

Today we will talk about:

- Counting down to the end of the state legislative session. What's moving, stalling, and being discussed.
- Congress focused on impending shutdown of Dept of Homeland Security; House passes bill that would change what people need to do to be able to vote, changes to IDEA being considered. The ACA subsidies extension are no longer being discussed even as impacts of ACA subsidy expiration are starting to become clearer.
- Policy changes the administration is making: agencies rescinding funding for certain states, how insurers are making coverage harder to use for people with pre-existing conditions, new appointments on autism panel, administrative rule changes target fair housing laws and ACA exchanges, claims of fraud being used as reason to cut programs, and more.
- Continued coverage of impacts of HR 1.

Weekly Update
Feb 13th, 2026

Federal Funding Fallout 2026

1

Around Wisconsin

We have a
lot to say.

Count down to the end of the state legislative session

Assembly planning to end its legislative session next week.

It held two floor votes this week. It is planning to hold two final floor votes next week.

The additional funding needed for FoodShare must be attached to legislation and that legislation must pass the Assembly next week.

The Senate held one floor vote this week and will hold at least one more floor vote (likely after the Assembly session ends).

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is planning to meet in March.

Any bills that cost money that passed the Assembly must be approved by JFC before the Senate can pass them.

JFC also may meet on agency 13.10 requests. If they do not schedule a meeting to fund the DVR 13.10 request people will wait and the wait list will grow.

Hunger Coalition calls on legislature to approve needed funding for FoodShare

- The Assembly ends next week. Call or email your Representative and ask whether they will vote to approve the needed \$69.2 M for SNAP to meet new federal requirements.

CONTACTS:
 Grace Atherton, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association at 608-873-5545 or gatherton@wicheesemakers.org
 Jackie Anderson, Feeding Wisconsin at 608-960-4517 or janderson@feedingwi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wisconsin Agriculture, Hunger Relief Groups Call for Action to Support FoodShare

Madison, WI - A broad coalition of agribusinesses and hunger relief groups today urged Wisconsin lawmakers to address an urgent need for \$69.2 million in FoodShare funding, in the wake of federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which shifted 75 percent of administrative costs to states. Wisconsin must take action by October 1, 2020, or face the potential for penalties of up to \$205 million and would put benefits at risk.

"SNAP is one of the most effective tools to reduce hunger. When fewer households are able to access SNAP, food insecurity rates and food banks are forced to fill the gap. This puts significant strain on emergency food systems that were never meant to replace a national nutrition program," said Jackie Anderson, Feeding Wisconsin Executive Director. "When food access becomes unreliable, health outcomes worsen."

FoodShare is more than a nutrition assistance program. It is a critical economic engine for Wisconsin's food and agricultural sector. Each year, Wisconsin FoodShare participants redeem well over \$1 billion in federally funded benefits at grocery retailers across the state.

"FoodShare is more than nutrition assistance," said Rebekah Sweeney, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Senior Director of Programs & Policy. "Hundreds of millions of federal FoodShare dollars are used to purchase Wisconsin-grown and Wisconsin-made foods each year, supporting farms, manufacturing businesses, and jobs in every part of our state. Providing stability for FoodShare provides stability for Wisconsin agriculture, as well."

"Farmer-owned cooperatives are central to Wisconsin's agricultural economy, and FoodShare helps create reliable markets for their products while feeding Wisconsinites," said Jennifer Wickman.

Director, Kids Forward. "Wisconsin needs to invest now to make sure that families in need keep getting FoodShare benefits. Delays put kids at risk."

"Many older adults worked hard throughout their lives, but now have low, fixed incomes that have very little wiggle room for rising costs," said John Schnell, Executive Director, of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. "Older Wisconsinites shouldn't have to choose whether to pay for rent, needed medications, or food."

"Half of FoodShare participants are elderly, blind, or disabled. Many people with disabilities must remain poor to access the care they need that is only available in Medicaid," said Tam Jackson, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. "Often, the amount of FoodShare dollars people receive is small, but it makes all the difference when every dollar counts."

Organizations that support the funding request:

- AARP Wisconsin
- American Heart Association
- Cooperative Network
- Dairy Business Association
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Feeding Wisconsin
- Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
- Hunger Task Force
- Kids Forward
- Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
- People First Wisconsin
- Survival Coalition
- United Way of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Wisconsin Catholic Conference
- Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
- Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Wisconsin County Human Service Association
- Wisconsin Pork Association
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association

Additionally, 160 organizations signed on to a letter to the Wisconsin State Legislature in

[Broad coalition urges lawmakers to add \\$69M to cover new FoodShare expenses](#)

[Agriculture and hunger relief groups call upon state lawmakers for SNAP funding | News | channel3000.com](#)

[Wisconsin organizations call for more than \\$69 million to protect FoodShare benefits amid federal changes](#)

[Local leaders push for funding to support Wisconsin FoodShare Program | Economy | wkow.com](#)

[Wisconsin Agriculture Calls For Action To Support FoodShare - Madison's Country Q106](#)

Survival Coalition pushes JFC to approve needed DVR funding.

Joint Finance met, but funding DVR to end wait lists was not on the agenda.

Action Step:

contact [Joint Committee on Finance](#) members, and your state Senator and state Representative and ask JFC to approve the DVR 13.10 request as soon as possible.



January 27, 2025

Sen. Marklein
Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair
Wisconsin State Capitol, 316 E
Madison, WI 53707

Rep. Born
Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair
Wisconsin State Capitol, 308 E
Madison, WI 53708

Re: 13.10 Request, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Dear Joint Finance Committee members:

On January 16th, the Department of Workforce Development submitted a **13.10 request** to Joint Finance requesting **an additional \$11 million in state funding** for the **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** so it can provide services through June 30, 2027, and eliminate the current wait list that was re-instituted in December of 2025. **Survival Coalition urges the committee to approve this request.**

DVR helps people with disabilities to find a job, keep their job, or get a better job in the community. More people with disabilities want to work and are asking for help from DVR. Because DVR doesn't have enough money, **in December 2025, DVR began putting [people with disabilities who are applying for DVR on a waitlist](#).**

3000 individuals have already been placed on the waitlist. The Department estimates 1000 additional people will be added to the wait list each month. The current wait list means individuals may need to **wait up to a year for help with employment**. The waitlist will continue to grow until enough state funding is available. The longer the legislature waits to act, the more time it will take to reduce the waiting list and so that people with disabilities who need help are able to be served in real time.

Governor Walker ended the wait lists for DVR by signing a bill authorizing full funding in 2014, and DVR has not had a wait list until December of 2025. We know from work in Wisconsin that our Board did for our Let's Get to Work program that getting a job for kids with disabilities while still in high school doubles their chance of lifelong employment. People with disabilities face the biggest barriers to employment.

