

Senator Collins is Costing Maine

With just one vote, Maine lost \$675 million on her watch

By Mark Shaffer | MECEP Action

Over 10 years, Senator Collins brought Maine \$3.45 billion. Her vote to advance Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBB) will cost Maine \$4.125 billion.

Net: Maine is \$675 million worse off and that's before counting higher energy bills, rising insurance premiums, and tariff costs associated with other Trump administration policies.

The four things to know:

1. **Every senator brings home federal money.** That's the baseline job, not a special achievement. Maine has two senators and two representatives doing it no matter who holds the seat.
2. **Her vote cost Maine.** Senator Collins cast the decisive vote to advance Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBB) that gave over \$1 trillion in tax cuts to the ultra-rich and costs Maine more than \$4 billion in cuts to health care, nutrition assistance, and clean energy investments over the next 10 years.
3. **She can't have it both ways.** Senator Collins disavows responsibility for OBBB because of her final "no" vote. Casting a key vote to keep the proposal moving and then opposing it only once her vote no longer matters isn't making Maine better off. It's political cover for advancing Trump's agenda.
4. **The math doesn't work.** No amount of ribbon-cutting offsets the \$4.125 billion in cuts to health care, nutrition assistance, and clean energy investments Senator Collins cost Maine with just one vote.

Bringing money home isn't the job. Making Maine better off is.

Senator Collins likes to point to the federal dollars she brings home. Those investments matter, but they aren't unique to her. Every member of Maine's congressional delegation does this work. Maine keeps two senators and two representatives fighting for funding regardless of who holds a given seat.

Collins claims she brought [\\$1.5 billion](#) to Maine. But counting checks isn't the test. What matters is whether the policies she enacts make life better or worse for the people she represents. And on Trump's budget bill, the answer is worse.

Collins had the power to stop OBBB, she chose not to. Collins has a believable talking point: she voted against the final OBBB. But that's not the whole story.

The Medicaid cuts Collins cited as her reason for opposing OBBB were always in the bill and were worse in earlier drafts. If she wanted to stop them to protect Mainers' access to affordable health care and rural hospitals, she could have voted no from the start.

Before the final vote, Collins cast a deciding [procedural vote](#) allowing the bill to advance. This is a pattern in her record under the Trump administration: symbolic opposition when a bill will pass without her anyway, and support when Trump actually needs her vote.

Medicaid: a \$2.7 billion hole, patched with \$142 million

OBBB slashes [\\$2.7B](#) from MaineCare, Maine's Medicaid program, which provides health care to individuals and families with low income, children, older Mainers, veterans, and people with disabilities. The "replacement" fund covers, at most, 5% of that.

Collins negotiated the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) which is projected to deliver just [\\$950](#) million for Maine — far short of what's needed. This is her solution to help offset the impact of Medicaid cuts for providers. It will do little to ease the pain:

- States can spend only [15%](#) of RHTP money on direct provider payments which were previously covered by Medicaid.
- That means Maine can replace only \$142.5 million of the \$2.7 billion it loses in Medicaid funding.
- [31,000](#) Mainers will lose coverage. Rural hospitals — already running thinner margins after cutting charity care by [\\$80 million](#) since 2018 — will be left to absorb the rest.
- At least four Maine hospitals are at risk of closure or significantly curtailing services due to this policy.

Collins can say she brought \$950 million to Maine. She can't say that offsets the \$2.7 billion she also cost the state and particularly rural communities.

SNAP: Maine pays more and families get less

OBBB cuts \$1.1 billion over 10 years from food assistance programs that help families struggling to make ends meet and, in turn, support local businesses. These federal cuts shift up to \$94 million in new costs onto Maine taxpayers with the bill getting bigger in a recession, exactly when families need it most.

Every dollar spent on food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) generates [\\$1.54](#) in local economic activity. Cutting it doesn't just hurt recipients, it hurts the grocery stores and small businesses in the towns that can least afford to lose customers.

Clean energy: fewer jobs, higher bills, no progress on climate

OBBB cost Maine \$325 million in lost economic investment and will add at least \$600 million to household energy costs over the next 10 years.

[\\$5.3 billion](#) in planned Maine clean-energy investment is now at risk. Based on cancellation rates seen nationally, Maine will likely lose approximately \$325 million in investment. That means fewer projects, fewer jobs, less economic activity, and higher costs. Maine households will pay approximately [\\$80](#) more per year for electricity in a state that already carries one of the country's highest energy burdens.

The bottom line

Based on recent figures, Senator Collins brings in roughly \$2.5B in appropriations per decade, plus \$950M from RHTP totaling \$3.45 billion for Maine. Meanwhile, OBBB alone costs Maine \$4.125 billion in cuts to health care, nutrition assistance, and clean energy investments over the next ten years. That’s in addition to the outsized tax cuts it gives to the ultra-rich and large corporations that compromise our ability to keep costs down for everyone else.

Net: On Senator Collins’ watch, Maine is \$675 million worse off, even before counting higher insurance premiums from the ACA credit rollback, tariff impact on Canadian trade, and cuts to federal services.

And OBBB isn’t the whole picture. This tally doesn’t touch the Iran war, DOGE cuts, tariff impact on cross-border trade, or the expiration of ACA subsidies — all separate costs to Maine families that Senator Collins’ record must answer for.

Mainers should judge Senator Collins on her record — not only on the money she claims credit for bringing home, but also the harm her choices leave behind.

What Senator Collins says she does and what Maine is losing	
What Collins brings home	
Federal appropriations	+\$2.5 billion
Rural Health Transformation Program	+\$950 million
Total brought to Maine	+\$3.45 billion
What Maine is losing under the Republican budget bill	
Medicaid	-\$2.7 billion
SNAP	-\$1.1 billion
Clean-energy investment	-\$325 million
Total lost	-\$4.125 billion
Net impact	
-\$675 million	
This doesn't include:	Higher household energy/transportation costs or other federal policy impacts on health insurance premiums and prescription drug costs

Note: Figure reflects 10-year projections based on CBO, Maine DHS, and USDA SNAP data, and analysis of hospital financial reports (2018–2024).

ⁱ \$190 million of first year, extrapolated over five years