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Following Hope Florida Findings, Phil Ehr Unveils a Two-Front Plan to Protect Florida Families

Ehr's Healthcare Stabilization Act and South Florida Anti-Corruption Task Force address the two-front assault on family stability

MIAMI — Democratic congressional nominee Phil Ehr today announced two central priorities of his campaign: the Healthcare Stabilization Act and the creation of a South Florida Anti-Corruption Task Force.

The announcement follows a state grand jury's finding that \$10 million recovered through a Medicaid settlement was misappropriated after being routed through the Hope Florida Foundation and into partisan political activity.

"The compounding effect is a two-front assault on family stability: Florida is withholding affordable health coverage while money recovered from a Medicaid contractor was redirected away from children and into politics," Ehr said. "Public service requires us to solve the problem and account for every dollar. Florida families got neither."

The consequences are especially serious in Florida's 28th Congressional District, where nearly 287,000 people—36% of the district's population—relied on Affordable Care Act Marketplace coverage in 2025.

The enhanced federal premium tax credits expired at the end of last year. KFF estimated that their expiration would more than double average premium payments. Florida has since experienced the country's largest decline in Marketplace enrollment, with more than 440,000 Floridians leaving their plans.

Rep. Carlos Gimenez knew what was coming. In November, he signed a bipartisan letter warning that allowing the credits to expire without a solution would cause drastic premium increases and "risk real harm" to his constituents. But when the House voted in January on legislation providing a three-year extension, Gimenez voted no.

“When nearly 287,000 people in this district depend on Marketplace coverage, a warning letter followed by a no vote is not representation,” Ehr said. “Families cannot pay their insurance premiums with false hope and strongly worded letters.”

Florida families are also waiting for the KidCare expansion unanimously approved by the Legislature and signed into law in 2023. The expansion was designed to provide subsidized coverage to more than 40,000 children in families earning between 200% and 300% of the federal poverty level—approximately \$66,000 to \$99,000 for a family of four today.

The DeSantis administration delayed implementation while challenging a federal requirement that children remain covered for 12 months, including when a family misses a monthly premium payment. Florida withdrew that lawsuit in February, but the expansion still has not started.

At the same time, the grand jury found that \$10 million connected to a settlement over Medicaid prescription-drug overcharges was misappropriated for political purposes. The entire \$10 million left the foundation within 25 days.

“Children were left waiting. Political operations were not,” Ehr said. “That is why healthcare affordability and public corruption cannot be treated as separate issues. Every public dollar diverted from its proper purpose is a dollar that cannot reduce a premium, pay for treatment or protect a family from medical debt.”

The Healthcare Stabilization Act

Ehr’s Healthcare Stabilization Act would lower costs by requiring real competition and creating a reliable backstop where the private market fails.

The proposal would:

- Require every regional market to offer at least two viable insurance plans with adequate provider networks and reasonable costs.
- Establish a nonprofit public plan only in regions where private insurers leave, offer inadequate networks or charge uncompetitive prices.
- Allow families to keep employer-sponsored insurance, Medicare, union plans or private coverage without a compulsory transition.
- Cap deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses so coverage is affordable to use, not merely affordable to advertise.
- Expand prescription-drug negotiations, extend negotiated savings to privately insured patients, reform pharmacy benefit managers and accelerate access to generics and biosimilars.
- Reimburse providers at approximately Medicare rates plus 10% to 15% to control costs without forcing doctors and hospitals to operate at a loss.
- Invest in community health centers, primary and mental-health care, tele-health and providers serving shortage areas, including South Dade and the Florida Keys.

The plan would be financed through drug-negotiation savings, PBM reforms, reduced uncompensated emergency-room care and other healthcare savings—not a middle-class tax increase.

The South Florida Anti-Corruption Task Force

Ehr will also pursue the creation of a permanent interagency task force focused on corruption involving public contracts, healthcare spending, disaster recovery, housing, infrastructure and other taxpayer-funded programs.

The task force would bring together federal law-enforcement agencies, inspectors general, forensic auditors and local prosecutors to:

- Follow public money through contractors, subcontractors, nonprofits and political organizations.
- Coordinate investigations that cross agency and jurisdictional boundaries.
- Establish a protected, centralized process for whistleblowers to report suspected corruption.
- Recover misspent public funds and pursue the suspension or debarment of contractors that abuse taxpayer programs.
- Provide regular public reporting on investigations, referrals and recovered funds while protecting active cases.

“Corruption raises the cost of government and leaves families paying twice—once through their taxes and again when the services they funded never reach them,” said Ehr.

“Carlos Gimenez has had years in Congress to confront the rising cost of healthcare. He voted against the relief placed before him. FL-28 deserves a representative who will do more than describe the emergency. I will fight to lower costs, protect coverage and follow the money wherever it leads.”

About Phil Ehr

Phil Ehr is a retired U.S. Navy commander, national security professional and the Democratic nominee for Florida’s 28th Congressional District. His campaign is focused on lowering household costs, restoring accountability and delivering practical, bipartisan solutions for South Florida families.

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