

For Immediate Release

January 17, 2020

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Texas Lawsuit Days of Action: Health Care Protections for Women

Lawsuit decision to overturn ACA puts health care protections for women at risk; state leaders taking steps to backstop protections in Minnesota law

(St. Paul, MN) – Today Protect Our Care, Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund, Rep. Laurie Halverson and Rep. Kelly Morrison, M.D. held a press conference to discuss the disastrous [ruling in favor](#) of the Trump administration and Republicans in *Texas vs. United States*, a partisan lawsuit to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and its potential impact on women’s health. The decision is a devastating blow to Minnesotans, particularly the millions of Minnesotans, who could lose their access to quality, affordable reproductive health care.

“The Fifth Circuit’s disastrous decision on President Trump’s Texas lawsuit puts the health care of millions of Americans at risk, including over 2 million Minnesotans. The court’s decision will impact every corner of the American health care system, making the high cost of prescription drugs even worse and threatening health care access for children, seniors, women, individuals with disabilities and LGBTQ Americans in communities across the country,” said Protect Our Care Minnesota State Director Jeremy Drucker.

Over the last 10 days Protect Our Care has been raising awareness of the impact of dismantling the ACA, and today it focused on women’s health. Specifically the ACA greatly expanded insurance coverage for reproductive health care and If ACA protections are gone, over 62 million Americans, including over 1 million Minnesotans, may no longer be able to get the birth control they need at a cost they can afford. That is why state leaders are working to backstop this important protection for women into state law with the [Protect Access to Contraception Act](#).

“In 2020, in the richest country in the history of the world, it is shameful and absurd that any person would be denied the health care they need. But that is exactly what is happening in this country today,” said Sarah Stoesz, President of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. **“Birth control should not be a partisan issue and we are calling on our state**

leaders to come together to ensure that Minnesotans can get the care they need, no matter what happens at the Supreme Court or in Washington DC.”

“For nearly all women, contraceptives are part of their health care at some point in their life,” said Rep. Laurie Halverson (DFL – Eagan), the author of the Protect Access to Contraception Act. **“I introduced the Protect Access to Contraception Act to ensure women continue to have access to contraceptives, counseling, and follow-up services at low or no cost. Minnesotans deserve to know that these services will be available no matter what happens at the federal level.”**

The American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Public Health Association all view contraception as [critical to women’s health](#). Prior to the ACA, contraceptives made up an estimated 30-44% of out-of-pocket health care spending for women. Since ACA implementation, fewer than 4% of reproductive age women experience out-of-pocket costs on oral contraceptives.

“Birth control is basic health care for millions of Americans,” remarked Rep. Kelly Morrison (DFL-Deephaven), a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist. **“As a doctor, I see the difference contraceptives make in my patients’ lives every day. The Affordable Care Act was instrumental in ensuring accessibility to a birth control method that is right for each person, so they can plan accordingly and responsibly.”**

In Minnesota and across the nation, teen pregnancy and abortion rates are at historic lows, thanks in no small part to access to birth control.

Eighty six percent of Americans (including 91% of Democrats and 83% of Republicans) [support policies](#) that make it easier to get the full range of birth control methods. Seventy seven percent of women and 64% of men [support no-cost contraceptives](#).

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What’s At Stake in ACA Repeal: Protections For Women

If the ACA is overturned, key protections for women would be ripped away overnight:

- **GONE:** Insurance companies will be able to charge women 50 percent more than men.
- **GONE:** Contraception coverage for 62 million people who now have access to birth control with no out-of-pocket costs.
- **GONE:** A ban on discrimination for women, LGBTQ Americans, and individuals with disabilities in health care settings.
- **GONE:** Essential protections for breastfeeding parents, including workplace standards and access to breast pumps with no out-of-pocket costs.