

Tens of Millions of People Face Skyrocketing Health Care Premiums for 2026

As open enrollment begins, cancer advocates urge Congress to extend tax credits that help over 24 million people afford health insurance in the marketplace.

November 2, 2025 By American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Open Enrollment for most of the Health Insurance Marketplaces began Saturday, November 1, and because Congress still has not extended the enhanced premium tax credits, tens of millions of people, including cancer patients and survivors, are facing significant premium increases.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) has long advocated for Congress to extend the enhanced health care tax credits, which help make comprehensive health insurance more affordable for 24 million people who buy coverage through the Marketplace. If Congress allows the enhanced tax credits to expire, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that 4.2 million people will become uninsured.

Lisa Lacasse, president of ACS CAN, released the following statement:

“Nearly everyone with Marketplace coverage will face a significant increase in their costs for next year, but those who currently rely on the enhanced premium tax credits will see massive spikes without action from Congress. These increases will put quality, affordable coverage out of reach for millions, including cancer patients and survivors. For cancer patients in active treatment, this is life-threatening.

“Research clearly shows that having health insurance is one of the most significant factors in surviving a cancer diagnosis. Without access to the care needed to get well and stay well, people will live sicker and die sooner.

“Congress still has a chance to make this right and find a pathway to extend the tax credits before it’s too late. Many of their constituents’ lives depend on it.”

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