

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2025

Sabrina Corlette
Center Co-Director
Center on Health Insurance Reforms
Georgetown University
600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20001

Dear Director Corlette,

On July 4, 2025, the President signed the Republican budget bill into law. This legislation cuts more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We are deeply concerned about the impacts of actions that Trump and Republicans have taken, including finalizing rules that will ensnare Americans in needless red tape, diminish benefits, increase copayments, and stand up verification hurdles in their reconciliation bill, all while refusing to extend tax credits that lower families' premiums. Because of Republicans' health care cuts, 15 million Americans will become uninsured, including about 7 million Americans who buy ACA coverage on the Marketplaces, and millions more will pay higher health care costs no matter how they receive their coverage.

While Republicans in the House and Senate chose to extend nearly \$4 trillion in tax cuts to benefit the ultra-wealthy and big corporations, they did not extend enhanced premium tax credits that almost 20 million middle-class and working Americans rely on. These expanded tax credits, which lower the cost of health care for individuals and families who use the ACA Marketplace, will expire at the end of the calendar year. Failure to extend these tax credits will cause premiums to skyrocket by 75% on average, meaning Americans could be saddled with rising health care costs beginning January 1, 2026.

Health insurers have already taken the first steps to complete analysis on plan offerings for next year and their cost. This publicly available rate filing data is instructive for how insurers are responding to Republicans' reckless actions, including:

1. Passage of H.R.1, the Republican reconciliation bill;
2. Finalization of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Marketplace Integrity and Affordability final rule;
3. Trump's tariff policy; and
4. Failure to extend the ACA enhanced premium tax credits.

These policies all contribute to Marketplace destabilization and undermine access to affordable, quality health insurance for Americans.

Health insurers have submitted public rate filings that often include double-digit increases, demonstrating that the combination of these policy choices contribute to insurer uncertainty. What this data does not directly address is how insurer action will translate to health plan costs and insurance plan availability for the 24 million working Americans who buy their insurance through the ACA Marketplaces, including nearly 3 million small business owners, almost 5 million near retirees (ages 50+), and over one million children.

The instability created in the ACA Marketplace, spanning the 20 state-based marketplaces as well as the federally-run marketplaces, will have direct consequences for Americans' choice of health insurance plans. To help us better understand how the rate filings will impact choice and affordability, we are interested in the Center on Health Insurance Reforms' analysis of how policymakers and Americans should prepare for the changes indicated by rate filings. Please respond to the following questions in writing by August 25, 2025:

1. What do the double-digit increases in rate filings across states indicate about insurers calculations regarding plan offerings? Are there specific states you can provide information on?
2. How should policymakers interpret the rate filings related to impact on patient affordability?
3. How would you describe the impact of current tariff policy on insurers' decisions to submit record-high rate filings?
4. What information is available about how the end of the enhanced premium tax credits would interact with changes made to the marketplace in H.R.1 and impact plan availability and affordability?
5. Do rate filings provide indications about insurer decision-points with regards to marketplace participation, including changing service areas?

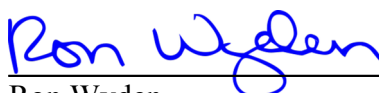
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



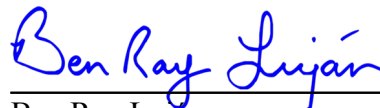
Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



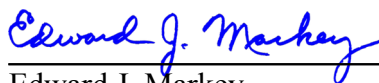
Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



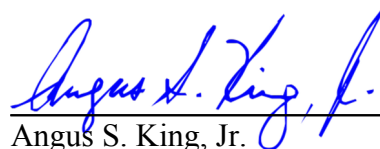
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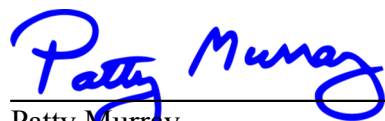
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Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Patty Murray
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