

# The American Health Care Act would leave many older Arizonans without health care.

The American Health Care Act (AHCA) would make it harder for older adults in Arizona to afford the health care they need. Under the AHCA:

## Older Arizonans may lose access to nursing home care, home health care, and other services that help them maintain their independence.

- Proposed cuts to Medicaid would slash federal funding by \$834 billion, forcing states to cut important services for older adults, such as long-term services and supports.
- Medicaid is the primary payer for 59% of nursing facilities in Arizona.
- Approximately 58,495 Arizonans received long-term services and supports through Medicaid.
- About 7.2% of Arizona's Medicaid beneficiaries are older adults; approximately 198,000 people ages 50-64 and 121,000 seniors in Arizona benefit from Medicaid.
- The proposed Medicaid cuts will grow over time, making it hard for Arizona to meet the needs of its growing aging population. By 2025, the number of Arizonans over age 65 is expected to grow by 64.2%. The number of Arizonans over 85, a population that relies on long-term services and supports, is expected to grow by 37.7%.

## Older adults may not be able to afford to pay their health insurance premiums.

- As of 2016, 44,000 Arizonans ages 50-64 received tax credits to purchase coverage through the Marketplace. Nationwide, one in four people (26%) enrolled in Marketplace plans are ages 55-64.
- For a 60-year-old living in Tucson, Arizona with an income of \$30,000/year, tax credits for paying insurance premiums could drop by 50% in 2020. The ACA tax credit would be \$8,010, but the AHCA tax credit would only be \$4,000.
- By changing the 3:1 limit on age rating to 5:1 (or higher if state law permits), premiums for older adults would increase relative to younger adults. This "age tax" by itself would raise premiums in Arizona by \$3,004 annually for a 60-year-old.
- The proposed bill also rolls back expanded Medicaid coverage, which currently provides affordable health care to 418,400 Arizonans, including many 50- to 64-year-olds.
- Arizona is one of twelve states that improved its Medicaid program to help people dually eligible afford their Medicare premiums and cost sharing, benefiting 204,000 in Arizona who benefit from Medicare Savings Program. The proposed cuts put this at risk.

## There would be fewer resources to fund Medicare.

- AHCA includes a huge tax cut, totaling \$58 billion, for wealthy individuals that will harm Medicare's financing in the short and long term, putting people with Medicare at risk for benefit cuts.
- AHCA opens the door to premium support (or vouchers) which would likely put the 18% of Arizonans ages 50-64 at risk for paying higher out-of-pocket costs once they enroll in Medicare.
- Older Arizonans can't afford to pay more for health care. The median personal income among Arizonans ages 65 and older in 2015 was \$22,000.