President Trump and Congress both recognize the value of DVR services. Both the President's 2026 budget and Congress's current appropriation bill calls for an increase in funding for federal vocational rehabilitation (Congress is proposing 10% increase, which is less than the increase proposed in the President's budget). The federal government provides 80% federal funding when the state meets its 20% match obligation. Fully meeting the state match for DVR will enable Wisconsin to receive significantly more federal funds to support employment for people with disabilities.

Senate sends bill that makes it easier for teachers to exclude students from classrooms to Governor's desk

AB 614 passed full Senate Wednesday. It had already passed full Assembly.

Now the bill will go to the Governor and he will decide whether to sign it into law or veto the bill.

The bill:

- Makes it easier for teachers to take students out of classrooms if the teacher says the student's behavior is disruptive.
- Adds time consuming paperwork requirements that can delay a student's return to the classroom.
- Requires all parents in the classroom are notified when behaviors have resulted in a student being removed from class.

Action Step: [Contact the Governor's office](#) (or 608-266-1212) with your thoughts about whether AB 614 should become law or not.

Wisconsin is at least \$500M short of what is needed to do what we are doing now.

7



\$70 M requested to for SNAP to meet new federal requirements from HR1



\$140 M shortfall in what was promised for special ed for year one. (Shortfall for year 2 of budget is not known yet).



\$11 M shortfall for DVR, waiting list imposed.



Wisconsin Medicaid projects \$213 M deficit by June 30, 2027.



\$218 M shortfall for 22 appropriations where revenue from fees helps fund programs.



LFB releases revenue projections noting higher tax revenue than expected, but also uncertainty that a CMS interpretation could result in a \$792 M Medicaid shortfall.



Unknowns that could be budget busters: state reinsurance fund (ACA Marketplace), removing caps from school voucher programs.



Cuts or elimination of federal grants that have supported state, county, and local programs may create new budget holes or funding gaps.

Other bills we are watching

8

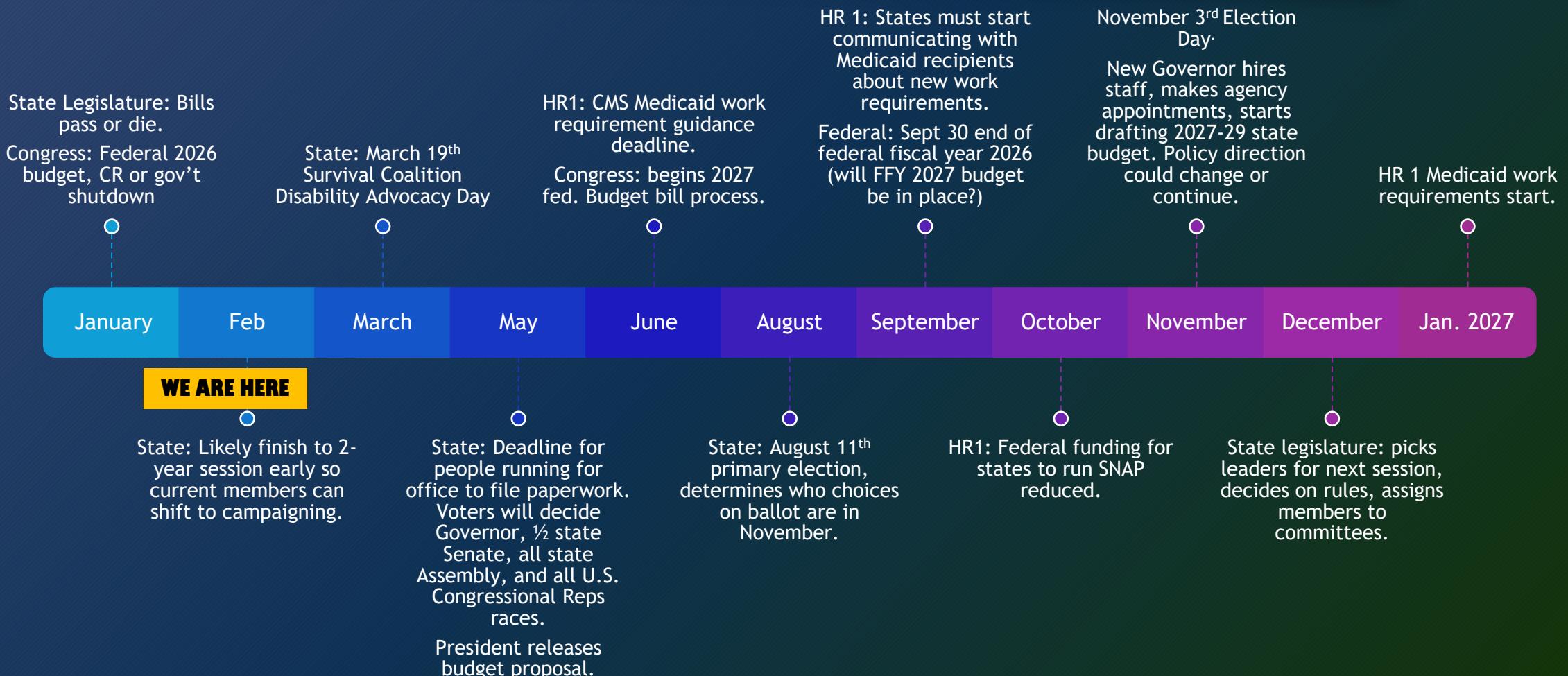
[SB 578](#) and [AB 598](#) Patient's Representative

- Would let hospitals pick a decision-maker (called a Patient's Representative) if a patient becomes unable to make medical decision, based on a list set in statute.
- Patient advocates do not believe this legislation will address the issue it seeks to solve and will cause many new issues.
- An analysis other states' Next of Kin laws shows this proposal is broader and more expansive than anywhere else in the country.
- A national study shows staffing shortages in facilities are a main reason patients are not able to be discharged from the hospital (the study did not assess how HCBS staffing shortages and lack of support of unpaid caregivers are contributing to longer hospital stays for some people.).
- Bills advanced out of committee. Both Senate and Assembly can schedule floor vote on bill.

