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# Texans losing health care coverage

By **Corrie MacLaggan**  
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Every month, 24,070 Texans lose their health care coverage, according to a report released Wednesday by an advocacy group.

The report by Families USA, which is an advocate for quality, affordable health coverage for all Americans, comes as Congress is weighing health care reforms pushed by President Barack Obama.

The report says that between January 2008 and December 2010, 6.9 million Americans lost or will have lost health coverage, including 866,580 Texans. Only California was projected to have had more people lose coverage. "The longer Congress waits to act, the more families will lose coverage," Families USA Executive Director Ron Pollack said.

Though the economy is a factor, the main cause of the loss of coverage is the rising cost of premiums, Pollack said. Between 1999 and 2008, the average annual family premium more than doubled from \$5,791 to \$12,680, the report said.

Arlene Wohlgenuth, a senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, which is an advocate for limited government, said the health reform proposal that cleared a Senate panel Wednesday would amount to a "government takeover of our health care system."

Texas has the nation's highest rate of uninsured people: 25 percent.

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## Your Comments

Austinites love to be heard, and we're giving you a bullhorn. We just ask that you keep things civil. Leave out the personal attacks. Do not use profanity, ethnic or racial slurs, or take shots at anyone's sexual orientation or religion. If you can't be nice, we reserve the right to remove your material and ban users who violate our [visitor's agreement](#)

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**RK57957** wrote:

rwikert I have news for you, the company I work for has already started doing that. And you want to know why? Because all that money they spend on pesky healthcare premiums robs the share holders

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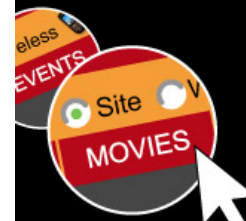
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**MOST E-MAILED STORIES**

Over 1 million people wake up and smell the coffee; why should businesses be compelled to offer workers health care and/or retirement benefits?  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:33:13 AM [Report Abuse](#)

Caleb Koke, 1992-2009  
 -AM member host suspended after ethnic slur  
 JRL: Yes. We taxpayers continue to give our employees better health care benefits than ourselves. We allow them to provide us with substandard coverage. They already enjoy comprehensive public health care coverage with no exclusions for pre-existing health conditions. So when we are picking up their tab, we ought to have simmlar benefits for ourselves.  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:29:52 AM [Report Abuse](#)

**RK57957** wrote:  
 Ralph from Austin; I want you to stop for a moment, close your lips and think. Now that you have done that, lets talk about deporting all those damned pesky illegal immigrants. First they are here illegally but you know what; if people didn't hire them they wouldn't be here. Second healthcare isn't paid for by taxes now you might be ranting about other services illegal immigrants can get but this is about healthcare. And third you sound like some one who is more or less content with the current system which makes you a dirty filthy socialist. I bet you have employer offered healthcare and that makes you feel special doesn't it? Way to suck money out of your boss you pinko. I move that we deport all the pinkos like Ralph and all the illegal immigrants and then we can solve our healthcare problem.  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:28:42 AM [Report Abuse](#)

**Flaccus** wrote:  
 The Conservatives' attitude is 'just let the poor die' that leaves more for me.  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:25:46 AM [Report Abuse](#)

**rwikert** wrote:  
 Ah but wait until "Obamacare" is the law of the land. The number of people loosing the health insurance will make these numbers look like a day at the beach. First thing - employers will dump retiree health insurance and/or their retiree Medicare Supplement Insurance. You want to see terrible health insurance coverage - look at Medicare WITHOUT any good Supplement Insurance. My Medicare Supplement Insurance requires me to have an out-of-pocket expense of \$2,670 this year before it pays anything. That's still better than Medicare that requires you pay 20% of your medical expenses WITH NO OUT-OF-POCKET MAX.  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:22:23 AM [Report Abuse](#)

**Sardonio** wrote:  
 In before a thousand conservatives white-knight our terrible healthcare system. I had a spinal tumor removed last year, i'd have been so screwed if I hadn't been on my father's insurance at the time, I can only imagine the many in my situation who didn't have insurance. Nobody should have to die for lack of money.  
 Posted on 7/16/2009 8:10:28 AM [Report Abuse](#)

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**Ydnar wrote:**

Bring on the "government takeover of our health care system."!!! We need a single payer system. Yes we can!

Posted on 7/16/2009 8:07:18 AM

[Report Abuse](#)**JRL wrote:**

Take away benefits for legislators, and they might just see the need for reform! We need to oust all of attorney's in our state and federal legislative positions and start over.

Posted on 7/16/2009 8:04:14 AM

[Report Abuse](#)**Sokolowski wrote:**

Why isn't there a law that puts company owners in jail for the obscene profits they are making in the medical field?

Posted on 7/16/2009 7:53:01 AM

[Report Abuse](#)**Ralph from Austin wrote:**

Deport illegal aliens and their offspring and the number of uninsured will drop substantially. So will the costs of medical care. Taxpayers are paying increased costs to cover illegals. Enforce the existing laws and add a new one preventing automatic citizenship to kids born in the US to illegal parents. Then we can address health care.

Posted on 7/16/2009 7:30:12 AM

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