

RED ALERT

SAVE OUR HOSPITALS PROTECT OUR PATIENTS

MAINE HOSPITALS AT RISK OF CUTS, CLOSURE

What's happening?

Financial analysis by National Nurses United (NNU) shows that the following hospitals in Maine are extremely vulnerable to service cuts, due to pending cuts imposed by H.R. 1.

- » **MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick**
- » **Northern Light AR Gould Hospital in Presque Isle (MSNA/NNOC)**
- » **St. Mary's Health System in Lewiston**
- » **York Hospital in York**

In total, the four hospitals receive more than a million patient visits yearly and stand to lose between \$18 million and \$26 million annually when H.R. 1 is fully implemented.

What is H.R. 1 and what does it have to do with Maine's health care system?

H.R. 1 is the budget bill passed by U.S. House and Senate Republicans and signed into law by President Trump in 2025. Starting after the 2026 midterms, the bill imposes nearly \$1 trillion in federal health care funding cuts. Researchers calculate that the unprecedented cuts will lead to 10 million people losing their insurance by 2034. H.R. 1's health care cuts are paying for massive tax benefits to the wealthiest households in America, militarized immigration enforcement, and endless wars.

In its "A Preventable Crisis" report, NNU identified MaineHealth Mid Coast, Northern Light AR Gould Hospital, St. Mary's Health System, and York Hospital as four of 600 hospitals nationwide at risk of cuts and closure once H.R. 1 health care cuts take effect. These four hospitals have a heavy reliance on Medicaid and Medicare funding and share financial patterns similar to recently closed hospitals.

What is the potential impact of service cuts or closures at the four Maine hospitals identified by NNU?

Residents would be forced to travel much farther to receive emergency and acute care, and local economies would lose out on the jobs and federal funding in their communities. For example, with more than 1,100 employees, Northern Light AR Gould Hospital is the largest employer in Aroostook County, serving more than 300,000 patients each year. The other hospitals are smaller, but employ hundreds of workers each and serve tens of thousands of patients each year.

The closures would further compound an already shrinking health care network, especially for expectant mothers. Waldo Hospital in Belfast, Houlton Regional Hospital, Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, and Northern Light Inland Hospital in Waterville all ended maternity services in 2025 alone. MaineHealth Lincoln in Damariscotta has announced its plans to close its labor and delivery unit in December. Already, Calais Community Hospital, Northern Maine Medical Center and Downeast Community Hospital have also closed their labor and delivery departments. In total, 12 Maine birthing centers have closed in recent years.

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How many people receive care at these vulnerable hospitals and where would they go if services are reduced or the hospital is closed?

Patients seen at MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick in 2024:

- » 4,676 discharges
- » 32,244 ER visits
- » 493 births
- » 280,885 outpatient visits

If MaineHealth Mid Coast loses services or closes, the next closest hospitals for the community are in Lewiston. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center is just over 23 miles away, or about a 47-minute drive. St. Mary's is also on NNU's vulnerability list.

The alternative hospital would be Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) in Lewiston, about 24 miles away, or a 50-minute drive. CMMC is run by Prime Healthcare Foundation. Prime has a history of acquiring hospitals and then cutting services after it promised to maintain them.

St. Mary's does not offer all the services that Maine Health Mid Coast offers, including a cardiac catheterization laboratory, obstetrics, inpatient surgery, and an intensive care unit.

Patients seen at Saint Mary's Health System in Lewiston in 2024:

- » 3,181 discharges
- » 27,074 ER Visits
- » 405,399 outpatient visits

If Saint Mary's loses services or closes, the next closest hospital for the community would be Central Maine Medical Center. The hospital is about 1.5 miles away, adding five minutes' driving time.

Patients seen at York Hospital in York in 2024:

- » 1,899 discharges
- » 8,222 ER Visits
- » 42,620 outpatient visits

If York Hospital loses services or closes, the next closest hospital for the community would be Portsmouth Regional Hospital in New Hampshire. The hospital is about 13 miles away, adding 22 minutes' driving time.

Portsmouth Regional Hospital does not have all the service lines that York Hospital offers, including chemotherapy treatment and home health.

What's the bottom line?

H.R. 1 threatens an already fragile health care system in Maine, risking service cuts and closures at four hospitals that provided more than a million patient visits in 2024.

Not only are local economies and jobs at risk, all four hospitals act as vital parts of Maine's health care delivery system. Beyond the undue burden placed on residents to travel further for emergency and acute care, it is unclear how neighboring hospitals would be able to absorb the flow of incoming patients.

Nurses are calling for the reversal of federal funding cuts mandated by H.R. 1. Without a plan to save MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital, Northern Light AR Gould Hospital, St. Mary's Health System, and York Hospital, Maine patients will suffer from a declining quantity and quality of services and care at their nearest hospitals.

Sources:

American Hospital Association Survey (for ER visits, births, and out patient visits); The U.S. Census Report, Medicare Cost Reports (for discharges), hospital financial vulnerability analysis based on Medicare cost reports; provider websites

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