



Planned Parenthood President Alexis McGill Johnson vowed that the organization “will keep fighting this cruel law.” OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS FILE

Judge blocks Medicaid Planned Parenthood cuts

Nate Raymond
REUTERS

A federal judge on July 28 blocked enforcement of a provision in President Donald Trump’s recently enacted tax and spending bill that would deprive Planned Parenthood and its members of Medicaid funding, saying it is likely unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston issued a preliminary injunction after finding the law likely violated the U.S. Constitution by targeting Planned Parenthood’s health centers specifically for punishment for providing abortions.

That provision in the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act passed by the Republican-led Congress denied certain tax-exempt organizations and their affiliates from receiving Medicaid funds if they continue to provide abortions.

The Department of Justice argued that “the bill stops federal subsidies for Big Abortion” and urged Talwani not to let Planned Parenthood and its members “supplant duly enacted legislation with their own policy preferences.”

Talwani, an appointee of Democratic former President Barack Obama, said the law’s text and structure made clear that it was crafted to cover every member of Planned Parenthood Federation

of America, the parent organization, even if they were not named.

That specificity likely transformed the provision at issue into an unconstitutional “bill of attainder,” an act of Congress that wrongly seeks to inflict punishment without a trial, the judge said.

“Plaintiffs are likely to establish that Congress singled them out with punitive intent,” Talwani wrote.

She said the law also violated Planned Parenthood members’ equal protection rights under the Constitution’s Fifth Amendment and burdened the right of some who do not provide abortions to associate with their parent organization in likely violation of the First Amendment.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Planned Parenthood has said the law would have “catastrophic” consequences for its nearly 600 health centers, putting nearly 200 of them in 24 states at risk of closure.

“We will keep fighting this cruel law so that everyone can get birth control, STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, and other critical health care, no matter their insurance,” Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s president, said in a statement.

Congress to decide on plan to phase out penny

Sudiksha Kochi
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Republican lawmakers in Congress are forging ahead with President Donald Trump’s plan to end the production of pennies, a move that could potentially cost jobs and affect the way businesses handle cash transactions.

The House Financial Services Committee, which oversees banking, insurance and other related matters, advanced a bill dubbed the “Common Cents Act” by a vote of 35-13 on July 23.

The bill would formalize Trump’s February order directing the Treasury Department to halt penny production, and round cash transactions to the nearest five cents. It was introduced by Rep. Lisa McClain, R-Michigan, Rep. Robert Garcia, D-California, Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, in April.

“The *Common Cents Act* is about fiscal responsibility and good government,” McClain, the House Republican Conference chairwoman, said in a statement. “Taxpayers shouldn’t be footing the bill to produce a coin that loses money every time it’s made. It’s time to modernize our currency policy.”

Trump has previously deemed the one-cent coins as “wasteful,” arguing that it’s pricey to produce them. A 2024 annual report from the United States Mint found that the cost of making a penny was 3.69 cents.

Rep. John Rose, R-Tennessee, who sits on the House Financial Services Committee, originally expressed concerns over the “Common Cents Act,” but later supported the initiative.

Tennessee is home to the sole manufacturer of penny blanks, which are flat metal discs that eventually become coins, according to the U.S. Mint. Kevin Morrison, the mayor of Greene County, Tennessee, where the blanks are produced, argued that ending production could cost individuals their jobs.

In a House Financial Services Committee markup on July 23, Rose argued that eliminating the penny “without a well crafted plan” to phase out the one-



Congress has moved to formalize President Donald Trump’s plan to stop producing new pennies.
MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

cent coin won’t accomplish the goal of “improving the cost and efficiency of U.S. currency.”

“As it stands, there’s been no time provided for states, retailers or consumers to prepare for a penniless economy,” he said. “We need to do that responsibly and thoughtfully.”

However, Rose ultimately said he would vote in favor of the act, after getting reassurance from his colleague that his concerns would be addressed.

The influential House Rules Committee, which sets terms for how a bill will be debated on, amended and voted on by members in the lower chamber, must take up the bill next.

The bill does face an uphill battle in the Senate, however, as seven Democrats will need to join Republicans in breaking a 60-vote threshold and advancing it to a final vote, assuming all Republicans support the bill. Republicans have a 53-seat majority in the upper chamber.

The government made its final order of penny blanks in May – the first step to end the production of the coin, a spokesperson for the Treasury Department said. “The United States Mint will continue to manufacture pennies while an inventory of penny blanks exists,” the spokesperson said at the time.

It is unclear when the inventory will run out.

Contributing: Melina Khan, USA TODAY

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