



Repeal of the Affordable Care Act

On March 6, 2017, House Republicans introduced the American Health Care Act, "Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations Related to Repeal and Replace of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."

Losing Gains in Health Coverage Nationwide: More than 88.5 million women ages 18–64 (9 in 10 women) across the U.S. now have health insurance through an employer, the ACA marketplaces, state Medicaid programs, or another source. Between 2013–2015, more than 7.8 million women ages 18–64 gained health insurance coverage, a growth rate of 10% nationally. Women of color make up about a third of women with health insurance, but make up nearly two thirds who could lose health coverage if the ACA is repealed. The American Health Care Act puts these millions of women in jeopardy of losing their health coverage.

Reversing Gains in Every State: Five states and D.C. have achieved nearly universal health coverage (at least 95 %) of women ages 18–64, and in the majority of states, more than 90% of non-elderly women now have health insurance coverage. Before the ACA, only one state (Massachusetts) had nearly universal coverage of women ages 18–64. The American Health Care Act could mean women lose health coverage in every state.

Threatening Gains in States that have Expanded Medicaid: States expanding Medicaid have seen the largest increases in insurance coverage of women ages 18–64 between 2013–2015. The vast majority—about 5 million—of women ages 18–64 who have gained health coverage live in a state that expanded Medicaid. Non-expansion states have the lowest proportions of women ages 18–64 with health coverage. These data indicate that expanding Medicaid produces large gains in health insurance for women across the board.

Medicaid Coverage Banned at Planned Parenthood: Women would no longer be able to use Medicaid coverage to obtain contraceptive services and counseling, STI testing and treatment, and breast and cervical cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood, which would be barred from receiving federal funds.

Abortion Coverage: Women would be unable to buy private health insurance coverage that includes abortion, if they use federal tax credits to pay any portion of the premium, encouraging insurers to drop abortion coverage.

Medicare and Medicaid Cuts: The plan repeals a Medicare payroll tax on high earners, reducing the solvency of Medicare by 3 years, from 2028 to 2025. It cuts over half a trillion dollars from Medicaid over ten years, which will force states to make deep cuts in either the number of people who receive benefits or the amount of health care provided. Over 70 million Americans rely on Medicaid.

Older Americans: The legislation would allow health insurers to charge older Americans who are not yet eligible for Medicare 5 times as much for health insurance as younger people costing billions to those 50-64.

Tax Breaks: The American Health Care Act risks the health coverage of millions of Americans while handing \$465 billion in tax breaks to the wealthy, health insurance corporations and drug firms.

Penalties for those Trying to Regain Coverage: Anyone losing coverage for 63 days or more, even if it's the result of a lost job or a long sickness, would have to pay 30% more to an insurance company to regain coverage.

The GOP plan would cover fewer people, shift more costs on to individuals and states, and provide worse coverage. The plan is being considered without information from the Congressional Budget Office on how many people could lose coverage and no expert testimony allowed on how the bill will affect millions of Americans. It is a bad plan for women and families and must be rejected.

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