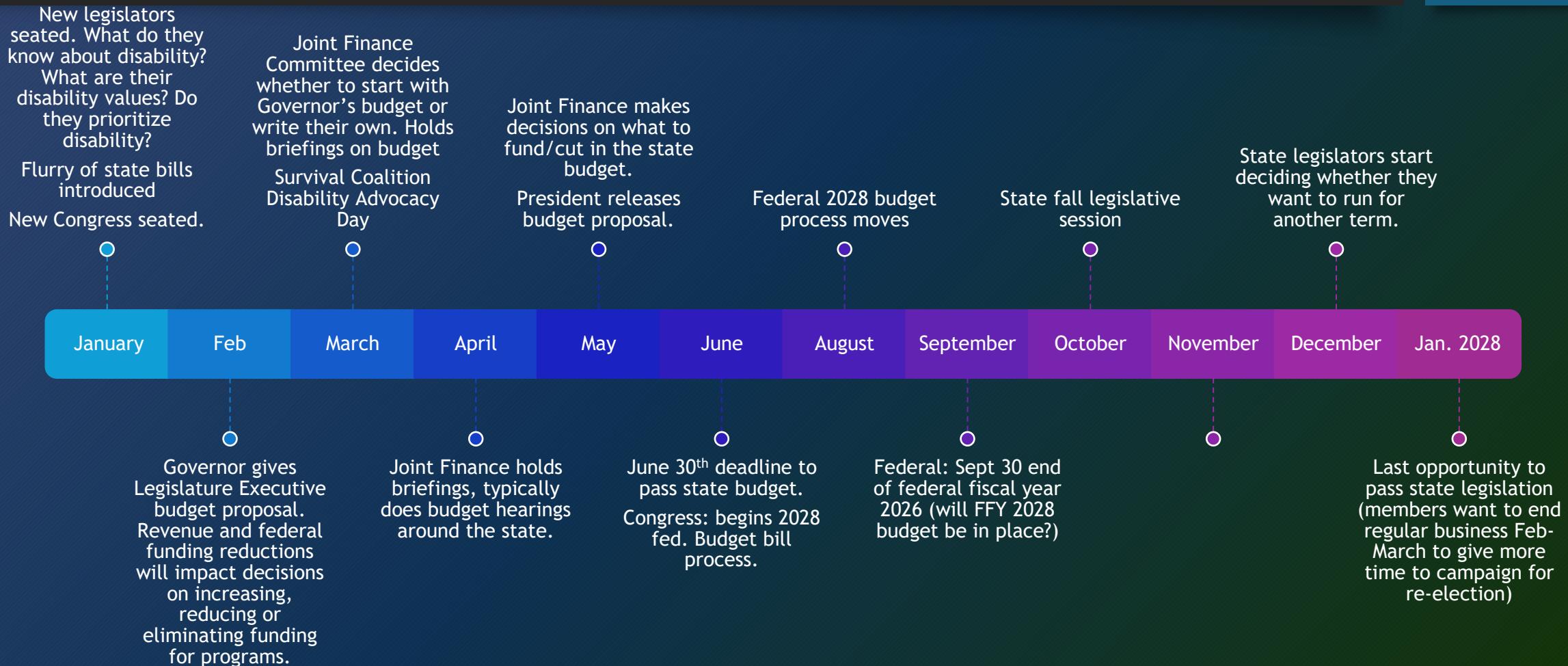
[SB 795](#) and [AB 798](#) would let caregivers identify people who depend on their care

- [SB 795](#) and [AB 798](#) would let caregivers list up to three people for whom they are the primary caregiver when they apply or renew for a driver's license or state ID and provide emergency contact information that can be given to law enforcement.
- Voted out of Senate committee, available for scheduling. Public hearing held in Assembly.

Buckle up: 2026 is going to be a big year to make sure disability issues are priority issues



2027 is when states feel impact of federal funding cuts.



Congress

Government
Shutdown,
2026 Budget
bill, ACA
subsidies

Congress moving to change election laws

12

- This week the House passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.
- The bill would change what proof and documentation is needed to register to vote, would not let people register online, would require voters in all states to present Photo ID to vote, and change what IDs are accepted as proof.
- Most of the new requirements would go into effect immediately, but the requirement for photo identification to vote in federal elections would not kick in until 2027.



POLITICO.COM

[Elections overhaul takes center stage in House as hard-right pressure mounts](#)

[Elections overhaul takes center stage in House](#)

[Bill would impose nationwide proof of citizenship, photo ID requirements](#)

[House GOP pushes strict proof-of-citizenship requirement for voters](#)

The SAVE act would add more barriers to voting

Require every American citizen to provide specific documents in person when registering to vote and whenever they update their voter registration.

At least 21.3 million voters — around 9% American citizens of voting age — lack ready access to such documents.

Millions of people have last names that do not match the names on their passports or birth certificates, including 69 M women who took their spouse's last name when they got married.

Require voters to present photo ID at the polls in every state

8 states, including Wisconsin, require photo ID to vote. State laws say what kinds of ID count.

27 states require some form of identification to vote, and allow non-photo ID options for at least some voters

15 states do not have additional identification requirements to vote once someone has registered.

Eliminate mail-in and online registrations.

If SAVE Act becomes law, who is most at risk of losing their right to vote?

The SAVE Act would disproportionately impact people with disabilities, older adults, women who change their name when they get married, rural voters, first time voters, and other minorities.

- Millions of Americans do not have access to their birth certificate and obtaining a copy can be costly.
- Half of Americans, especially lower-income Americans, do not have a passport.

Eliminating mail-in voting options and online voting registration adds transportation barriers that are already problems for non-drivers.

21 million voting-age U.S. citizens lack a valid driver's license, the most common form of photo ID in the U.S.

The SAVE act would prohibit student ID cards from being accepted photo IDs.

Let Congress know what you think about making it harder to vote

Make sure your members of Congress understand why voting is important to you, and why changes in the SAVE act would make it harder for you to exercise your right.

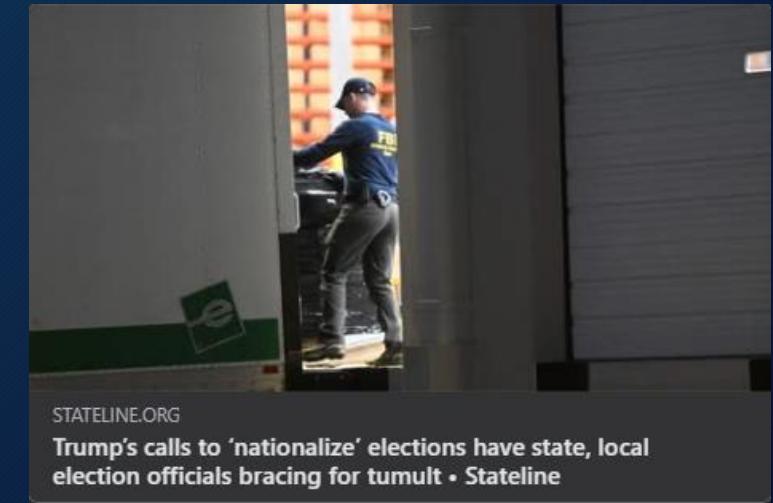
- Are you a non-driver? How easy or hard would it be to get to a place to register, update your registration, get a photo ID, or vote in person?
- Do you have a passport?
- Do you have a copy of your birth certificate? (Some older adults do not have a birth certificate).
- Has your name changed since you were born?
- Have you used online tools to register to vote or update your registration?
- Do you have a Photo ID?

