



Health Care in Crisis

14,000 Losing Coverage a Day

Even when the economy was growing, 46 million people in America did not have any health insurance. Since the recession began, an estimated 4 million additional Americans have lost their health insurance and 2 million have become uninsured. The recent turmoil in the job market is likely increasing the number of uninsured at the rate of 14,000 a day. And yet, congressional conservatives opposed efforts to stop the erosion of our health care system and help millions of Americans hold on to the coverage they have or get it for the first time.

As many as 14,000 Americans are losing health coverage each day

Many Americans did not have any health insurance even before the recession began. During the six years of the last economic expansion, the number of uninsured Americans grew by 7 million, reaching 46 million in 2007.¹

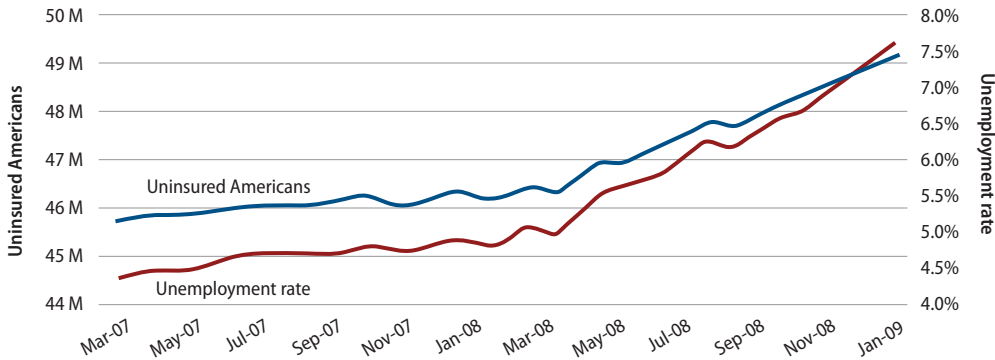
That number is almost certainly higher today because the economy has lost 3.6 million jobs since the start of 2008.² A one percentage point rise in the national unemployment rate causes 2.4 million people to lose employer-sponsored health coverage, according to Urban Institute researchers.³ Of these people, 1 million rely on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program and 1.1 million end up uninsured.

Since the Census Bureau's figures for uninsured Americans were collected in the spring of 2007, the unemployment rate has grown from 4.4 percent to 7.6 percent.⁴ As a result, an estimated 3.5 million people have lost their health insurance and are now uninsured.

Moreover, the loss of coverage is accelerating. The unemployment rate grew by 0.8 percentage points in December and January alone, implying that nearly 900,000 people became uninsured in these two months. That's about 100,000 people a week, or 14,000 people a day. The rapid growth in the number of uninsured Americans will continue as long as the job market remains in a free fall.

Job and health insurance losses accelerating

14,000 people becoming uninsured every day



The number of newly uninsured would be much higher if it weren't for people enrolling in Medicaid and CHIP. Rising unemployment rates since the last Census report imply that an additional 3.2 million Americans now rely on Medicaid or SCHIP. Congress recently provided more resources for Medicaid and CHIP, but if it had not, states would have been forced to cut eligibility for these programs. Without federal assistance, many people now on Medicaid or CHIP would likely become uninsured as well.

Conservatives oppose steps to protect coverage for nearly 40 million Americans

With 14,000 people losing health insurance every day, expanding coverage is an urgent challenge. In recent weeks, President Barack Obama and Congress have enacted a series of investments in health care that, together, will cover or help protect the health coverage of 38 million people. These measures include:

- Protecting the coverage of approximately **20 million** people receiving coverage through Medicaid. Hard times increase demand for this safety-net program at the same time that falling tax revenues force states to make budget cuts. The economic recovery package provides \$87 billion to prevent cuts in eligibility.⁵
- Covering **11 million** children through the CHIP program, including continuing funding for 7 million children and expanding eligibility to cover an additional 4 million children.⁶
- Helping **7 million** unemployed workers and families continue their health coverage by subsidizing premiums through the COBRA program.⁷

Preserving and expanding health care coverage is also one of the most effective ways to create jobs and boost the economy. Providing additional Medicaid funds to states is consistently rated one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy.⁸ CHIP funds can boost the economy quickly because states already have programs in place.⁹ What's more, nearly all health care dollars are spent within the United States.¹⁰

Not everyone supported these efforts to strengthen the health care safety net, despite the measures' effectiveness at helping vulnerable families and boosting the economy. Thirty-two senators and 134 conservative representatives voted against all of these health care investments. The voting records of these members of Congress are described in tables 1 and 2.

Conclusion

Addressing the economic crisis facing the United States requires action on many fronts, including boosting economic activity, restoring the financial services industry to health, and addressing the rising tide of home foreclosures. The crisis of the uninsured is another urgent economic challenge. Congress has already moved rapidly to shore up coverage for millions of families. Now, the time is right for health reform that covers everyone and reduces the growth of health care costs.

