

Trump officials plan to cut hundreds of thousands from ACA, claiming fraud

Vice President JD Vance's anti-fraud task force is expected to say that the people were wrongly signed up for the government health care program.

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By Dan Diamond

Vice President JD Vance and administration officials are set to announce Tuesday that they are removing hundreds of thousands of people from Affordable Care Act coverage, saying that they were fraudulently enrolled in the government health program, according to three people with knowledge of the forthcoming announcement.

The administration also is set to suspend some brokers found to have wrongly signed up enrollees for ACA coverage, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss plans not yet made public.

The Wall Street Journal [first reported](#) the administration's push to remove the ACA enrollees and suspend some insurance brokers. Administration officials told The Washington Post [earlier this year](#) that the anti-fraud task force was examining the issue of ACA enrollment fraud.

Some conservative lawmakers and policy experts had recently pushed for another crackdown, saying that fraudulent ACA enrollment had spiked after covid-era initiatives that made it easier to sign up for coverage — and created incentives for bad actors to take advantage of the program.

Brian Blase, the founder of the Paragon Health Institute, a conservative think tank that has driven attention on ACA enrollment fraud, welcomed the administration's move.

The think tank estimated earlier this year that about 6 million ACA enrollees were fraudulent, a number that includes "[phantom enrollees](#)" either unaware they'd signed up or fabricated by brokers.

"The Trump administration actions to suspend brokers engaged in these activities and disenroll phantoms is welcome and will save taxpayers billions of dollars each year," said Blase, who was an economic aide to Trump in his first administration.

Mehmet Oz, who runs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the ACA, has previously said that his agency believes perhaps one-third of ACA enrollment is improper.

"If you care about the ACA, then you'll want us to take the fraud out," Oz said at a White House news briefing in June.