[Find your members of Congress](#)

State election officials brace for possible federal interference in midterm elections

16

- Over the past year, the administration has attempted to influence how elections are run.
- Last March Trump signed an executive order that attempted to impose a requirement that voters prove their citizenship in federal elections
- The U.S. Department of Justice has sued 24 states and the District of Columbia to obtain unredacted voter rolls that include sensitive personal information.
- The Department of Homeland Security wants states to run their voter rolls through a powerful citizenship verification tool.



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Trump's calls to 'nationalize' elections have state, local election officials bracing for tumult • Stateline

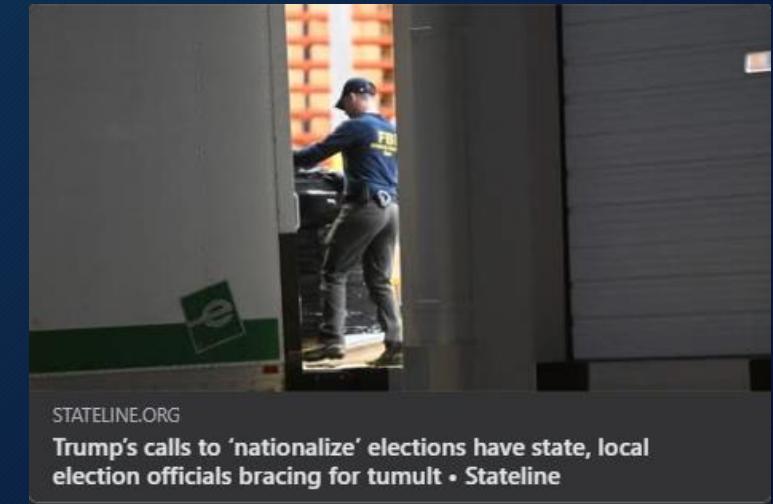
[State election officials brace for possible Trump interference in midterm results](#)

[Trump's calls to 'nationalize' elections have state, local election officials bracing for tumult](#)

State election officials brace for possible federal interference in midterm elections

17

- The FBI seized ballots from an elections warehouse in Fulton County, Georgia — a state that was a central focus of Trump's push to overturn his 2020 election loss.
- Last week Trump said he wanted to nationalize elections and take over voting in at least 15 places.
- Last week state election officials were invited to a meeting that includes the FBI, Justice Department, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Election Assistance to discuss “preparations” for the 2026 elections.



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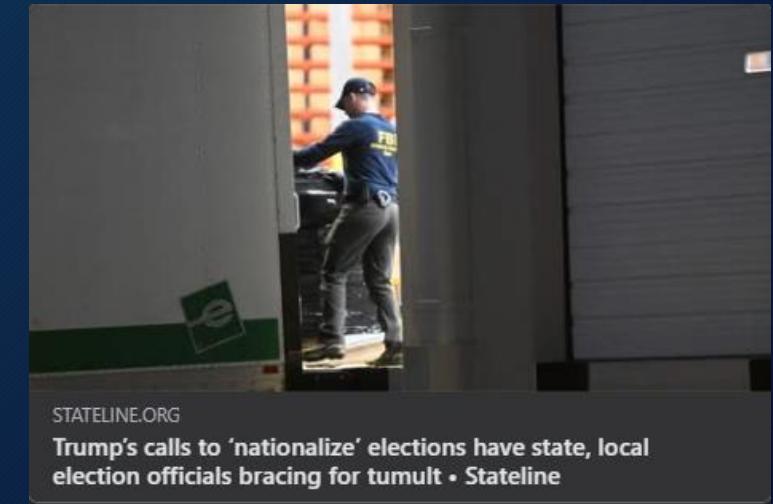
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State election officials brace for possible federal interference in midterm elections

18

- Under the U.S. Constitution, responsibility for elections belongs to the states.
- States run elections for state held offices, members of Congress elected to represent the state, and Presidential elections.
- The U.S. Constitution authorizes states to set the time, place and manner of elections for Congress but also allows Congress to change those regulations.
- “Trump appears to be crossing a line from urging Congress to set additional election requirements into wanting the federal government’s hands on states’ election administration infrastructure,” said Barry Burden, director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the university.



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Altering IDEA Poses 'Substantial Risk' To Students With Disabilities, Advocates Warn

19

- Advocates say they are alarmed that the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, known as HELP, is weighing whether to move forward on multiple bills that would amend the IDEA.
- The HELP committee chair wants to move a bill that would classify dyslexia as its own category under IDEA. Other bills altering IDEA are up for consideration too.
- Advocates worry that legislation that changes IDEA could be amended to try and include other changes to IDEA.



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[Altering IDEA Poses 'Substantial Risk' To Students With Disabilities, Advocates Warn](#)

[Altering IDEA Poses 'Substantial Risk' To Students With Disabilities, Advocates Warn](#)

[Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities letter to Senate HELP committee](#)

Altering IDEA Poses ‘Substantial Risk’ To Students With Disabilities, Advocates Warn

20

- The Trump administration has cut special education and civil rights staff at the Department of Education and has made clear its intent to move special education oversight to a different federal agency, adding to the uncertainty of what changing IDEA could mean for students with disabilities and families.
- “...it’s not in our kids’ best interest to start debating IDEA right now,” said Denise Marshall, CEO of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, or COPAA, a nonprofit that advocates for the rights of students with disabilities and their families. “One amendment...can turn into many amendments if the bill reaches the floor. Our focus is on implementation of the law and educating our kids.”



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[Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities letter to Senate HELP committee](#)

Federal 2026 budget: 11 out of 12 have passed Congress

21

The Continuing Resolution (CR) for the Dept. Homeland Security (DHS) expires Feb 13th.

Before voting on the agency's federal 2026 budget, Dems are demanding changes to how ICE and Border Patrol operates.

The White House sent a counterproposal, but Senators do not think the administration is serious about changing ICE and Border Patrol practices.

The Senate will not have agreement on the DHS budget, which means the agency will shutdown midnight on Friday.

Congress is out next week; this shutdown could go awhile because it will take awhile before the public feels effects.

Shutting down DHS does not stop ICE or border control because they have (\$170 B) money approved in HR 1 they can use.

