



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

Oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act

- I strongly oppose the American Health Care 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.
- 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 American Health Care Act would eliminate the prevention fund. ([state specific fact sheets](#))
- According to the [May 24 analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office](#), the American Health Care Act would result in 23 million Americans, including children, losing health insurance coverage by 2026. In 2018, 14 million would lose coverage.
- The House-passed AHCA 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 AHCA would also allow states to opt-out of the ACA protection that prohibits insurers from charging significantly higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions and would allow insurers to charge older adults even [higher premiums](#), especially those with lower incomes.
- The AHCA would end the ACA's Medicaid expansion in 2018 and would cut the federal contribution to Medicaid by \$834 billion over the next decade. ([state-specific Medicaid fact sheets](#))
- The bill would also block Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for one year – which [CBO estimates](#) will lead to less access to 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.