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AARP WI: Senate health care bill would slam older adults with much higher costs

MADISON, WISCONSIN – A new analysis of the Senate’s proposed health care bill shows that older Wisconsinites would be forced to pay much higher premiums or go without health insurance coverage.

With the proposed spike in premiums and reduced tax credits, known as the age tax, a 60-year old Wisconsinite with a \$45,000 annual income could have to pay up to \$13,920 in 2020.

The new analysis by AARP’s Public Policy Institute looks at expected increases in premiums and out-of-pocket costs for older Wisconsinites by income level, if those people chose to keep their current coverage.

The projected premiums also reflect the Age Tax contained in the Senate bill – an increase that lets insurers charge older policyholders five times more than everyone else for their insurance.

“Forcing people over fifty to pay thousands more will mean many Wisconsinites will not be able to afford to go to the doctor, fill their prescriptions or get the care they need,” said AARP Wisconsin State Director Sam Wilson. “We urge Senator Tammy Baldwin to continue her strong opposition to this bill and we urge Senator Ron Johnson to vote ‘NO’ on this higher cost, less coverage bill.”

Details of the AARP Public Policy Institute analysis can be [found here](#).

Recent [surveys](#) of older Americans in key states showed strong opposition to the provisions of the House-passed health reform bill.

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security and retirement planning. We advocate for consumers in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP VIVA, a bilingual news source. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.