DCCC

Jennifer Balkcom Overview Backup

While Western North Carolinians face rising costs, and are still recovering from Hurricane Helene, Jennifer Balkcom has sold them out to enrich her corporate donors.

While Western North Carolinians Face Rising Costs,

North Carolina Electricity Bills Climbed 30% Over Seven Years

Headline: 2026: "North Carolina Seeks Solutions As Electric Bills Climb 30% In Seven Years" [WCNC, 2/16/26]

North Carolina Residential Electricity Rates Jumped Nearly 30% From 2017 To 2024. "The state faces dramatic projected increases in electricity consumption. Duke Energy forecasts total demand across its two Carolina systems will rise between 16% and nearly 60% through 2040. By contrast, electricity demand grew just 7% from 2005 to 2025. Meanwhile, residential electricity bills have climbed nearly 30% from 2017 to 2024, with about two-thirds of the increase attributed to rising fuel costs, particularly natural gas prices. Major utilities are projecting additional increases by 2040, with some proposing rate hikes of 16% to 18% for residential customers over the next two years alone." [WCNC, 2/16/26]

Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Goods For North Carolinians

Tariffs Raised Prices On Essential Goods Like Medicine And Groceries

Tariffs Would Raise Drug Prices For Americans

NBC News: Analysts Warned Tariffs On Drug Product Imports Could Raise Prices For Americans. "Analysts are already warning that U.S. consumers could see higher prices due to new tariffs President Donald Trump plans to impose on drug product imports as soon as next week. But a series of exemptions may blunt the ultimate impact. In a Truth Social post late Thursday, Trump said that any branded or patented pharmaceutical products brought into the U.S. would face a 100% tariff starting Oct. 1." [NBC News, 9/26/25]

- **Trump's 100% Tariff On Branded Pharmaceuticals Would Apply Only To Companies That Weren't Constructing Manufacturing Facilities In The U.S.** "US President Donald Trump announced a wave of new tariffs, chief among them a 100% tariff on branded pharmaceuticals. The penalty would only apply to companies that aren't planning or currently constructing manufacturing facilities in US territory." [Bio Process International, 10/7/25]

New York Times Headline: "Trump's Tariffs Would Spare Many Rich Drugmakers While Punishing Some Small Ones." [New York Times, 9/26/25]

Tax Foundation Headline: "Trump Pharma Tariffs Would Raise Drug Prices For Americans." [Tax Foundation, 8/14/25]

Tariffs Contributed To Rising Prices For Groceries

CNN: Tariffs Contributed To Prices Rising For Groceries. "President Donald Trump pledged to bring down grocery costs. But his administration's policies are contributing to an acceleration in prices, food economists and companies say. Grocery prices last month rose at their fastest pace in three years, stoked by Trump's tariffs, a crackdown on immigration, and extreme weather hurting food production. Prices jumped 0.6% in August from the month prior, according to the latest reading from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they are up 2.7% from a year ago. Food prices are deeply personal to consumers, and weekly grocery bills shape their overall perceptions of the economy. More than half of Americans count grocery costs as a major stress in their lives. Low-income and middle-income Americans, hit the hardest by rising grocery costs, are changing where they shop and what they buy. Companies are also taking extreme measures to appeal to shoppers strained by higher prices, such as bringing back paper coupons." [CNN, 9/20/25]

Axios Headline: "Grocery Inflation Highest Since 2022 As Trump Tariffs Pile Up." [Axios, 9/11/25]

Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Were Expected To Increase Consumer Prices By 1.3%, The Equivalent Of An Average Per Household Income Loss Of $1,800

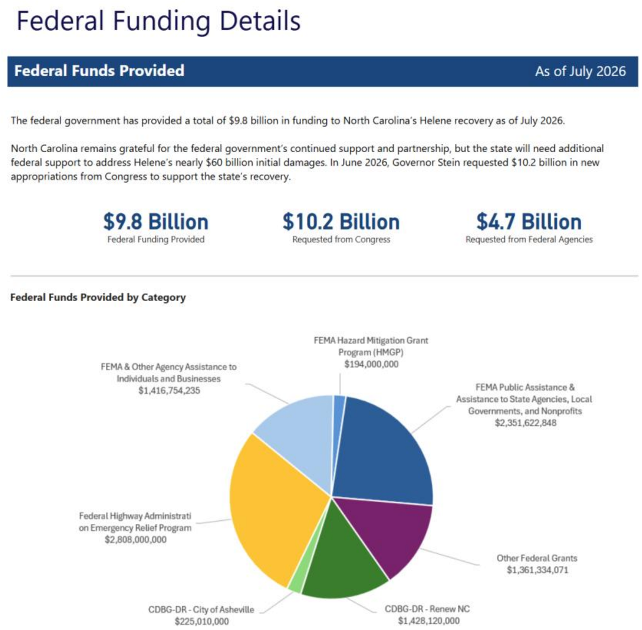
Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Were Expected To Increase Consumer Prices By 1.3% In The Short Run. "The 2025 tariffs imply an increase in consumer prices of 1.3% in the short-run, assuming no policy reaction from the Federal Reserve and full passthrough of tariffs to consumers. As a result, TBL assumes the real income adjustment comes primarily through prices rather than nominal incomes. If the Federal Reserve reacted, the adjustment could in part come in the form of lower nominal incomes. This is a pre-substitution number that captures consumer welfare effects. It is the equivalent of a short-run income loss of about $1,800 per household on average in 2025 dollars. The post-substitution price increase settles at 1.1%, a $1,500 short-run loss per household." [Yale Budget Lab, State of U.S. Tariffs, 10/17/25]

Yale Budget Lab: Tariffs Cost Consumers The Equivalent Of An Average Per Household Income Loss Of $1,800 In The Short-Term. "Overall Price Level & Distributional Effects: The price level from all 2025 tariffs rises by 1.3% in the short-run, the equivalent of an average per household income loss of $1,800 in 2025$. This assumes the Federal Reserve does not react to tariffs and so the real income adjustment comes primarily through prices rather than nominal incomes; if the Federal Reserve reacted, the adjustment could in part come in the form of lower nominal incomes. Annual pre-substitution losses for households at the bottom of the income distribution are more than $1,000. The post-substitution price increase settles at 1.1%, a $1,500 loss per household." [Yale Budget Lab, State of U.S. Tariffs, 10/17/25]

And Are Still Recovering From Hurricane Helene,

July 2026: The Federal Government Had Provided Just 16% Of The Funding Needed To Recover From Hurricane Helene

As Of July 2026, The Federal Government Provided $9.8 Billion – 16% Of The Nearly $60 Billion In Damages – To The Recovery Of Western North Carolina From Hurricane Helene. "The federal government has provided a total of $9.8 billion in funding to North Carolina's Helene recovery as of July 2026. North Carolina remains grateful for the federal government's continued support and partnership, but the state will need additional federal support to address Helen's nearly $60 billion initial damages. In June 2026, Governor Stein requested $10.2 billion in new appropriations from Congress to support the state's recovery." [WNC Recovery, updated July 2026]


Federal Funding Details

Federal Funds Provided As of July 2026

The federal government has provided a total of $9.8 billion in funding to North Carolina's Helene recovery as of July 2026.

North Carolina remains grateful for the federal government's continued support and partnership, but the state will need additional federal support to address Helene's nearly $60 billion initial damages. In June 2026, Governor Stein requested $10.2 billion in new appropriations from Congress to support the state's recovery.

