# Colin Schmitt (NY-18) Anti-Choice Extremist

*Schmitt voted against protecting abortion rights in New York State Law.*

*Schmitt would let politicians strip New York women of their rights, allowing states to prosecute women and their doctors as criminals for getting abortions with no exceptions, even in cases of rape and incest.*

## Schmitt Voted Against Protecting Abortion Rights In New York State Law

**Schmitt Voted Against Legislation To Enshrine A Woman’s Right To Choose In New York’s Constitution.** In July 2022, Schmitt voted against S51002, which was “an anti-discrimination law that would enshrine the constitutional right to abortion. ‘Despite the fact that in New York we feel protected, but there’s always that underlining anxiety, “but what if Washington does something else,”’ Hochul said just after 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The amendment ‘is going to protect reproductive health in the state of New York for generations to come.’ […] The amendment would then need to be voted on again in the next legislative session — in 2023 or 2024 — before being sent to voters for a statewide referendum.” The Assembly passed the bill by a vote of 98-43. [Spectrum News, [7/1/22](https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2022/07/01/new-york-begins-process-to-add-abortion-rights-to-state-constitution); New York General Assembly, S51002, [7/1/22](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S51002&term=2021&Summary=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

**January 2019: Schmitt Voted Against S240, Also Known As The Reproductive Health Act.** In January 2019, Schmitt voted against the final passage of S240, which “Enacts the reproductive health act; revises provisions of law relating to abortion.” The bill passed the Assembly on a vote of 95 to 49 and was signed into law on January 22, 2019. [New York State Assembly, S240, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S00240&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

* **The Reproductive Health Act Updated New York Law To “Address Constitutional Flaws And Recognize A Woman’s Fundamental Right To Access Safe, Legal Abortion,” Moving Abortion From Penal Law To Public Health Law To “Protect New Yorkers Against Future Intrusion.”** “Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymembers Deborah Glick, Kevin Cahill and Ellen Jaffee announced that today the Assembly passed a package of three bills that would protect women's reproductive rights and grant all New Yorkers access to family planning. These bills will update New York State law to reflect the protections for reproductive healthcare recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, require that insurers provide cost-free contraception coverage and prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their reproductive healthcare choices. […] The Reproductive Health Act (A.21, Glick) updates New York State law to address constitutional flaws and recognize a woman's fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion. The bill moves abortion from the Penal Law to the Public Health Law, which removes longstanding harmful and burdensome barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare and protects New Yorkers against future federal intrusion.” [Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Press Release, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/Press/?sec=story&story=84534)]
* **The Reproductive Health Act Decriminalized Abortion In New York State By Removing It From The Criminal Code.** S240 amended “the penal law, the criminal procedure law and the judiciary law, in relation to abortion.” Specifically, it repealed the penal code provisions containing New York’s criminal abortion statutes and removed “abortion in the first degree,” “self abortion in the first degree” and “conduct which causes the death… of an unborn child with which a female has been pregnant for more than twenty-four weeks” from the definition of homicide in penal law. It also removed a provision which allowed a coroner or medical examiner to investigate deaths which were or appeared to be “caused by suspected criminal abortion.” [New York State Assembly, S240, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S00240&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

### Schmitt Would Let Politicians Strip New York Women Of Their Rights, Allowing States To Prosecute Women And Their Doctors As Criminals For Getting Abortions With No Exceptions, Even In Cases Of Rape And Incest

**Schmitt Said He Was A “Pro-Life Legislator” And That The Supreme Court’s Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade Returned The Right To Decide Abortion Policy To States.** “In addition to the special election on Aug. 23, Ryan is also running for the newly drawn 18th Congressional District in November against state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt, a Republican. Molinaro is running in November in the new 19th Congressional District against Democrats Jamie Cheney, Josh Riley, and Osun Zotique. ‘Today’s final Supreme Court decision in Dobbs vs. Jackson returns the right to states and their duly elected leaders to decide abortion policy,’ Schmitt said in a statement. ‘I am a pro-life legislator and, like the vast majority of New Yorkers, I strongly oppose the state’s radical abortion law that allows late-term abortions up to the moment of birth and allows non-doctors to perform abortions. Regardless of the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs and the overwhelming weight of public opinion, this law will, unfortunately, remain on the books.’” [Daily Freeman, [6/24/22](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2022/06/24/ryan-condemns-supreme-court-decision-that-overturns-roe-v-wade-molinaro-remains-silent-on-abortion-issue/)]

