

Congress Just Enacted HR 1, Which Makes the Largest Cuts to Health Care and SNAP in History. Here's What It Means for State Lawmakers and Health Care Providers



Tens of Millions in Costs Shifted from Federal to State Budget

HR 1 severely limits states' abilities to raise their share of Medicaid funding, **forcing more of the costs onto the state budget**. The law also shifts more SNAP administrative costs onto state budgets and requires states to **pay a portion of SNAP benefits for the first time in history**. While these costs will be implemented over the next few years, at least **\$50 million in new base budget costs** will hit the state budget in July 2026.



Less Money for Health Care Providers

Once fully implemented, HR 1 is expected to reduce federal health care funding to West Virginia by **\$1 billion a year**. That means **less and lower payments to providers and hospitals** just as more people are becoming uninsured and generating increased need to provide uncompensated care. Some hospitals that see a high share of Medicaid patients could be **forced to close their doors, reduce services, or raise other costs**.



More Strain on Charitable and Safety Net Organizations

When people lose access to health coverage and food assistance, they turn to safety net providers and charity. In West Virginia, these providers are **already under strain** and cannot bear more need. These providers are also facing their own federal and state funding cuts, which will reduce their ability to support the **tens of thousands of West Virginians** who lose their health coverage and food assistance because of HR 1.

Overall, these changes will **cost West Virginia \$1 billion a year** in federal funds once fully implemented. With less money for health care, the economy will suffer with **fewer jobs, less health care services in rural places, and economic instability for impacted households**.

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