

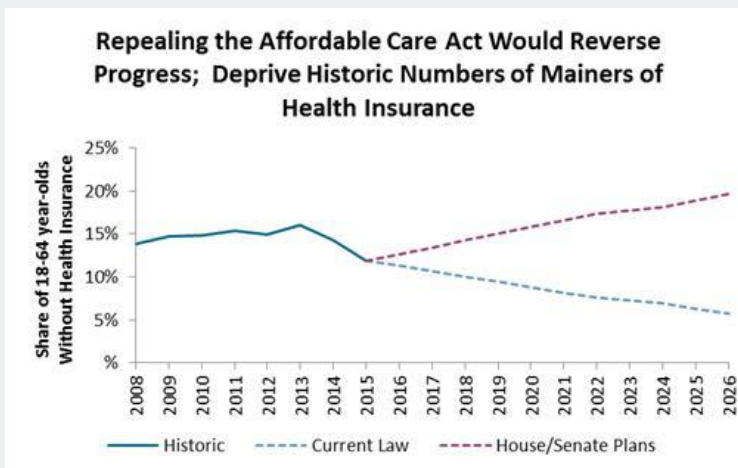
## MECEP Matters

June 2017



### Repealing the Affordable Care Act:

## U.S. Senate Proposal Maintains Most Damaging Elements of House Republican Plan and Will Especially Hurt Older and Rural Mainers



When the House narrowly passed its ACA repeal proposal earlier this year, the Senate said it would reject that plan and start from scratch. But now we have seen the Senate plan and it is as bad as the House plan. Both plans would reduce coverage for seniors, people with

disabilities, and families with children by cutting and capping Medicaid. Both would sharply increase insurance costs by raising premiums and deductibles and slashing existing tax credits. Both plans give states broad authority to eliminate consumer protections that help people with pre-existing conditions or who are in need of maternity care, mental health, or substance abuse services. Finally, both plans use the reductions in health coverage to pay for deep tax cuts for the wealthy, drug companies, and insurers.

Key findings of MECEP's report on the impacts of latest health care repeal bill:

- About 111,000 more Mainers would lack health insurance, including 11,000 children, by 2026.
- Most areas of the state would see a double-digit increase in the number of uninsured, with rural areas suffering the greatest impact.
- By 2026, almost one in five non-elderly adults in Maine would be without health insurance.
- Health insurance premiums for older Mainers would skyrocket, increasing as much as 15 times more than current costs.
- Medicaid, which provides health insurance for 263,000 Mainers, would face drastic cuts, shifting more than \$2.4 billion in costs to Maine.
- The AHCA would cripple the health care sector, which employs about one in five Mainers, and destroy an estimated 10,000 jobs.

- Business output would decline by \$1.6 billion and the gross state product would be \$1 billion smaller, a 2 percent decline that's larger in real terms than the decline from the recession of 2008-2009.

[Read MECEP's report](#)

## Dangerous economic consequences of state government shutdown

As of this writing, the shutdown of state government is imminent. Republican lawmakers in their demands to repeal the voter approved 3% surcharge on household income over \$200,000 will cost the state \$2.5 million each day that a shutdown continues in workers' salaries, lost tourism revenue from closed state parks, and lost business from halted construction projects and an inability to get licenses, permits, and inspections for business projects. Nobody wins if the stalemate forces

[Read MECEP's analysis](#)

## Featured Blog Post

James Myall's June 21 blog post quantifies the impact of LePage policies on children's access to health care.

[LePage policies have left thousands of children without health care](#)

[Visit MECEP's Blog](#)



## The stunning array of budget cuts in Trump's budget

### Facts and Figure

MECEP joined with 10 other economic and social justice organizations [calling on Maine's Congressional Delegation](#) to oppose the president's upside-down priorities and to put the needs of Maine families first. Some of the proposed budget cuts harmful to Mainers are:

[45,000](#) – number of Maine families that would lose fuel assistance



[\\$20 million](#) – lost grants for community projects such as affordable housing projects, after-school centers, and [meals on wheels](#)

[40%](#) - percentage cuts to job training programs

[\\$77 million](#) - dollars eliminated for Maine’s bridges, railways, and ports

[\\$5 million](#) – cuts to research critical grants that support Maine’s fishing industry

[27% and 37%](#) - percentage reduction in EPA's Superfund and brownfield pollution contamination clean-up programs

[\\$400 million](#) - cost to Maine over 10 years from shifting food assistance to states



## MECEP in the News

In case you missed them, MECEP's analyses were used by journalists and bloggers and television and radio news to inform public debate:

### [What happens when state government shuts down](#)

June 28, 2017 | Bangor Daily News

Let’s start with the obvious: State employees will lose wages that generate \$2.5 million in daily economic impact, according to an analysis from the liberal Maine Center for Economic Policy, with \$944,000 of that in Kennebec County alone.

### [Problems with Trumpcare start with its meanness](#)

June 27, 2017 | Bangor Daily News, Amy Fried Blog

Beyond that meanness, Maine’s economy would take a big hit. An analysis by the Maine Center on Economic Policy found that Trumpcare would cause 10,000 jobs to be lost, in part because rural hospitals would be under great strain and some would close.

### [Lawmakers argue about three percent surcharge to fund public education](#)

June 22, 2017 | WABI-TV

Sarah Austin is a policy analyst with the Maine Center for Economic Policy, was quoted, “We’re still expecting most of the funding from Question 2. It looks like there is some shifting into different fiscal years that pushes it out, but for the most part, this is still money that’s on the table and part of current law.

### [Super committee must negotiate budget compromise or face state shutdown](#)

June 15, 2017 | (Rockland) Free Press

“Mainers went to the polls in November fed up with tax cuts for the wealthy shortchanging our schools,” said Sarah Austin of the liberal-leaning Maine Center for Economic Policy in a statement. “What House Democrats proposed is a \$172 million tax cut for the top two percent and a \$140 million tax increase for everyone else. Moreover, the proposal is a cut to resources available for schools and other priorities by at least \$30 million over the next two years and jeopardizes our ability to achieve full funding of schools in future years. This is not what Mainers voted for.

[Health of many Mainers depends on bill in Congress, Medicaid expansion](#)

June 15, 2017 | Portland Press Herald

If repeal and replacement of the ACA comes to pass, we'll lose \$5 billion in federal funding for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, financial assistance for marketplace coverage and the option to expand Medicaid. According to the Maine Center for Economic Policy, we have already lost nearly \$2 billion that we would have received had the governor not vetoed Medicaid expansion.

['I felt like a caveman' — How work requirements for state benefits hurt one Maine man](#)

June 2, 2017 | Maine Public

But James Myall of the Maine Center for Economic Policy says the report is flawed. For example, it shows some increased earnings for the group as whole, but ignores the fact that wages for all Mainers increased during that period as well," he says.

[Eye on Augusta](#)

June 1, 2017 | The Free Press

In testimony, MECEP policy analyst James Myall argued that a balanced-budget amendment would be 'disastrous for Maine' as it could cost the state over \$900 million a year in federal money, or about 38 percent of the federal funds that come to the state.



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