ICE and Border Control will continue to operate even if the Dept. of Homeland Security shuts down, unless Congress rescinds HR 1 funding.

A shutdown would impact the Transportation Security Admin (TSA), FEMA, Coast Guard, etc. Funding for these functions depends on the annual federal budget or a CR.

Up to Congress to make sure federal funding is spent as they intend

22

01

What will Congress do to provide oversight and enforce that Congress's spending directives are followed by the administration?

02

What will Congress do if the administration freezes, impounds, redirects or restricts funds to states and programs?

03

What will you do make sure the funds Congress appropriates are spent as directed and in a timely manner?

04

What will you do if the administration does not spend money as Congress directed?

Administration

Administrative
rules, Federal
Agency Actions

How many people will drop from ACA Marketplace? We won't know for months.

24

- The Congressional Budget Office said in December 2024 that not extending the ACA subsidies would cause 2.2 million people to lose insurance in 2026, with further increases in following years.
- Data released Jan. 28 by federal officials showed a drop of about 1.2 million enrollments across the federal healthcare.gov marketplace so far.
- These numbers don't reflect what happened after Jan 15th (either more last-minute signups or cancelations)
- For people who reenrolled in ACA plans, the real figures won't be known for weeks or months until we know how many pay or don't pay their premium bills.



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[Obamacare Sign-Ups Drop, but the Extent Won't Be Clear for Months - KFF Health News](#)

[Obamacare Sign-Ups Drop, but the Extent Won't Be Clear for Months](#)

[End of Enhanced Obamacare Subsidies Puts Tribal Health Lifeline at Risk](#)

How many people will drop from ACA Marketplace? We won't know for months.

25

- 19 states (and the District of Columbia) run their own Marketplace exchanges.
- The State Marketplace Network, a collective of 22 state marketplaces, has released more detailed data about enrollment than the federal marketplace.
- Most states saw lower enrollment for 2026 than the prior year.
- Compared with the same time last year, outright plan cancellations are up 83% in Colorado, disenrollments are four times what they were in Idaho, and Virginia has seen cancellations double.
- In Pennsylvania, people ages 55 to 64, the group with the highest premiums, and young people 26 to 34 are terminating their coverage in higher numbers than other age groups.
- New enrollments are down 32% in California.



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How many people will drop from ACA Marketplace? We won't know for months.

26

- Existing customers chose lower-priced “bronze” plans that come with higher deductibles and out of pocket costs (rather than the standard silver plans).
- California saw 73% of renewing members who switched plans move to a bronze plan, up from 27% at the same time last year.
- In Maine, bronze enrollment now represents almost 60% of all plans purchased.
- Medical providers, including hospitals and doctors, are bracing for an increase in the number of insured patients who can't afford to pay their deductibles.



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CMS planning to change coverage, oversight rule for ACA exchanges in 2027

27

Monday, CMS released a draft payment rule that proposes:

- getting rid of standardized coverage and
- accepting non-network health plans as qualified health plans.
- broadening access to catastrophic coverage
- and continue a crackdown on exchange brokers.

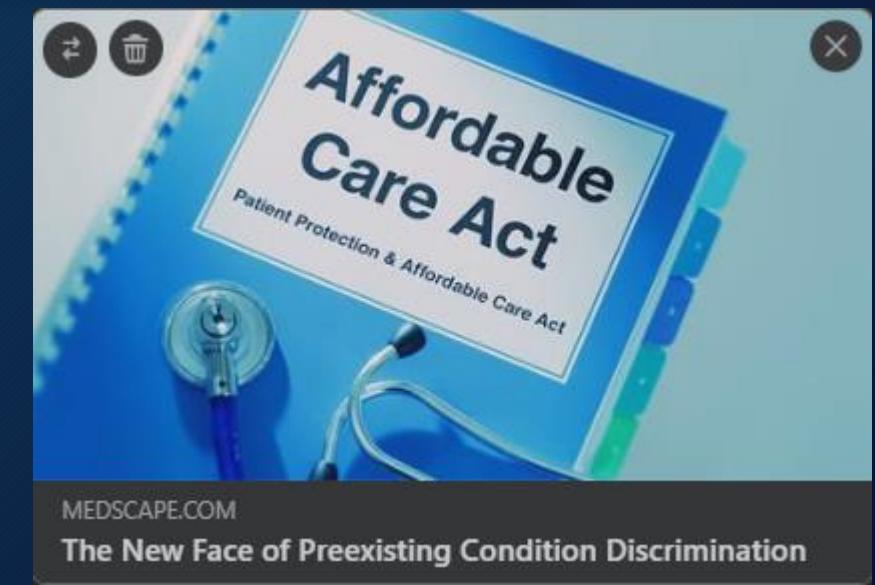


<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/politics-regulation/mh-aca-exchange-rule-2027-standardized-coverage>

Covered But Not Cared For: The New Face Of Preexisting Condition Discrimination

28

- Insurers are finding ways to offer high-cost patients insurance plans but set up rules in ways that drive expensive patients and the clinicians who care for them out of their plans.
- Insurers know which specialties are the costliest to their bottom line.
- Narrowing networks to include fewer specialists who treat patients with chronic, costly diseases requiring expensive drugs, frequent visits, infusion services, and extensive ancillary care reduces utilization without ever denying a patient coverage outright.
- Practically, insured patients cannot access appropriate care without going out of network, traveling unreasonable distances, or waiting months for appointments.

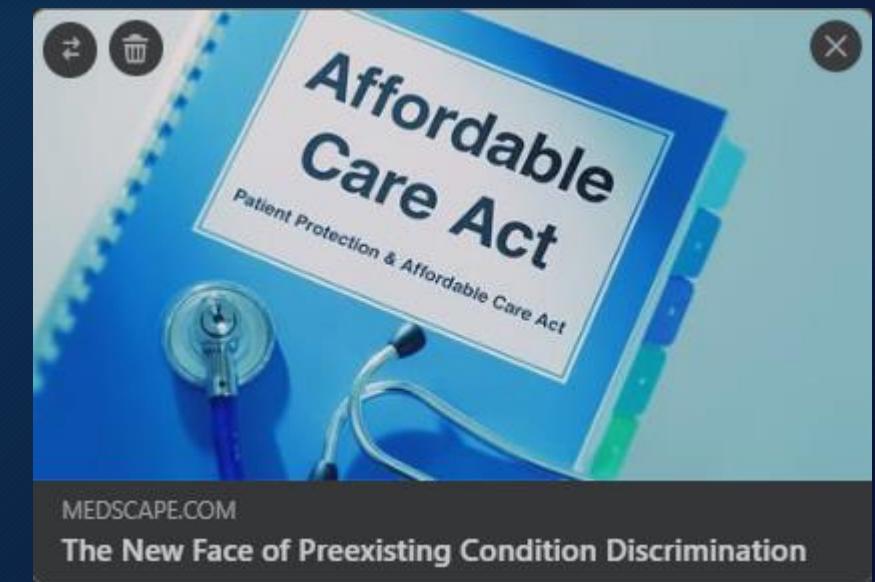


<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/covered-not-cared-new-face-preexisting-condition-2026a10002wk>

Covered But Not Cared For: The New Face Of Preexisting Condition Discrimination

29

- Lower reimbursement and other financial and contractual pressures are ways to discourage providers who treat the sickest people from being part of the net work
- Insurer strategies like retroactive denial of prior authorizations, pre- and post-payment audits, and step therapy are ways to drive down use of services.
- Other administrative strategies—like requiring primary care referrals every 6 months to see a specialist--can make insurance so hard to use that patients leave.