$9.8 Billion Federal Funding Provided

$10.2 Billion Requested from Congress

$4.7 Billion Requested from Federal Agencies

Federal Funds Provided by Category

NOTE: 16% is the percentage of federal government funding ($9.8 billion) toward total damage of nearly $60 billion caused by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

Home Repairs Lagged In Western North Carolina

Headline: "WNC Home Repairs After Helene Face $500 Million Funding Gap" [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

May 2026: Congress Only Approved $4.6 Billion Of The Nearly $12 Billion Allocated For Storm Repairs, While Helene Caused An Estimated $60 Billion In Damages In North Carolina. "But for over a year, Gov. Josh Stein, WNC leaders and state recovery officials have said that funding appropriated for Helene recovery has lagged significantly. Helene caused an estimated $60 billion in damages across the region — Congress has only approved $4.6 billion of the nearly $12 billion allocated to storm repairs. In total, the housing program is roughly $500 million short, Director of the Governor's Recovery Office Matt Calabria said during the May 22 Governor's Advisory Committee on WNC Recovery meeting" [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Western North Carolina Residents Faced A $500 Million Funding Gap For Home Repairs For Damages Caused By Hurricane Helene. "Western North Carolina residents expecting to receive home repairs after Tropical Storm Helene may be out of luck unless Congress supplements a $500 million funding gap, the state's top recovery official said May 22. It is the latest plea for more federal aid since late 2024, when Congress last appropriated aid for the region." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

RenewNC's Single-Family Repair Program Had 2,865 Applications, With Over 1,800 Of Those Coming From Poorer Residents Who Made Below 60% Of The Area's Median Income. "Funded by a $1.4 billion Community Development Block Grant for disaster recovery through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, RenewNC's $807 million Single-Family Repair program has 2,865 active applications. Most of the applications — over 1,800 — fall into phase 1 of the program, which is designed for poorer residents who make below 60% area median income." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

May 2026: North Carolina's Housing Repair Program Was Underfunded To The Tune Of $500 Million. "But for over a year, Gov. Josh Stein, WNC leaders and state recovery officials have said that funding appropriated for Helene recovery has lagged significantly. Helene caused an estimated $60 billion in damages across the region — Congress has only approved $4.6 billion of the nearly $12 billion allocated to storm repairs. In total, the housing program is roughly $500 million short, Director of the Governor's Recovery Office Matt Calabria said during the May 22 Governor's Advisory Committee on WNC Recovery meeting" [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

The Gap Could Be Filled Through Funding Gov. Josh Stein's September 2025 $13 Billion Request For Additional Hurricane Relief. "The gap could be filled through a $13 billion request made by Gov. Josh Stein in September 2025 that would require congressional approval. The largest portion of that funding — $8.4 billion — would be processed through the same HUD program that funds the state's housing program, according to the budget request." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Governor Stein: "Congress Has Not Appropriated Any Additional Funding For Western North Carolina Recovery Since December 2024." "'Congress has not appropriated any additional funding for Western North Carolina recovery since December 2024,' Stein told the bipartisan committee during their May 22 meeting. 'That was the last Congress and the last presidential administration.'" [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Rep. Edwards Did Not Comment On Stein's Request For Additional Helene Recovery Funding, And Suggested Additional Funding Could Be Duplicative. "But it's hard to tell when or how that federal funding will arrive. Federal Republican lawmakers, including Rep. Chuck Edwards, have remained silent on the request. Edwards has suggested the additional funding may be duplicative. It could be a while before it arrives, said Calabria, who has been advocating for the second burst of congressional funding." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Asheville Ran Out Of The Initial Money To Repair Affected Residents' Homes After Just $3 Million Was Found To Cover Only 8 Of The Over 100 Homeowners Who Applied. "Funding gaps have also impacted local leaders. In early May, Asheville City Council began discussing how they would transfer additional funding for the single-family home repair program after the originally approved $3 million was revealed to cover only eight of over 100 homeowners who applied for the program in the city." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Asheville And The State Reached An Agreement To Use $225 Million In HUD Provided Money To Repair Homes Damaged By Helene, Allowing It To Service 55-65 Applicants, But Leaving Nearly Half Of Applicants Waiting. "In an agreement with the state, the city has to use its own $225 million provided through HUD to repair homes damaged by Helene in Asheville's borders. City Council is expected to shift roughly $19 million to the program in June — an effort that could potentially fund the repair, rehabilitation or replacement of 55-65 of the program's applicants, according to state estimates. It means that still nearly half of those with active applications in Asheville will not be able to apply to the program without additional funding." [Asheville Citizen Times, 5/26/26]

Jennifer Balkcom Has Sold Them Out To Enrich Her Corporate Donors.

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than $5,000 In Campaign Cash From Duke Energy's Corporate PAC, As Duke Energy Was Tied To Dark-Money Mailers Supporting S.B. 266

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than $5,000 In Campaign Cash From Duke Energy Corporation PAC

2022-2026: Balkcom Received More Than $5,000 In Campaign Contributions From Duke Energy Corporation PAC. [North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed 8/13/26]

2022-2026: Balkcom Campaign Receipts From Energy PACs		
Date	**Contributor**	**Amount**
9/6/22	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	$500.00
11/17/23	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	$1,000.00
7/26/24	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	$2,000.00
1/22/26	Duke Energy Corporation PAC	$2,000.00
1/22/26	North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives PAC	$1,000.00
	Total:	**$6,500.00**

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed 8/13/26]

Duke Energy Was Accused Of Using Dark Money To Fund Mailers Encouraging Democrats To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266

July 2025: Duke Energy Was Tied To A "Dark Money Entity" Sending Mailers In Support Of S.B. 266. As North Carolina lawmakers prepare to override Gov. Josh Stein's veto of a controversial energy bill, constituents are receiving mailers from a dark money entity with ties to Duke Energy's industrial and commercial customers. [...] Constituents of some of the Democrats who voted with Republicans on S. 266 have received mailers from an obscure nonprofit about the upcoming override vote that repeats challenged claims about cost savings to customers and asks recipients to call and thank their representative for supporting it. [...] The text on the mailer says it was paid for by Citizens for NC Jobs, a nonprofit that registered with the state in January 2025 and launched a Facebook page on March 13, three days after the legislation was initially introduced as S. 261. [...] In paperwork filed with the state, Citizens for NC Jobs disclosed its registering entity as 'WASLAW' and gave among its addresses that of Ward and Smith, a North Carolina law firm. Ward and Smith practice before the North Carolina Utilities Commission as counsel for two organizations representing the interests of Duke Energy's large industrial and commercial customers: Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates (CIGFUR) and Carolina Utility Customers Association (CUCA). Susan Vick, a lobbyist for the groups, told EPI that her firm merely registered the paperwork for the nonprofit, has had no further contact, and was unaware of the mailers." [Energy and Policy Institute, 7/25/25]

2025: Balkcom Voted Twice For A Bill That Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Ratepayers Up To $23 Billion Through 2050, Cutting Electricity Costs For Corporations At The Expense Of North Carolina Families

June 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 266, Which Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Ratepayers Up To $23 Billion Through 2050 Due To Higher Fuel Costs

June 2025: Balkcom Voted For S.B. 266, "An Act To Eliminate The Interim Date For Carbon Reduction By Certain Electric Public Utilities, To Allow An Alternative Cost Recovery Mechanism For The Financing Costs Of Construction Work In Progress For Baseload Electric Generating Facilities, To Modify The Statutes Governing Cost Recovery For Fuel-Related Charges And Performance-Based Ratemaking, And To Codify A Provision Authorizing Securitization Of Costs

For Retirement Of Coal-Fired Generating Units." In June 2025, Balkcom voted for S.B. 266, "An act to eliminate the interim date for carbon reduction by certain electric public utilities, to allow an alternative cost recovery mechanism for the financing costs of construction work in progress for baseload electric generating facilities, to modify the statutes governing cost recovery for fuel-related charges and performance-based ratemaking, and to codify a provision authorizing securitization of costs for retirement of coal-fired generating units." The motion passed by a vote of 75-36-0-9. [North Carolina General Assembly, S.B. 266, 6/10/25]

North Carolina State University: S.B. 266 Was Projected To Cost North Carolina Ratepayers Up To $23 Billion Through 2050 Due To Higher Fuel Costs. "Higher Natural Gas Costs from Removing the Interim Target: When considering North Carolina Senate Bill 266, which eliminates the interim carbon emissions reduction target in the NC Carbon Plan, policymakers have cited potential cost savings as a key justification. However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the 'high' trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by $23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target. (In present value terms, this equals approximately $13 billion, assuming a 5% discount rate.) These additional fuel costs are borne directly by customers. Maintaining the interim goal helps limit exposure to volatile fuel markets and protects ratepayers from sharp increases in electricity bills." [North Carolina State University, 10/30/25]

S.B. 266 Would Eliminate The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target In The NC Carbon Plan. "Higher Natural Gas Costs from Removing the Interim Target: When considering North Carolina Senate Bill 266, which eliminates the interim carbon emissions reduction target in the NC Carbon Plan, policymakers have cited potential cost savings as a key justification. However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise." [North Carolina State University, 10/30/25]

North Carolina State University: "Removing The Interim Target Could Expose Ratepayers To Significant Financial Risk, Particularly If Natural Gas Prices Rise." "However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the 'high' trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by $23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target." [North Carolina State University, 10/30/25]

