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Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill” Could Hurt Louisiana’s Most Vulnerable

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

Legislation Not So Beautiful for Louisiana
President Donald Trump’s recently signed “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” a sweeping 2025 Reconcilia-

tion Package, is already drawing fierce criticism from policy analysts, health advocates, and local leaders in Louisiana. While the legislation promises tax relief and expanded immigration enforcement, its deep cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and clean energy funding could disproportionately harm vulnerable communities across the state.

Tax Cuts for Some, But at What Cost?
Although the bill extends the 2017 Trump-Era Tax Cuts and modestly raises the Child Tax Credit, the benefits are skewed toward higher-income households. While some Louisiana families may see temporary relief, the bill eliminates or reduces incentives for Clean Energy Investment, a growing sector in Louisi-

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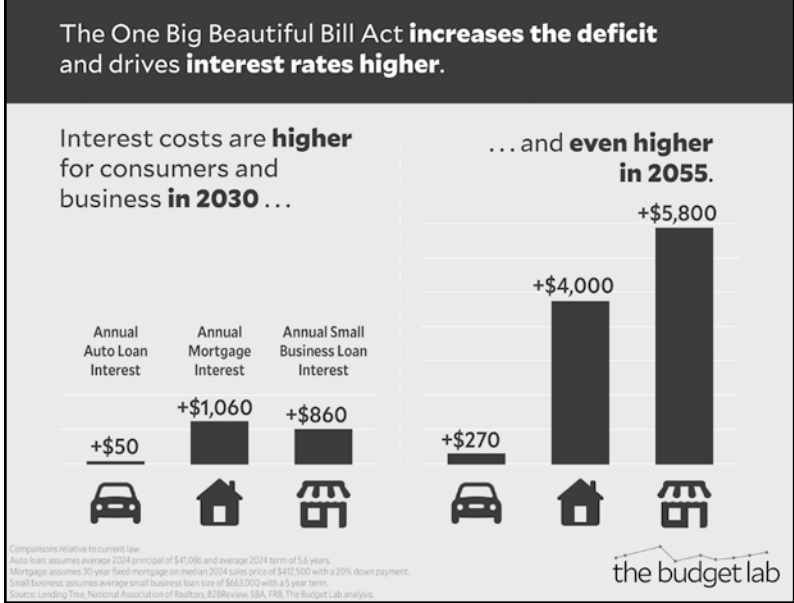
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ana's Economy. The loss of federal support for renewable energy projects threatens to stall job creation in areas like coastal restoration, solar development, and green infrastructure.

Medicaid and SNAP Cuts: A Blow to Health and Food Security

The bill imposes strict new work requirements and eligibility restrictions for Medicaid and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). These changes are expected to result in millions of Americans losing access to health and food support. In Louisiana, where nearly 40% of residents rely on Medicaid and over 800,000 depend on food assistance, the impact could be devastating.

Many low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities may find themselves kicked off vital programs due to Bureaucratic Red Tape or an inability to meet new mandates. The Congressional Budget Office projects 10–12 million Americans could lose Medicaid coverage, creating a healthcare gap that Louisiana's safety-net systems



may be ill-equipped to handle.

Financial Burden Shifts to the State

With the federal government pulling back, the bill shifts more of the administrative and funding responsibility for Medicaid and SNAP onto the states. Louisiana, already battling budget constraints, would face tough choices: cut essential services, raise state taxes, or re-

duce coverage and eligibility even further. Programs such as Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Care, and Rural Clinic Networks could be among the first casualties of this funding squeeze.

Hospitals, Nonprofits, and Communities at Risk

Urban and rural hospitals alike are bracing for the fallout. Louisiana's Healthcare Infrastructure is



heavily dependent on federal reimbursements. Cuts in coverage could mean increased uncompensated care, emergency room overcrowding, and potential closures, especially in rural parishes. Nonprofit organizations, food banks, and community health workers will also feel the strain, as demand rises but federal support disappears.

A Divided Political Landscape

While most of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation supported the bill, local leaders are expressing growing concern. Critics argue the

legislation prioritizes political wins over people's lives. Some worry that the most marginalized children, low-income workers, seniors, and people with chronic illnesses will bear the brunt of the changes.

The bill is expected to become a major issue in the 2025–26 Election Cycle, with Democrats and Republicans alike facing scrutiny for how these changes play out at the local level.