**Schmitt Voted Against Legislation To Codify The Protections In The Roe V. Wade Decision In New York’s Constitution.** In July 2022, Schmitt voted against S51002, which was “an anti-discrimination law that would enshrine the constitutional right to abortion. ‘Despite the fact that in New York we feel protected, but there’s always that underlining anxiety, “but what if Washington does something else,”’ Hochul said just after 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The amendment ‘is going to protect reproductive health in the state of New York for generations to come.’ […] The amendment would then need to be voted on again in the next legislative session — in 2023 or 2024 — before being sent to voters for a statewide referendum.” The Assembly passed the bill by a vote of 98-43. [Spectrum News, [7/1/22](https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2022/07/01/new-york-begins-process-to-add-abortion-rights-to-state-constitution); New York General Assembly, S51002, [7/1/22](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S51002&term=2021&Summary=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

**Under Michigan’s Abortion Ban, Doctors Who Assist In Abortions And Pregnant People Who Used Medication For Self-Abortions Could Face Felony Charges And Up To Four Years In Prison.** “A law passed in Michigan in 1931 that bans abortions has been unenforceable since 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. […] Under this law, almost all abortions would be considered a felony with a possible penalty of up to four years in prison. Both doctors who assist in abortions and pregnant people who use medication for self-abortions could be charged.” [Michigan Radio, [6/24/22](https://www.michiganradio.org/politics-government/2022-06-24/what-you-need-to-know-about-michigans-1931-abortion-law)]

* **Michigan’s 1931 Law Banning Abortion Had Only Exception Which Was To Save The Life Of The Mother.** “‘Here in Michigan, we face an especially dangerous threat. Because we have a pre-Roe law banning abortion on the books, access to abortion in Michigan would be in danger if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade,’ Dr. Sarah Wallett, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood of Michigan, said in a statement. It is unclear whether the 1931 law, which dates to the 1800s, automatically would take effect if the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court precedent were overturned. The law makes it a felony to use an instrument or administer any substance with the intent ‘to procure the miscarriage’ of a woman unless necessary to preserve her life.” [Associated Press, [9/2/21](https://apnews.com/article/health-us-supreme-court-michigan-a749e339a55470eb59101604d9efaca5)]

**HEADLINE: “Nebraska Teen And Mother Facing Charges In Abortion-Related Case That Involved Obtaining Their Facebook Messages”** [CNN, [8/10/22](https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2022/08/10/tech/teen-charged-abortion-facebook-messages/index.html)]

* **April 2022: A Nebraska Detective Began Investigating A Teen After She Allegedly Miscarried At 23-Weeks Pregnant.** “A Norfolk police detective launched his investigation in late April, chasing a tip that Celeste Burgess had miscarried and that she and her mother had buried the body, according to a search warrant affidavit.  The detective obtained her medical records, and determined she’d been more than 23 weeks — or nearly six months — pregnant at the time, and was expected to deliver July 3. When he interviewed them a few days later, they told him Celeste Burgess had unexpectedly given birth to her stillborn baby in the shower, in the early morning hours after midnight, court records say.  She woke her mother, and they put the baby’s body in a bag and stowed it in the back of their van, he wrote.  Later — the records don’t say when — they drove a few miles north of town and buried the body, with help from a 22-year-old man.  On April 29, they showed the detective where — on a property owned by the man’s parents. He told investigators the mother and daughter had tried to burn the body before it was buried. And when authorities exhumed it, it showed signs of what the detective called ‘thermal wounds.’ In early June, the two women were each charged with removing, concealing or abandoning a dead human body, a felony, and a pair of misdemeanors: concealing the death of another person; and false reporting.” [Lincoln Journal Star, [8/8/22](https://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/norfolk-mother-and-daughter-accused-of-illegal-abortion-burning-and-burying-body/article_ff99fd49-a710-5ec3-8d51-5aced3001c71.html)]
* **June 2022: The Teen And Her Mother Were Each** **Charged With One Felony Count Of Prohibited Acts With Human Skeletal Remains, One Misdemeanor Count Of Concealing The Death Of Another Person And One Misdemeanor Count Of False Information.** “In June, Celeste and Jessica were each charged with one felony count of prohibited acts with human skeletal remains, one misdemeanor count of concealing the death of another person and one misdemeanor count of false information.” [CNN, [8/10/22](https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2022/08/10/tech/teen-charged-abortion-facebook-messages/index.html)]
* **After Facebook Messages Suggested That The Mother Obtained Abortion Pills, Authorities Charged Her With Performing An Abortion On A Pregnancy At More Than 20 Weeks And Performing An Abortion As A Non-Licensed Doctor. “**He found messages between them suggesting Jessica Burgess had obtained abortion pills for her daughter, and gave her instructions on how to take them. […] A month later, Madison County Attorney Joseph Smith added two more felonies to the charges against Jessica Burgess — for performing or attempting an abortion on a pregnancy at more than 20 weeks, and performing an abortion as a non-licensed doctor.” [Lincoln Journal Star, [8/8/22](https://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/norfolk-mother-and-daughter-accused-of-illegal-abortion-burning-and-burying-body/article_ff99fd49-a710-5ec3-8d51-5aced3001c71.html)]

**Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Signed A 15-Week Abortion Ban That Made It A Third Degree Felony With A Maximum Penalty Of Five Years In Prison For Doctors Who Performed Abortions After 15 Weeks.** “In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill on April 14 that, with some exceptions, bans abortions after 15 weeks. Doctors that violate the law are guilty of a third degree felony. That carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.” [WRAL, [5/13/22](https://www.wral.com/fact-check-gop-group-says-republicans-don-t-want-to-throw-abortion-doctors-in-jail/20280486/)]

**Texas Governor Greg Abbott Signed A Law That Prohibited Abortion, With A “Minimum Penalty Of Five Years In Prison” For Anybody Who Performed An Abortion.** “On June 16, 2021, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed the Human Life Protection Act. It prohibits any abortion, except to save the life of the mother or prevent the "substantial impairment of a major bodily function." Under the new law, a person performing an abortion faces a minimum penalty of five years in prison. The maximum penalty is life.” [WRAL, [5/13/22](https://www.wral.com/fact-check-gop-group-says-republicans-don-t-want-to-throw-abortion-doctors-in-jail/20280486/)]

**April 2022: A 26-Year Old Texas Woman Was Charged With Murder After She Caused “The Death Of An Individual By Self-Induced Abortion.”** “A 26-year-old woman has been charged with murder in Texas after authorities said she caused ‘the death of an individual by self-induced abortion,’ in a state that has the most restrictive abortion laws in the U.S. It’s unclear whether Lizelle Herrera is accused of having an abortion or whether she helped someone else get an abortion.” [Associated Press, [4/9/22](https://apnews.com/article/health-mexico-texas-arrests-891e20eb228a056870f0767d22086dae)]

**After Roe V. Wade Was Overturned, States Were Able To Ban Abortion With No Exceptions.** “The US Supreme Court has opened the door for individual states to ban or severely restrict the ability for pregnant women to get abortions. In 1973, the court had ruled in Roe v Wade that pregnant women were entitled to an abortion during the first three months of their pregnancy, while allowing for legal restrictions and bans in the second and third trimester. Now the court has overturned that earlier ruling, effectively making it possible for states to ban abortions earlier than 12 weeks. Abortion will not automatically become illegal in the US - but individual states will now be allowed to decide if and how to allow abortions.” [BBC, [6/29/22](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-61804777)]

**Schmitt Voted Against Legislation To Enshrine A Woman’s Right To Choose In New York’s Constitution.** In July 2022, Schmitt voted against S51002, which was “an anti-discrimination law that would enshrine the constitutional right to abortion. ‘Despite the fact that in New York we feel protected, but there’s always that underlining anxiety, “but what if Washington does something else,”’ Hochul said just after 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The amendment ‘is going to protect reproductive health in the state of New York for generations to come.’ […]The amendment would then need to be voted on again in the next legislative session — in 2023 or 2024 — before being sent to voters for a statewide referendum.” The Assembly passed the bill by a vote of 98-43. [Spectrum News, [7/1/22](https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2022/07/01/new-york-begins-process-to-add-abortion-rights-to-state-constitution); New York General Assembly, S51002, [7/1/22](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S51002&term=2021&Summary=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

**January 2019: Schmitt Voted Against S240, Also Known As The Reproductive Health Act.** In January 2019, Schmitt voted against the final passage of S240, which “Enacts the reproductive health act; revises provisions of law relating to abortion.” The bill passed the Assembly on a vote of 95 to 49 and was signed into law on January 22, 2019. [New York State Assembly, S240, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S00240&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

* **The Reproductive Health Act Updated New York Law To “Address Constitutional Flaws And Recognize A Woman’s Fundamental Right To Access Safe, Legal Abortion,” Moving Abortion From Penal Law To Public Health Law To “Protect New Yorkers Against Future Intrusion.”** “Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymembers Deborah Glick, Kevin Cahill and Ellen Jaffee announced that today the Assembly passed a package of three bills that would protect women's reproductive rights and grant all New Yorkers access to family planning. These bills will update New York State law to reflect the protections for reproductive healthcare recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, require that insurers provide cost-free contraception coverage and prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their reproductive healthcare choices. […] The Reproductive Health Act (A.21, Glick) updates New York State law to address constitutional flaws and recognize a woman's fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion. The bill moves abortion from the Penal Law to the Public Health Law, which removes longstanding harmful and burdensome barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare and protects New Yorkers against future federal intrusion.” [Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Press Release, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/Press/?sec=story&story=84534)]
* **The Reproductive Health Act Decriminalized Abortion In New York State By Removing It From The Criminal Code.** S240 amended “the penal law, the criminal procedure law and the judiciary law, in relation to abortion.” Specifically, it repealed the penal code provisions containing New York’s criminal abortion statutes and removed “abortion in the first degree,” “self abortion in the first degree” and “conduct which causes the death… of an unborn child with which a female has been pregnant for more than twenty-four weeks” from the definition of homicide in penal law. It also removed a provision which allowed a coroner or medical examiner to investigate deaths which were or appeared to be “caused by suspected criminal abortion.” [New York State Assembly, S240, [1/22/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S00240&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

