

Jon Ossoff's plan for
**Affordable, Accessible
Health Care for All Georgians.**



Affordability

Crack down on price gouging

Expand Medicaid

Establish a Public Option

Strengthen consumer protections

Access

Build new clinics & hospitals

Expand the U.S. Public Health Service

Surge preventative, prenatal, and maternal health resources

Guarantee a choice between public and private insurance



My health care plan solves the two core problems — **affordability and **access** — by cracking down on price gouging by drug and insurance companies, ensuring every Georgian is covered by high-quality insurance regardless of wealth, improving access to health care services across our state, and expanding the personal choice and control Georgians have over their own insurance and care.**



The high cost of health care in America is driven by the corrupt influence of the insurance and drug industries in Washington — a devastating product of our broken campaign finance system, which allows powerful trade groups to purchase political influence and rig the system so they can rip off the public.

Too many Georgians can't afford health care. Seniors are cutting their pills in half to make it through the month. Moms are putting off health exams so they can put food on the table. Insurance and drug companies are ripping off American families at every turn, and Congress lets them get away with it.

The status quo is unacceptable.

Health insurance is too expensive and complex, and protections for women, young people, and people with pre-existing conditions are under attack. Few plans are available, premiums are high, surprise billing is frequent, and dealing with insurance companies can be a nightmare.

The cost of prescription drugs in the United States is an abomination. While pharmaceutical companies generate massive profits, Americans have no choice but to

submit to their outrageous price gouging with no real action from Congress to fix the problem.

In the U.S. Senate, I'll work to make quality health care a simple, affordable, and reassuring reality for all of us. Other countries have achieved this. So can we.

This pandemic has been a wakeup call for those who doubted the necessity of making sure everyone has access to health care. Georgia already faced a shocking health crisis before COVID-19, with high rates of uninsurance and chronic illness — an underlying crisis that the virus has exploited as it preys upon those already vulnerable.

And yet, even during this pandemic, Senator David Perdue has remained a loyal foot soldier for the insurance and prescription drug industries, continuing to oppose Medicaid expansion and proceeding shamelessly with a Supreme Court lawsuit to repeal the Affordable Care Act, whose repeal would jeopardize the health care coverage of nearly 500,000 Georgians.

Georgia deserves a Senator who will deliver affordable health care for every citizen.

Universal Coverage

The Public Option: optional for all, universally affordable, and instantly available to the uninsured

Georgians should be able to choose between private plans and a universally affordable public health insurance option that provides comprehensive coverage.

Your insurance will be your choice — period. Georgians must remain free to maintain exclusively private health insurance, select the public option, or purchase supplemental private insurance on top of the public plan if they so choose.

What are the benefits of a public option? A public health insurance option would offer Georgians an optional not-for-profit alternative to private insurance that is comprehensive and easy to access. More choice increases competition in the health insurance marketplace and lowers costs for all of us — forcing private insurers to compete with the public plan on quality and price.

Premiums for the public option will be universally affordable, fair, and sufficient to ensure that the program is fiscally sustainable while remaining free of the extravagant price gouging currently imposed by many health insurance companies. Americans who use the public option will never be asked to pay deductibles or copays on top of their premiums. Policyholders already eligible for Medicaid will pay no premiums.

The public option's coverage will be comprehensive — including preventive care, prescription drugs, dental, vision, hearing, mental health, and neonatal and postnatal care.

The program should allow Americans who currently lack health insurance to be instantly eligible for auto-enrollment in the public plan when they access health care services. This would ensure coverage for every American and end the Emergency Room-based care that burdens taxpayers with the cost of health interventions when preventable and manageable diseases and chronic illnesses have already become severe.

Every American will have the choice between private insurance plans (either via employers or direct from the ACA exchange) and the public option, enhancing individual and family choice and control over our own health insurance. I will insist that private insurance remain an affordable option for every American. The public option will reduce premiums for Americans on private plans, too.

For those with private insurance, I'll work to strengthen the Affordable Care Act's protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, women, and young people, and to hold insurance companies accountable for price gouging and consumer abuses. The ACA's protections remain under attack by the health insurance industry and their allies in Congress, like Senator David Perdue.

Medicaid Expansion

Georgia is one of only 12 states that have failed to expand Medicaid. That means 500,000 Georgians are being denied access to affordable and potentially life-saving care.

I will fight to expand Medicaid for all Americans.

