



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE UNITED STATES

February 2, 2017

*President*  
**Chris Carson**  
Burbank, California

To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

From: Chris Carson, President

*Vice President*  
**Karen Nicholson**  
Midland, Texas

Re: Repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

*Secretary*  
**Toni Zimmer**  
Spartan, New Jersey

Millions of Americans are counting on you not to disrupt their health insurance. The League of Women Voters urges you to ensure that a full replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is in place before repealing any of its elements.

*Treasurer*  
**Henrietta Saunders**  
Glenview, Illinois

The ACA has successfully provided health care coverage to tens of millions of Americans who previously went without. This resulted in significant improvements in people's health and their sense of well-being. Accordingly, the League strongly supports the ACA and believes that fine-tuning is needed to improve the law rather than repeal.

*Directors*  
**Maribel Balbin**  
Charleston, South Carolina

Understanding, however, that many in Congress support "repeal and replacement," the League urges you to retain several essential elements of the ACA that are critical to protecting people's health:

**Amy Hjerstedt**  
Falls Church, Virginia

1. Guarantee that pre-existing conditions can't be used as a reason to deny coverage or raise rates. Too many people were unable to gain or afford coverage before the ACA due to pre-existing conditions, and their health and budgets were severely impacted.

**Kim Lauth**  
Knoxville, Tennessee

2. Ensure that health insurance rates and access do not discriminate against women. The health needs of women, including preventative care, are different than for men and they should not be penalized for this fact.

**Anita Loch**  
Whitewater, Wisconsin

3. Allow young adults to remain on their parent's plan until age 26. This reform has brought health care coverage to many and helped balance overall costs as well.

**Jessica Lowe-Minor**  
Tallahassee, Florida

4. Coverage of preventive care, limits on out-of-pocket costs, and a prohibition on lifetime insurance caps are basic reforms that help stop illness and disease before they worsen and become more expensive.

**Brenda Rogers**  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

5. Ensure that Medicaid recipients can continue to receive full health care services. Medicaid expansion has brought better health in states that have opted in, and should be retained. In any case, Medicaid should not be turned into a block grant since that will both cut back significantly on health coverage and be costly to the states.

**Jessica Rohloff**  
Willmar, Minnesota

**Deborah Turner**  
Des Moines, Iowa

*Chief Executive Officer*  
**Wylecia Wiggs Harris**

Repeal of the Affordable Care Act would leave millions of Americans uninsured, in poor health and one emergency away from financial ruin. Repeal with a mere promise of replacement would severely impact and disrupt health insurance markets and thus threaten people's health and pocket books.

The League of Women Voters urges you to ensure that basic protections are in place before significant changes are made in the ACA.