

Brinker Harding Overview Backup

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Backup below.

Harding Message #1 Backup

Harding supports Trump's war in Iran that's causing gas prices to skyrocket.

Harding Supports Trump's War In Iran That's Causing Gas Prices To Skyrocket.

Harding Supported Trump's War In Iran

September 2026: Harding Was Supportive Of The War In Iran. "Harding is generally supportive of the current war in Iran, and of continuing military and economic support to Israel. 'We need to make sure that Iran never has a nuclear weapon,' he said. 'Iran continues to be the number one sponsor of terrorism in the Middle East, as well as across the globe – that is something that needs to be addressed, too. I think making those investments and supporting our allies is the correct thing to do, so that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, and they don't try to hold the world hostage by closing the Strait of Hormuz.'" [The Reader, [9/30/26](#)]

Harding Supported The U.S. And Israel Attacking Iran. "With Don Bacon, an outspoken voice on military operations, soon to be out of office, a crowded field of candidates hoping to fill his place are weighing in on war in Iran. Brinker Harding, the lone Republican in the race, shared a statement in support of the U.S.-Israeli operation that killed Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamenei. 'For the past 47 years, we let a radical theocratic state play us and the world like a yo-yo,' Harding said. 'The Iranian regime funded terror around the world and subjected their people to horrendous conditions. I hope the Iranian people can experience the freedom they deserve, and peace will finally come to the Middle East.'" [Nebraska Public Media, [3/4/26](#)]

Harding Trusted Trump's Decision To Attack Iran, Warning Voters Gas Prices Could Be Higher If Iran Obtained A Nuclear Weapon. "The United States' joint war with Israel against Iran has disrupted international trade and caused higher costs for gas and other goods. Harding said he is sensitive to the effects those costs have on Americans, but, he added, 'If you think gas prices are high today, think of what they're going to be if Iran had a nuclear weapon and controlled the Strait of Hormuz.' Harding said he has no insider information about the president's approach to Iran. But he said for the president to attack Iran and break his campaign promise to avoid foreign wars while also disrupting his economic work, he must have seen a dire situation." [Omaha World-Herald, [8/2/26](#)]

Gas Prices Increased Since The Start Of The Iran War

September 2026: Since The Start Of The Iran War, Diesel Prices Have Increased To An All Time High Of More Than \$6.50

September 2026: Since The Start Of The Iran War, Diesel Prices Have Increased To An All Time High Of More Than \$6.50. “Yet, on balance, the negative news has served to obscure the good, both for individual consumers and the nation at large. Before the war, gas prices were just under \$3 a gallon. Today they’re at approximately \$4.50 on average. Diesel prices went from an average of \$3.75 on Feb. 28 to an all-time high of more than \$6.50 on Tuesday.” [NBC News, [9/23/26](#)]

May 2026: Gas Prices Increased 50% Since The Start Of The Iran War

Gas Prices Increased 50% Since The Start Of The Iran War. “The price of a gallon of regular gasoline climbed 31 cents in the past week, spiking to an average of \$4.48 per gallon Tuesday, according to AAA, hitting the wallets of drivers after rising 50% since the war with Iran began. The main reason drivers are paying more at the pump is because of the global energy crisis caused by the Iran War. The price of crude oil, which is the main ingredient in gasoline, has been climbing for most of the past two months because the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of the world's crude oil normally passes, has effectively been shut, and oil tankers have been stranded there unable to deliver crude.” [PBS, [5/5/26](#)]

May 2026: Gas Prices Were Near \$5

May 2026: Gas Prices Were Near \$5. “Rising gas prices are changing the driving behavior of many Americans, according to a new poll released by ABC News, The Washington Post, and Ipsos. The poll conducted among 2,560 U.S. adults between April 24-28, found that 44% of respondents had cut back on driving due to high gas prices. The finding comes as gas prices rose to an average of \$4.55 per gallon on May 7, up from \$4.30 a week earlier on April 30, according to AAA. ‘U.S. gas price scorecard for May 6- \$3.99/gal is no longer the most common price in the U.S., and now the top 10% of gas stations average over \$6/gal,’ Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, wrote in an X post.” [USA Today, [5/7/26](#)]