Expanding Medicaid in Georgia will not only get half a million more people covered, but it could create [over 50,000 new jobs](#) per year, boost the state's economy by [over \\$6.5 billion](#) annually, protect rural hospitals from closing at an alarming rate, expand access to mental health resources, and help solve the maternal mortality crisis.

I will oppose cuts to Medicare or Medicaid and will vote to strengthen Medicare so it is available to our older Americans who have paid into it their whole lives.

Defend and strengthen pre-existing condition protections

A huge part of getting the United States to universal coverage is ensuring we protect the pre-existing condition protections currently in place under the Affordable Care Act. For years, Senator David Perdue and other allies of the health insurance industry have voted to gut these vital protections.

In the U.S. Senate, I'll defend these protections. We cannot go back to the days when you could be kicked off your insurance through no fault of your own or be charged more simply for having asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, or even COVID-19.

Crack down on price gouging by drug companies

The cost of medicine in America is a scandal — as is the pill pushing that's fed the opioid crisis. Congress is terrified of being on the wrong side of drug company lobbyists & the corporate PACs that fund political campaigns. While they collect those donations, politicians vote against cost-saving measures for the rest of us — all to increase their donors' profits while making health care unaffordable for their own constituents.

That's corruption!

I'll work to expand access to generic drugs that are more affordable and crack down on giant pharmaceutical companies who use their lobbying budgets, corporate PACs, and political influence to monopolize markets and drive up prices at the pharmacy.

I'll vote to let Medicare negotiate lower drug prices and to allow Georgians to buy safe and more affordable prescription drugs from Canada.

The pandemic has also highlighted another form of corruption: Billions of American taxpayer dollars each year go to support drug development, and then those companies turn around and charge Americans outrageous prices for life-saving medication.

Take COVID-19 therapeutic remdesivir, which was produced with more than \$70 million of taxpayer money. Gilead, the pharmaceutical company who developed the drug, recently announced they will charge \$3,120 per therapeutic regimen — after American taxpayers already subsidized its development and testing. That is plain wrong. The federal government must ensure [remdesivir is free](#) for patients whose insurance does not cover it.

Invest in access: new clinics and hospitals and an expanded U.S. Public Health Service

Even after we ensure everyone can afford insurance, it is vital we invest in expanding access to health care delivery. Too many Georgians live far from clinics and hospitals, and even with adequate insurance cannot easily access care.

I'll work relentlessly to deliver federal funds to build more health clinics and hire more health care workers across Georgia, especially in rural and underserved communities. Under my plan, the public option will include higher reimbursement rates for rural hospitals because they are vital assets in our communities.

Rural health care access

I'll introduce legislation to expand the U.S. Public Health Service to recruit, train, and deploy nurses and doctors into hard-hit and underserved communities in Georgia and nationwide.

We face a shocking shortage of nurses and doctors across Georgia, especially in our rural communities, and by expanding the Public Health Service, we can recruit, train, and deploy frontline health care workers to provide vital lifesaving care where care is currently too hard to access.

Together with expanding Medicaid, providing Georgians access to a public health insurance option, and making health care more affordable and accessible, we can finally begin to break the link between health and wealth and ensure great health care is available in all of Georgia's 159 counties.

Women's health

In the Senate, I will always fight to protect women's health care and ensure women cannot be charged more for their insurance just because of their gender.

I believe that women, not the government, should control the private, personal, and complex decisions about their health. To that end, I will fight to ensure that women have access to essential health care services, like safe and legal abortion. And I will only vote to confirm federal judges who pledge to uphold *Roe v. Wade*.

The consequences of denying women access to safe and affordable reproductive health care is dangerous and devastating. I run a business that investigates organized crime and corruption for news organizations worldwide. Our teams have gone undercover to expose how dangerous, unqualified, and unregulated abortion providers kill women in places where safe abortion services are not available legally. Ensuring women's access to proper health care is literally a matter of life and death.

Georgia's infant and maternal mortality rate is a crisis. Seventy-nine Georgia counties don't have a single OBGYN, and too many women are going without the prenatal and postnatal care they need. Georgia has [double the maternal](#) mortality rate as the rest of the country, and that rate is even worse for Georgia's black women. Too many Georgia women are uninsured, exacerbating the problem.

Expanding the Public Health Service will train and encourage doctors to stay in Georgia's hardest-hit communities, but that training should also include listening to women, especially women of color, as they describe their symptoms and trust their words.

I'll vote to boost women's health programs and deliver federal dollars for clinics across Georgia.