

The Big Bad Bill Is Now Law. What It Means for Black Health and Wealth

There is nothing beautiful about President Trump's so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill" Act (H.R. 1). Rushed through Congress by Republicans, the law is expected to terminate health care coverage from more than **15 million people**. It will disproportionately impact Black families, deepening the health and economic crisis by costing lives and blocking opportunity.

This is a **massive transfer of wealth** from families to corporations and billionaires – paid for by terminating care for millions. H.R. 1's cuts create a domino effect: **insurance lost, hospitals closed, costs skyrocketing.**

Mona Shah, Senior Director of Policy & Strategy, Community Catalyst

How H.R. 1 Terminates Medicaid Coverage for Millions

While every community suffers from H.R. 1's cuts, Black communities face the most severe consequences. Black families have a higher reliance on Medicaid due to systemic economic barriers. The cuts in H.R. 1 will lead to high coverage losses in Black communities, shutter hospitals, and worsen racial health disparities.

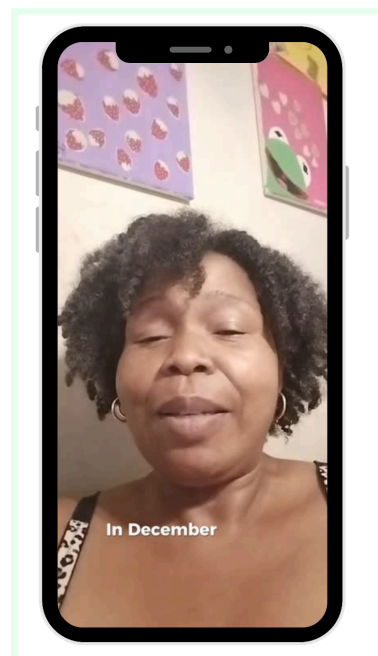
Due to systemic economic barriers, Black communities depend on Medicaid more than other groups. Medicaid covers more than half of Black children and 65% of Black births.

Bureaucratic Barriers Create Traps that Strip Coverage

H.R. 1 forces more than **20 million Medicaid enrollees** to prove they work 80 hours a month. Unnecessary work reporting requirements will hit Black communities hardest, even though 60% of adult Medicaid enrollees have a job, and another 14% are in school, caregiving, or have an illness/disability that prevent them from working.

Eboni, a mother of two, was earning \$9.75 an hour, and was diagnosed with lymphoma. Because Medicaid covered her treatment – six rounds of chemotherapy, 23 rounds of radiation, and countless scans – she survived.

"The diagnosis itself was scary but even scarier was the thought 'if I didn't have Medicaid.' That was one less thing I had to worry about." - Eboni, Georgia



Funding Cuts Force Hospital Closures in Black and Rural Communities

H.R. 1 guts federal Medicaid funding, **threatening hospitals in Black and rural neighborhoods** where facilities are already **four times** more likely to close. Payment cuts hit Black doctors hardest, as they **disproportionately accept Medicaid patients and serve underserved areas** – yet **research shows** patients have better health outcomes when treated by doctors who share their racial or ethnic background.

4x

Hospitals in Black neighborhoods **are 4x more likely to close**

Higher Prices Ahead for Marketplace Coverage

H.R. 1 failed to extend tax credits for people buying health insurance on the ACA Marketplace. Without them, **1.1 million Black people would lose coverage**, with premiums doubling in states like Texas and Mississippi.

48%

The number of Black voters who say lowering health care costs **would do the most to ease their financial burden.**



Channeling Grief into Power: Terry's Story
After being hit with high medical bills and unfair collection practices during his late wife's and his own cancer battles, Terry is leaning into his power to advance a national movement to end medical debt.

The consequences are dire. Losing health insurance coverage means an increase in medical debt in order to receive essential care. **56% of Black adults** already have medical debt, compared with 37% of non-Hispanic white adults and **more than 60% of adults with medical debt** cut back on food and housing. This makes the loss of tax credits especially harmful for Black families with low and middle-incomes, as they have seen the **largest coverage gains from these credits.**

Terry battled medical debt collectors during his wife's final days instead of cherishing their time together. After his own cancer diagnosis, another wave of bills hit. H.R. 1 will force more families into similar crushing debt.

Reproductive Health Services Disappear for Black Women and Families

Racial health disparities cost the U.S. over \$450 billion each year. Black maternal health inequities alone cost more than \$30 billion annually.

65%

The amount of Black mothers who **depend on Medicaid coverage for their pregnancies.**

H.R. 1's hospital funding cuts jeopardize Black moms and babies. Pregnancy care is costly, so maternity wards close first – forcing Black mothers, especially in rural areas, to drive hours for care.

School-based Health Services Disappear When Kids Need Them Most

70%

The number of school districts **that expect cuts to mental health services.**

H.R. 1's cuts directly threaten school-based services: **70% of school districts expect reductions** in mental and behavioral health programs. Black youth, already concentrated in under-resourced schools, will be hit hardest. This is alarming as suicide rates for Black youth are **rising faster** than any other group, **yet systemic inequities, stigma, and mistrust limit access to care.**

What Congress Must Do →

Repeal H.R. 1's health care cuts.

Congress must immediately repeal health care provisions of H.R. 1 to restore critical funding and prevent millions of people from losing their health insurance.

Make enhanced premium tax credits permanent to sustain affordability gains, especially for Black communities.

Lowering health care costs **remains a top priority** for Black voters, nearly half of whom say it would ease their financial burden – almost double the rate of voters overall.

Community Catalyst Health Care Poll with HIT Strategies, 2025