North Carolina State University: "Based On Modeling By The Public Staff, Eliminating The Interim Target Would Increase Natural Gas Generation By Nearly 40% Between 2030 And 2050." "However, our analysis finds that removing the interim target could expose ratepayers to significant financial risk, particularly if natural gas prices rise. Based on modeling by the Public Staff, eliminating the interim target would increase natural gas generation by nearly 40 percent between 2030 and 2050. If natural gas prices follow the 'high' trajectory from the Carbon Plan docket, the shift would raise total natural gas costs paid by ratepayers by $23 billion, compared to a scenario that retains the interim target." [North Carolina State University, 10/30/25]

July 2025: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266 Even Though He Said It "Shifts The Cost Of Electricity From Large Industrial Users Onto The Backs Of Regular People"

July 2025: Governor Josh Stein Vetoed S.B. 266, Saying "This Bill Not Only Makes Everyone's Utility Bills More Expensive, But It Also Shifts The Cost Of Electricity From Large Industrial Users Onto The Backs Of Regular People -- Families Will Pay More So That Industry Pays Less." "Today Governor Stein signed seven bills and vetoed three bills. Governor Stein made the following statement on his veto of Senate Bill 266: 'This summer's record heat and soaring utility bills has shown that we need to focus on lowering electricity costs for working families -- not raising them. And as our state continues to grow, we need to diversify our energy portfolio so that we are not overly reliant on natural gas and its volatile fuel markets. Recent independent analysis of Senate Bill 266 shows that this bill could cost North Carolina ratepayers up to $23 billion through 2050 due to higher fuel costs. This bill not only makes everyone's utility bills more expensive, but it also shifts the cost of electricity from large industrial users onto the backs of regular people -- families will pay more so that industry pays less. Additionally, this bill walks back our state's commitment to reduce carbon emissions, sending the wrong signal to businesses that want to be a part of our clean energy economy. My job is to do everything in my power to lower costs and grow the economy. This bill fails that test." [North Caroline Office of the Governor, Press Release, 7/2/25]

July 2025: Balkcom Voted To Override The Governor's Veto Of S.B. 266, "An Act To Eliminate The Interim Date For Carbon Reduction By Certain Electric Public Utilities, To Allow An Alternative Cost Recovery Mechanism For The Financing Costs Of Construction Work In Progress For Baseload Electric Generating Facilities, To Modify The Statutes Governing Cost Recovery For Fuel-Related Charges And Performance-Based Ratemaking, And To Codify A Provision Authorizing Securitization Of Costs For Retirement Of Coal-Fired Generating Units." In June 2025, Balkcom voted to override the Governor's veto of S.B. 266, "An act to eliminate the interim date for carbon reduction by certain electric public utilities, to allow an alternative cost recovery mechanism for the financing costs of construction work in progress for baseload electric generating facilities, to modify the statutes governing cost recovery for fuel-related charges and performance-based ratemaking, and to codify a provision authorizing securitization of costs for retirement of coal-fired generating units." The motion passed by a vote of 74-46-0-0. [North Carolina General Assembly, S.B. 266, 7/29/25]

S.B. 266 Was Projected To Result In A 4% Jump In Household Energy Bills, Costing North Carolina Residents $87 Million More A Year For Electricity

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Canary Media: S.B. 266 Would Result In A 4% Jump In Household Energy Bills. "Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay $87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills." [Canary Media, 6/11/25]

Canary Media: Under S.B. 266, Residential Customers Of Duke Energy In North Carolina Could Pay $87 Million More Per Year For Electricity. "Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay $87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills." [Canary Media, 6/11/25]

S.B. 266 Decreased The Amount Corporations Paid For Electricity At The Expense Of North

Carolina Households

Canary Media: S.B. 266 Changed How Duke Energy Distributed The Cost Of Electricity, Increasing The Share Paid By Residential Consumers And Cutting The Portion Paid By Industrial Electricity Users. "Residential customers of Duke Energy in North Carolina could pay $87 million more per year for electricity under a proposal rocketing through the state legislature, a new study shows. The figure represents about a 4% jump in household bills. The legislation, Senate Bill 266, would change how Duke distributes the cost of electricity it buys to supplement generation from its own power plants — significantly hiking the share paid by residential consumers and cutting the portion paid by industrial electricity users, like chemical manufacturers and textile mills." [Canary Media, 6/11/25]

North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association: S.B. 266 Shifted 19% More Of The Fuel Cost Burden Onto Residential Customers From Commercial And Industrials. "The bill was originally filed by now-retired Sen. Paul Newton as Senate Bill 261 'Energy Security and Affordability Act.' SB266 went through several iterations before being passed. Gov. Josh Stein vetoed the bill because of concerns about energy affordability. A study from NC State University shows removing the interim target set in HB951 'could cost ratepayers up to $23 billion in added fuel expenses through 2050.' In addition, the bill shifts 19% more of the fuel cost burden onto residential customers (from commercial and industrials), according to an analysis by EQ Research. Despite these studies, the legislature voted to override the governor's veto of SB266 in July." [North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, accessed 11/14/25]

Balkcom Message #1 Backup

Balkcom is part of the same failed leadership that left Western North Carolina behind after Hurricane Helene. Nearly two years in, we've received barely 16% of the funding from the federal government needed to recover and $100 million in already-approved disaster funds sat frozen for months. Balkcom was put in charge of Helene recovery but her committee hasn't held a public meeting in over a year to hear from storm survivors in the hardest-hit parts.

Balkcom Is Part Of The Same Failed Leadership That Left Western North Carolina Behind After Hurricane Helene.

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was "Working Together" With National Republicans, Who Supported Her Congressional Run

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was Working With The NRCC To Fundraise And "Get Out The Message" Of Who She Is

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was "Working Together" The NRCC To Fundraise And "Get Out The Message" Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: "Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely." BALKCOM: "We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later." INTERVIEWER: "Can you explain what that is to the public?" BALKCOM: "Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am." [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, 8/13/26] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. "Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3." [NRCC, Twitter, 8/10/26]


NRCC
@NRCC

Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom!

Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border.

Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3

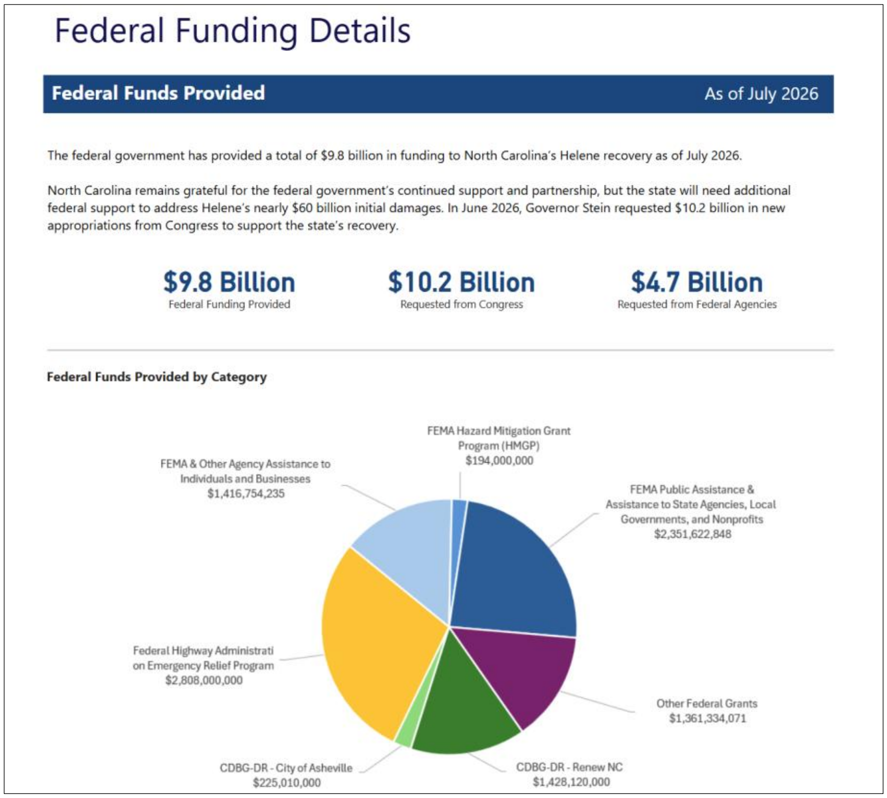
8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, 8/10/26]

Nearly Two Years In, We've Received Barely 16% Of The Funding From The Federal Government Needed To Recover

July 2026: The Federal Government Had Provided Just 16% Of The Funding Needed To Recover From Hurricane Helene

As Of July 2026, The Federal Government Provided $9.8 Billion – 16% Of The Nearly $60 Billion In Damages – To The Recovery Of Western North Carolina From Hurricane Helene. "The federal government has provided a total of $9.8 billion in funding to North Carolina's Helene recovery as of July 2026. North Carolina remains grateful for the federal government's continued support and partnership, but the state will need additional federal support to address Helen's nearly $60 billion initial damages. In June 2026, Governor Stein requested $10.2 billion in new appropriations from Congress to support the state's recovery." [WNC Recovery, updated July 2026]



Research Note: 16% is the percentage of federal government funding ($9.8 billion) toward total damage of nearly $60 billion caused by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

And $100 Million In Already-Approved Disaster Funds Sat Frozen For Months.