Bottom Line: More Harm Than Help for Louisiana

Trump's Reconciliation Bill may deliver talking points and

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Essence Festival 2025

“Made Like This” – A Vibrant Tapestry of Culture and Connection

Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Staff
Photographer

The atmosphere in New Orleans was electric as the 2025 Essence Festival, undaunted and unapologetically “Made Like This,” filled the streets with spirit, style, and soul. Thousands converged during the Fourth of July weekend, drawn in by a dynamic lineup of music legends, empowering panels, and cultural showcases. From chart-topping headliners at the Caesars Superdome to illuminating discussions at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, this year’s gathering amplified the Essence of Black Achievement, creativity, and community. Amid the dazzling performances and high-fashion moments, Data News Weekly was on the ground, capturing authentic smiles, spontaneous joy, and stories of inspiration. Our exclusive photo spread brings that energy to your screen, each image a testament to the individual and collective brilliance that defines Essence Festival 2025.



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Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

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Rev. Keith Paul Stewman Installed as 21st President of Louisiana Freedmen Missionary Baptist General Association

Glenda Bell
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In a spirit-filled service of worship, unity, and celebration, the Louisiana Freedmen Missionary Baptist General Association hosted its Inaugural and Installation Ceremony honoring Rev. Keith Paul Stewman as the Association's 21st President. The event took place on June 29, 2025, at Rock of Ages Baptist Church in Marrero, LA, with Rev. Terrance Ranson, Sr. serving as host pastor.

Rev. Stewman was installed alongside his full Cabinet, Board of Directors, and Ministry Leaders, marking a historic transition of leadership under the theme: "Rais-



ing the Standard Rooted in Love" – Isaiah 62:10.

A native of Jefferson Parish and the son of the late Paul and Velma Stewman, Rev. Stewman is the beloved Pastor/Teacher of Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church in Harvey, LA, where he has faithfully led for 37 years. He is known for his unwavering commitment to Evangelism, community outreach, and kingdom-building, serving with humility, integrity, and vision.

Rev. Stewman received his Theological Education from Union Baptist Theological College and Christian Bible College, earning both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Theology and Divinity. His decades of service to the Baptist commu-

nity include leadership roles in the Westside Missionary Baptist Association, the Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission State Convention, and the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

The installation was more than a Ceremonial Milestone—it was a moment of consecration and renewal. Churches from across Louisiana gathered to affirm Rev. Stewman's leadership and join in prayerful expectation for what God will accomplish through this new administration.

The Louisiana Freedmen Missionary Baptist General Association now moves forward in unity, recommitting itself to spiritual growth and lifting the standard of ministry, rooted in love, purpose, and faith.

Congressman Troy Carter Urges Federal Action on Disaster Readiness Amid Deadly Texas Flooding



Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

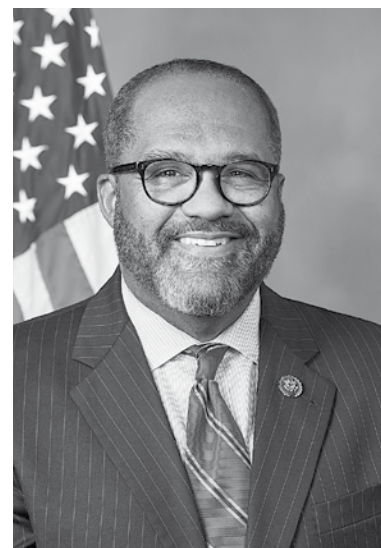
In response to the deadly flooding that has devastated parts of Texas this week, U.S. Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA) issued a forceful statement demanding immediate federal action to address what he described as a dangerous lapse in National Disaster Preparedness.

"As the U.S. Congressman for New Orleans and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Disaster Recovery Caucus, I feel a deep and urgent responsibility to speak clearly," Carter said in his official remarks. He cited the loss of life and widespread damage as a tragic reminder of the high

cost of failing to invest in prevention and preparedness.

"Dozens of lives have been lost. Families are grieving. And across the Gulf South, communities are bracing for what could come next," Carter stated, linking the disaster to cuts in funding and staffing at key federal agencies responsible for weather monitoring and emergency response.

According to Carter, recent reductions under the Trump administration have weakened FEMA, NOAA, and the National Weather Service three agencies critical to early warning and disaster mitigation efforts. He specifically noted the dismantling of satellite systems that previously provided critical advance alerts for extreme weather events.



