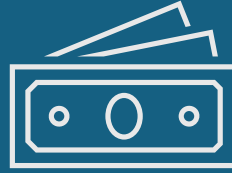


Expiring Dec. 31: ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits



4.2M people

will become
uninsured over ten
years if the EPTCs
expire, per CBO



\$335-\$380
billion

if extended over the
next decade, per CBO
and CRFB*

*pre-enactment of OBBBA, which could impact the
cost estimate



75% increase

in premiums, on
average, for enrollees,
per KFF

“



“It’ll cost hundreds of billions of dollars. Can’t afford it... That was a Covid-era policy. Newsflash to America: Covid is over.”

Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD)

“Well, the Democrats created this problem... I hope they will come to us with a suggestion and a solution about how to address it. But obviously it’s something that, yeah, some of our members are paying attention to.”

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)



“While the enhanced premium tax credit created during the pandemic was meant to be temporary, we should not let it expire without a plan in place.”

Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA)

“We have to do something to allow people to afford health care...The cost of insurance on the exchanges is just astronomical.”

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)





Extension: Legislative Options and Political Dynamics

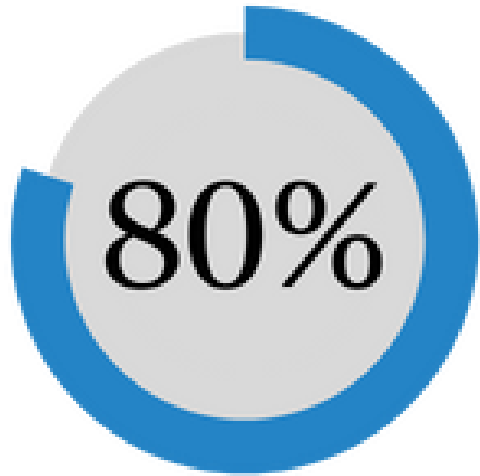
Extension as a stand-alone bill is unlikely, but it could be attached to a funding bill or other must-pass legislation.

Policy	Possible Cost
No extension – as proposed by Paragon Health Institute	--
One-year extension without policy changes – as proposed in H.R.5145, the <i>Bipartisan Premium Tax Credit Extension Act</i>	Estimate of cost for 2026*: CBO : \$23.3 billion
Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) options: (a) Extend EPTCs for those below 600% of the poverty line (b) Extend EPTCs for those below 300% of the poverty line, phase in an income-based premium cap for those above that level (c) Extend EPTCs “halfway” between original ACA structure and enhanced structure	CRFB estimates: (a) \$350 billion (b) \$300 billion (c) \$200 billion
“Full” extension/permanent extension – as proposed in H.R.247/S.46, the <i>Health Care Affordability Act</i>	Estimates of cost over 10 years*: CBO : \$335 billion CRFB : \$380 billion

*pre-enactment of OBBBA, which could impact the cost estimate

Expiration Could Have Political Implications for the GOP

Among registered voters in competitive districts...



support tax credits that make it more affordable for working families and individuals to purchase health insurance on the exchanges



a 3-point deficit becomes a 15-point deficit for the generic Republican behind the Democrat if they **allow the ACA premium tax credit to expire**



a 3-point deficit becomes a 6-point lead for the generic Republican candidate over the Democrat if they support **extending the ACA premium tax credit**