For Two Months, DHS Sec. Krisi Noem Held Up More Than $100 Million In Pre-Approved Helene Recovery Funds After Instituting An Onerous Rule That She Needed To Personally Approve Every Request Over $100,000

WCNC: "The Federal Government Has For Months Been Holding Up Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars In Hurricane Helene Aid For North Carolina." "The federal government has for months been holding up hundreds of millions of dollars in Hurricane Helene aid for North Carolina, while also running behind schedule on millions more in disaster preparedness grants for the 2025 hurricane season, which is already underway. Now the funds are flowing — slowly — following letters from Gov. Josh Stein to federal officials, who on Tuesday told North Carolina they have approved the distribution of tens of millions of dollars in Helene relief aid. That represents some but not all of the state's requests." [WCNC, 8/20/25]

In June 2025, Secretary Kristi Noem Announced She Needed To Personally Approve Every Expense Over $100,000, Delaying Thousands Of FEMA Spending Requests As They Piled Up On Noem's Desk. "In mid-June, Noem instituted a restrictive budget process that requires her approval for every expense over $100,000. For an agency such as FEMA, which can spend millions in a matter of minutes, the sign-off procedure has crippled most of its operations, particularly disaster response. The expense approval requirement has been so onerous that FEMA had to pull together a new team of about 20 employees to try to fast-track the thousands of spending requests that had piled up on Noem's desk, according to multiple agency officials, who like many spoke to The Post on the condition of anonymity because of fear of professional retaliation." [Washington Post, 8/8/25]

July 2025: N.C. Gov. Josh Stein Wrote A Letter Urging DHS To Release $115 Million In Pre-Approved Disaster Recovery Grants For Hurricane Helene Recovery. "The Department of Homeland Security is holding up more than $100 million in preapproved funds intended to help hurricane-battered North Carolina clean up storm damage and fix infrastructure still in disrepair almost a year after Helene hit the region, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post and officials familiar with the process. On July 22, North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein sent a letter to DHS Secretary Kristi L. Noem urging her to rapidly release disaster recovery funds that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had already approved, which total about $115 million in public assistance grants. The state 'faces nearly $60-billion in storm related damages,' the governor said, and while the federal government has already provided 'considerable financial support … unfortunately much more help is needed to rebuild western North Carolina.'" [Washington Post, 8/8/25]

August 2025: Stein Announced DHS Had Begun To Release Tens Of Millions Of Helene Aid Following His Request To The Federal Government. "The federal government has for months been holding up hundreds of millions of dollars in Hurricane Helene aid for North Carolina, while also running behind schedule on millions more in disaster preparedness grants for the 2025 hurricane season, which is already underway. Now the funds are flowing — slowly — following letters from Gov. Josh Stein to federal officials, who on Tuesday told North Carolina they have approved the distribution of tens of millions of dollars in Helene relief aid. That represents some but not all of the state's requests." [WCNC, 8/20/25]

- **DHS Did Not Lift The Requirement That The Secretary Of Homeland Security Approve Every Request Over $100,000 Until Noem Was Replaced By Markwayne Mullin In April 2026.** "The Department of Homeland Security, now led by Secretary Markwayne Mullin, on Wednesday reversed a policy put in place by former Secretary Kristi Noem that required the secretary to approve contracts and grants worth more than $100,000. There were thousands of contracts in this range. The directive lifts the requirement across all DHS components, including its major immigration enforcement agencies: U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement." [ABC News, 4/1/26]

Balkcom Was Put In Charge Of Helene Recovery

Balkcom Served As Vice Chair Of The North Carolina State House Select Committee On Helene Recovery

Balkcom Served As Vice Chair Of The North Carolina State House Select Committee On Helene Recovery. [NC Legislature, Jennifer Balkcom Committees, accessed 8/23/26]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REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER BALKCOM (REP)

Biography | Introduced Bills | Votes | Committees | Contact

Standing or Select Committees (2025-2026 Session)

Agriculture and Environment	Member
Appropriations	Vice Chairman
Appropriations, Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources	Chairman
Commerce and Economic Development	Member
Education - K-12	Member
House Select Committee on Helene Recovery	Vice Chairman
Insurance	Chairman

Non- Standing Committees

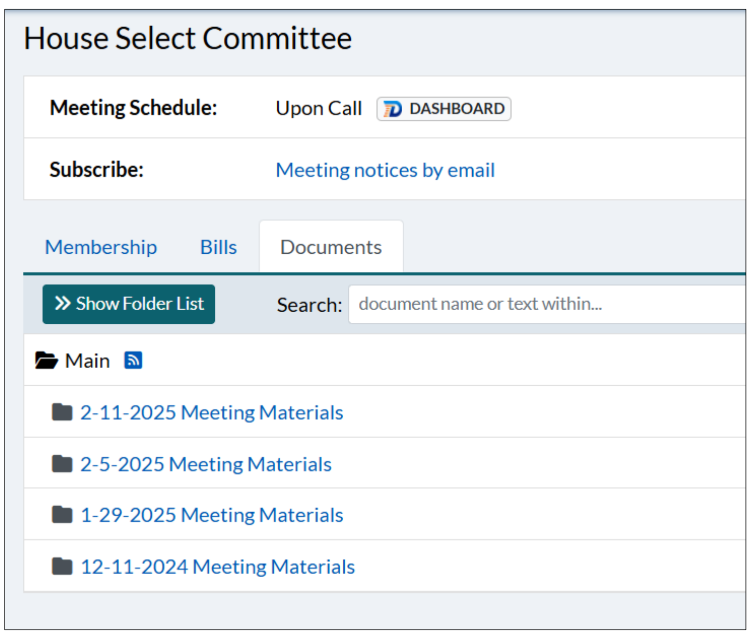
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations	Member
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Capital Improvements	Member

[NC Legislature, Jennifer Balkcom Committees, accessed 8/23/26]

But Her Committee Hasn't Held A Public Meeting In Over A Year To Hear From Storm Survivors In The Hardest-Hit Parts.

The Select Committee On Helene Recovery Last Met In February 2025

The Select Committee On Helene Recovery Held Its Last Meeting On February 11, 2025. [NC Legislature, House Select Committee on Helene Recovery, accessed 8/23/26]


House Select Committee

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Main

2-11-2025 Meeting Materials

2-5-2025 Meeting Materials

1-29-2025 Meeting Materials

12-11-2024 Meeting Materials

[NC Legislature, House Select Committee on Helene Recovery, accessed 8/23/26]

Balkcom Message #2 Backup

Balkcom has taken thousands of dollars from health insurance companies that have raised premiums and denied coverage North Carolinians need. And she voted repeatedly to raise health care costs on families, voting against bipartisan Medicaid expansion that now covers more than 730,000 North Carolinians.

Balkcom even supports cuts to Medicaid that put rural hospitals at risk of closing and increase health care costs by thousands of dollars.

Balkcom Has Taken Thousands Of Dollars From Health Insurance Companies That Have Raised Premiums And Denied Coverage North Carolinians Need.

