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**STATEMENT  
of the  
Federation of American Hospitals  
to the  
United States Senate Committee on Finance  
Hearing: "The Rising Cost of Health Care:  
Considering Meaningful Solutions for All Americans"  
November 19, 2025**

The Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) submits the following statement for the record in advance of the United States Senate Committee on Finance hearing on "The Rising Cost of Health Care: Considering Meaningful Solutions for All Americans."

The FAH is the national representative of over 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high quality, affordable care in both urban and rural areas across 46 states, plus Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Our members include teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services. Tax-paying hospitals account for approximately 20 percent of community hospitals nationally.


We appreciate the Committee coming together to address this timely and urgent topic. Undoubtedly, Senators from every state are hearing pleas from their constituents on a daily basis to address the rising cost of health care premiums. The FAH believes the immediate solution to help hardworking Americans across the country afford a health insurance plan that meets their needs is to extend the enhanced premium tax credits (EPTCs) or "health care tax credits" for individuals shopping for coverage in the individual market. The FAH urges Senators to come to a bipartisan agreement to extend the EPTCs and solve the affordability crisis for over 20 million Americans who are already seeing their premiums double, on average, for 2026.<sup>1</sup> Extending the EPTCs is a vital step toward lowering the cost of living and providing health care access for working families across the country.

### **Fraud Prevention Measures Already Enacted**

Congress and the Administration have already taken meaningful steps to protect taxpayers and consumers and to safeguard program integrity in the ACA marketplaces. Importantly, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA) and recent actions by the Administration in the *Marketplace Integrity and Affordability* Final Rule

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<sup>1</sup> [ACA Marketplace Premium Payments Would More than Double on Average Next Year if Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire](#) | KFF



addressed fraudulent enrollment in marketplace plans. These measures include stricter enrollment and income verification, limited special enrollment periods, more frequent eligibility redeterminations, and required income tax filing and repayment of EPTC amounts. Program integrity protections are already showing impact alongside HHS efforts to curb any bad-actor broker activity,<sup>2</sup> which should give members of Congress confidence that an EPTC extension would advance affordability and integrity together.

EPTCs are particularly important for people living in rural areas, where plan options are fewer and baseline premiums are higher. In states like Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia, these health care tax credits roughly doubled the non-group market in 2025 and drove >21% declines in the uninsured rate. Preserving health care tax credits would help prevent the emergence of “insurance deserts” and keep private coverage available across rural America. A recent Urban Institute study found that if enhanced premium tax credits expire, average net premiums would rise over 400% for marketplace enrollees below 250% of the federal poverty level, leading to 4.8 million more uninsured Americans and \$2.2 billion in increased uncompensated care costs for hospitals in 2026.<sup>3</sup>

### **FAH Urges Congressional Action Before End of Year**

Open enrollment has already begun and millions of Americans could be forced to make the decision to forgo health coverage in order to afford basic daily necessities as they are priced out of the plans they rely on. As the end of the year and the EPTC expiration quickly approaches, immediate Congressional action is urgent, overdue, and essential to prevent unmanageable premium increases for millions of Americans. Senators should come to the negotiating table and work with stakeholders to build on the existing bipartisan, bicameral support for extending the EPTCs.

The FAH appreciates the Committee’s focus on solutions to the affordability crisis facing many Americans by addressing rising health care premiums. There is bipartisan support for action to extend the health care tax credits, and now is the time for pragmatic, policy-minded lawmakers to come together. We ask both parties, in both chambers, to find a swift solution—one that preserves coverage access for the lowest-income enrollees, upholds program integrity already strengthened by Congress and the Administration, and prevents premium spikes that would further strain the cost of living for everyday Americans.

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<sup>2</sup> [CMS Update on Actions to Prevent Unauthorized Agent and Broker Marketplace Activity](#) | CMS

<sup>3</sup> [4.8 Million People Will Lose Coverage in 2026 If Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire](#) | Urban Institute