HEADLINE: “Gas Prices Near \$5 Are Changing How Americans Drive, New Poll Finds.” [USA Today, [5/7/26](#)]

March 2026: Gas Prices Increased About 20% Since The U.S. And Israel Attacked Iran

March 2026: Gas Prices Increased About 20% Since The U.S. And Israel Attacked Iran. “Gasoline, diesel and jet fuel are made from crude oil. As the cost of crude climbs, so do the prices of those widely used products, which keep equipment, cars, buses, delivery trucks and airplanes running. Across the U.S., drivers were paying an average of \$3.58 for a gallon of regular gasoline Wednesday, compared with \$2.98 before the war started. Prices have increased about 20% since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran.” [PBS, [3/11/26](#)]

Harding Message #2 Backup

Harding supported Trump's massive health care cuts to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. Harding supported and praised the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, kicking tens of thousands of Nebraskans off their health insurance, increasing premiums by as much as nearly four hundred percent, and forcing Nebraska hospitals to close.

Harding Supported Trump's Massive Health Care Cuts To Pay For Tax Cuts For Billionaires.

July 2025: Harding Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 2025: Harding: “Two Of My Campaign Pillars Are Grow America And Secure America. The One Big Beautiful Bill Does Just That.” “Two of my campaign pillars are Grow America and Secure America. The One Big Beautiful Bill does just that—cutting taxes for working families and making our border & homeland more secure.” [Brinker Harding, Twitter, [7/4/25](#)]



Harding Supported And Praised The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Kicking Tens Of Thousands Of Nebraskans Off Their Health Insurance,

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Would Kick Tens Of Thousands Of People In 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).” [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).” [Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Take Health Insurance Away From More Than 14 Million People

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

HEADLINE: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick More Than 50,000 People In Nebraska Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated More Than 50,000 People In Nebraska 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](#)]

Nebraska Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill			
District	Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
NE-01	7,400	7,466	14,866
NE-02	7,600	8,157	15,757
NE-03	11,400	8,165	19,565
Total	26,400	23,788	50,188

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than \$47 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In NE-02

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In NE-02 Were Projected To Lose \$47,230,355 As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

Projected Cuts To NE-02 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill			
Hospital	City	Zip Code	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
The Nebraska Medical Center	Omaha	68198	\$20,359,014
Chi Health Creighton University Berg	Omaha	68124	\$12,043,682
Nebraska Methodist Hospital	Omaha	68114	\$6,618,342
Chi Health Immanuel	Omaha	68122	\$4,930,814
Chi Health Lakeside	Omaha	68130	\$2,094,859
Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital LLC	Omaha	68144	\$608,276
Nebraska Spine Hospital	Omaha	68122	\$236,027
Saunders County Health Services	Wahoo	68066	\$216,075
Midwest Surgical Hospital	Omaha	68114	\$123,266
Total:			\$47,230,355

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

Harding In 2025: “Why Should You Get Medicaid? Get To Work”

Harding: “If You Are Able-Bodied And You're Able To Work And You're A 28-Year-Old, Male. Why Should You Get Medicaid? Get To Work.” “Mike Flood, you hit it. You were spot on. You knew the right question to ask to get that kind of a response. And it's amazing to me that people actually believe that if you are able bodied and you're able to work and you're a 28-year-old, male. Why should you get Medicaid? Get to work.” [Brinker Harding, Twitter, 0:44, [9/1/25](#)] (VIDEO)

Increasing Premiums By As Much As Nearly Four Hundred Percent,

The One Big Beautiful Bill Let ACA Tax Credits Expire, Driving Up Health Care Costs For More Than 39,000 Individuals In NE-02 On Marketplace Plans By As Much As 375%

The One Big Beautiful Bill And Trump’s Tariffs Made Health Care More Expensive For More Than 39,000 NE-02 Residents That Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: More Than 136,000 Individuals In Nebraska Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Nebraska Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Nebraska	136,684

