

Public Policy Network of Western NC and North Georgia  
Candidate Profiles—NC Congressional District 11  
**Health**

**Mark Meadows-Incumbent (R-NC)**  
**From his website & other sites**

- **Access to Care:** Rep. Meadows led the Freedom Caucus' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act a.k.a. "Obamacare." Rep. Meadows' believes that repeal and replacement of ACA is necessary to lower the cost of healthcare for all Americans. He successfully advocated for the elimination of the ACA's "individual mandate" which required every American to obtain health care insurance, or be subjected to a tax penalty by the IRS; this change was included in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, and will go into effect in 2019.

NOTE: The individual mandate helps insurance companies keep our health care premiums lower because they would insure more younger and healthier individuals--as well as people with chronic diseases or health conditions, such as diabetes, who are more expensive to treat.) He is also seeking medical malpractice reforms to protect the medical community from frivolous malpractice suits, and elimination of the multi-state insurance plans under the ACA.

- **Medicaid expansion in NC:** Rep. Meadows has stated publicly that he favors pulling back subsidies and Medicaid money from some states, and redistributing funds as "Medicaid Block Grants" that would be under the control of each state. Rep. Meadows has already spoken with (NC) state legislators about this proposal (championed by Sen. Lindsey Graham R-SC). A spokesman from Graham's spokesman told the Asheville Citizen Times that "states with the most to gain from Graham's Block Grant proposal would be those who chose not to expand Medicaid under the ACA."

**QUICK BACKGROUND: The ACA provided increased federal funding for states that opted to expand Medicaid to serve the "working poor" (people who currently earn too much to qualify for Medicaid up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level). North Carolina did NOT opt to expand Medicaid—which could have provided insurance at a reduced cost for 450,000-500,000 North Carolinians.**

- **Cost Containment:** Rep. Meadows' website states that Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which represent over 40% of all government spending, "must be at the center of any serious proposal to return spending to sustainable levels." Rep. Meadows website states that that, "Social Security and Medicare will be unable to fully meet their promises to the next generation of retirees and will enslave future generations with debt." Rep. Meadows states that he would not propose "radical changes" to current or soon-to-be retirees' benefits; but he clearly signals his belief that it is important to "renegotiate expectations with younger Americans," which could mean increasing the retirement age for those just starting their careers, raising or eliminating the cap on payroll taxes for higher wage earners; and creating incentives for personal retirement and health care savings."

It has also been reported ([www.thehill.com](http://www.thehill.com)) that Rep. Meadows has recently joined forces with Democratic leaders in Congress to target the pharmaceutical industry over skyrocketing drug prices, endorsing a bill that would ensure generic manufacturers have access to samples of name-brand drugs for research purposes.

- **Opioid Abuse, Prevention & Treatment:** Rep. Meadows introduced HR 4482, the Opioid Abuse, Deterrence, Research and Recovery Act, a bill which "places a limit on a patient's first opioid prescription for acute-pain to no more than 7 days, except in cases of traumatic injury, chronic conditions, cancer-care, end of life care, palliative care, or based on a physician's recommendation. The limitation to seven days would appropriately mitigate risks of abuse while also providing flexibility for doctors and patients to receive treatment where needed. receive treatment where needed."

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**Phillip Price-Democratic Challenger**

**From his website & other sites**

- **Access to Care:** Mr. Price believes repealing the ACA will take health care coverage away from 40,000 residents in Congressional District 11, and will cost us jobs too. Mr. Price believes health care is a right, not a privilege. He personally “went years without healthcare... until the Affordable Care Act.”

Mr. Price supports a “Medicare for All” healthcare system; and he says that his top priority, if elected, will be passage of H.R. 676, the “Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act.” He believes H.R. 676 will not only provide access to health care for more people, it will also “create jobs, because more people would be needed to provide that care...More people will be free to start their own businesses when they no longer have to rely on employer- based health care.”

- **Medicaid Expansion in NC:** Mr. Price supports Medicaid expansion for North Carolina During a rally in Hendersonville during the 2018 Democratic primary, Mr. Price expressed concern that rural hospitals are closing without the funding that would have been made available to cover the cost of providing care if North Carolina had approved Medicaid expansion.

**QUICK BACKGROUND: The ACA provided increased federal funding for states that opted to expand Medicaid to serve the “working poor” (people who currently earn too much to qualify for Medicaid up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level.) North Carolina did NOT opt to expand Medicaid—which could have provided insurance at a reduced cost for 450,000-500,000 North Carolinians.**

- **Rural Areas:** Mr. Price’s website says, “When it comes to health care, it’s not just doctors and nurses. Hospitals are the heart of many rural communities in Western North Carolina, supporting a wide array of related jobs.”

Mr. Price highlighted two hospitals in NC-11 (in Mitchell and Transylvania Counties) that no longer deliver babies: “Did you know that hospitals in Western NC are closing their maternity wards and forcing women in some rural towns to travel greater distances – sometimes over mountain roads, sometimes on snowy nights — to safely give birth? That may be smart business. But it’s not good healthcare.”

- **Cost Containment:** No information available.
- **Opioid Crisis:** No information available.