

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

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

## Older South Carolinians 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 60% of nursing facilities in South Carolina.
- Approximately 55,399 South Carolinians received long-term services and supports through Medicaid.
- About 8% of South Carolina's Medicaid beneficiaries are older adults; approximately 96,000 people ages 50-64 and 89,000 seniors in South Carolina benefit from Medicaid.
- The proposed Medicaid cuts will grow over time, making it hard for South Carolina to meet the needs of its growing aging population. By 2025, the number of South Carolinians over age 65 is expected to grow by 38.4%. The number of South Carolinians over 85, a population that relies on long-term services and supports, is expected to grow 27.8%.

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

- As of 2016, 62,000 South Carolinians 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 Charleston, South Carolina with an income of \$30,000/year, tax credits for paying insurance premiums could drop by 65% in 2020. The ACA tax credit would be \$8,780, 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 South Carolina by \$2,271 annually for a 60-year-old.

## 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 which would likely put the 20% of South Carolinians ages 50-64 at risk for paying higher out-of-pocket costs once they enroll in Medicare.
- Older South Carolinians can't afford to pay more for health care. The median personal income among South Carolinians ages 65 and older in 2015 was \$20,800.

