



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

May 18, 2017

President
Chris Carson
Burbank, California

To: Members of the U.S. Senate

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 basic protections are included in any replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Treasurer
Henrietta Saunders
Glenview, Illinois

The House-passed healthcare bill is bad for women, bad for families and bad for seniors. It would take away health coverage for 24 million people and increase out-of-pocket costs for others, especially moderate-income families. It significantly cuts coverage for women and no longer assures that women cannot be charged for more than men for healthcare. It will increase costs for those with pre-existing conditions and seniors while undermining Medicaid.

Directors

Maribel Balbin
Charleston, South Carolina

The House legislation fails to reflect the American values of fairness, community, and concern for all.

Amy Hjerstedt
Falls Church, Virginia

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you not to repeat the mistakes of the House. Several essential elements are critical to protecting people's health:

Kim Lauth
Knoxville, Tennessee

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.

Anita Loch
Whitewater, Wisconsin

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.

Jessica Lowe-Minor
Tallahassee, Florida

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

Brenda Rogers
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

4. 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 per-capita payment or a block grant since either option 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

Unless the Senate acts responsibly, millions of Americans will be left uninsured, in poor health and one emergency away from financial ruin. The League of Women Voters urges you to ensure that basic protections are included in any healthcare legislation adopted by the Senate.