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Protect Our Care

Coloradans Condemn Senator Gardner's Support for Health Care Repeal Lawsuit, Urge Supreme Court to Take Up Case Immediately

Access to health care for Coloradans hangs in the balance after Circuit Court ruling to undermine Affordable Care Act

(Denver, CO) - Today, health care activists and experts denounced Senator Cory Gardner's support for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' [decision](#) in *Texas vs. United States*, the partisan lawsuit seeking to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The decision is a devastating blow to Coloradans, particularly those who depend on lifesaving prescription drugs, who could lose their access to quality, affordable health insurance and reasonably priced medication. In a press conference outside of his Denver office, health care advocates called on Sen. Gardner to stand up for his constituents' health care and urged the Supreme Court to fast track the health care repeal lawsuit to end the uncertainty over health care access and affordability.

"The Fifth Circuit Court decision prolongs the uncertainty and the instability in our health care system and sustains this unprecedented attack on the health care of millions of consumers in the U.S and over 600,000 Coloradans," said **Adam Fox, Director of Strategic Engagement at Colorado Consumer Health Initiative**. "We hope the Supreme Court will take up the case and uphold the ACA to bring peace of mind for all of the people who rely on it for their health care."

Health care advocate **Gail DeVore** spoke about the struggle many people with Type 1 diabetes go through in order to afford their insulin.

"My prescription of four bottles of insulin costs more than my mortgage," said **Gail DeVore, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at 11 years old**. "I don't care what your income is — rich or poor or in-between — we should not have to pay this price for insulin. This little 3.4 ounce bottle of insulin costs \$350, and most diabetics need multiple bottles of insulin each month to stay alive. The situation has become so bad that when friends have relatives who have passed away they call me to find out who needs the dead person's insulin. When 25 percent of

diabetics ration our dosage due to cost, it means we are paying the price of insulin with our lives.”

When going through chemotherapy, stage 4 cancer survivor **Laura Packard** faced a different obstacle than just dealing with her recent cancer diagnosis when her insurance company denied her access to a drug which helps fight infections in people undergoing chemo treatment.

“The monopoly pricing of these drugs threatens our lives every day and our senator is doing nothing about it,” said **Laura Packard, stage 4 cancer survivor and co-chair of Health Care Voter**. “When I was going through my treatment, my oncologist prescribed me a drug to help bring up my immune system faster so I wouldn’t be at risk. This was a \$13,000 drug and my insurance company said no. I wound up in the hospital for a week with an infection that was preventable and that could have killed me. There is a bill right now that the House passed, HR 3, that would help lower the cost of prescription drugs. But the Senate, just like Senator Gardner, is nowhere to be found. It has been years since he’s had a town hall, so all we can do is stand outside of his office and hope someone from his staff will listen. That’s not good enough: lives are at risk and Cory Gardner is nowhere to be found.”

You can view the entire [event here](#).

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