

# PROTECT OUR CARE

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Brad Woodhouse, Protect Our Care Campaign Director

**Date:** March 18, 2018

**Re:** We Won't Go Back: 8 Years After the Affordable Care Act, Defending Health Care Progress Against Republican Attacks

---

Eight years after the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law, the uninsured rate has been cut in half, insurers can no longer deny, drop or limit the care you get because of a pre-existing condition, personal bankruptcy filings have been cut in half, out of pocket spending has dropped by double digits, millions of people benefit from tax credits to pay for coverage or no-cost preventive care such as birth control, women can no longer be charged more than men, and millions of young adults can stay on their parents plan until age 26. Those are a few of the ways people have benefited from the ACA, now more popular than ever. Indeed, there is much to celebrate.

## **The Partisan War on Health Care is Not Over**

But celebration should not lead to complacency. The gains Americans have made over the last eight years now face existential risk because of President Trump and Congressional Republicans' relentless war on our health care. For more than a year, they have tried relentlessly to repeal and undermine the law -- and while the ACA remains law of the land, they have succeeded in paring back core provisions through executive-branch sabotage and TrumpTax legislation.

Thanks to millions of people raising their voices across the country at town halls and rallies, sharing their stories, and writing letters to the editor, among other actions, we were able to stop the partisan repeal attempts in Congress last year. People were outraged by the Republican repeal plans that would have ripped away coverage from tens of millions of people, raised premiums by double digits for millions more, imposed an age tax allowing insurers to charge people over 50 five times more, slashed Medicaid by hundreds of billions of dollars, and gutted key protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

However, the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress have been able to sabotage the law. Let's not forget:

Two actions alone will cause premiums to increase nearly 20 percent and 9 million to lose access to comprehensive coverage. First, they repealed a key provision of the ACA to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy and corporations. And then the Trump Administration proposed a rule to allow insurance companies to sell "junk" plans again that do not meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. These plans won't have to cover essential health benefits such as cancer treatments and maternity care and can deny coverage altogether for pre-existing conditions, causing people's health care costs to increase because fewer health services would be covered.

That's not all. They have waged a war on women's health, proposing to allow insurers to charge women more than men again, and taking direct aim at birth control by rolling back parts of the ACA.

Unsurprisingly, the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress continue to propose huge cuts to Medicaid, which would result in millions of low-income adults and children losing health coverage, as well as cuts to nursing home care for seniors, rural hospitals closing, less funds for drug treatment to combat the opioid crisis, and fewer care options for people with disabilities.

## **Enough is Enough: We Won't Go Back**

The good news is that the American people are overwhelmingly on our side. They want to end the partisan war on health care and for Republicans and Democrats to find bipartisan solutions to build on the successes of the law. They do not want to go back to the days when insurers could deny coverage or put limits on your care.

# PROTECT OUR CARE

That's why, this week, advocates across the country, from the Cascades to Capitol Hill, will hold "We Won't Go Back" events to highlight the progress we've made in the last eight years and the ways we will continue to thwart Republican attempts to roll back these gains.

We know what happens when our elected leaders ignore these gains. As we have seen recently in elections in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and New Jersey, health care is the number one issue on voters' minds. We oppose ongoing Republican attempts to repeal and sabotage our health care.

Enough is enough. We are not going back. It's time to end the partisan war on health care.