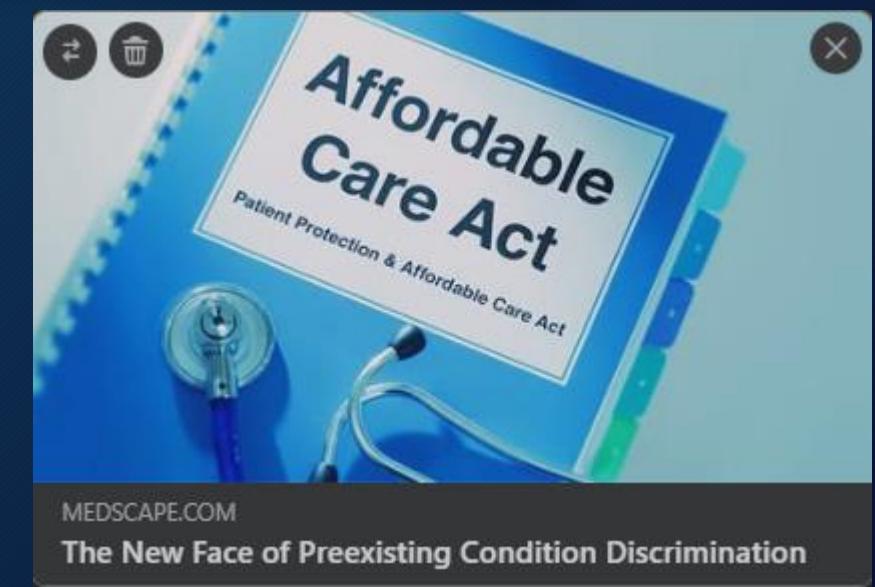


<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/covered-not-cared-new-face-preexisting-condition-2026a1002wk>

Covered But Not Cared For: The New Face Of Preexisting Condition Discrimination

30

- Other Strategies to Discourage Expensive Patients include copay accumulator and maximizer programs that drain patient assistance and increase out-of-pocket costs, high coinsurance tiers for specialty medications even when deductibles are met, limited or no coverage for infusible medications, and narrow formularies that exclude the standard-of-care drugs for complex diseases.
- Each policy alone can be defended as a cost-containment tool.
- Together, they form a system that reliably discourages the enrollment and continued participation of patients who cost the most to insure.
- The ACA was designed to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions could not only purchase insurance but use it.



<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/covered-not-cared-new-face-preexisting-condition-2026a1002wk>

RFK Jr.'s Picks for a Key Autism Panel Include people who promote dangerous treatments

31

- Among those Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently named to a federal autism committee are people who tout dangerous treatments and say vaccine manufacturers are “poisoning children.”
- Last week, Kennedy announced an entirely new lineup for the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), a group that recommends what types of autism research the government should fund and provides guidance on the services the autism community requires.
- the new panel includes no previous members,
- a review of the new members of the group suggests that Kennedy appointed members of the anti-vaccine community who claim vaccines cause autism—despite there being no evidence to prove such a claim.



[RFK Jr.'s Picks for a Key Autism Panel Include Advocates for Bizarre Theories](#)

RFK Jr.'s Picks for a Key Autism Panel Include people who promote dangerous treatments

32

- Appointees to Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee include:
 - Daniel Rossignol, a doctor who was sued for alleged fraud after prescribing a 7-year-old autistic child a debunked and dangerous treatment.
 - Tracy Slepcevic, who is linked to a wide range of bogus autism cures, including one that involves the injection of animal stem cells into children.
 - Toby Rogers, who has claimed that “no thinking person vaccinates” and that vaccine makers are “poisoning children.”
 - John Gilmore who has said that his autistic son is “vaccine injured.”
 - Ginger Taylor, who has publicly claimed that many autism cases involve “vaccine causation.”
 - Elizabeth Mumper who is linked to a group that has promoted ivermectin as a treatment for Covid.



[RFK Jr.'s Picks for a Key Autism Panel Include Advocates for Bizarre Theories](#)

With ICE Using Medicaid Data, Hospitals and States worry about immigrant patients

Emergency Medicaid reimburses hospitals for the cost of emergency treatment for immigrants who are ineligible for standard Medicaid coverage.

For more than a decade, hospitals and states have assured patients that their personal information, would not be shared

Now Deportation officials have access to personal Medicaid information of all enrollees in 28 states.

