

PROTECT OUR CARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, Aug. 17, 2026

Contact: Alana Ivey, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications, Aivey@byrumfisk.com

New report: 221,000 Michiganders have now lost healthcare, face higher costs because of Trump attacks

Congresswoman Scholten, healthcare advocates join Protect Our Care in warning Michiganders about cuts, steps to prepare



Watch the Full Event [Here](#)

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – **Protect Our Care Michigan** (POC) today released a new [report](#) showing **more than 221,000** Michiganders have lost their healthcare or face unaffordable cost increases in the wake of President Trump’s attacks on healthcare, which include \$1.1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and policies that raise healthcare costs.

Congresswoman **Hillary Scholten**, Kent County Commissioner **Melissa LaGrand**, Catherine’s Health Center CEO **Megan Erskine** and Michigan retiree **Eric Schneidewind** joined POC to call on all elected leaders to protect healthcare and make access to healthcare more affordable.

“Every American deserves access to quality, affordable health care, but Republicans have spent this administration stripping away coverage, making prescription prices rise, and forcing rural hospitals to close,” said Congresswoman **Scholten**. “I am constantly hearing stories from West Michiganders who don’t know how they’ll afford health care now that premiums have gone up by 200%. Some are choosing to go uninsured because they simply can’t afford it. In the richest nation in the world, no one should have to make that choice. That’s why I’m fighting in Congress to bring real relief to families here at home.”

The POC report showed that an estimated 221,044 Michiganders lost their healthcare since 2025, when Trump signed massive cuts to Medicaid and pushed policies that raised health insurance premiums:

- More than 90,000 Michiganders who got their healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP [lost](#) their Medicaid or CHIP coverage.
- More than 130,000 Michiganders [dropped](#) their ACA healthcare coverage after premiums skyrocketed.

For 2027, insurance companies plan to [raise premiums](#) up to 14% for people who buy their coverage through the Affordable Care Act, and small businesses face a nearly 10% rate hike. The 2027 increases compound the rate hikes from last year, of 20% for individuals and 11% for small businesses.

"Because of these healthcare cuts, we are already seeing people go without coverage and a lot of families are choosing high-deductible insurance, which isn't a health plan but a bankruptcy plan, and no one should be in this position," **Erskine** said. "The overwhelming majority of people who get Medicaid already work. They are deeply concerned about these cuts and many will lose coverage because of unnecessary bureaucratic red tape. So, we're urging people on Medicaid is to keep their [MiBridges](#) account and their contact information up to date."

Erskine serves on a Kent County Medicaid task force looking at what the healthcare cuts would mean for the county's 115,681 Medicaid recipients and impacts beyond the individuals and family. These include higher rates of uninsured people, delayed care and preventable emergency utilization as affordability declines and administrative barriers increase.

"People who can't stay healthy can't work, and right now, tens of thousands of Michiganders, including people right here in West Michigan, are at risk of losing their healthcare and not being able to earn a paycheck to put food on the table, and that's simply unacceptable," said **LaGrand**, who serves on the board of the Kent County Mental Health Authority, Network 180, and is also involved with regional workforce development. "People need to be healthy to work, they can't afford to get sick, yet they can't afford to see a doctor because of healthcare cuts. And unfortunately, President Trump and Republicans in Congress are making Michiganders sicker and poorer."

"Tens of thousands of Michiganders can no longer afford their healthcare, including a close friend of mine on a fixed income who must now pay \$10,000 more each year, which is forcing her to choose between seeing a doctor and putting food on the table," said **Schneidewind**, a retiree and former president of the AARP whose friend is in her 50s and has a pre-existing medical condition. "President Trump and members of Congress voted to gut healthcare and raise costs, which increased premiums for people like my friend by more than \$800 a month with a \$5,500 deductible. President Trump and Republicans in Congress are making Michiganders sicker and poorer. We welcome Congresswoman Hillary Scholten's commitment to fighting for affordable, accessible healthcare so no Michigander has to choose between seeing a doctor and paying for groceries."

The POC report also showed:

- Premiums for Michiganders [who counted on](#) the health tax credits Republicans in Congress gutted increased by an average of 131% this year:
 - A 45-year-old in Michigan making \$64,000 saw their average annual premium costs [rise](#) by \$1,678 to hit \$7,118 this year.
 - A 60-year-old couple in Michigan making \$85,000 saw their average annual premium costs [rise](#) by \$19,533 to hit \$26,758 this year.
 - A family of four in Michigan making \$130,000 saw their average annual premium costs [rise](#) by \$9,092 to hit \$20,142 this year.
- Michigan hospitals and clinics are facing a 7.3% [spike](#) in uncompensated care demand that will affect their ability to keep their doors open.
- Michigan hospitals [alone](#) are expected to lose \$28.4 billion over the next decade due to GOP Medicaid cuts. As of August 2026, 23 Michigan healthcare providers are at-risk, announced cuts, are closing, or have closed.

###