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than $10,000 From Health Interest PACs

2022-2026: Balkcom Took More Than $10,000 From Health Interest PACs, Including UnitedHealth Group PAC

2022-2026: Balkcom Took $10,500 From Health Interest PACs Like BCBS Of NC PAC, UnitedHealth Group PAC, And Providence Anesthesiology Associates PAC. [North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed 8/23/26]

2022-2026: Balkcom Campaign Receipts From Health Interest PACs		
Date	**Contributor**	**Amount**
1/26/26	Providence Anesthesiology Associates PAC	$5,000.00
11/19/25	UnitedHealth Group Inc PAC	$2,000.00
10/14/24	Providence Anesthesiology Associates PAC	$3,000.00
10/21/22	Providence Anesthesiology Associates PAC	$1,000.00
9/30/22	Blue Cross Blue Shied of North Carolina PAC	$250.00
5/6/22	Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina PAC	$250.00
	Total:	**$10,500.00**

[North Carolina State Board of Elections, Transaction Search By Entity, accessed 8/23/26]

Blue Cross Blue Shield And UnitedHealth Group Increased Premiums In North Carolina For 2026

More Than One Million North Carolinians On The ACA Marketplace Were Set To See Their Premiums Increase In 2026. "Amid sweeping changes in health care — from Medicaid cuts and coverage shifts to rising premiums for state employees — many North Carolinians will face another major cost increase. Many of the more than 1 million people in the state who buy coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, including farmers, small-business owners and others without employer-sponsored insurance, will see significant premium hikes next year." [News & Observer, 10/29/25]

The North Carolina Department Of Insurance Approved Premium Hikes Between 12.66% To 46.40% For Some ACA Plans. "The state's Department of Insurance, which does not set rates but does review and approve them, has signed off on the final 2026 rates for individual and small-group ACA-compliant plans. […] Approved changes in rates range from 12.66% to 36.40%." [News & Observer, 10/29/25]

Blue Cross Blue Shield Of North Carolina Was Approved To Raise Premiums By 29.36% For 2026 Individual Market Plans. [News & Observer, 10/29/25]

Approved average 2026 rate changes

Individual market

- Ambetter of North Carolina, Inc.: 23.40%
- AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc.: 36.40%
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina: 29.36%
- Cigna Healthcare of North Carolina, Inc.: 27.49%
- Oscar Health Plan of North Carolina, Inc.: 16.88%
- UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina, Inc.: 32.27%

Small-group market

- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina: 17.50%
- UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company: 12.66%
- UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina, Inc.: 14.98%

Open enrollment for 2026 starts this Saturday, Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15.

UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company And UnitedHealthcare Of North Carolina Were Approved To Raise Premiums 12.66% And 14.98% For Small-Group Market Plans. [News & Observer, 10/29/25]

Approved average 2026 rate changes

Individual market

- Ambetter of North Carolina, Inc.: 23.40%
- AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc.: 36.40%
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina: 29.36%
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- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina: 17.50%
- UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company: 12.66%
- UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina, Inc.: 14.98%

Open enrollment for 2026 starts this Saturday, Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15.

Health Insurers Increased Premiums In North Carolina After Republicans Allowed ACA Tax Credits To Expire

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. “The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, 7/29/25]

2025: More Than 957,000 Individuals In North Carolina Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, 4/2/25]

Number Of North Carolina Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025

State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
North Carolina	957,110

[KFF, 4/2/25]

2025: More Than 74,000 Individuals In NC-11 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, 10/3/25]

Number Of NC-11 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
NC-11	74,638

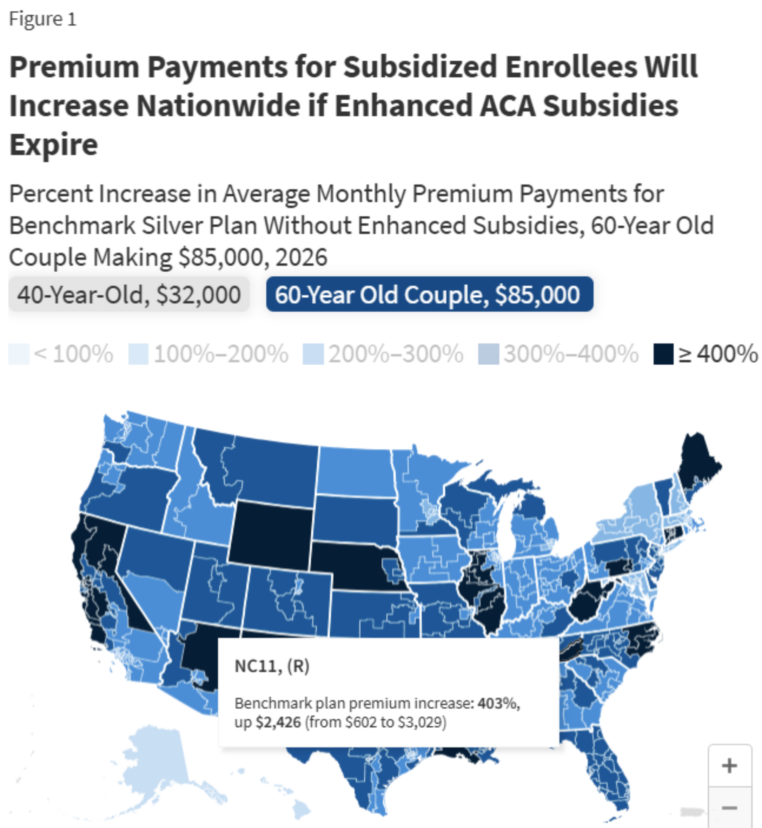
[KFF, 10/3/25]

Headline: "Double Digit Health Insurance Increases For Obamacare Coverage Expected After 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act'" [NC Health News, 8/15/25]

The North Carolina Department Of Insurance Approved Premium Rate Increases From 6.9% To 36.5% For 2026 In Light Of The Expiration Of ACA Tax Credits. "North Carolinians who rely on the Affordable Care Act marketplace to buy their health insurance might want to start socking away extra savings for steep rate hikes expected in the coming year. In the nearly month and a half since President Donald Trump signed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act,' some of its impacts on monthly household expenses are becoming clearer. When writing the bill, Republicans in Congress chose not to extend tax credits that have lowered monthly health insurance payments for the vast majority of people buying coverage from the Affordable Care Act Marketplace since 2021. On top of that, the health insurance companies offering marketplace plans have asked the N.C. Department of Insurance for 2026 rate increases that range from 6.9 percent all the way up to an eye-popping 36.5 percent. They represent the largest premium increase in five years." [NC Health News, 8/15/25]

2026: The State Health Plan Of North Carolina Increased Premiums For State Employees And Retirees For The First Time In Eight Years. "The State Health Plan Board of Trustees voted today to increase premiums for most state employees and retirees for the first time in eight years. The increases will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026. The plan consists of a tiered structure for the increases, with higher-paid employees paying more monthly than lower-paid employees. For some, the increase will be as low as $15 per month, while those making over $90,000 could see their premiums triple. SEANC Executive Director Ardis Watkins spoke out against the increases at the meeting (video above), pointing out to the board that the increases and the lack of a raise this year will mean that state employees and retirees will take home less next year than this year." [SEANC, accessed 8/23/26]

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making $85,000 In NC-11 Would See A 403% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired. [KFF, 10/9/25]



[KFF, 10/9/25]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. "For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** "In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** "Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** "In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

Commonwealth Fund: 21% Of American Adults Reported Private Insurance Denied Coverage For Recommended Medical Care

21% Of American Adults With Private Insurance Reported They Or A Family Member Had Experienced An Insurance Company Denying Coverage For Recommended Medical Care. "Experience with denials: One in five (21%) U.S. working-age adults with private insurance reported that they or a family member had experienced an insurance company denial of coverage for medical care recommended by a doctor in the past year, either before or after the care was provided." [Commonwealth Fund, 6/4/26]

Nearly 40% Of Those Who Experienced Denial Of Coverage Said They Experienced A Delay In Receiving Medical Care, And Nearly 30% Said Their Health Problem Worsened As A Result. "Coverage denials can harm peoples' health and financial well-being. Over half (63%) of working-age adults with private insurance who experienced a prior authorization denial of coverage for medical care said it caused them or their households worry or anxiety. About 40 percent said that a prior authorization denial delayed medical care, and more than a quarter (28%) said that their health problem worsened as a result. Three in 10 said they spent more money because of the prior authorization denial. That's because when coverage is denied, some patients may elect to pay for their care out of pocket." [Commonwealth Fund, 6/4/26]

Nearly 70% Of People Who Experienced A Claim Denial Said The Denial Cost Them Or Their Household More Money. "Having a claim denied after receiving care leaves patients and their families on the hook for medical bills they didn't expect. Nearly 70 percent of people who experienced a claim denial said that the denial cost them or their household more money. Thirty percent reported the denial had led to a delay in their health care, possibly because they were reluctant or financially unable to seek additional care. One in five people said their health problem worsened as a result." [Commonwealth Fund, 6/4/26]