# Colin Schmitt (NY-18) Expensive Health Care

*Schmitt* *would have made health care coverage more expensive for more than 8 million New Yorkers and opposed lowering prescription drug prices.*

*Schmitt repeatedly voted against providing children with health insurance.*

*Schmitt would have kicked 4 million New Yorkers off their health insurance.*

## Schmitt Would Have Made Health Care Coverage More Expensive For More Than 8 Million New Yorkers And Opposed Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

### Schmitt Would Have Made Health Care Coverage More Expensive For More Than 8 Million New Yorkers…

**Schmitt: “We Need Full Repeal Of #ObamaCare. Plain And Simple.”**



[Twitter, @ColinSchmitt, [3/23/12](https://twitter.com/colinschmitt/status/183177060443897856)]

**March 2020: The Center For American Progress Estimated That 607,000 People In New York Would Lose Coverage If The Affordable Care Act Was Repealed, Raising The Uninsured Rate Among The Nonelderly Population From 8.9 Percent To 12.6 Percent.** “A ruling that invalidates the ACA or eliminates core features of the law would have a devastating effect on American families. […] 607,000 people in New York would lose coverage, raising the state’s uninsured rate among the nonelderly population from 8.9 percent to 12.6 percent. 8.3 million people in New York with preexisting conditions could face higher premiums, face benefit exclusions, or be denied coverage altogether—a discriminatory practice outlawed by the ACA nationwide—if they ever needed to turn to the individual market for coverage in another state. The state would lose $10.1 billion in federal funding for health coverage because the ruling would eliminate ACA funding for the marketplaces, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Program. Insurance companies would no longer be required to issue rebates when they overcharge New Yorkers. Last year, insurance companies returned $24 million in medical loss ratio rebates to policyholders in New York. The tax revenue that funds the ACA’s expansion of health coverage would go back into the pockets of the wealthy, with millionaires receiving tax cuts averaging $46,000 each.” [Center for American Progress, Affordable Care Act Repeal by State, New York, [3/2/20](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2020/03/02/480997/affordable-care-act-repeal-state/)]

**March 2020: The Center For American Progress Estimated That 8.3 Million People In New York With Preexisting Conditions Would Face Higher Premiums Or Benefit Exclusions — Or Be Denied Coverage Altogether — If The Affordable Care Act Was Repealed And They Had To Turn To The Individual Market For Coverage In Another State.** “A ruling that invalidates the ACA or eliminates core features of the law would have a devastating effect on American families. […] 607,000 people in New York would lose coverage, raising the state’s uninsured rate among the nonelderly population from 8.9 percent to 12.6 percent. 8.3 million people in New York with preexisting conditions could face higher premiums, face benefit exclusions, or be denied coverage altogether—a discriminatory practice outlawed by the ACA nationwide—if they ever needed to turn to the individual market for coverage in another state. The state would lose $10.1 billion in federal funding for health coverage because the ruling would eliminate ACA funding for the marketplaces, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Program. Insurance companies would no longer be required to issue rebates when they overcharge New Yorkers. Last year, insurance companies returned $24 million in medical loss ratio rebates to policyholders in New York. The tax revenue that funds the ACA’s expansion of health coverage would go back into the pockets of the wealthy, with millionaires receiving tax cuts averaging $46,000 each.” [Center for American Progress, Affordable Care Act Repeal by State, New York, [3/2/20](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2020/03/02/480997/affordable-care-act-repeal-state/)]

**Cancer And Asthma Were Considered Pre-Existing Conditions**. “A health problem, like asthma, diabetes, or cancer, you had before the date that new health coverage starts. Insurance companies can't refuse to cover treatment for your pre-existing condition or charge you more.” [Healthcare.gov, accessed [7/19/22](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/pre-existing-condition/#:~:text=A%20health%20problem%2C%20like%20asthma,condition%20or%20charge%20you%20more.)]

**April 2019: Schmitt Voted Against A Budget Bill That Mandated That Insurers Cover People With Pre-Existing Conditions.** In April 2019, Schmitt voted against S01507C, which “Enacts into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state health and mental hygiene budget for the 2019-2020 state fiscal year; extends and enhances the Medicaid drug cap and reduces unnecessary pharmacy benefit manager costs to the Medicaid program (Part B […] relates to guaranteed availability of health insurance and coverage for pre-existing conditions (Subpart A).” Under the provision in the bill, “An insurer may not impose any pre-existing condition exclusion in an individual or group policy of hospital, medical, surgical or prescription drug expense insurance.” The bill passed the General Assembly by a vote of 111-36. [New York General Assembly, S 01507C, vote on [4/1/19](https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S01507&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y)]

