

How would repeal and replace impact the South?

I don't have a crystal ball, but I do have some analysis!

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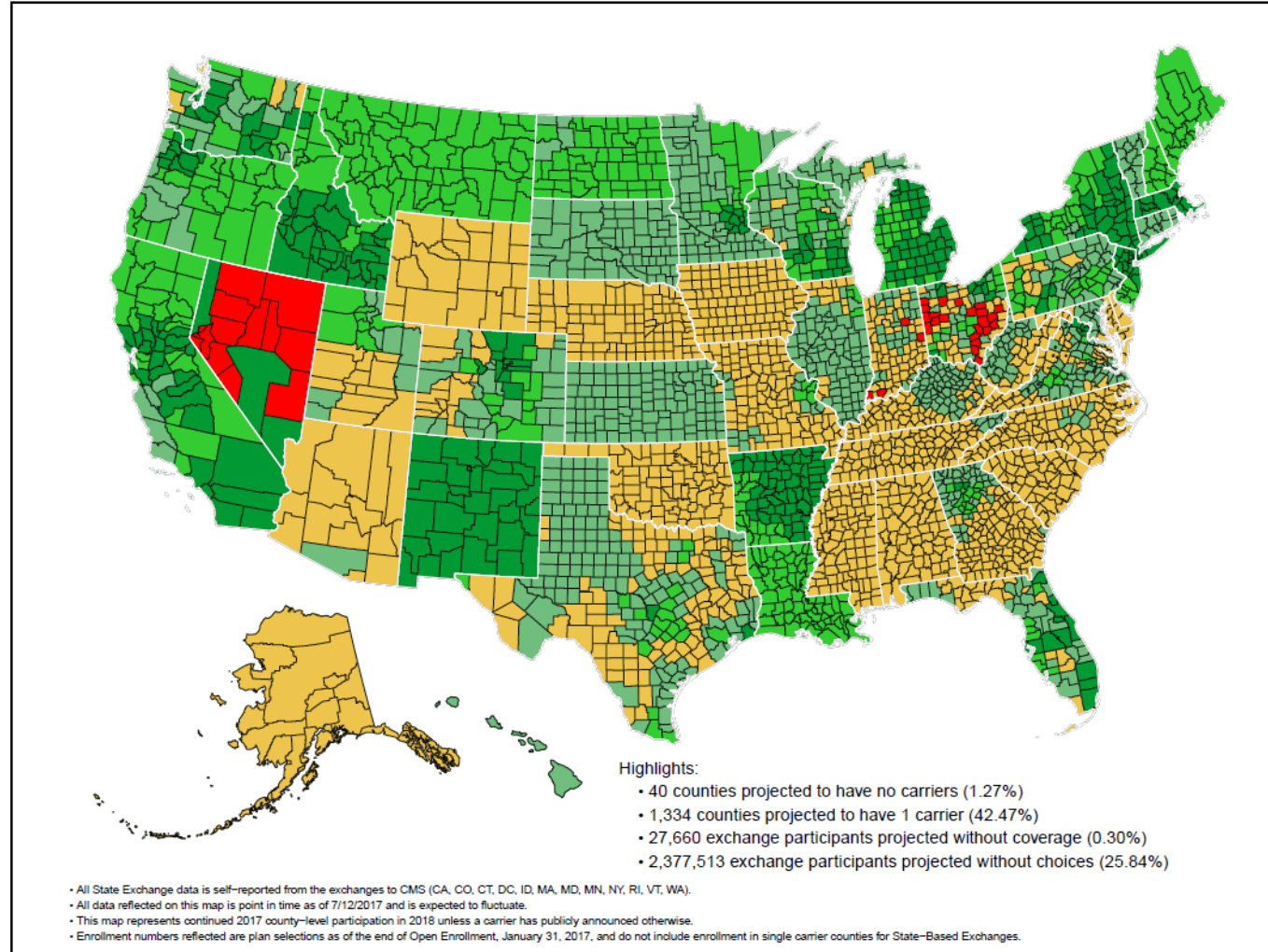
What are we talking about when we talk about the ACA?