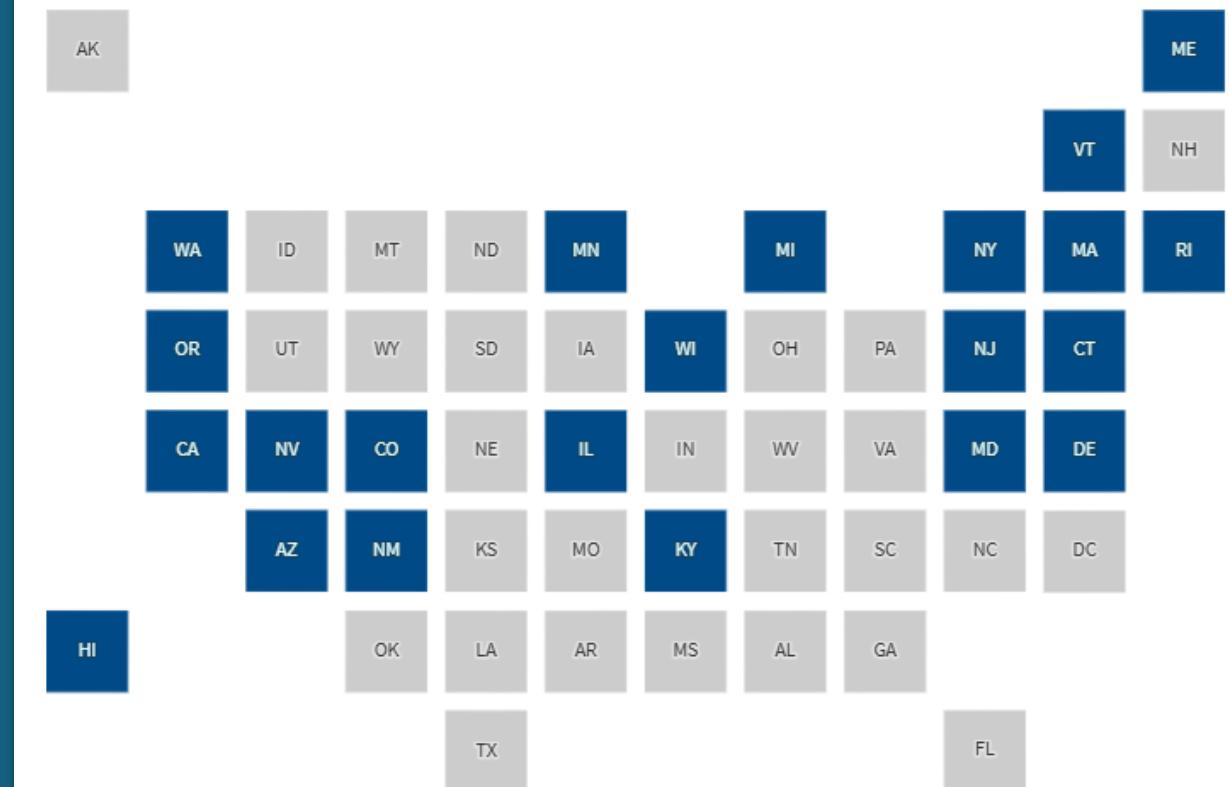
In 22 states that are suing, it is unclear how the federal agency is ensuring that certain states' information on citizens and legal residents is not shared with ICE.

Medicaid experts say it would be nearly impossible for the agency to separate the data, raising questions about whether the Trump administration is complying with the judge's order.

ICE Is Accessing Medicaid Enrollee Data — With Limitations in Some States

Federal health officials agreed last spring to give immigration enforcement officials access to a Medicaid database that includes enrollees' addresses and citizenship status. Twenty-two states sued to block the agreement. In December, a judge limited what the government can share about enrollees in those states. Deportation officials have access to personal Medicaid information about all enrollees in the remaining 28 states.

- States that sued to block the Medicaid data-sharing agreement with ICE
- States that did not sue, where the federal government can share data with ICE freely



Source: KFF Health News reporting
Credit: KFF Health News • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#)

Administration continues to use federal funding as way to target/reward states

34

- The Trump administration plans to rescind \$600 million in public health funds from four states (California, Colorado, Illinois and Minnesota) because it finds the grants “inconsistent with agency priorities.
- These funds were already appropriated by Congress.
- The Trump administration is rescinding a total of \$943 million transportation funds from multiple blue states (California, Colorado, Illinois and Minnesota).
- The Transportation funds are mostly for electric vehicle chargers but also include other projects such as green buses. The spokesperson said the rescissions are targeting “states fraught with waste and mismanagement.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/health/trump-public-health-cuts-california.html>

[Democratic-led states sue to stop Trump from withholding \\$600M in health grants](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/09/health/trump-public-health-cuts-california.html)

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5725217-trump-blue-states-funding-minnesota-colorado-evs-hiv>

Spector of fraud being used to make case for immigration enforcement, cuts to programs

35

- CMS director suggested alleged fraud in Maine's Medicaid program is like the alleged fraud in Minnesota.
- The Trump administration has pinned these fraud operations on the state's Somali community and cited this alleged connection as the reason behind the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) highly controversial immigration crackdown efforts in Minnesota.
- Oz alleged that the Maine fraud case is also connected to the state's Somali population
- Oz said he believes Medicare and Medicaid fraud exists in other states, specifically naming California.



THEHILL.COM

Oz alleges Maine 'looks a lot like Minnesota' regarding entitlement fraud

Oz alleges Maine 'looks a lot like Minnesota'
regarding entitlement fraud

90% of student discrimination and harassment complaints were dismissed last year. Here's why.

36

- Historically, students with disabilities have filed the largest subset of civil rights complaints, with parents typically fighting for their access to education.
- Limited Office of Civil Rights oversight removes a key mechanism for uncovering systemic problems, such as improper seclusion and restraint methods for students with disabilities.
- Often, these practices only surface after multiple complaints have been filed.
- With the OCR path effectively closed, families must hire an attorney to uphold their children's rights, an option many cannot afford.
- “The reason we have a federal special education law was that states specifically barred children with disabilities from the public schools,” she said. “For our kids, the federal protections were what opened up the schoolhouse doors.”



19THNEWS.ORG

90% of student discrimination and harassment complaints were dismissed last year. Here's why.

<https://19thnews.org/2026/02/student-civil-rights-cases-dismissed-trump-education-department/>

Administration wants to change Fair Housing law rules

HUD has a policy now that makes it illegal to deny housing to certain groups of people, including people with disabilities

HUD wants to change the rules to make it easier for landlords to hide why someone was denied housing.

- You can submit a comment by FRIDAY February 13th, at 10:59 pm here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/.../huds-implementation...>
- Points to make:
 - You oppose the new rule because it's already hard for people with disabilities to find safe, affordable, accessible housing.
 - Any examples you have had in finding housing.
 - Any types of discrimination (if you have experienced) it that already makes it hard to get housing.
 - The comments do NOT have to be long or detailed. Simply saying you oppose because it will be harder for people with disabilities to find safe, affordable, accessible housing is enough.

Trump administration finalizes rule to strip 50,000 federal workers of civil service protections

38

- Schedule F is a new job classification for “policy-related” positions.
- Positions the President decides should be classified as policy related will lose civil service protections and their right to appeal adverse personnel actions.
- Whistleblower complaints from Schedule F employees would no longer go to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, instead being referred internally to the employing agency’s general counsel for review.
- Administration officials estimated that as many as 50,000 federal employees could be targeted by the new policy after it takes effect March 8th.
- Until now, the roughly 4,000 people appointed by the president, known as political appointees, were the only federal workers who could be fired at will.



GOVEXEC.COM

Trump admin moves to finalize return of Schedule F

Officials estimate that around 50,000 federal workers will be stripped of their civil service protections beginning in around a month, as...

