

State Senator & Small Business Owner Join Protect Our Care Maine to Call on Senator Collins to Protect Premium Tax Credits Amid Trump-GOP Health Care Disaster

Mainers are at Risk of Paying More for Health Insurance if Republicans Take Away Premium Tax Credits



Watch the Full Event [Here](#)

Today, small business owner who relies on the Affordable Care Act, Briana Bononcini and State Senator Michael Tipping, joined Protect Our Care Maine to discuss the ongoing Trump-GOP health care disaster and the urgent need to stop GOP premium hikes. Enhanced premium tax credits have helped make health insurance affordable for 53,808 [Mainers](#) enrolled in coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and eliminating them would make health care out of reach for too many, forcing Mainers to choose between health care and other basic necessities. Republicans have already broken their promise to bring down costs for everyday Americans by slashing funding for Medicaid in their Big Ugly Bill, and they will continue to drive up costs if they take these tax credits away.

Families across the country are already paying the price of the Trump-GOP budget bill and have spoken loudly and clearly that they oppose Republicans' ongoing assaults on health care. In Maine, Donald Trump, Senator Susan Collins, and their Republican allies have put Maine hospitals and nursing homes at risk of closure, skyrocketing premium costs and wait times for those who have coverage within reach. Hardworking Maine families deserve affordable health care options and should not have to give up their access to care so that the billionaires and big corporations can have tax breaks. Speakers echoed the frustrations of constituents in Maine and discussed the need to protect ACA tax credits and Medicaid for families across the nation.

"The reason I could start a small business and provide health care was because of the Affordable Care Act. I was able to not worry about expensive health care and could take a chance on opening a business and employing people. If Congress doesn't restore the

premium tax credit, the days will be long gone of having affordable health care and small businesses will suffer,” **said restaurant owner, Briana Bononcici.**

“Insurance premiums are increasing in Maine next year. An average of 23.9% for individual Mainers and 17.5% for small employers. This means roughly 116,000 Mainers will see a dramatic increase in their insurance premiums. This is unsustainable,” **explained State Senator Mike Tipping.**

“Let’s put this into perspective with a real scenario. A 60-year-old couple making \$85,000 per year who currently pays about \$6,900 for their coverage would see their annual premium costs skyrocket to about [\\$22,300](#), over 25% of their income,” **clarified Protect Our Care Maine State Director Toby McGrath**

You can watch the full event [here](#), and learn more about the Trump-GOP Health Care Disaster [here](#).

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