

PROTECT OUR CARE

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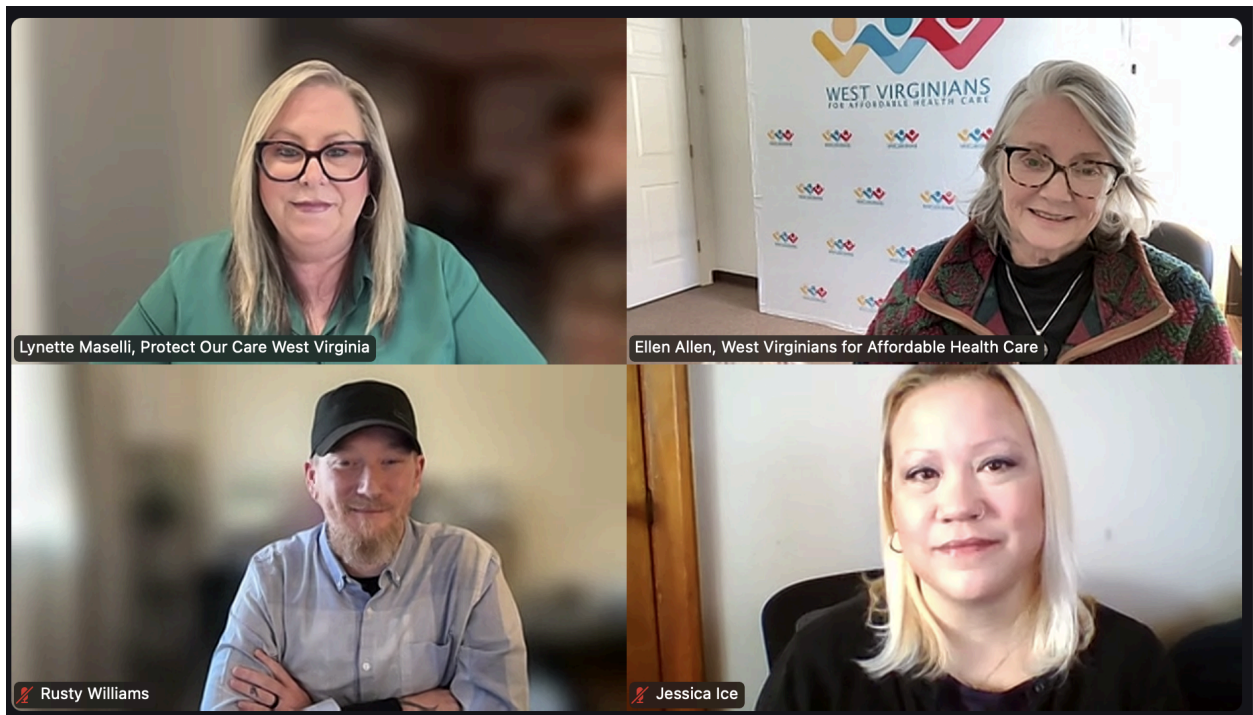
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Protect Our Care West Virginia Talks ACA Open Enrollment Period, and What's At Stake if GOP Raises Costs by Letting Premium Tax Credits Expire



Watch the event [here](#)

(Charleston, WV) – Consumer health advocates and storytellers joined Protect Our Care West Virginia to discuss the urgent need for Congress to stop Republican premium hikes. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) open enrollment period runs through January 15, and West Virginians will continue to save thousands of dollars on their health care thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act's enhanced premium tax credits. Thanks to these savings passed by the Biden-Harris administration and Democrats in Congress, a record **51,000 West Virginians** enrolled in ACA Marketplace plans in 2024. But, these tax credits are set to expire at the end of 2025.

“We are yet again standing at the edge of a healthcare cliff,” said Lynette Maselli, director of Protect Our Care West Virginia. “ If Congress gets its way, millions of Americans – and tens of thousands of West Virginians - are in danger of losing their healthcare coverage.”

Millions of Americans are depending on lower premiums. According to [a new report](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, if Republicans in Congress do not take action to extend the Inflation Reduction Act’s savings, an estimated 49,334 West Virginians will see their premiums increase by **\$1400 a year**. Speakers urged Congress to renew these tax credits so that **West Virginians** can continue to rely on these savings to remain insured and healthy.

“Maintaining access to affordable health care is crucial, and the ACA has dramatically shifted West Virginia’s health care landscape,” said Ellen Allen, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. “It’s no secret that West Virginia is in perennial competition for the worst health outcomes in the nation, so stripping away the healthcare of **217,000 West Virginians** who get their health insurance through the ACA will only set us back even further, making the long sought after generational advances in health improvements—especially in infant and maternal health— elusive.”

“What’s truly frustrating is that instead of prioritizing the needs of hardworking families, many Republican leaders continue to block action on this critical issue,” said Jessica Ice, consumer health storyteller. “They seem content to let these tax credits expire while pushing tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations, including drug and insurance companies.”

You can view the full event [here](#) and learn more about ACA open enrollment and Republican attacks on health care [here](#).

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