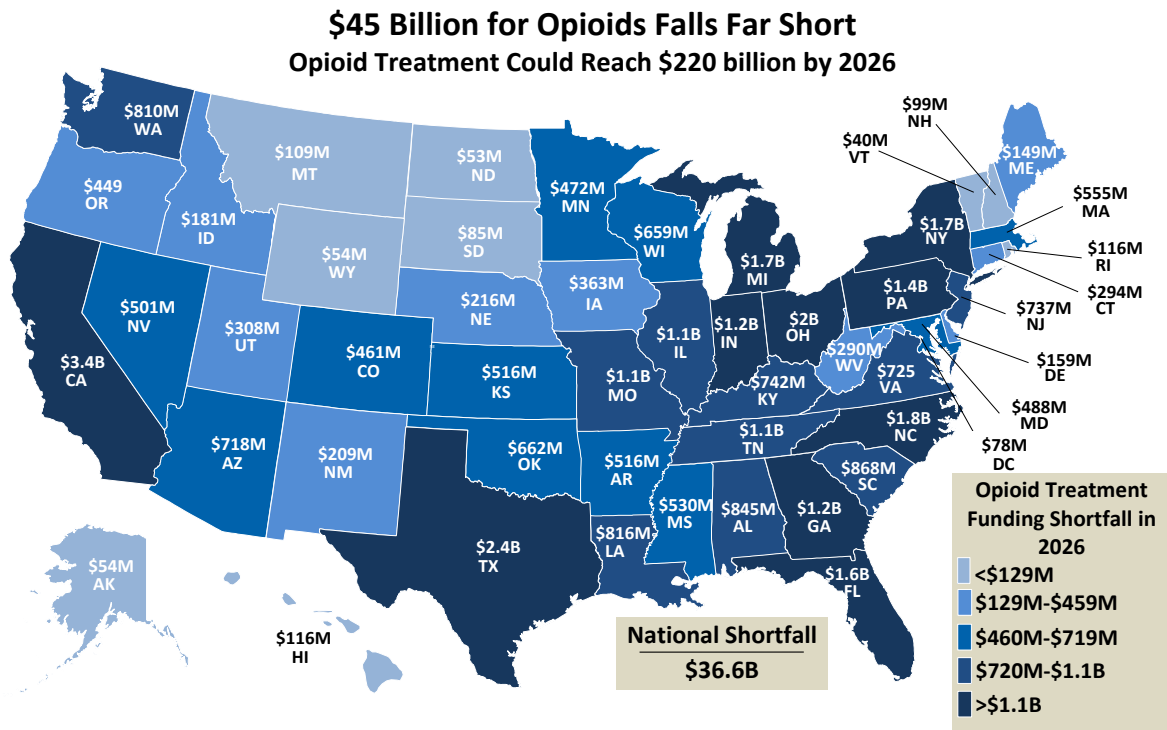




\$45 Billion For Opioid Treatment Falls Far Short

In order to garner support for the Senate TrumpCare bill, Senate Leader McConnell is rumored to buy votes with \$45 billion in funding to go towards treating the opioid epidemic. Every dollar counts, but \$45 billion doesn't even undo the damage caused by this bill. Even Ohio Republican Governor told Senator Rob Portman, \$45 billion for opioids treatment is “like spitting in the ocean—it’s not enough.”¹

Researchers estimate that the 10-year cost to care for those needing comprehensive substance use disorder treatment is up to \$220 billion.² To care just for those who would lose coverage due to TrumpCare’s repeal of Medicaid expansion, states would need to make up \$183 billion by 2026 for the lost opioid treatment coverage.³



Source: JEC Democratic Staff calculations based on data from Center for American Progress.

Senate TrumpCare also cuts Medicaid by nearly \$800 billion, crippling the most important mechanism to get needed funding to cash-strapped states. Medicaid has long played an important role in responding to public health crises like AIDS, the Flint water crisis, and the September 11th terrorist attacks. ⁴ The last thing Congress should be doing for the fight against the opioids epidemic is cutting Medicaid funding by 35 percent over the next 20 years.



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¹ <https://youtu.be/x2tY4n1SbPA?t=8m25s>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/06/20/434708/senates-opioid-fund-cannot-substitute-health-coverage/>

³ <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/338579-ending-medicaid-expansion-will-leave-people-struggling-with>

⁴ <https://www.manatt.com/Insights/White-Papers/2017/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Public-Emergencies-and-Health-C>