Endnotes

- 1 Census Bureau, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007" (August 2008), available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf>.
- 2 Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Situation: January 2009," February 6, 2009, available at http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet?data_tool=latest_numbers&series_id=LNS14000000.
- 3 Stan Dorn, Bowen Garrett, John Holahan, and Aimee Williams, "Medicaid, SCHIP and Economic Downturn: Policy Challenges and Policy Responses" (Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2008), available at <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7770.cfm>. See also Jonathan Gruber and Larry Levitt, "Rising Unemployment and the Uninsured" (Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2002), available at <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/Brief-Policy-Analysis.pdf>.
- 4 Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Situation: January 2009," February 6, 2009, available at http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet?data_tool=latest_numbers&series_id=LNS14000000.
- 5 The White House, "The American Reinvestment and Recovery Plan by the Numbers," undated, available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/Documents/Recovery_Plan_Metrics_Report_508.pdf.
- 6 Center for American Progress, "SCHIP Passes Senate," January 29, 2009, available at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/schip_passes_senate.html.
- 7 Joint Committee on Taxation, "Estimated Budget Effects of the Revenue Provisions Contained in the Conference Agreement for H.R. 1," February 12, 2009, available at <http://www.house.gov/jct/x-19-09.pdf>.
- 8 Mark Zandi, "The Economic Outlook and Budget Challenges," Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Budget, January 27, 2009, available at http://budget.house.gov/hearings/2009/01.27.2009_Zandi_Testimony.pdf; Douglas W. Elmendorf, "The State of the Economy and Issues in Developing an Effective Policy Response," Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Budget, January 27, 2009, available at http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/99xx/doc9967/01-27-StateofEconomy_Testimony.pdf; Jason Furman, "Options for Fiscal Stimulus," Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, January 24, 2008, available at http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/testimonies/2008/0124_fiscalstimulus_furman/0124_fiscalstimulus_furman.pdf.
- 9 Gene B. Sperling, Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Health and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health, November 13, 2008, available at http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/pdf/sperling_testimony.pdf.
- 10 Uwe E. Reinhardt, "Does the Democrats' Stimulus Package Make Economic Sense?" *The New York Times*, October 24, 2008, available at <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/24/does-the-democrats-stimulus-package-make-economic-sense>.

Thirty-two senators opposed strengthening health care coverage for 38 million people

Voted for new investments in health care		Voted for some new investments in health care	Voted against new investments in health care	Missed one or both votes
Akaka (D-HI)	Landrieu (D-LA)	Alexander (R-TN)	Barrasso (R-WY)	Kennedy (D-MA)
Baucus (D-MT)	Lautenberg (D-NJ)	Hutchison (R-TX)	Bennett (R-UT)	
Bayh (D-IN)	Leahy (D-VT)	Lugar (R-IN)	Bond (R-MO)	
Begich (D-AK)	Levin (D-MI)	Martinez (R-FL)	Brownback (R-KS)	
Bennet (D-CO)	Lieberman (ID-CT)	Murkowski (R-AK)	Bunning (R-KY)	
Bingaman (D-NM)	Lincoln (D-AR)		Burr (R-NC)	
Boxer (D-CA)	McCaskill (D-MO)		Chambliss (R-GA)	
Brown (D-OH)	Menendez (D-NJ)		Coburn (R-OK)	
Burris (D-IL)	Merkley (D-OR)		Cochran (R-MS)	
Byrd (D-WV)	Mikulski (D-MD)		Cornyn (R-TX)	
Cantwell (D-WA)	Murray (D-WA)		Crapo (R-ID)	
Cardin (D-MD)	Nelson (D-FL)		DeMint (R-SC)	
Carper (D-DE)	Nelson (D-NE)		Ensign (R-NV)	
Casey (D-PA)	Pryor (D-AR)		Enzi (R-WY)	
Collins (R-ME)	Reed (D-RI)		Graham (R-SC)	
Conrad (D-ND)	Reid (D-NV)		Grassley (R-IA)	
Corker (R-TN)	Rockefeller (D-WV)		Gregg (R-NH)	
Dodd (D-CT)	Sanders (I-VT)		Hatch (R-UT)	
Dorgan (D-ND)	Schumer (D-NY)		Inhofe (R-OK)	
Durbin (D-IL)	Shaheen (D-NH)		Isakson (R-GA)	
Feingold (D-WI)	Snowe (R-ME)		Johanns (R-NE)	
Feinstein (D-CA)	Specter (R-PA)		Kyl (R-AZ)	
Gillibrand (D-NY)	Stabenow (D-MI)		McCain (R-AZ)	
Hagan (D-NC)	Tester (D-MT)		McConnell (R-KY)	
Harkin (D-IA)	Udall (D-CO)		Risch (R-ID)	
Inouye (D-HI)	Udall (D-NM)		Roberts (R-KS)	
Johnson (D-SD)	Warner (D-VA)		Sessions (R-AL)	
Kaufman (D-DE)	Webb (D-VA)		Shelby (R-AL)	
Kerry (D-MA)	Whitehouse (D-RI)		Thune (R-SD)	
Klobuchar (D-MN)	Wyden (D-OR)		Vitter (R-LA)	
Kohl (D-WI)			Voinovich (R-OH)	
			Wicker (R-MS)	

Source: Senate Votes 31 and 64, 111th Congress, 1st Session, available at http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/vote_menu_111_1.htm.

