



CHAIR JODEY ARRINGTON

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

CBO:

Medicaid Spending on Illegal Aliens Has Cost Taxpayers over \$16.2 Billion Under Open Border Czar Harris

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis of **the cost to taxpayers of Vice President Kamala Harris’ open border agenda on the Medicaid program**. CBO estimates that the Biden-Harris Administration’s open border agenda cost federal and state taxpayers **more than \$16.2 billion** to provide Medicaid-funded emergency services to illegal aliens during the first three years of the Administration. This is a staggering increase of 124 percent compared to the same period under the Trump Administration.

This analysis responds to a [request](#) from House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) calling on CBO to produce an analysis of Medicaid spending on emergency services for illegal aliens.

CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON’S STATEMENT

“The Congressional Budget Office’s analysis confirms that the mass migration of illegal immigrants is costing billions of dollars to Medicaid – a program created to serve the health care needs of the most vulnerable Americans. This is on top of the executive action taken to provide \$9 billion in Obamacare to illegal immigrants.”



This Administration's failure to secure the border not only brought millions of aliens unlawfully into the country but has also drained federal resources and disincentivized individuals from pursuing legal avenues for migration.

With over \$16.2 billion flowing from federal and state governments' coffers to pay for emergency services for illegal aliens, it is clear that Open Border Czar Vice President Harris's failed border policies remain the greatest threat to both the United States's national security and our economic standing."

BACKGROUND

To remove incentives for illegal migration and safeguard taxpayer dollars, President Clinton signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) which barred “non-qualified aliens” from accessing most federal benefits, including Medicaid. Notably, PRWORA included a statement of national policy that there **“is a compelling government interest to remove the incentive for illegal immigration provided by the availability of public benefits.”**

Under the law, “non-qualified aliens” are individuals who do not fall within nine enumerated categories of eligibility. **Illegal aliens without documentation are considered “non-qualified aliens” under PRWORA and thus statutorily barred from receiving most federal benefits.**

THE BOTTOM LINE

Despite PRWORA's limitation on illegal aliens receiving federally funded Medicaid benefits, such aliens may receive Medicaid benefits for emergency services. Specifically, Medicaid is required to cover treatment for illegal aliens who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid if not for their immigration status insofar as such services are necessary to treat an emergency medical condition.

Our unprecedented **\$35 trillion** national debt is unsustainable and poses a significant risk to our nation's national and fiscal security. Allowing millions of illegal aliens flooding across the Southwest border to tap into health care



benefits financed by hardworking Americans' tax dollars will only exacerbate our nation's fiscal crisis.

House Budget Committee Republicans are leading the charge to fully understand the budgetary effects of the surge in illegal migration and the impact on critical federal health care programs such as Medicaid, which must be safeguarded for the most vulnerable American citizens.

MORE FROM THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Read more about Chairman Arrington asking CBO to analyze the cost to taxpayers of the Biden-Harris Border Crisis on the Medicaid program [HERE](#).

Read more about the cost of the Biden-Harris Border Crisis [HERE](#).

Read Chairman Arrington's statement on the President signing H.R. 7032, the *Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Data Sharing Act* into law [HERE](#).

