PROTECT OUR CARE IL

Protect Affordable Health Care — Make Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Permanent

Enhanced premium tax credits lower the cost of healthcare for over 20 million people across the nation. If Congress cuts them, 4.2 million people would have their healthcare terminated and costs could more than double for millions more. That's a price families can't afford.

- **418,039 people in Illinois rely on premium tax credits to lower the cost of skyrocketing health insurance premiums.** People with pre-existing conditions like cancer and diabetes, working families, and older adults, would see their healthcare costs soar—and millions may lose access to health insurance as a result.

- **Ending premium tax credits will terminate healthcare for people who need it most.** If Congress doesn't act, millions of people living in rural communities, or those with preexisting conditions like cancer or diabetes will lose access to health insurance and have their lifesaving healthcare terminated.

- **Ending premium tax credits does nothing to bring down healthcare costs.** Healthcare costs are out of control. Congress should do everything they can to lower costs for working families, but if they don't extend premium tax credits, millions of families, workers, and cancer patients will have their healthcare terminated when they can least afford it.

- **Ending premium tax credits will raise the cost of living**. At a time when families are living paycheck to paycheck and trying to keep up with the high cost of living, we should not be terminating healthcare for millions of people. Congress must protect affordable, high-quality, accessible health coverage.

Premium Increases if Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire		IL	US Avg
45 year old individual earning $62,000 (411% FPL)	Annual premium with eAPTC (current)	$5,270	$5,270
	Annual premium without eAPTC	$6,427	$6,739
	Annual premium increase without eAPTC	**$1,157**	**$1,469**
60 year old couple earning $82,000 (401% FPL)	Annual premium with eAPTC (current)	$6,970	$6,970
	Annual premium without eAPTC	$24,158	$25,331
	Annual premium increase without eAPTC	**$17,188**	**$18,361**
Family of four earning $126,000 (403% FPL)	Annual premium with eAPTC (current)	$10,710	$10,710
	Annual premium without eAPTC	$18,186	$19,068
	Annual premium increase without eAPTC	**$7,476**	**$8,358**

Source:https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/premium-tax-credit-improvements-must-be-extended-to-prevent-steep-rise-in-health#if-improvements-expire-premiums-will-cbpp-anchor

ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDITS REDUCE INSURANCE PRICES AND INCREASE COVERAGE RATES

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress introduced enhanced Premium Tax Credits (PTCs) to help millions of families maintain health coverage. Recognizing their effectiveness at reducing prices and increasing coverage rates, Congress extended the credits through 2025.

- By lowering monthly consumer costs, the enhanced PTCs have driven a substantial increase in health insurance enrollment, evidence of their widespread appeal and effectiveness.

- **Enhanced Premium Tax Credits are set to reduce the number of people living without health insurance in the U.S. by 4 million in 2025 and increase ACA enrollment by more than 7.2 million.**
  - For lower-income groups, premium costs could be reduced by 50% to 100%, making coverage substantially more affordable.
  - Even higher-income groups will see approximately 25% lower premiums, improving affordability across income levels.
  - Nearly 8 million more people are expected to have individual health insurance in 2025 when compared to a scenario with no enhanced PTCs. This represents a 46% coverage increase in the individual market.

ALLOWING ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDITS TO EXPIRE WILL INCREASE PREMIUMS FOR ALL PEOPLE

- We are already seeing the impact of uncertainty regarding eAPTC in Illinois. **Uncertainty regarding the extension of enhanced premium tax credits is a major factor driving double digit premium increases per initial filings for plan year 2026 from Illinois health insurers.** Additionally, several insurance providers are withdrawing from the Illinois marketplace entirely. This will cause many Illinoisans to make the difficult decision not to enroll in health insurance and drive up costs for all in our state. More uninsured people will mean higher health care premiums for everyone, including for those who don't get their insurance on the Marketplace.

- The expiration of enhanced premium tax credits will drive up premiums in every state—for people of all ages and income levels–and in every Congressional district. It could also have dire consequences for long-term market stability by casting out young people and small-business owners.
  - According to estimates from the 32 states that utilize the federal Marketplace, the average annual premium increase would range from $360 to $1,860 in every Congressional district. This means their constituents will pay 41% to 81% more each year on their health insurance premiums.

- Nearly 2 million young adults are projected to become uninsured if enhanced premium tax credits expire—about half of all those becoming uninsured.
  - Loss of enhanced premium tax credits among young adults could cause long-term issues, as their enrollment in Marketplace plans helps maintain premium affordability and stability for everyone else.

- The enhanced premium tax credits have also been crucial for small-business owners and self-employed workers–making up 28% of all Marketplace enrollees in 2022.

Average Premium Increase Due to Tax Credit Enhancement Expirations by Congressional District in Illinois			
Congressional District	**Marketplace Enrollment**	**Annual Dollar Increase for Premiums**	**Percent Increase for Premiums**
IL 01	16,000	$816	53%
IL 02	15,000	$996	78%
IL 03	24,000	$768	56%
IL 04	18,000	$696	67%
IL 05	24,000	$828	44%
IL 06	20,000	$924	42%
IL 07	19,000	$696	57%
IL 08	30,000	$792	55%
IL 09	26,000	$852	45%
IL 10	21,000	$876	41%
IL 11	23,000	$972	45%
IL 12	22,000	$1,776	120%
IL 13	17,000	$1,152	68%
IL 14	22,000	$996	54%
IL 15	22,000	$1,584	81%
IL 16	19,000	$1,536	78%
IL 17	17,000	$1,368	87%

Source:https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/premium-tax-credit-improvements-must-be-extended-to-prevent-steep-rise-in-health#if-improvements-expire-premiums-will-cbpp-anchor

ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDITS ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

- Enhanced premium tax credits have dramatically improved health insurance affordability and access while closing inequitable gaps in coverage. Enhanced premium tax credits (EPTCs) were introduced to help millions of families get and keep health coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, 93% of Marketplace enrollees receive enhanced premium tax credits and save $705 a year on average. These reduced monthly costs are driving record enrollment and pushing the uninsured rate to record lows. If Congress doesn't act to make enhanced premium tax credits permanent, they will expire after 2025, which will widen health inequities among Black and Hispanic people, young people, and people in non-Medicaid-expansion states.

- Enhanced premium tax credits led to significant Marketplace enrollment among Black and Latino people—if they expire these gains will be lost.

- Between 2021 and 2024, Marketplace enrollment among Black and Latino people grew by 186% and 158%, respectively, compared to 63% for other racial and ethnic groups.
- If enhanced premium tax credits expire, about 1.1 million Black people and 1.3 million Hispanic people are expected to lose subsidized Marketplace coverage.
- 760,000 Black people and 970,000 Hispanic people are projected to become uninsured as a result of losing access to subsidies. This is a projected 4.2% increase in the uninsurance rate for Black and Hispanic people, compared to only a 2.6% increase among White people.