

\$2 Billion in Cuts Under Affordable Care Act

WASHINGTON -- A non-partisan study says Sarasota and Manatee Counties will be among the hardest hit in the nation by Medicare cuts contained in President Obama's Affordable Care Act, Rep. Buchanan announced today.

[The study](#) by the University of Minnesota calculates the effects of the *Affordable Care Act's* \$716 billion cut to Medicare in a county-by-county analysis. The largest portion of the cuts, \$415 billion, comes from reductions in reimbursement rates to providers such as, doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes.

With over 200,000 seniors, the 13th congressional district of Florida has the highest percentage of seniors in the United States and is also the oldest congressional district in the country with a median age of 49.5.

The study shows that:

- Sarasota County is cut by over \$1.4 billion, while Manatee will be cut by \$824 million.
- Sarasota County is in the top 1.5% of the hardest-hit counties in the country with one of the highest cuts per capita in the United States at \$3,736.01 per person.
- Manatee County is in the top 15% of the hardest-hit counties in the country with a cut per capita of \$2,554.88 per person.
- Eight states will face cuts of at least \$20 billion each – Florida faces the second highest with \$44 billion in cuts.
- Specifics of the \$415 billion cut to providers include:
 - \$260 billion from hospital services, which provide seniors with a room, meals, drugs, and other services associated with inpatient care.
 - \$66 billion from home health services, which provide in-home nursing care, medical supplies and equipment vital to the care of homebound seniors.
 - \$39 billion from skilled nursing facilities, which is imperative to rehabilitation following inpatient hospital care.
 - \$17 billion from hospice services, which enable seniors to receive in-home pain management care in their final days.

- Medicare Advantage will be cut by \$156 billion nationally.

Buchanan warned that the proposed cuts to Medicare would negatively affect seniors, providers and the health care industry.

“Having worked their whole lives with the promise of a safe retirement, we must work together to save, protect and strengthen Medicare, not weaken it,” said Buchanan, adding that must begin by repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with common-sense reforms that bring down the cost of health care without hurting our seniors.

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