



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

Oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act

- I strongly oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act and any other effort to repeal or weaken the Affordable Care Act.
- Congress must ensure that those who gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act will maintain their coverage and maintain access to the other important benefits created under this critical public health law.
- According to the [June 26 analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office](#), the Better Care Reconciliation Act would result in 22 million Americans, including children, losing health insurance coverage by 2026.
- Continued implementation of the ACA is critical to addressing the biggest challenges facing our health system, including the escalating health care costs, uneven quality and deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health insurance providers and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care providers.
- The ACA is helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy.
- Quality of care has improved and fewer Americans have lost their lives or are falling ill due to hospital-acquired conditions.
- The law provides critical mandatory funding through the Prevention and Public Health Fund for state and local prevention and wellness activities, including efforts to prevent lead poisoning, detect and prevent infectious disease outbreaks, reduce tobacco use and modernize vaccination systems. It is critical to maintain this funding which makes up more than 12 percent of the budget at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Better Care Reconciliation Act would eliminate the prevention fund placing our nation's health security at risk. ([state specific fact sheets](#))
- The Better Care Reconciliation Act would allow states to opt-out of requiring health plans to cover the 10 essential health benefits such as maternity care, mental health and substance abuse disorder services and prescription drug coverage. This provision would likely lead to [significantly higher out-of-pocket costs for consumers](#) who can only afford plans that may not cover the services they will need.
- The BCRA would phase out the ACA's Medicaid expansion, cut federal contributions to Medicaid by \$722 billion over 10 years, and starting in 2025, would cut the federal contribution to Medicaid even deeper than the House-passed bill. ([state-specific Medicaid fact sheets](#))

- The bill would also block Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for one year – which [CBO estimates](#) would result in about 15 percent of its patients losing care, more unintended births and increased spending for the Medicaid program.
- I urge you to oppose any other effort to repeal or weaken the ACA, and instead work together in a bipartisan manner to build upon and improve the ACA and to address the millions of Americans who remain without quality, affordable health insurance coverage.