Blue Cross Blue Shield And UnitedHealth Denied Coverage For Patients' Medical Claim In North Carolina

BCBS Of North Carolina Declined To Cover A Wake County Resident's Surgery After Initially Approving

Blue Cross Blue Shield Of North Carolina Denied Coverage For A Wake County Resident's Ankle Surgery After Initially Approving It, Resulting In A Cost Of $126,035.12 For The Patient. "A massive medical bill was wiped away after a Wake County woman reached out to WRAL 5 On Your Side. Melissa Koch of Wendell has a chronic joint disorder that makes it hard to move around and care for her three young kids. To improve her mobility and relieve pain, Koch went in for her second ankle replacement surgery at Duke University Hospital in October 2024. Before the surgery, she got authorization from her insurance company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and didn't expect to pay anything out of pocket. 'We thought it was completely covered. Went through the surgery, Oct. 24, completely fine. About a month later, Nov. 21, I got a letter in the mail that said, 'Sorry, we decided to deny the surgery,' Koch said. Koch appealed the decision but was denied again. The denial said, 'The services were denied as investigational.' The claim amount on the denial was $126,035.12 WRAL 5 On Your Side asked if there was a moment where Koch thought she was going to have to pay that amount." [WRAL, 3/10/25]

UnitedHealthcare Group Was Fined $3.4 Million By The State Of North Carolina For Inadequately Covering Individuals

The North Carolina Department Of Insurance Fined UnitedHealthcare Of North Carolina And UnitedHealthcare Insurance Co. $3.4 Million For The Companies' Violations Regarding Balance Billing. "North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey today fined UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina Inc. and its affiliate UnitedHealthcare Insurance Co. $3.4 million following over four years investigating the companies' claims handling practices involving balance billing. In addition to the fine, UnitedHealthcare agreed to provide the Department of Insurance with a corrective action plan to address violations uncovered in the investigation and submit to future compliance examinations." [NC Department of Insurance, 2/7/25]

The North Carolina Department Of Insurance Investigation Into UnitedHealthcare's Balance Billing Practices Found The Company Failed To Negotiate Lower Prices For Patients Who Needed To Seek Care Outside Of Their Coverage Network. "The investigation targeted UnitedHealthcare's handling of member grievances and claims processes involving non-contracted or out-of-network providers and facilities for anesthesia services and emergency room services to see if it was following its procedures to protect members from balance billing and complying with North Carolina law. Balance billing occurs when an out-of-network provider charges more than the insurer allows for an in-network service and tries to collect the excess cost from the member. The investigation found instances where UnitedHealthcare did not follow its own procedures to negotiate with providers to hold the member harmless." [NC Department of Insurance, 2/7/25]

Several UnitedHealthcare Members Complained They Were Subjected To Cost Sharing Greater Than Their Applicable Deductibles, Copayments And Coinsurance Liabilities For Out-Of-Network Care. "The $3.4 million fine will be distributed for the benefit of the public schools as required under Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution. The Market Regulation Division began its investigation after the Department's Consumer Services Division saw a sustained trend in complaints from UnitedHealthcare's members and their providers. A review of the complaints showed that members were being subjected to cost sharing more than applicable deductible, copayment and coinsurance liabilities. These medically necessary services were mainly provided by out-of-network anesthesiologists, laboratory services and emergency room departments. The anesthesia and laboratory services were often performed in conjunction with procedures and services provided at in-network facilities where a member received services from an out-of-network provider." [NC Department of Insurance, 2/7/25]

And She Voted Repeatedly To Raise Health Care Costs On Families, Voting Against Bipartisan Medicaid Expansion That Now Covers More Than 730,000 North Carolinians

2023: Balkcom Voted Against Expanding Medicaid In North Carolina, Which Covered Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11 And More Than 730,000 People Statewide, Including Hundreds Of Thousands From Rural Counties

February 2023: Balkcom Voted Against Medicaid Expansion In North Carolina

February 2023: Balkcom Voted Against H.B. 76, "An Act To Provide North Carolina Citizens With Greater Access To Healthcare Options." In February 2023, Balkcom voted against H.B. 76, "an act to provide North Carolina citizens with greater access to healthcare options." The bill passed by a vote of 92-22-0-5. [North Carolina General Assembly, H.B. 76, 2/16/23]

- **March 2023: H.B. 76 Expanded Medicaid In North Carolina.** "Today, Governor Roy Cooper signed House Bill 76, Access to Healthcare Options, into law. The legislation will expand Medicaid, which is expected to provide health coverage to over 600,000 people across North Carolina and bring billions in federal dollars to the state. North Carolina is the 40th state to expand Medicaid." [North Carolina Office of the Governor, Press Release, 3/27/23]

March 2023: Balkcom Voted Against Medicaid Expansion In North Carolina

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2023: North Carolina Expanded Medicaid Under The Affordable Care Act, Granting Coverage To More Than 730,000 Statewide, Including Nearly 30,000 People In NC-11 And Hundreds Of Thousands From Rural Counties

December 2023: NC Medicaid Expanded To Cover People Ages 19 Through 64 Up To 138% Of The Federal Poverty Line. "On December 1, 2023, NC Medicaid expanded to cover people ages 19 through 64 up to 138% of the federal poverty line. That's about $1,800/month for singles and $3,065/month for families of three. NC Medicaid covers most health services. It includes doctor visits, check-ups, emergency care, dental care, vision and hearing services, prescription drugs, maternity and postpartum care, hospital services, behavioral health, preventive and wellness services, medical-related devices and more. There is no monthly fee and copays are never more than $4." [North Carolina Medicaid Division Of Health Benefits, accessed 8/22/25]

April 2025: KFF: 29,800 Adults In NC-11 Received Medicaid Coverage Under The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion. [KFF, 4/11/25]

April 2025: Medicaid Recipients In NC-11	
Medicaid Recipients	**Number**
Adults	54,700
Seniors	19,700
Children	65,200
Individuals with Disabilities	26,800
ACA Adults	29,800
Total:	**196,200**

[KFF, 4/11/25]

August 2026: According To The North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services, More Than 730,000 People In North Carolina Gained Health Care Coverage Through The State's Medicaid Expansion. [North Carolina Department Of Health And Human Services, 8/1/26]

A Majority Of North Carolina Republican House Legislators Voted To Expand Medicaid

March 2023: A Majority Of North Carolina Republican House Members Voted To Expand Medicaid

March 2023: 45 Republican Members Of The North Carolina House Of Representatives Voted To Expand Medicaid. In March 2023, 45 Republicans voted in favor of H.B. 76, "an act to provide North Carolina citizens with greater access to healthcare options." The bill passed by a vote of 92-22-0-5. [North Carolina General Assembly, H.B. 76, 2/16/23]

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Medicaid Expansion Was Associated With Lower Premiums In The Health Insurance Market

States That Expanded Medicaid Saw Lower Premiums For People On The Health Insurance Market

Medicaid Expansion Was Found To Be Associated With Lower Premiums For Gold And Silver Plans After A State Embraced Medicaid Expansion. "This paper studies the impact of the recent Affordable Care Act Medicaid expansion on premiums in the health insurance marketplaces. Exploiting the late adoption of the Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania and Indiana in 2015, I use both difference-in-differences and the synthetic control method to estimate the effect of the Medicaid expansion on marketplace premiums. The preferred estimates indicate that Medicaid expansion is associated with statistically significant lower premiums for gold plans (17 percent) and the second-lowest-priced silver plans (25 percent). I also find evidence that Medicaid expansion decreases average premiums for other silver and bronze plans by about 16 and 13 percent, respectively. Overall, these findings are consistent with lower expected medical cost after Medicaid expansion removed certain low-income individuals from the marketplace risk pools." [American Journal of Health Economics, October 2017]