- Because there's a.) Medicaid piece of the ACA
- And b.) the marketplaces
- So let's talk about them separately, with one caveat:
- No one actually knows anything anymore, as we've seen this past year.

Let's start with the marketplaces

- The BCRA still keeps the ACA marketplaces intact
- Last year, premiums for Southern states were all over the place, only rising marginally in Arkansas and Virginia, with staggering hikes in Tennessee and Oklahoma.
- This isn't great, but the vast majority of marketplace enrollees—particularly in the South—get subsidies.
- Keep in mind—none of this really matters if the feds don't fund cost-sharing reductions

County by County Analysis of Current Projected Insurer Participation in Health Insurance Exchanges



Exchange Carrier Number

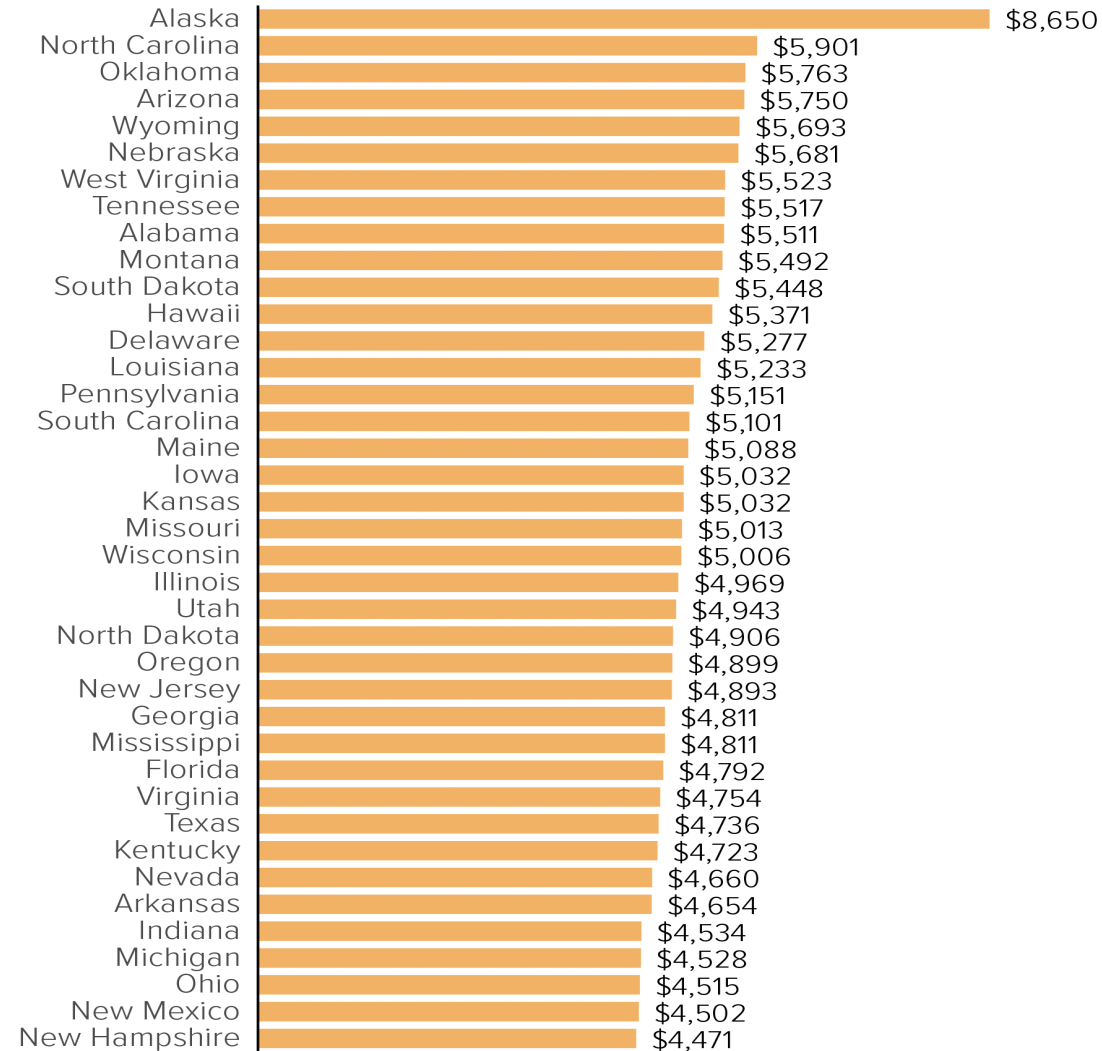
0 Carriers (40 Counties)	1 Carrier	2 Carriers	3 Carriers	> 3 Carriers
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Those darn monopolies