* **New York’s Omnibus Budget Legislation Included A Ban On Limiting Coverage For Pre-Existing Conditions.** “The New York Legislature set the major consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act into state law in a bid to preserve them against Trump administration steps to roll them back. The state’s codification of the federal law’s main requirements—passed as part of the $175.5 billion omnibus budget legislation that was due April 1—included a ban on limiting coverage for pre-existing conditions, a set of essential benefits, and other state health insurance exchange marketplace provisions.” [Bloomberg Law, [4/3/19](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/new-york-puts-obamacare-shields-into-law-averts-medicaid-cuts)]

**Schmitt Voted Against Further Consideration For A Bill Banning Life Insurance Companies From Discriminating Against People With Pre-Existing Conditions Or Terminal Illnesses**. In July 2020, Schmitt voted against holding A06559 for consideration. The bill “Prohibits any life insurance company, providing a policy with coverage up to $500,000, from denying or canceling the policy for an individual who has a pre-existing medical condition; excludes a terminal diagnosis and participation in high risk activities.” The New York General Assembly Insurance Committee voted 15-5 to hold the bill for consideration. [New York General Assembly, A06559, [7/14/20](https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&bn=A06559&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

* **Voting To Hold A Bill For Consideration Meant Placing The Legislation On A “Hold” Agenda In The Committee Instead Of Disapproving Of The Bill.** “When a bill is placed on a ‘hold’ agenda in a committee. A committee can vote to favorably, unfavorably or to hold a bill when it comes up for a vote. The bill is still able to be placed on an active agenda at any time. This action is usually taken when a committee does not want to disapprove a bill but feels further study is needed or there are amendments that should be made before the bill progresses.” [New York City Bar, accessed [7/5/22](http://documents.nycbar.org/files/legislativeglossary.pdf)]

### … And Opposed Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

**Schmitt Opposed The Inflation Reduction Act, And Called It A “Failure Of Leadership.”**



[Twitter, @colinschmitt, [8/7/22](https://twitter.com/colinschmitt/status/1556378237617537024)]

**The Inflation Reduction Act Caped Out-Of-Pocket Costs At $2,000 For People Who Participated In Medicare Part D, “The Prescription Drug Plan For Seniors.”** “Medicare is poised to renegotiate the prices of some of its most expensive drugs through a historic expansion of its power, which could reduce costs for many seniors as well as federal spending on its prescription drug plan. The changes are tucked inside a massive spending-and-tax bill in Congress that includes $433 billion in investments in health-care and clean energy. House Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act on Friday in a 220 to 207 vote along party lines, ending a tortured legislative process that took more than a year. The bill empowers the Health and Human Services Secretary to negotiate prices for certain drugs covered under two different parts of Medicare and punish pharmaceutical companies that don’t play by the rules. The legislation also caps out-of-pocket costs at $2,000 starting in 2025 for people who participate in Medicare Part D, the prescription drug plan for seniors.” [CNBC, [8/12/22](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/12/drug-prices-passage-of-inflation-reduction-act-gives-medicare-historic-new-powers.html)]

**AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins On The Inflation Reduction Act: “Millions Of Older Adults Are Now ‘One Step Closer To Real Relief From Out-Of-Control Prescription Drug Prices.’”** **.”** “Medicare is poised to renegotiate the prices of some of its most expensive drugs through a historic expansion of its power, which could reduce costs for many seniors as well as federal spending on its prescription drug plan. The changes are tucked inside a massive spending-and-tax bill in Congress that includes $433 billion in investments in health-care and clean energy. House Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act on Friday in a 220 to 207 vote along party lines, ending a tortured legislative process that took more than a year. […] The American Association of Retired Persons, which represents 38 million people, described the legislation as a historic victory for older adults. AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins said the group has fought for nearly two decades to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices. Millions of older adults are now “one step closer to real relief from out-of-control prescription drug prices,” Jenkins said earlier this week.” [CNBC, [8/12/22](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/12/drug-prices-passage-of-inflation-reduction-act-gives-medicare-historic-new-powers.html)]

**NBC: The Inflation Reduction Act “Is Set To Lower The Cost Of Prescription Drugs.”** “The Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden, is set to lower the cost of prescription drugs — including cancer medications, blood thinners and insulin — for millions of Americans, experts say. Exorbitant drug prices in the United States are a key reason many people in the U.S. are forced to skip or delay filling their needed prescriptions. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll published last month found that nearly 1 in 2 adults report difficulty affording their health care expenses, including their prescribed medications.” [NBC, [8/16/22](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/inflation-reduction-act-becomes-law-will-impact-health-care-rcna43090)]

**The Inflation Reduction Act Extended Subsidies Through 2025 For 13 Million People Who Buy Individual Coverage Through The ACA.** “The law immediately extends subsidies through 2025 for the roughly 13 million people who buy individual coverage through the ACA. The subsidies were set to expire this year.” [NBC, [8/16/22](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/inflation-reduction-act-becomes-law-will-impact-health-care-rcna43090)]

