

PROTECT OUR CARE

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Protect Our Care
Date: June 16, 2020
Re: The Week That Will Define the Election on Health Care

A Defining Moment on Health Care

A single week in June will tell the American people all they need to know in an election year about the difference between the health care priorities of Democrats and those of Donald Trump and the Republican party. On June 25th, in the middle of a pandemic, the Trump administration and Republican-led states will file briefs in support of their lawsuit to overturn the ACA and rip health care from 20 million Americans, raise health care costs and gut protections for 135 million Americans with pre-existing conditions. Just days later, Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats will bring legislation to the floor to build on the Affordable Care Act by lowering costs, expanding coverage and strengthening protections for those with pre-existing conditions.

One side is trying to rip coverage away from millions of Americans in the middle of a pandemic while the other is trying to make health care more accessible and affordable for the American people -- the contrast could not be clearer. This dichotomy, along with the President's failed response to coronavirus, will set the agenda for the November election on what most likely will be the number one issue on the minds of Americans.

Improving Health Care Is Paramount for Voters, Especially During the Pandemic and Polling Shows Widespread and Bipartisan Support for the Democrats' Health Care Agenda and Rejection of Trump's Lawsuit

Polling has shown that health care remains the top issue for voters headed into the November election. In May, the DNC, DSCC, DCCC, and DGA summarized the political power of health care in an unprecedented [memo](#) making clear that health care "is on every ballot, from top to bottom." It's evident that the combination of the coronavirus crisis, its impact on communities of color and seniors, and the president's overall failure to protect America has dramatically elevated health care's importance to the public headed into the fall. Americans are also more concerned than ever about access to affordable health care because of the financial strains of the economic fallout from Trump's failure to respond properly to the pandemic.

Based on reports, the House bill will lower costs, increase coverage, strengthen protections for pre-existing conditions, and help address racial disparities in care. For example, common sense provisions to improve health care such as expanding Medicaid, increasing coverage affordability

and banning junk insurance plans would benefit all Americans, but they would also have a particularly important impact on health care for African Americans.

A strong bipartisan majority of voters both support the specific policies that Democrats are expected to include in their upcoming legislation and reject Trump's lawsuit to overturn the ACA.

Recent polling clearly shows that addressing coverage and costs by building on the ACA are widely popular with Americans, including Republicans and independents. A recent [Public Policy Polling \(PPP\) survey](#) found that an overwhelming majority (72%) of Americans say it's important that the Congressional response to the coronavirus pandemic also include major new steps on health care. Further, the poll found that specific policies likely to be included in this legislation are also extremely popular.

According to PPP's polling:

- 80%, including 84% of independents and 70% of Republicans, support reforming the health care system to increase financial assistance for those who need it the most and make sure no American spends more than 10% of their income on health insurance.
- 79% support expanding Medicaid so more low and moderate income Americans can qualify and get treated for coronavirus and other health care needs. This is also popular among independents (83%) and Republicans (65%).
- 79% support Congress requiring that testing and care reach communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus, and that their health disparities are addressed. This includes 80% of independents and 63% of Republicans voters.

The poll also indicated that only 29% percent of voters support the Trump administration's lawsuit to strike down the ACA.

The Contrast Could Not Be Clearer

While Democrats will be moving forward with legislation to improve health care, Trump and Republicans are moving forward with a lawsuit that would destroy it -- in the middle of a pandemic and just months before the November election. The Trump administration brief will be filed on June 25th, and the case may well be argued in the Supreme Court before the November election.

When millions of Americans have already lost health insurance due to the pandemic, President Trump will be arguing in court that 20 million more Americans should lose their health care. And when millions of Americans with the coronavirus join the 135 million Americans with a pre-existing condition, President Trump will be arguing in court to allow insurance companies to deny them coverage or charge them more. While seniors and communities of color are dying unnecessarily and are more worried than ever about the costs of health care, President Trump will be arguing in court to increase the number of uninsured, increase the cost of drugs, and do away with Medicaid expansion.

To be clear, this lawsuit is the cornerstone of the Trump-Republican health care agenda. No action would be more damaging to Americans' health and safety.

Conclusion

Simply put, there has never been a more important time to protect and expand Americans' health care, and never been a worse time to rip it away. At the same time the Trump administration and Republicans press their case for ripping health care from millions of Americans, Democrats will be making the opposite argument: to improve and expand coverage, strengthen protections for pre-existing conditions and get more Americans covered during this public health crisis. These critical days in June will give voters a clear and compelling opportunity to weigh the priorities of each party when it comes to health care.