- Southern states in particular seem to have a dearth of marketplace insurers. This is because those monopolies seem to exist in places: a.) sparsely populated, b.) where there was already a dominant insurer
- Alaska's reinsurance model could curtail hikes
- Interstate competition: A potential bi-partisan effort to lower premiums?

Senate Bill Increases Premiums for Many, Especially Older People in High-Cost States

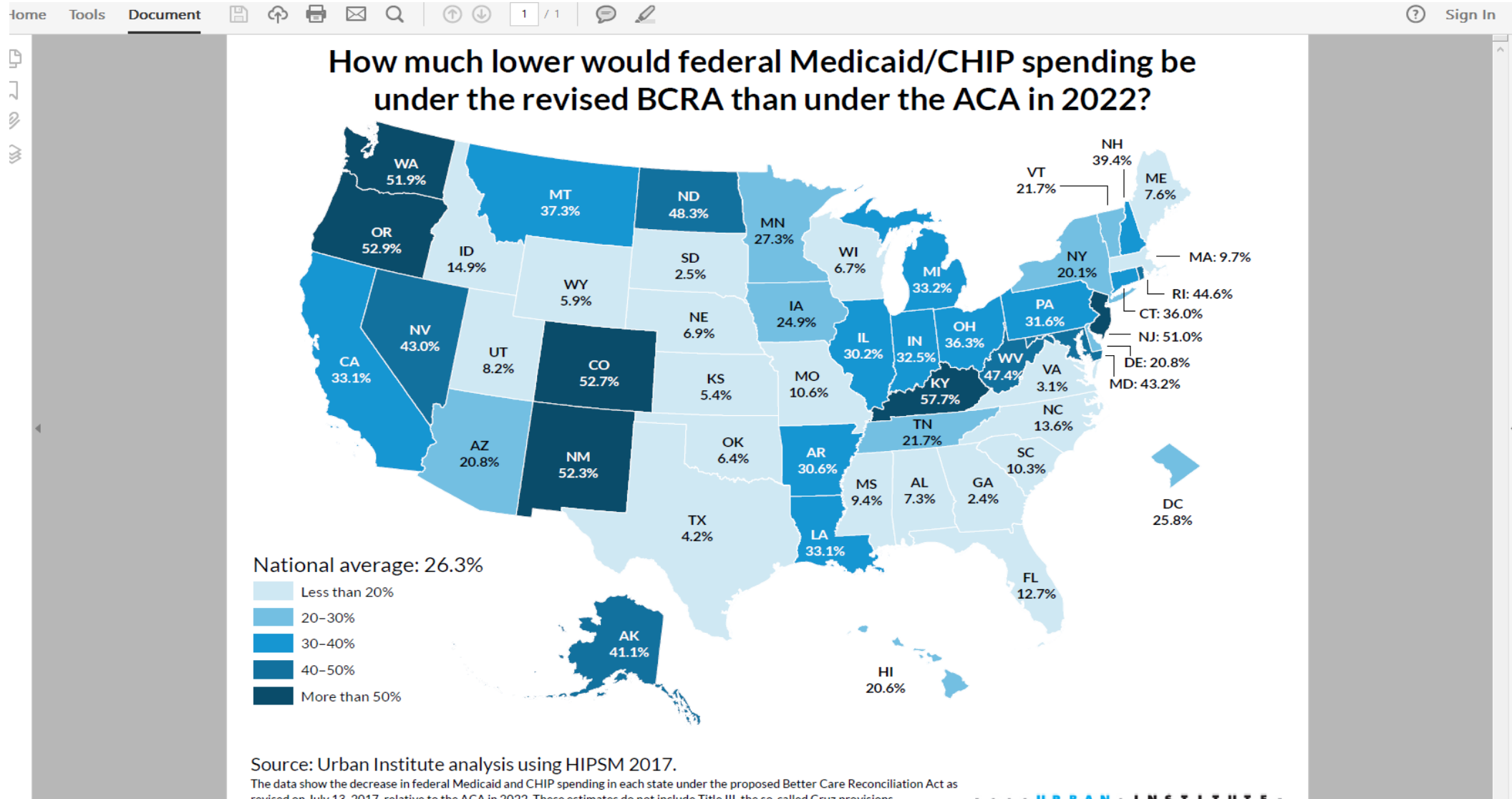
Increase in silver plan premiums after tax credits for a 60-year-old with income of 350% of the poverty line in 2020*