## Schmitt Repeatedly Voted Against Providing Children With Health Insurance

**The Children’s Health Insurance Program Was Known As Child Health Plus In New York.** “The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) known as Child Health Plus in New York, builds on the foundation of Medicaid to cover children in working families who are not eligible for Medicaid and lack access to affordable private coverage. Each state designs its program within federal parameters but all CHIP programs provide affordable coverage with pediatric-appropriate benefits and networks. Nearly half (24) of all states provide Medicaid benefits to all children enrolled in CHIP.” [American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Snapshot of Children’s Coverage, accessed [6/22/22](https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/ccs_factsheet_newyork.pdf)]

* **Child Health Plus Provided Free Or Low-Cost Health Insurance To Children Under The Age Of 19 Who Did Not Qualify For Medicaid And Did Not Have Other Health Insurance Coverage.** “What is Child Health Plus? Child Health Plus provides free or low-cost health insurance to children under the age of 19 who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have other health insurance coverage. Who is eligible? All children under 19 years of age are potentially eligible Child Health Plus regardless of income or immigration status. They must also: Reside in New York State Meet certain income eligibility requirements tied to household size. View income chart to see income levels for children Have no other health insurance coverage.” [New York City Human Resource Administration’s Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access, Child Health Plus, accessed [6/22/22](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ochia/coverage-care/child-health-plus.page)]

**As Of May 31, 2021, 387,000 New Yorkers Were Enrolled In Child Health Plus Through The New York State Of Health Marketplace.** “Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that New York State of Health - the state's official health plan Marketplace - has reached a record-breaking enrollment total of 6 million New Yorkers who have signed up for health insurance through the Marketplace across Medicaid, Essential Plan, Child Health Plus and Qualified Health Plans. […] Enrollment as of May 31, 2021: Medicaid… 4,539,000 Essential Plan… 893,000 Child Health Plus… 387,000 Qualified Health Plans… 220,000 Total… 6,039,000.” [Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Press Release, [6/3/21](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-enrollment-through-new-york-state-health-tops-6-million)]

**April 2021: Schmitt Voted Against S2503, The Aid To Localities Appropriations Bill.** According to the New York State Assembly, Colin Schmitt voted against S2503, “Makes appropriations for the support of government - Aid to Localities Budget.” S2503 passed the Assembly on a vote of 109 to 40 and was signed into law with line item vetoes by Governor Cuomo on April 19, 2021. [New York State Assembly, S2503, [4/7/21](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S02503&term=2021&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

* **S2503 Appropriated $2,497,402,000 To The Child Health Insurance Program.** According to the New York State Assembly, S2503, “DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH… AID TO LOCALITIES 2021-22… CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM… 2,497,402,000.” [New York State Assembly, S2503, [4/7/21](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S02503&term=2021&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y)]

**April 2021: Schmitt Voted Against S2500, The State Operations Appropriations Bill. According** to the New York State Assembly, Colin Schmitt voted against S2500, “Makes appropriations for the support of government - State Operations Budget.” S2500 passed the Assembly on a vote of 119 to 30 and was signed into law on April 19, 2021. [New York State Assembly, S2500, [4/7/21](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S02500&term=2021&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y)]

* **S2500 Appropriated $149,305,000 To The Child Health Insurance Program.** According to the New York State Assembly, S2500, “DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH… STATE OPERATIONS 2021-22… 149,305,000.” [New York State Assembly, S2500, [4/7/21](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S02500&term=2021&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y)]

**March 2019: Schmitt Voted Against A2000D, The State Operations Appropriations Bill.** According to the New York State Assembly, Colin Schmitt voted against A2000D, “Makes appropriations for the support of government - State Operations Budget.” The bill passed the Assembly on a vote of 111 to 37. It was then signed into law with line item vetoes by Governor Cuomo on April 12, 2019. [New York State Assembly, A2000D, [3/31/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=A2000&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y)]

* **A2000D Appropriated $151,797,000 To The Child Health Insurance Program.** According to the New York State Assembly, A2000D, “DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH… STATE OPERATIONS 2019-20… CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM… 151,797,000.” [New York State Assembly, A2000D, [3/31/19](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=A2000&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Text=Y)]

## Schmitt Would Have Kicked 4 Million New Yorkers Off Their Health Insurance

**Schmitt: “We Need Full Repeal Of #ObamaCare. Plain And Simple.”**



[Twitter, @ColinSchmitt, [3/23/12](https://twitter.com/colinschmitt/status/183177060443897856)]

**By 2018, Over Four Million Individuals Relied On The New York State Health Care Exchange.** “More than four million New Yorkers signed up for health care coverage through former President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act, according to the state. Roughly 4.3 million people signed up for Obamacare last year—an increase of 700,000 people from 2017, according to the New York State of Health, the state’s official health plan Marketplace.” [New York Observer, [2/2/18](https://observer.com/2018/02/new-york-obamacare-enrollment/)]

