - so they can better take care of their patients. These additional funds will help non-expansion states pay hospitals (and other health care providers) an enhanced Medicaid payment to care for its safety net population.

Charge: The bill sets up an insurance death spiral.

Response: FALSE. The death spiral is already happening because Obamacare is broken. In fact, the Senate bill RESCUES millions of Americans trapped by Obamacare. If we don't act, it will only get worse.

Charge: The bill cuts Medicare.

Response: FALSE. The bill makes absolutely NO legislative changes to Medicare benefits. Period.

Charge: The bill gives money to health insurance companies to rescue Obamacare.

Response: Obamacare insurance markets are collapsing across the country and this bill ensures that the American people will have more access to affordable private insurance options.

Charge: This bill does not repeal enough of Obamacare's insurance regulations.

Response: The Senate bill allows states to responsibly use Obamacare's own waiver requirements to allow consumers to purchase the health plans of their choice.

Charge: Continuous coverage hurts the sick the most.

Response: This policy – based on the waiting periods used by 72 percent of employers - *treats everyone the same because it* does not discriminate based on health status. By discouraging people from gaming the system by waiting until they are sick to sign up or dropping coverage once they are healthy, it makes the risk pool and premiums better for everyone – the sick and the healthy alike – in the system. CBO confirms this policy increases insurance coverage.

Charge: **The draft bill doesn't do enough to lower premiums.**

Response: According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) - the bill lowers premiums by 30 percent by 2020, compared to current law."

Charge: **The bill keeps Obamacare tax credits, which is Obamacare.**

Response: The Senate bill dramatically improves upon the current law's advanceable, refundable tax credit by targeting its resources at poorer and older beneficiaries who need it most and for the first time, expanding its availability to beneficiaries under 100 percent of the poverty level.

Charge: **The legislation is not sufficiently prolife.**

Response: The legislation includes the largest expansion of prolife protections to mandatory programs ever and eliminates funding for certain abortion providers.

**Note: Based on the CBO score of the original Better Care Reconciliation discussion draft.*