MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Leslie Dach and Brad Woodhouse, Protect Our Care
RE: Predicting President Trump's Biggest Health Care Lies at the State of the Union
DATE: February 3, 2020

President Trump knows he is in deep political trouble on health care. You don't have to look any further than his tirade against his own HHS Secretary earlier this month or the polling that consistently shows that his policies are overwhelmingly rejected by large majorities of voters.

So what will President Trump say about health care during his State of the Union Address? He won't propose policies that make America healthier or health care more affordable. Instead, he will undoubtedly repeat the lies and make more of the false promises that have defined his record since the first day he took office.

Here's the truth: President Trump is a threat to Americans' health care. No matter how much he repeats lies about his failed policies, his record speaks for itself. Here are a few of Trump's most egregious lies on health care and meaningless policy initiatives we expect to hear on Tuesday contrasted with the truth about what he's actually done.

Pre-Existing Conditions

Lie: Trump claims that he "saved" protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Truth: Trump has tried repeatedly to strip protections from 135 million Americans with pre-existing conditions through failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act in Congress and through his ongoing federal lawsuit to overturn the health care law. Despite that fact, Trump has repeatedly lied about protecting people with pre-existing conditions, even though the lie is easily debunked by his repeated attempts to strip them away.

- Trump supported multiple House and Senate repeal bills that would have ended such protections.
- He is pushing junk insurance plans that allow for insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions.
- He is arguing in court that pre-existing condition protections for 135 million Americans should be eliminated in a lawsuit Trump himself claimed would "terminate" the Affordable Care Act and its consumer protections.

Prescription Drugs

Lie: Trump claims to have lowered prescription drug costs. He [stated](#) "drug prices are coming down, first time in 51 years because of my administration."

Truth: Drug prices have soared under President Trump. While [drug companies have continued to raise prices](#), Trump rewarded them with massive tax breaks and now opposes giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug costs - the single most effective measure to do so.

- President Trump gave drug companies [billions](#) of dollars in tax breaks while they rake in [massive profits](#) and [raise prices](#) on Americans.
- He [opposes](#) the single most important thing you can do to lower drug prices -- giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prices.
- He has [repeatedly talked](#) about lowering prices based on costs in other countries, but independent experts have said his proposals would be ineffective.

Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security

Lie: Trump [claims](#) he and Republicans will "stand for protecting Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid."

Truth: President Trump has repeatedly asked for massive cuts to these programs in his budgets and signaled he will put slashing benefits for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security on the table in 2020 if re-elected.

- As recently as this month, President Trump [signaled that](#) he is open to slashing benefits for vital programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.
- President Trump's most recent budget [proposed](#) slashing Medicaid by $1.5 trillion and Medicare by $845 million.
- Through his support for repeal and the Texas lawsuit, President Trump has supported eliminating Medicaid expansion which has provided coverage to 17 million Americans in [37 states](#).

"Insurance for Everybody"

Lie: Trump has [promised](#) his health care plan would cover everyone, and [claimed](#) he is "far better on HealthCare than the Democrats!"

Truth: President Trump's systematic war on health care has made it less affordable, and his harmful policies have left more Americans uninsured. His own polling shows he is [extremely unpopular](#) on the issue. And despite his many promises to release a "[phenomenal](#)" health care plan, he has yet to produce one.

- Under the Trump presidency, the number of uninsured Americans has gone up by at least 7 million, in large part due to his policies to undermine the Affordable Care Act.
- Trump's war on health care is deeply unpopular, and polls have shown that Americans trust Democrats more to protect their health care and lower costs.
- Democrats have put forward popular provisions to strengthen protections for pre-existing conditions, and lower the costs of prescription drugs by giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prices. Trump opposes them all.
- President Trump has continuously undermined health care by pushing harmful policies like junk insurance plans that don't cover pre-existing conditions, and harmful work requirements on Medicaid that have resulted in thousands losing coverage and puts millions more Americans at risk of being kicked off the rolls.