North Carolina Medicaid Had No Premiums

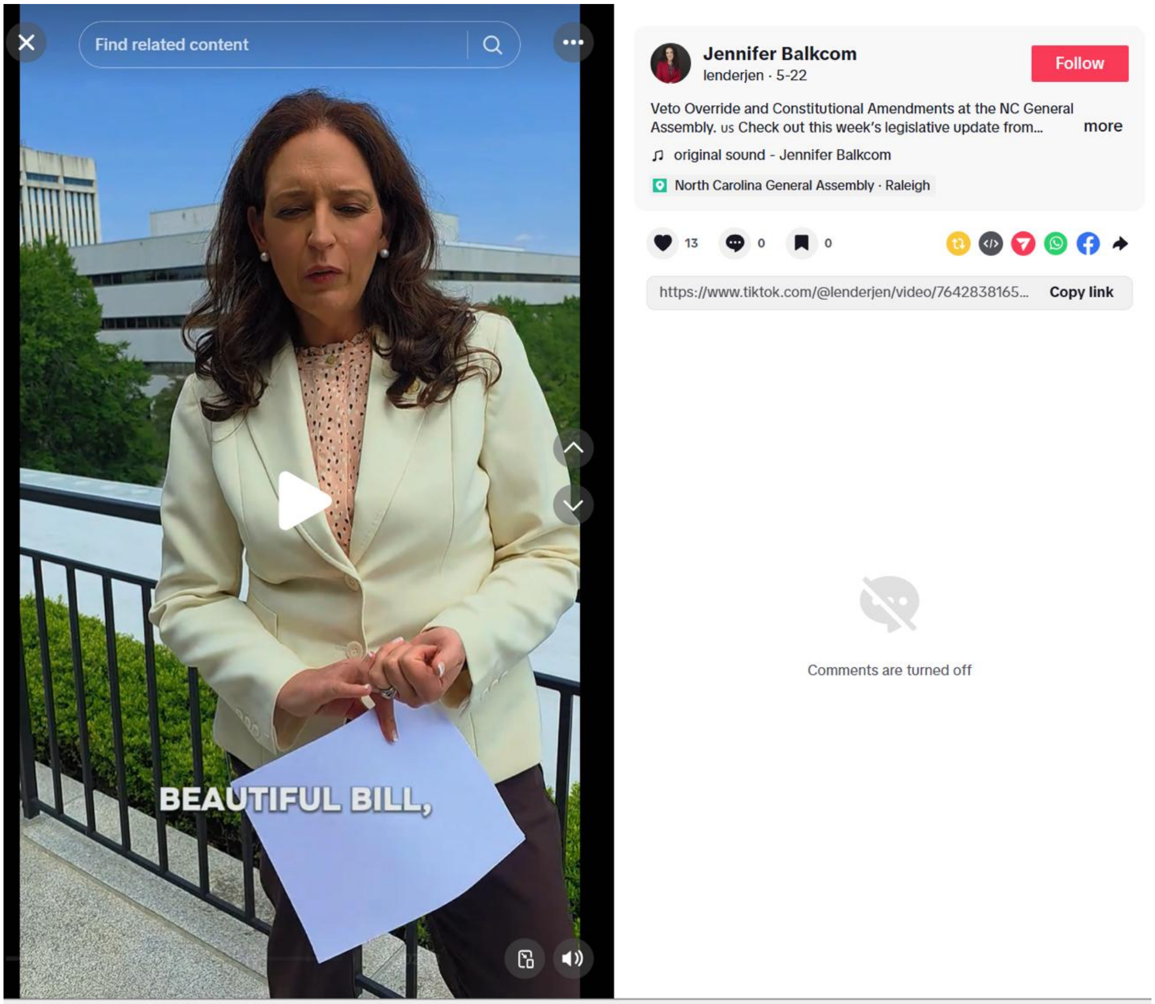
North Carolina Medicaid Had No Monthly Premiums. "NC Medicaid is low or no-cost to you. NC Medicaid pays the cost for most health care services. You do not have to pay any monthly premiums. The highest copay is $4 and that is only needed for some services." [NC Medicaid, accessed 9/8/26]

Balkcom Even Supports Cuts To Medicaid That Put Rural Hospitals At Risk Of Closing

Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill And Said She Was "Working Together" With National Republicans On Her Campaign After House Republicans Passed The Federal Spending Plan

April 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill

May 2026: Balkcom Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill. "Everyone, it is Representative Jennifer Balkcom, House District 117. This has been an override veto override week, so it's exciting. House Bill 87, that's the educational tax credit. Thanks to the beautiful, beautiful bill that was passed in the federal government, we now are setting up an opportunity for scholarships and donors to get that tax credit in North Carolina. So that was exciting." [@LenderJen, TikTok, 5/22/26]



[@LenderJen, TikTok, 5/22/26]

- **Balkcom: "Thanks To The Beautiful, Beautiful Bill That Was Passed In The Federal Government, We Now Are Setting Up An Opportunity For Scholarships And Donors To Get That Tax Credit In North Carolina."** "Everyone, it is Representative Jennifer Balkcom, House District 117. This has been an override veto override week, so it's exciting. House Bill 87, that's the educational tax credit. Thanks to the beautiful, beautiful bill that was passed in the federal government, we now are setting up an opportunity for scholarships and donors to get that tax credit in North Carolina. So that was exciting." [@LenderJen, TikTok, 5/22/26]

August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was Working With The NRCC To Fundraise And "Get Out The Message" Of Who She Is

VIDEO: August 2026: Balkcom Said She Was "Working Together" The NRCC To Fundraise And "Get Out The Message" Of Who She Is. INTERVIEWER: "Can you briefly tell me how will the fundraising piece work? And I forgive me if I mess up. The NRCC, is that the that's the acronym? Can you tell me what that is? What kind of money are they pledging? And I know you're working with them closely." BALKCOM: "We are working together. Um hopefully something will be coming out soon because we want to make sure we're gathering all this right now to uh to kind of announce that sooner than later." INTERVIEWER: "Can you explain what that is to the public?" BALKCOM: "Just uh working with them to uh get on the fun phone call, raise money, work with uh supporters and getting out the message of who I am." [WLOS News 13, YouTube, 3:11, 8/13/26] (VIDEO)

August 2026: The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Congratulated Balkcom And Encouraged People To Vote For Her. "Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom! Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border. Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3." [NRCC, Twitter, 8/10/26]


NRCC
@NRCC

Congratulations to Jennifer Balkcom!

Balkcom will deliver results for Western North Carolina by strengthening the economy, supporting farmers & securing the border.

Remember to VOTE for @JenBalkcom in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3

8:25 PM · Aug 10, 2026 · 11.5K Views

[NRCC, Twitter, 8/10/26]

July 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 4, 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill. "President Trump on Friday signed a massive spending and tax bill that the White House has dubbed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' to implement much of his domestic policy agenda. The bill passed Thursday after Republican leaders in the House of Representatives convinced holdouts in their own party to get in line behind the controversial legislation." [NPR, 7/4/25]

May 2025-June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill "The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda" And Praised House Republicans For Passing It

June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill "The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda To Very Simply Make America Great Again!" "The One Big Beautiful Bill will Secure our Borders, turbocharge our economy, and bring back the American Dream. This is the ultimate codification of our agenda to very simply Make America Great Again!" [Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, 6/26/25]

May 2025: The Hill: "Trump Sent Kudos To House Republicans" After They Passed The One Big Beautiful Bill. "President Trump sent kudos to House Republicans after they worked late Sunday evening and narrowly cleared a key hurdle to advance the 'big, beautiful bill' that contains most of his legislative priorities. 'CONGRATULATIONS REPUBLICANS!!!' the president posted on Truth Social just before 1 a.m. EDT on Monday. 'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!'" [The Hill, 5/19/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Was Projected To Kick Nearly 39,000 People In NC-11 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program's History

The Hill: Republicans Passed "The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s." "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, 7/1/25]

- **The Hill: The Republicans' Reconciliation Bill Made About $1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost

12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, 7/1/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick Nearly 39,000 People In NC-11 Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated Nearly 39,000 People In North Carolina's 11th Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans' Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. “According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)'s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO's analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of the number of people who would lose health insurance.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, September 2025]

NC-11: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
20,200	18,757	38,957

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, September 2025]

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, 8/20/25]

Rolling Stone Headline: “Congress Officially Passes Trump's Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, 7/3/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than $36 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In NC-11

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In NC-11 Were Projected To Lose More Than $36 Million As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, 7/8/25]

Projected Cuts To NC-11 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Hospital	City	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
Mission Hospital Inc.	Asheville	$24,803,858.00
AdventHealth Hendersonville	Hendersonville	$2,739,351.00
Harris Regional Hospital	Sylva	$2,348,992.00
The McDowell Hospital	Marion	$1,535,303.00
Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital	Hendersonville	$976,071.00
Blue Ridge Regional Hospital	Spruce Pine	$955,098.00
MH Angel Medical Center LLLP	Franklin	$865,978.00
Transylvania Community Hospital	Brevard	$719,514.00
Haywood Regional Medical Center	Clyde	$623,442.00
Swain County Hospital	Bryson City	$392,421.00
Murphy Medical Center	Murphy	$274,002.00
Highlands Cashiers Hospital	Highlands	$108,627.00