[Trump admin moves to finalize return of Schedule F](#)

[Trump Strips Job Protections From Thousands of Federal Workers](#)

[Stat: NIH Grant Reviewers Fear Schedule F Status Will Politicize Their Jobs](#)

Trump administration finalizes rule to strip 50,000 federal workers of civil service protections

39

- Last year, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a new Merit Hiring Plan that requires greater input from political appointees during the federal hiring process and solicits federal jobseekers to write essays about their favorite Trump administration policy or executive order.
- OPM officials cited *Government Executive*'s reporting as evidence that Schedule Policy/Career is needed to crack down on dissenting voices still in government.
- The long tradition of a nonpartisan civil service includes a deliberate division between career employees and political appointees.
- This is in part so career officials with deep expertise can offer context and information to policymakers without fear of getting fired.



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Trump administration scaling back plans for field test of the 2030 census

40

- The Census Bureau has cut the number of test sites from 6 down to 2, including test sites in rural communities and on tribal lands.
- The 2026 test was designed to help the bureau improve the accuracy of the United States' upcoming once-a-decade head count.
- The Census Bureau is also cutting a plan to provide Spanish and Chinese versions of the Census test's online form. It will only be available in English.
- Scaling back the test is raising concerns about the Census Bureau's ability to produce a reliable population tally for redistributing political representation and federal funding in the next decade.
- Outside census advisory groups have been disbanded, experienced staff have been fired, and the bureau has refused to update Congress about its work.



NPR.ORG

A major census test faces cutbacks — with postal workers tapped to help count

<https://www.npr.org/2026/02/02/nx-s1-5696576/us-census-bureau-usps-2026-operational-test>

Continued coverage of impact of Reconciliation bill

Lots of
articles to
share.

41

Colorado: disability advocates get state to pause some Medicaid cuts

42

- Colorado Medicaid officials are pausing a few proposed cuts that would have affected children and adults with severe disabilities who are cared for at home by family members after state lawmakers found the cuts too painful to support.
- After hours of tearful testimony, the legislature's Joint Budget Committee refused to grant the requests, pushing them off until next year's budget instead.
- It's unclear what state leaders will propose instead to trim Medicaid spending.



COLORADOSUN.COM

Hours of tearful testimony result in pause to some Medicaid cuts for Coloradans with disabilities

[Hours Of Tearful Testimony Result In Pause To Some Medicaid Cuts For Coloradans With Disabilities](#)

Colorado: disability advocates get state to pause some Medicaid cuts

43

- One proposal would have limited the number of hours parent caregivers could be paid to 56, which would have cut some parents' hours by half.
- Medicaid officials said the goal of the 56-hour cap per caregiver was to make sure that people with disabilities have multiple caregivers, not one parent who is burned out.
- parents say that's not how it will work because there simply aren't enough caregivers to hire.
- Another proposal would reduce the parent caregiver pay rate to match what is allowed for group homes.



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Hours of tearful testimony result in pause to some Medicaid cuts for Coloradans with disabilities

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Colorado: disability advocates get state to pause some Medicaid cuts

44

“I understand we need to make cuts,” Elizabeth Moran, executive director of the Arc of Colorado and sister to a person with disabilities, told lawmakers last week. But cutting services for people who are living at home “is not saving money. It is just shifting costs over to more expensive systems. It pushes people into crisis. It will result in institutional care, institutions and beds that we don’t have, care staff that we don’t have. And in the process, cause real harm to Coloradans.”



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Hours of tearful testimony result in pause to some Medicaid cuts for Coloradans with disabilities

[Hours Of Tearful Testimony Result In Pause To Some Medicaid Cuts For Coloradans With Disabilities](#)

Missouri families worry proposed \$80.7M cut will hobble disability care programs

45

- Missouri's self directed supports program lets people with developmental disabilities or their families hire, train and manage their own care staff.
- The program also lets families hire a "community specialist" to help people become more independent away from home.
- A proposed \$80.7 million funding reduction of Missouri's services for people with developmental disabilities would eliminate the "community specialist" option — and slash pay rates for families' care staff by between 21% and 29%.
- The proposed budget would also reduce the rate paid to providers of structured group programs, called day habilitation, by a third.



STLPR.ORG

<https://www.stlpr.org/health-science-environment/2026-02-10/missouri-families-worry-proposed-80m-cut-hobble-disability-care-programs>

Fewer immigrant caregivers linked to more deaths of older adults and people with disabilities

46

- The paper finds when there are more immigrants, seniors are less likely to end up in health care institutions and, ultimately, less likely to die.
- More immigrants also means more health care workers—both high-skilled (doctors, nurses, etc.) and low-skilled (home health aides, nursing home staff, etc.).
- When there are more of these care workers around, seniors and people with disabilities are more likely to live at home rather than in assisted-living facilities, nursing homes, and other congregant settings.
- And for those who do end up in such facilities, the staffing levels there are likely to be higher.
- If the paper's findings are correct, just removing the 330,000 Haitian refugees would likely lead to 9,000 more deaths a year.

 The Bulwark

Another Deadly Consequence of Trump's Deportation Campaign

<https://www.thebulwark.com/p/another-deadly-consequence-of-trump-deportation-campaign-immigration>

[The Effect of Immigration on Older Adult Mortality in the United States](#)

Why Trump's Attack on Refugees Could Hurt Grandma (and people with disabilities)

47

- An order issued in November revoked Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the roughly 330,000 Haitians.
- A federal judge blocked that order right before it took effect Feb. 3rd. The Trump administration says it plans to appeal.
- If the refugees lose their right to stay they won't be the only ones to suffer.
- Many Haitians are providing support for older adults and people with disabilities at home, in assisted living, and in nursing homes.
- While foreign-born citizens and noncitizens account for just 17 percent of the adult workforce, they make up 28 percent of the total direct care workforce.



 The Bulwark

Why Trump's Attack on Refugees Could Hurt Grandma

<https://www.thebulwark.com/p/trump-attack-on-refugees-could-hurt-grandma-haiti-tps-caregivers>

New Medicaid Work Rules Likely To Hit Middle-Aged Adults Hard

48

- People who acquire disabilities or conditions that are barriers to work will be hit hard by new “prove you’re working” requirements.
- Medicaid covers 1 in 5 Americans ages 50 to 64, giving access to health care before Medicare kicks in at age 65.
- Women on Medicaid ages 50 through 64 are more likely to face challenges keeping their coverage and are likely to have a greater need for health care services
- These middle-aged women are less likely to be working the required number of hours because many serve as family caregivers or have illnesses that limit their ability to work,
- “We’re talking about saving money at the expense of people’s lives,” said Jane Tavares, a gerontology researcher at the University of Massachusetts Boston. “The work requirement is just a tool to do that.”



KFFHEALTHNEWS.ORG

New Medicaid Work Rules Likely To Hit Middle-Aged Adults Hard - KFF Health News

<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/medicaid-work-requirements-middle-aged-adults-women>