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

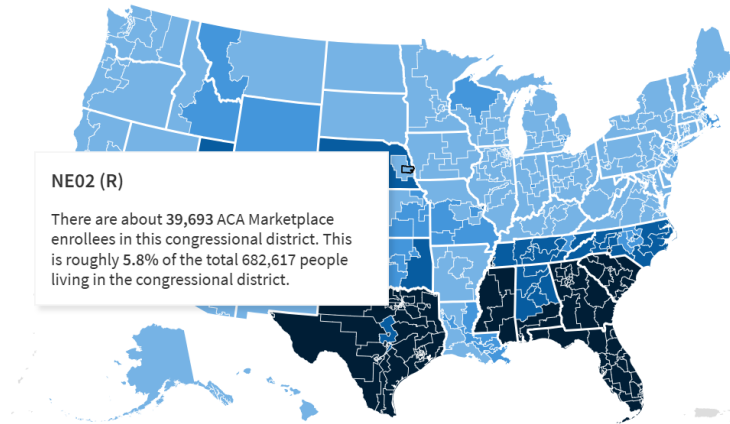
2025: More Than 39,000 Individuals In NE-02 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of NE-02 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
NE-02	39,693

[KFF, [10/6/25](#)]

Share of Population That is Enrolled in the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces in 2025 by Congressional District, 119th Congress

■ < 6% ■ 6%–8% ■ 8%–10% ■ ≥ 10%



Note: Sum of estimated plan selections do not sum up to national total due to rounding. Congressional district level enrollment was estimated by taking county-level enrollment and mapping it to the Congressional district level, apportioning enrollment when counties are in multiple congressional districts. Party listed is the party of the House member for the congressional district and is as of October 3, 2025.

Source: KFF analysis of [Missouri Census Data Center GeoCorr 2022 tool](#), [CMS state and county Open Enrollment Period public use files](#), and state enrollment data • [Get the data](#) • [Download PNG](#)

KFF

2025: Premiums For The Average 60-Year-Old Couple Making \$85,000 A Year In NE-02 For A Benchmark ACA Marketplace Plan Would Increase By 375% To \$2,858 A Month. [KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

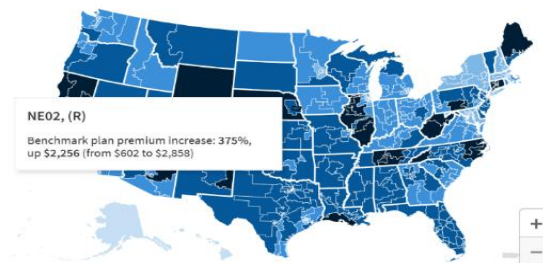
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Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments for Benchmark Silver Plan Without Enhanced Subsidies, 60-Year Old Couple Making \$85,000, 2026

40-Year-Old, \$32,000 **60-Year Old Couple, \$85,000**

■ < 100% ■ 100%–200% ■ 200%–300% ■ 300%–400% ■ ≥ 400%



[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.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

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](#)]

- **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.” [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.” [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.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

And Forcing Nebraska Hospitals To Close.

Curtis Medical Center In Rural Nebraska Closed Its Doors In Response To The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts

Curtis Medical Center In Nebraska Announced It Would Close In Light Of The Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts. “Community Hospital in McCook has announced the impending closure of Curtis Medical Center, citing financial difficulties and uncertainty over future federal funding as key factors in the decision. The exact date for the closure has not been set. Curtis Medical Center has been a cornerstone of healthcare in the Curtis community and surrounding areas for over 30 years, offering essential services to families, students, and individuals in this rural region. The decision to close the facility follows a thorough evaluation of financial sustainability and resource allocation. [...] ‘We are deeply grateful to the Curtis community for their unwavering support and trust over 30 years. This clinic has been a vital part of our mission to deliver quality healthcare close to home. Unfortunately, the current financial environment, driven by anticipated federal budget cuts to Medicaid, has made it impossible for us to continue operating all of our services, many of which have faced significant financial challenges for years. We remain committed to supporting our patients through this transition and ensuring continuity of care.’” [NTV, [7/2/25](#)]