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Insurers Expect \$1 Billion in Risk Corridor Payments, Committee Finds

by [Sara Hansard](#)

The Affordable Care Act includes several provisions to keep premiums stable if health insurers end up with sicker-than-expected enrollees. Congressional Republicans have charged this could lead to a "bailout" of insurers, and they say the Obama administration doesn't have legal authority to make payments under the program without explicit congressional appropriations, something the Republican House may not provide.

At a June 18 [hearing](#) of a House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) released data compiled by committee staff showing that insurers covering three-quarters of enrollees in the ACA marketplaces expect to collect payments under the risk corridors program, which the administration initially said would be budget-neutral. "The total taxpayer bailout could in fact well exceed \$1 billion this year alone," said Jordan, chairman of the Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee.

June 19, the House Energy and Commerce Committee released a June 18 [letter](#) from Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell saying that the HHS has the authority to collect user fees from insurers that participate in the ACA marketplaces and make payments under the risk corridors program.