**The Affordable Care Act Required States To Create An Insurance Exchange By 2014 Or Have The Federal Government Do So.** “The health care law requires each state to put an insurance exchange in place by 2014, and gives the federal government the power to do so in states that do not act on their own. Mr. Cuomo, unable to win support for the exchange in the State Senate, vowed to move ahead unilaterally, and on Thursday, he signed the order to set up the exchange within the State Health Department, rather than as a separate state entity, as his original legislation had sought to do.” [New York Times, [4/12/12](https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/nyregion/cuomo-orders-health-insurance-exchange-in-new-york.html)]

**New York Senate Republicans Blocked The Bill To Establish The Health Care Exchange Because Approval Of The Exchange Meant Approval Of The Affordable Care Act.** “As he issued an executive order to establish a health insurance exchange, an online marketplace where individuals and small businesses can choose among competing health insurance plans, Mr. Cuomo said it would drive down the cost of insurance while helping the 2.7 million uninsured New Yorkers get affordable coverage. For nearly a year, Mr. Cuomo asked the Legislature to set up the exchange. But the Republican majority in the State Senate refused to consider the measure, arguing that approving the exchange would amount to condoning the law, the Affordable Care Act, which they deride as Obamacare.” [New York Times, [4/12/12](https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/nyregion/cuomo-orders-health-insurance-exchange-in-new-york.html)]

**March 2020: The Center For American Progress Estimated That 8.3 Million People In New York With Preexisting Conditions Would Face Higher Premiums Or Benefit Exclusions — Or Be Denied Coverage Altogether — If The Affordable Care Act Was Repealed And They Had To Turn To The Individual Market For Coverage In Another State.** “A ruling that invalidates the ACA or eliminates core features of the law would have a devastating effect on American families. […] 607,000 people in New York would lose coverage, raising the state’s uninsured rate among the nonelderly population from 8.9 percent to 12.6 percent. 8.3 million people in New York with preexisting conditions could face higher premiums, face benefit exclusions, or be denied coverage altogether—a discriminatory practice outlawed by the ACA nationwide—if they ever needed to turn to the individual market for coverage in another state. The state would lose $10.1 billion in federal funding for health coverage because the ruling would eliminate ACA funding for the marketplaces, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Program. Insurance companies would no longer be required to issue rebates when they overcharge New Yorkers. Last year, insurance companies returned $24 million in medical loss ratio rebates to policyholders in New York. The tax revenue that funds the ACA’s expansion of health coverage would go back into the pockets of the wealthy, with millionaires receiving tax cuts averaging $46,000 each.” [Center for American Progress, Affordable Care Act Repeal by State, New York, [3/2/20](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2020/03/02/480997/affordable-care-act-repeal-state/)]

**Cancer And Asthma Were Considered Pre-Existing Conditions**. “A health problem, like asthma, diabetes, or cancer, you had before the date that new health coverage starts. Insurance companies can't refuse to cover treatment for your pre-existing condition or charge you more.” [Healthcare.gov, accessed [7/19/22](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/pre-existing-condition/#:~:text=A%20health%20problem%2C%20like%20asthma,condition%20or%20charge%20you%20more.)]

# Pat Ryan (NY-18) A Leader Who Fights For Freedom And Delivers

*Pat Ryan is a West Point graduate, combat veteran who earned two Bronze stars and served as Ulster County Executive.*

*Ryan didn’t fight for our freedom abroad to see it taken away from women here at home. In Congress he will codify abortion protections into law.*

*As County Executive, Ryan delivered results for New York Families, he cut the county's gas tax in half, and proposed a property tax cut that will save families hundreds of dollars and in Congress, he will fight big corporations who are driving up the price of food, gas, and housing.*

## Pat Ryan Is A West Point Graduate, Combat Veteran Who Earned Two Bronze Stars And Served As Ulster County Executive

**Ryan Was The Ulster County Executive.** “Democratic Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan delivered his state-of-the-county address earlier this week. He spoke with WAMC’s Hudson Valley Bureau Chief Allison Dunne about the start of a basic income pilot program as well as initiatives under his Green New Deal.” [WAMC, [2/18/21](https://www.wamc.org/hudson-valley-news/2021-02-18/ulster-county-exec-details-universal-basic-income-program-and-more)]

**Ryan Graduated From West Point.** “Well, so the newly drawn 18th District is kind of in every way been a part of my life. And I feel really rooted in it and sort of invested in it. I was born in the district in Kingston, I graduated high school, I went to West Point, which is also in the district. Now, of course, my wife, Rebecca and I are raising our, our 3-year-old or almost 3-year-old, our 4-month-old kids here and of course, serving as Ulster County Executive, which is a big part of the district. So you know, this district, this area's had my back, I still remember my mom's first grade class sending cards to me when I was deployed in Iraq. And so, you know, I think it's all about how can I return that favor and really continue to be of service to this community.” [WAMC, [5/17/22](https://www.wamc.org/new-york-news/2022-05-17/ulster-county-executive-pat-ryan-launches-second-bid-for-congress)]