*350% of the poverty line is about \$42,000 for a single person; \$53,000 in Alaska; and \$49,000 in Hawaii.

Source: CBPP analysis

Then, there's Medicaid reform



Taking away a benefit is really, really hard

- Medicaid expansion is the “flat nail head” of the ACA.
- This would be the first time the federal government has backed down and removed Medicaid benefits
- Kentucky example: Gov. Bevin promised to take away the ACA, but didn't do away with Medicaid expansion.
- In the South, rolling back Medicaid expansion wouldn't hurt quite as, say, the West or North.
- But in the states that did expand, rolling it back would really, really hurt.

The opioid epidemic

- Taking away that Medicaid funding would really hurt those struggling from substance abuse, and in particular the opioid epidemic.
- The BCRA offers \$45 billion in funding to fight the opioid epidemic, but that doesn't help much if the person who was getting treatment through Medicaid doesn't have it any longer.
- Many of those who became newly eligible for Medicaid had substance abuse issues. In Ohio almost 30 percent of those who gained coverage under Medicaid expansion had substance abuse issues.

Where do the Governor's stand?

- Virtually none have given any of the previous bills a full-throated endorsement.
- Rick Scott in Florida has been the most vocal supporters.
- In the South, criticisms have ranged from Gov. Bel Edwards telling D.C. to “start over,” from Gov. Asa Hutchinson saying that the bills “need work.”
- Clearly, there's a sense on the state-level that when people lose their insurance through the ACA, that their political careers will be on the chopping block.

Where does this uncertainty fit into state budgets?

- “It’s impossible to put a fiscal note” on what repeal would do to state budgets.
- Even if your state didn’t expand Medicaid, the ACA still revamped quite a bit around health informatics and technology that would need to be revisited in a state budget.
- “There are little bits of Medicaid in every aspect of government.”

What is the conservative rebuttal to the ACA?

- There seem to be some fundamental disagreements within GOP in D.C. on what life would look like without “Obamacare.”
- On one side, there is the far right that want everything taken away and to go back to pre-ACA life.
- And there’s the other side, that wants to tweak the private marketplace to make it friendlier to insurance companies and tackling Medicaid reform over a longer period of time.
- This is where state lawmakers, particularly in a more conservative portion of the country, could take the lead.

In Absence of Federal Action, Start Thinking Now

- What would a health care law look like that would benefit Southern populations?
- Is it expanding Medicaid, and enrolling those enrollees into private insurance plans like Arkansas did?
- Is it getting proactive about allowing health care plans to be sold across state lines like Oklahoma just did?
- I look forward to your questions and discussion. Thank you.