One hundred thirty-four representatives opposed strengthening health care coverage for 38 million people

(Republican representatives identified in italics)

For all investments in health care		For some investments in health care	Against all investments in health care		Missed one or both votes
Abercrombie	Cummings	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Akin</i>	Gallegly	<i>Aderholt</i>
Ackerman	Dahlkemper	<i>Bono Mack</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	Garrett (NJ)	Bean
Adler (NJ)	Davis (AL)	<i>Buchanan</i>	<i>Bachmann</i>	Gingrey (GA)	<i>Campbell</i>
Altmire	Davis (CA)	<i>Cao</i>	<i>Bachus</i>	Gohmert	Clyburn
Andrews	Davis (IL)	<i>Capito</i>	Barrett (SC)	Goodlatte	Flake
Arcuri	Davis (TN)	<i>Castle</i>	<i>Bartlett</i>	Granger	Kissell
Baca	DeGette	<i>DeFazio</i>	<i>Barton (TX)</i>	Graves	<i>Lee (NY)</i>
Baird	Delahunt	Dent	Biggert	Guthrie	Poe (TX)
Baldwin	DeLauro	<i>Diaz-Balart, L.</i>	<i>Bilbray</i>	Hall (TX)	Stark
Barrow	Dicks	<i>Diaz-Balart, M.</i>	<i>Bilirakis</i>	Harper	<i>Wamp</i>
Becerra	Dingell	<i>Ehlers</i>	<i>Bishop (UT)</i>	Hastings (WA)	
Berkley	Doggett	<i>Emerson</i>	<i>Blackburn</i>	Heller	
Berman	Donnelly (IN)	<i>Frelinghuysen</i>	<i>Blunt</i>	Hensarling	
Berry	Doyle	<i>Gerlach</i>	<i>Boehner</i>	Herger	
Bishop (GA)	Driehaus	<i>Griffith</i>	<i>Bonner</i>	Hoekstra	
Bishop (NY)	Edwards (MD)	<i>King (NY)</i>	<i>Boozman</i>	Hunter	
Blumenauer	Edwards (TX)	<i>Kirk</i>	<i>Boustany</i>	Inglis	
Bocieri	Ellison	<i>Lance</i>	<i>Brady (TX)</i>	Issa	
Boren	Ellsworth	<i>LaTourette</i>	Bright	Jenkins	
Boswell	Engel	Lipinski	<i>Broun (GA)</i>	Johnson (IL)	
Boucher	Eshoo	<i>LoBiondo</i>	<i>Brown (SC)</i>	Johnson, Sam	
Boyd	Etheridge	Marshall	<i>Brown-Waite, Ginny</i>	Jones	
Brady (PA)	Farr	<i>McCotter</i>	<i>Burgess</i>	Jordan (OH)	
Braley (IA)	Fattah	<i>McHugh</i>	<i>Burton (IN)</i>	King (IA)	
Brown, Corrine	Filner	<i>Miller (MI)</i>	<i>Buyer</i>	Kingston	
Butterfield	Foster	Minnick	<i>Calvert</i>	Kline (MN)	
Capps	Frank (MA)	<i>Moran (KS)</i>	<i>Camp</i>	Lamborn	
Capuano	Fudge	<i>Murphy, Tim</i>	<i>Cantor</i>	Latham	
Cardoza	Giffords	<i>Paulsen</i>	<i>Carter</i>	Latta	
Carnahan	Gonzalez	Peterson	<i>Cassidy</i>	Lewis (CA)	
Carney	Gordon (TN)	<i>Petri</i>	<i>Chaffetz</i>	Linder	
Carson (IN)	Grayson	<i>Platts</i>	<i>Coble</i>	Lucas	
Castor (FL)	Green, Al	<i>Rehberg</i>	<i>Coffman (CO)</i>	Luetkemeyer	
Chandler	Green, Gene	<i>Reichert</i>	<i>Cole</i>	Lummis	
Childers	Grijalva	<i>Rogers (AL)</i>	<i>Conaway</i>	<i>Lungren, Daniel E.</i>	
Clarke	Gutierrez	<i>Ros-Lehtinen</i>	<i>Crenshaw</i>	Mack	
Clay	Hall (NY)	Shuler	<i>Culberson</i>	Manzullo	
Cleaver	Halvorson	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Davis (KY)</i>	Marchant	
Cohen	Hare	<i>Smith (NJ)</i>	<i>Deal (GA)</i>	McCarthy (CA)	
Connolly (VA)	Harman	Taylor	<i>Dreier</i>	McCaul	
Conyers	Hastings (FL)	<i>Thompson (PA)</i>	<i>Duncan</i>	McClintock	
Cooper	Heinrich	<i>Tiberi</i>	<i>Fallin</i>	McHenry	
Costa	Herseeth Sandlin	<i>Turner</i>	<i>Fleming</i>	McKeon	
Costello	Higgins	<i>Upton</i>	<i>Forbes</i>	<i>McMorris Rodgers</i>	
Courtney	Hill	<i>Wolf</i>	<i>Fortenberry</i>	Mica	
Crowley	Himes	<i>Young (AK)</i>	<i>Fox</i>	Miller (FL)	
Cuellar	Hinchey	<i>Young (FL)</i>	<i>Franks (AZ)</i>	Miller, Gary	

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One hundred thirty-four representatives opposed strengthening health care coverage for 38 million people

(Republican representatives identified in *italics*)

For all investments in health care		For some investments in health care	Against all investments in health care	Missed one or both votes
Hinojosa	McDermott		Myrick	
Hirono	McGovern		Neugebauer	
Hodes	McIntyre		Nunes	
Holden	McMahon		Olson	
Holt	McNerney		Paul	
Honda	Meek (FL)		Pence	
Hoyer	Meeks (NY)		Pitts	
Inslee	Melancon		Posey	
Israel	Michaud		Price (GA)	
Jackson (IL)	Miller (NC)		Putnam	
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Miller, George		Radanovich	
Johnson (GA)	Mitchell		Roe (TN)	
Johnson, E. B.	Mollohan		Rogers (KY)	
Kagen	Moore (KS)		Rogers (MI)	
Kanjorski	Moore (WI)		Rohrabacher	
Kaptur	Moran (VA)		Rooney	
Kennedy	Murphy (CT)		Roskam	
Kildee	Murphy, Patrick		Royce	
Kilpatrick (MI)	Murtha		Ryan (WI)	
Kilroy	Nadler (NY)		Scalise	
Kind	Napolitano		Schmidt	
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Neal (MA)		Schock	
Klein (FL)	Nye		Sensenbrenner	
Kosmas	Oberstar		Sessions	
Kratovil	Obey		Shadegg	
Kucinich	Olver		Shimkus	
Langevin	Ortiz		Shuster	
Larsen (WA)	Pallone		Smith (NE)	
Larson (CT)	Pascrell		Smith (TX)	
Lee (CA)	Pastor (AZ)		Souder	
Levin	Payne		Stearns	
Lewis (GA)	Pelosi		Sullivan	
Loeb sack	Perlmutter		Terry	
Lofgren, Zoe	Perriello		Thornberry	
Lowey	Peters		Tiahrt	
Luján	Pingree (ME)		Walden	
Lynch	Polis (CO)		Westmoreland	
Maffei	Pomeroy		Whitfield	
Maloney	Price (NC)		Wilson (SC)	
Markey (CO)	Rahall		Wittman	
Markey (MA)	Rangel			
Massa	Reyes			
Matheson	Richardson			
Matsui	Rodriguez			
McCarthy (NY)	Ross			
McCollum	Rothman (NJ)			

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One hundred thirty-four representatives opposed strengthening health care coverage for 38 million people

(Republican representatives identified in italics)

For all investments in health care		For some investments in health care	Against all investments in health care	Missed one or both votes
Roybal-Allard	Stupak			
Ruppersberger	Sutton			
Rush	Tanner			
Ryan (OH)	Tauscher			
Salazar	Teague			
Sánchez, Linda T.	Thompson (CA)			
Sanchez, Loretta	Thompson (MS)			
Sarbanes	Tierney			
Schakowsky	Titus			
Schauer	Tonko			
Schiff	Towns			
Schrader	Tsongas			
Schwartz	Van Hollen			
Scott (GA)	Velázquez			
Scott (VA)	Visclosky			
Serrano	Walz			
Sestak	Wasserman Schultz			
Shea-Porter	Waters			
Sherman	Watson			
Sires	Watt			
Skelton	Waxman			
Slaughter	Weiner			
Smith (WA)	Welch			
Snyder	Wexler			
Solis (CA)	Wilson (OH)			
Space	Woolsey			
Speier	Wu			
Spratt	Yarmuth			

Source: House Roll Call Votes 50 and 70, 111th Congress, 1st Session, available at http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/ROLL_000.asp.