"In the middle of hurricane season, my home State of Louisiana and others like it are more exposed than ever before," Carter warned.

"This devastation is not just about rising waters; it's about failed leadership."

Calling for immediate action, Congressman Carter urged President Trump and FEMA Secretary Kristi Noem to:

1. Fully restore and increase funding to FEMA, NOAA, and the National Weather Service.
2. Reactivate and modernize hurricane and flood satellite monitoring systems.
3. Ensure Federal Disaster Agencies are adequately staffed and prepared for future emergencies.

"This is not about partisanship," Carter emphasized. "It's about protection. It's about preparation. And most of all, it's about people."

Carter pledged to continue advocating for increased resources, upgraded technology, and stronger federal readiness through his role on the Congressional Disaster Recovery Caucus.

"We cannot afford to wait for the next disaster to remind us of what we failed to do," he concluded.

The statement arrives as Louisiana and the broader Gulf Coast brace for an active hurricane season, with communities still recovering from past storms and facing an uncertain future in the face of climate-driven extreme weather.

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Talent Over Tokenism

Black Mayors Slash Crime Despite Media Silence

Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior
National Correspondent

While cable news pundits and national newspapers often fixate on urban dysfunction, Black mayors across America are delivering measurable, record-breaking progress in public safety, and getting almost no credit for it. Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin have overseen some of the steepest reductions in violent crime their cities have experienced in decades. But they are far from alone. From New York to Los Angeles to Chicago, Black mayors are proving that talent, vision, and a relentless focus on evidence-based policy not tokenism, are transforming communities. Yet their achievements have largely been ignored by mainstream media outlets that rarely look past sensational headlines.

Baltimore, long branded one of America's most dangerous cities, released midyear crime data showing a 22% drop in homicides compared to the same period last year. Nonfatal shootings are down 19%, and juvenile homicide victims have declined by an astonishing 71%. Police are solving more crimes, with a homicide clearance rate of 64% and a nonfatal shooting clearance rate 20 percentage points above the department's 10-year average.

"The Birmingham Police Department is extremely aggressive in what they're doing and how they're taking a different approach in policing our community," Woodfin said. He credited a blend of new technology, such as the Real Time Crime Center, and grassroots cooperation. "When you share information, it doesn't allow the criminal element to be emboldened and hide behind fear of people," Woodfin explained.

While total violent crime in Birmingham has edged up slightly, the plunge in homicides shows that sustained focus and coordination can work even if major media don't bother to cover it. State and federal partners in Maryland have also acknowledged Baltimore's



Governor Moore Attends a Press Conference with Mayor Brandon Scott on Public Safety in Baltimore by Pat Siebert at 100 Holliday St, Baltimore, MD 2120 (Wikimedia Commons / Photo by Maryland GovPics)

progress. "Baltimore City released a midyear report showing the fewest homicides ever recorded at this point in a single year," Maryland Governor Wes Moore's office said in a statement. Across the country, other Black mayors are driving similar results.

In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams has presided over a 24% drop in shootings and a 14% decline in murders so far in 2025, the fewest shooting incidents recorded in more than a decade. Robberies and burglaries are also down, with NYPD data showing consistent reductions across nearly every major crime category. On the West Coast, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass saw homicides fall 14% in 2024 and gang-related killings drop nearly 45% in areas targeted by community safety programs. Overall violent crime declined by 3%, and property crimes like burglary and auto theft dropped by thousands of incidents compared to the prior year.

In Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson has overseen a 22% decrease in murders and a 31% drop in shootings through early 2025, reaching the city's lowest homicide totals in over a decade. Officials credit community-based outreach and investments in neighborhood violence prevention. And in Atlanta, Mayor Andre Dickens announced that violent

crime was down nearly 16% in 2024, with homicides decreasing and property crime dropping as well. The city has invested in hiring more officers while expanding the At-Promise Centers that connect youth with educational and mental health resources.

In both large and mid-sized cities, the results are undeniable: fewer families burying loved ones, more cases solved, and more residents willing to engage with police. But to hear much of the national narrative, you'd never know it. As several social media users have pointed out, in Baltimore, Birmingham, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta, Black leadership is not a box to check or a headline to boast about. It's what drives real, life-saving change—whether the national media notices or not. "While we acknowledge the historic lows we are experiencing, we must simultaneously acknowledge that there is much more work to do," Scott stated. "And our success makes me commit even further to doing it."



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