**Ryan Completed Two Tours And Spent 27 Months In Iraq As An Intelligence Officer.** “Ryan spent 27 months over two tours in Iraq. He oversaw 20 analysts charged with intelligence efforts in the eastern half of Mosul – Iraq’s second-largest city, now under ISIS control – during his second tour in 2008, one of the conflict’s bloodiest years. His job was to understand ‘who are the key political leaders, what are the tribal dynamics, who are the bad guys, how effective are the police, how effect are the army. Often that meant identifying potential allies among Iraqis, a mission which rested on learning more about the backgrounds of the people in the conflict’s environment. They had potentially checkered pasts ‘which we never knew,’ said Ryan. ‘We often didn’t have a lot of context.” [Business Insider, [11/11/14](http://www.businessinsider.com/the-startup-scene-via-two-conflict-zones-2014-11)]

**Pat Ryan Earned Two Bronze Stars.** “He was deployed twice: from December 2005 until November 2006, then from December 2007 until February 2009. He served as a military intelligence officer, achieving the rank of Captain before his second deployment, and was awarded the Bronze Star twice, as well as the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal, according to his service record — mid-level military accolades. During his first deployment, 21 months after the U.S. invaded, Ryan was stationed in Ad Duluiyah, a small city north of Baghdad, serving as the deputy intelligence officer for an infantry battalion, he said.” [theotherhudsonvalley.com, [5/7/18](https://theotherhudsonvalley.com/2018/05/07/pat-ryan-congress-dataminr/)]

## Ryan Didn’t Fight For Our Freedom Abroad To See It Taken Away From Women Here At Home. In Congress He Will Codify Abortion Protections Into Law

**Pat Ryan Said He Would “Absolutely” Support Legislation To Codify The Right To An Abortion Through Federal Legislation.** “Ryan ran on traditional Democratic pillars such as abortion access, voting rights and climate change. He said at an Aug. 22 event that he would “absolutely” support legislation to codify the right to an abortion through federal legislation. He told CQ Roll Call in an interview earlier this month that the issue was one of many that drew him to run for Congress.” [Roll Call, [8/24/22](https://rollcall.com/2022/08/24/democrat-pat-ryan-wins-closely-watched-new-york-special-election/)]

## As County Executive, Ryan Delivered Results For New York Families, He Cut The County’s Gas Tax In Half, And Proposed A Property Tax Cut That Will Save Families Hundreds Of Dollars, And In Congress, He Will Fight Big Corporations Who Are Driving Up The Price Of Food, Gas, And Housing

**As County Executive, Ryan Cut The Gas Tax In Half.** “And what I've seen in the last few years as county executive actually really makes me optimistic that we can do that. I mean, we not only got through a really once in a generation pandemic, and kept everybody safe and healthy in Ulster County, but now we're coming out strong, you know, we're supporting small businesses, we're investing in mental health, we're investing in housing, infrastructure, we're cutting the gas tax in half, and investing in public safety. So really, for me, it's how do we bring what's worked at the local level to Washington where, everybody, I think, agree that things just are not working right now.” [WAMC, [5/17/22](https://www.wamc.org/new-york-news/2022-05-17/ulster-county-executive-pat-ryan-launches-second-bid-for-congress)]

**August 2022: As Ulster County Executive, Ryan Proposed A Property Tax Reduction Of Three Percent.** “On Friday, August 12, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan sent an open letter to local residents announcing an Inflation Relief Plan, including among its initiatives a proposed property tax reduction of 3 percent. ‘Right now we’re all feeling the pressure due to the rising costs of everything — from food, to fuel, to housing,’ Ryan said in a press release. ‘Ulster County is stepping up and taking aggressive action to provide urgent relief to our residents — the largest property tax cut in 40 years, free public transit for all, and direct relief to tens of thousands of households and small businesses. From the beginning, I promised to make County government more responsive and responsible, so I’m proposing an ambitious and broad-reaching Inflation Relief Plan to help address these challenges.’” [Hudson Valley One, [8/23/22](https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2022/08/23/ryans-inflation-plan-to-cut-property-taxes/)]

**Ryan Campaigned On Fighting Inflation “By Going After Price-Gougers Who Are Harming Customers.”** “In Congress, Pat will fight inflation by going after price-gougers who are harming customers, guarantee middle-class voters get a tax cut, and make sure billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share. Pat will work with organized labor to guarantee better wages and protections for working families, pass paid family leave for all Americans, and ensure that equal work means equal pay.” [Pat Ryan For Congress, Priorities, accessed [8/25/22](https://www.patryanforcongress.com/priorities)]