

Florida

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Republicans want Floridians to believe that they're better off under unchecked GOP control of Washington.

President Donald Trump tweets that "Our Economy is setting records on virtually every front - Probably the best our country has ever done. Tremendous value created since the Election."¹ Speaker Ryan tells the press that "by just about any economic measure, the American people are better off now."²

But it is only the well-off who are weathering the rising costs and destructive consequences of the Republicans' reckless, special-interest first policies.

Health Care Costs Rising – 7,810,300 Floridians with pre-existing conditions could lose key protections under Republicans' lawsuit to strike down the ACA's protections for people with pre-existing conditions.³ Republicans' health care sabotage drove the average 2018 premium for the silver benchmark plan for a 40-year-old in the ACA Marketplace in Florida up by 41%, compared to 2017.⁴

Prescription Drug Prices Increasing – While President Trump backed down from his promise to have Medicare negotiate down prescription drug prices, 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.⁵ In the first seven months of 2018 alone, there were 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.⁶

Tax Scam Failing Families – 1,457,260 Florida taxpayers will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019, while the wealthiest 1 percent of Floridians received a total of nearly **\$10.7 million**.⁷

Real Wages Stagnant – Since President Trump's inauguration in January 2017 to August 2018, real average hourly wages in Florida have remained essentially flat, increasing just 0.3 percent.⁸

Unmet Infrastructure Needs – Due to the lack of federal investment, ASCE grades Florida infrastructure at a C, with the state's significant infrastructure needs including an estimated \$16.5 billion to address failing drinking water infrastructure and another \$18.4 billion for wastewater needs in the state.⁹

Republicans are trying to focus attention on the stock market and the wealth of big corporations. Democrats are listening to the voices and the stories of the hard-working Americans that the President and the GOP Congress have long ignored.

Democrats' agenda is For The People: lower your health care costs and prescription drug prices, increase your pay through strong economic growth by rebuilding America, and clean up corruption to make Washington work for you.

HEALTH COSTS

Then-candidate Trump promised Floridians in a November 2016 rally in Orlando that under Republican leadership, “we can replace Obamacare and save healthcare for every family in Florida.”¹⁰

But the GOP’s relentless attacks on Americans’ health care are threatening the affordable coverage of millions with pre-existing conditions, hiking the cost of prescription drugs and raising premiums for everybody.

Republicans’ health care sabotage drove the average 2018 premium for the silver benchmark plan for a 40-year-old in the ACA Marketplace in Florida up by 41%, compared to 2017.¹¹

Under Republicans’ lawsuit to strike down the ACA’s protections for people with pre-existing conditions:

- **7,810,300 Floridians with pre-existing conditions** could lose key protections.¹²
- **Nearly 4.1 million women and girls in Florida** with pre-existing conditions would lose protections.¹³
- **350,000 pregnant Florida women** risk losing their coverage.¹⁴
- Insurers could deny coverage outright or impose massive surcharges on people with pre-existing conditions, [such as up to](#):¹⁵
 - \$4,270 for asthma;
 - \$5,510 for diabetes;
 - \$17,060 for pregnancy;
 - \$26,180 for rheumatoid arthritis;
 - \$57,090 for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack);
 - \$140,510 for metastatic cancer.

If House Republicans had succeeded in having the American Health Care Act, their House-passed Trumpcare legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, signed into law:

- 2,062,700 Floridians would have lost coverage under Trumpcare by 2026.¹⁶
- 1.2 million Florida residents with Medicaid would have lost coverage.¹⁷
- 43,700 veterans in Florida would have lost their Medicaid coverage.¹⁸
- Out-of-pocket health costs for older Florida residents could have increased by as much as \$7,189 a year by 2020, due to Trumpcare imposing what the AARP calls an “age tax” by allowing insurers to charge people over age 50 five times more.¹⁹
- The negative economic impact of the American Health Care Act would have caused 92,017 Floridians to lose their jobs by 2022.²⁰

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS SOARING

President Trump once declared that big pharmaceutical companies are “getting away with murder”²¹ and that “we’re going to negotiate like crazy”²² on Medicare Part D prescription drug prices.

But when he unveiled his agenda in May 2018, President Trump backed down from his promise to enable Medicare Part D to negotiate down drug prices – and Big Pharma stocks surged.²³ The GOP tax law even handed Big Pharma massive tax breaks that have funded more than \$50 billion in stock buybacks to enrich top investors and executives.²⁴

Now Florida seniors and families are stuck with soaring prescription drug costs:

- In the first seven months since passage of the GOP Tax scam, an investigation by the Associated Press found 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.²⁵
- 16 of the top 20 best-selling drugs in the United States increased significantly in price in the first year of the Trump Administration, mostly by double digits.²⁶
- 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.²⁷

TAX SCAM FAILING FAMILIES

In selling Republicans' tax bill, President Trump claimed it "would likely give the typical American household a \$4,000 pay raise."²⁸

In practice, however, the benefits of the new tax bill were designed to flow overwhelmingly to big corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent:

- **1,457,260 Florida taxpayers** will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019, while the wealthiest 1 percent of Floridians received a total of nearly **\$10.7 million**.²⁹
- **4,107,610 Florida taxpayers** will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2027.³⁰

REAL WAGES STAGNATING

In an October 2016 rally in Naples, then-candidate Trump told Floridians: "We are living through the greatest jobs theft in the history of the world. A Trump Administration will stop the jobs from leaving our country. We will start making things in America. We will be a rich nation once again."³¹

But in the 19 months since President Trump's inauguration in January 2017, **real average hourly wages in Florida have remained essentially flat, increasing just 0.3 percent**.³²

- Inflation has **jumped 1.7%** in the South from September 2017 to September 2018.³³
- As of September 2018, **motor fuel costs are up 3.7%** from a year prior in the region.³⁴
- And food prices continue to rise, with the **price of a dozen eggs up more than 4%** over the past year.³⁵

American workers face new obstacles under Republican control of Washington:

- As of October 18, 2018, there have been **27,226 WARN notices of plant closings and mass layoffs** in Florida since President Trump took office.³⁶
- **\$1.6 billion in state exports are threatened** by China's retaliatory tariffs in Florida, including more than \$500 million in non-monetary gold exports.³⁷
- **95% of Florida's exporters are small and medium-sized businesses**.³⁸

Republicans continue to leave behind students, families and millennials with huge loan burdens:

- Total outstanding student loan debt balance in Florida: **nearly \$79.7 billion**.³⁹
- Average student debt for students at public and private 4-year institutions in Florida: **\$24,041**.⁴⁰
- Share of students at public and private 4-year institutions in Florida with debt: **50%**.⁴¹

UNMET INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

President Trump promised Americans “the biggest and boldest infrastructure investment in American history.”⁴²

However, he and the Republican Congress have refused to bring forward meaningful legislation to address the massive infrastructure backlog in the United States.

The GOP’s refusal to make good on this promise to rebuild America’s broken infrastructure hurts Florida families, endangers public health and weakens Florida’s ability to compete in the global marketplace.

- Driving on roads in need of repair in Florida costs each driver **\$327 per year.**⁴³
- **79 dams** are considered to be high-hazard potential and an estimated **256 bridges** are rated structurally deficient.⁴⁴
- Drinking water infrastructure needs in Florida are estimated to be **\$16.5 billion** over the next 20 years.⁴⁵
- Wastewater infrastructure needs are estimated to be **\$18.4 billion** over the next 20 years.⁴⁶

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