Charles A. Cannon Memorial Hospital	Linville	$45,751.00
	Total:	**$36,388,408.00**

[Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, 7/8/25]

July 2025: News & Observer: In North Carolina, Hospitals Absorbed 70% Of The Medicaid Cuts Under The One Big Beautiful Bill. "Republican state leaders have backed the federal spending bill, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. Congressional Republicans in North Carolina also supported it, with the exception of U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis — who is not seeking re-election — and who criticized its Medicaid cuts and voted against the spending bill. […] Key changes include new federal work requirements for Medicaid expansion recipients, restrictions on provider taxes that fund expansion, elimination of an over $6 billion hospital payment program, and new state obligations to contribute to food assistance programs. These pieces do not all take effect at once, with varying enactment dates. DHHS estimates all these changes could translate to a $50 billion loss in Medicaid funding for North Carolina over 10 years, with hospitals absorbing over 70% of the cuts, according to a forecast dated July 9 provided by DHHS. A new $50 billion rural health fund is included in the federal bill, but how much North Carolina would receive remains unknown." [News & Observer, 7/22/25]

The Reconciliation Bill's Cuts To Medicaid Would Particularly Impact Rural Communities

NBC Headline: "Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans' Big Bill." [NBC, 6/25/25]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million Individuals In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. "Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a $50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years." [American Hospital Association, 6/16/25]

And Increase Health Care Costs By Thousands Of Dollars.

Cuts To Medicaid Could Accelerate Health Care Provider Consolidation And Reduce Competition In Hospital Markets, Which Would Lead To Increased Private Insurance Costs

Third Way: "Medicaid Cuts Would Squeeze Health Care Providers And Accelerate Consolidation—Further Raising Prices On Care For Patients With Private Insurance." "As part of the partisan reconciliation process, congressional Republicans are considering $880 billion in cuts to Medicaid. While these cuts would severely impact the health and finances of low-income Americans, the consequences would reach far beyond Medicaid enrollees. Medicaid cuts would destabilize the broader health care system, ultimately driving up costs for employers and workers who rely on private insurance. In this memo, we unpack how workers and employers are struggling with health care costs. We then examine how Medicaid cuts would squeeze health care providers and accelerate consolidation—further raising prices on care for patients with private insurance." [Third Way, 5/1/25]

Third Way: "If Republicans Are Successful In Cutting Up To $880 Billion From The Medicaid Program, Employers And Patients With Private Insurance Will See Their Costs Rise As A Result Of Reduced Competition In Hospital Markets." "The problem is that when a hospital is acquired by a larger system, prices increase. For example, after North Carolina-based Mission Health was acquired by HCA Healthcare, patients saw significant price hikes. Hospital mergers can lead to price increases of up to 65%. As more struggling hospitals are absorbed by larger systems, we will see higher prices and reduced competition in hospital markets. If Republicans are successful in cutting up to $880 billion from the Medicaid program, employers and patients with private insurance will see their costs rise as a result of reduced competition in hospital markets." [Third Way, 5/1/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut More Than $1 Trillion In Medicaid And Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Funding. "The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the OBBBA will cut federal spending on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits by $1.02 trillion, due in part to eliminating at least 10.5 million people from the programs by 2034. With new federal limits on Medicaid eligibility likely increasing the number of uninsured, along with other provisions that restrict states' ability to raise revenue to fund their Medicaid programs, states will have to reevaluate their budgets to either supplement the spending or cut services. Research shows that when federal funding for Medicaid decreases, states tend to cut optional benefits such as home- and community-based (HCBS) first. It is nearly impossible to carve out a specific population, such as disabled people or elderly people, because the cuts to Medicaid funding will affect everyone due to hospital closures and health care workforce layoffs." [Center for American Progress, 7/3/25]

Health Insurers Increased Premiums In North Carolina After Republicans Allowed ACA Tax Credits To Expire

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. "The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike." [Center for American Progress, 7/29/25]

2025: More Than 957,000 Individuals In North Carolina Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, 4/2/25]

Number Of North Carolina Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	**ACA Marketplace Enrollees**
North Carolina	957,110

[KFF, 4/2/25]

2025: More Than 74,000 Individuals In NC-11 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, 10/3/25]

Number Of NC-11 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	**ACA Marketplace Enrollees**
NC-11	74,638

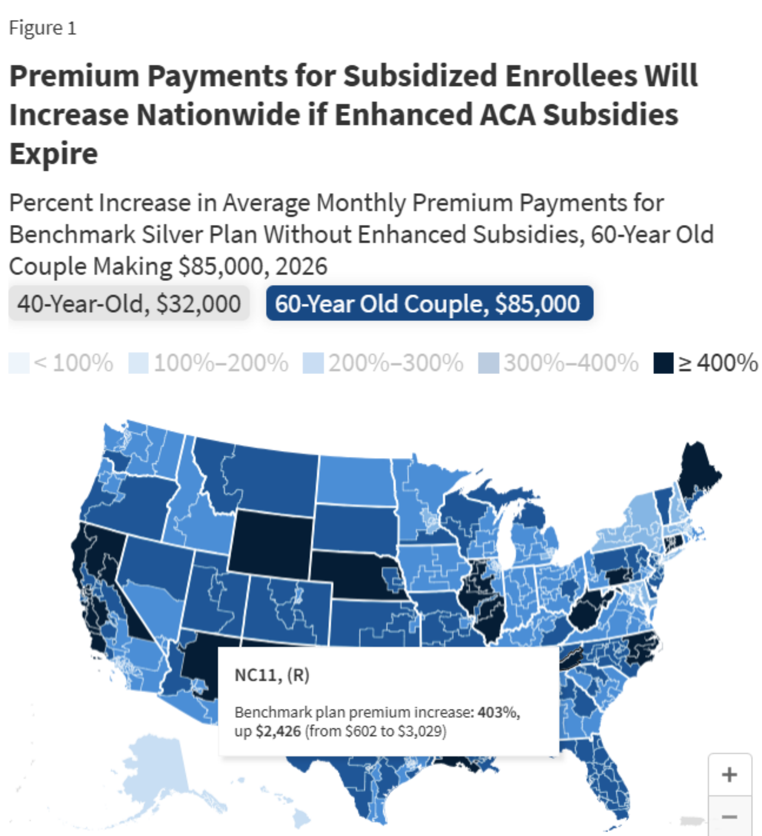
[KFF, 10/3/25]

Headline: "Double Digit Health Insurance Increases For Obamacare Coverage Expected After 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act'" [NC Health News, 8/15/25]

The North Carolina Department Of Insurance Approved Premium Rate Increases From 6.9% To 36.5% For 2026 In Light Of The Expiration Of ACA Tax Credits. "North Carolinians who rely on the Affordable Care Act marketplace to buy their health insurance might want to start socking away extra savings for steep rate hikes expected in the coming year. In the nearly month and a half since President Donald Trump signed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act,' some of its impacts on monthly household expenses are becoming clearer. When writing the bill, Republicans in Congress chose not to extend tax credits that have lowered monthly health insurance payments for the vast majority of people buying coverage from the Affordable Care Act Marketplace since 2021. On top of that, the health insurance companies offering marketplace plans have asked the N.C. Department of Insurance for 2026 rate increases that range from 6.9 percent all the way up to an eye-popping 36.5 percent. They represent the largest premium increase in five years." [NC Health News, 8/15/25]

2026: The State Health Plan Of North Carolina Increased Premiums For State Employees And Retirees For The First Time In Eight Years. "The State Health Plan Board of Trustees voted today to increase premiums for most state employees and retirees for the first time in eight years. The increases will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026. The plan consists of a tiered structure for the increases, with higher-paid employees paying more monthly than lower-paid employees. For some, the increase will be as low as $15 per month, while those making over $90,000 could see their premiums triple. SEANC Executive Director Ardis Watkins spoke out against the increases at the meeting (video above), pointing out to the board that the increases and the lack of a raise this year will mean that state employees and retirees will take home less next year than this year." [SEANC, accessed 8/23/26]

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making $85,000 In NC-11 Would See A 403% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired. [KFF, 10/9/25]



[KFF, 10/9/25]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. "For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** "In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** "Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]

- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** "In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent." [KFF Health System Tracker, 8/6/25]