

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
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FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS
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August 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC: The Honorable United States Senator Ron Wyden

Dear Chairman Crapo,

I write to respectfully request that the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance hold a hearing to examine how to lower health care costs for Americans and find ways to keep people insured and healthy. Americans are facing spiking health insurance premiums due to a host of Trump Administration-supported policies, including the upcoming expiration of Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits and tariffs President Trump has ordered on pharmaceuticals and vital medical supplies. This is a real threat to health care affordability for individuals, small businesses, and their workers who can afford quality health insurance thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act that Congress passed in 2010 made health insurance through Medicaid and the marketplace exchange available to millions of Americans. This increase in affordability led to year after year record coverage levels, and the uninsured rate in the United States dropped to an all-time low of 7.9% in 2023. Today, 44 million Americans are benefiting from coverage through the Affordable Care Act, representing about 1 in 6 people under the age of 65.

I am hearing from business owners, employees, families, and officials across my state about how the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits will destabilize the health insurance market, increasing costs and putting coverage out of reach for many. For example, the Washington Office of Insurance Commissioner announced earlier this year that insurance companies in my state have requested a 21.2% increase in monthly premiums next year, the largest increase in recent years and nearly double last year's increase.

Plus, the expiration of the tax credits will cause the rate of uninsured Americans to rise – creating higher costs for everyone and worse health outcomes for the uninsured. As a new analysis from KFF, a leading national nonprofit focused on health care policy, notes, insurers anticipate that some healthier members will leave their plans when their subsidies decrease, “creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.”

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As members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, I believe that we have a duty to examine these issues – and to act. We must explore how we can leverage the jurisdictional power of our committee to stabilize the health insurance market and reduce health care costs for all Americans, while ensuring quality care and high coverage rates. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator