

House Reconciliation Bill Undermines Public Education, Hurts Students & Educators



.....

H.R. 1, the reconciliation bill passed by the House, should be called the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad bill. To provide tax breaks for the ultra-rich, it adds \$5.2 trillion to the national debt and shreds the social safety net—even as the price of food, clothing, and other necessities is rising and expected to stay high. Here are some of the worst provisions.

VOUCHERS

- ▶ H.R. 1 creates a nationwide tax-credit voucher scheme that would divert **\$20 billion** to private and religious schools, weakening public education. Entire communities would suffer, especially in rural areas where schools are economic centers and 20 percent of our students live.
- ▶ Individuals get a **dollar-for-dollar tax credit**—far more valuable than the usual deduction for charitable contributions—in exchange for giving money to an intermediary organization, which then funnels the money to private schools as tuition. Individuals who donate stocks get an even bigger tax credit representing both the value of the stock and realized gains.
- ▶ Private schools do not provide the same protections public schools are **required to provide by law**—Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Special needs students who attend private schools lose important legal rights and protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

MEDICAID & OTHER HEALTH CUTS

- ▶ The biggest changes are in **Medicaid**, the biggest program—it covers nearly half our students, 1 in 10 education support professionals, and is the fourth-largest source of support for K-12 public schools.
- ▶ H.R. 1 **slashes Medicaid funding by \$863 billion**, the biggest cut in the program's history. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the number of Medicare beneficiaries will drop by at least 7.8 million by 2034 due to new "work requirements"—burying applicants in a monthly avalanche of paperwork to document they've spent 80 hours on "community engagement" (work, education, job training or volunteering).
- ▶ Over the next decade, **16 million people will lose health coverage** due to the impact of H.R. 1 on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), according to [CBO estimates](#). In addition to the 7.8 million who will lose Medicaid, the total includes 4.2 million who will lose coverage because enhanced ACA premiums expire.
- ▶ According to a [recent study](#) by the Commonwealth Fund and George Washington University, up to 5.2 million adults could lose Medicaid coverage in 2026 alone—leading in turn to the **loss of nearly half a million jobs**.
- ▶ H.R. 1 **prohibits gender-affirming care** under both Medicaid and the ACA—the change will impact plans offered on ACA exchanges as well as other plans subject to essential health benefits requirements.
- ▶ **Rural areas** will be hit especially hard. Health care providers are already in short supply, and many hospitals have closed or can no longer afford to provide essential—but unprofitable—services like

maternity care. Slashing the number of people covered by Medicaid and the ACA will exacerbate these problems.

- ▶ H.R. 1 could trigger **\$500 million in mandatory cuts to Medicare**, known as “sequestration,” because it raises the deficit so much—\$2.3 trillion over 10 years, compared to current law.
- ▶ Find out more about the impact in your [school district](#), [congressional district](#), and [state](#).

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

- ▶ H.R. 1 slashes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by **\$290 billion**, shifts costs to states, cuts benefits, harms families with younger children and older adults, and threatens access to school meals. CBO estimates that:
 - **1.3 million** will lose SNAP entirely or have their benefits cut as a result of the provision forcing states to cover a significant portion of benefit costs
 - **3.2 million** will lose their food assistance entirely due to new red tape and stricter eligibility requirements placed on older Americans, parents with children 7 and older, and households in areas with poor economic conditions.
 - **420,000 children a month** will get less support for school meals due to state cost shifts (many students are automatically qualified for school meals via SNAP status). Many more could see their school meals status in limbo.
- ▶ Both SNAP and school meals lead to **better health and education outcomes for children**. H.R. 1’s cuts will make it harder for families to make ends meet, lead to students going hungry, and create burdensome and inefficient paperwork for school food service professionals.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ H.R. 1 eliminates **affordable** student loan repayment pathways. According to the Student Borrower Protection Center, a typical family of four with a head of household holding a bachelor’s degree would pay \$4,800 more per year than it would under the Biden administration’s Saving for Valuable Education (SAVE) plan.
- ▶ H.R. 1 **caps or eliminates** programs that provide loans to attend graduate and professional schools, limits financial aid eligibility for students with immigration statuses, and slashes Pell Grants—half of all recipients would get less money, according to CBO.
- ▶ H.R. 1 imposes **new taxes** on scholarships, fellowships, and student loan debt, and makes it harder for victims of unscrupulous institutions to escape student loan debt.

IMMIGRATION

- ▶ H.R. 1 provides \$150 billion in largely unrestricted funds for **immigration enforcement**, including expanded detention and jailing of children and adults.
- ▶ Steep fees **turn legal immigration into a luxury** only the wealthy can afford—among other things, a \$3,500 sponsorship fee for unaccompanied children and a \$550 fee for each work permit.
- ▶ Students and others who are **not citizens, but here legally**—including trafficking and domestic violence victims, refugees, asylees, and people with Temporary Protected Status—are no longer eligible for SNAP, the ACA, Medicaid, and federal student loan programs.
- ▶ New tax-filing requirements make it impossible for millions of families to claim the **Child Tax Credit**, including the families of 2 million children who are themselves U.S. citizens.
- ▶ To **punish states** that use their own taxpayer dollars to provide health care to immigrants, H.R. 1 reduces the federal share of funding under Medicaid and the ACA by 10 percent.