The Republican Health Care Repeal Plan is a Bad Bill Getting Worse

The Republican proposal to repeal the ACA and make permanent cuts to Medicaid is so bad it’s already failed to get enough support to even get a vote in the House. In addition to taking coverage from 24 million people by 2026, raising costs for almost everyone, and shifting burdens to state budgets, the proposal:

- **Allows insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing conditions more for their health coverage.** The Trump/GOP proposal guts the protection against health insurers hiking premiums for people with pre-existing conditions.

- **Lets insurers sell barebones insurance that doesn’t cover essential health services and caps coverage.** This would allow insurance companies to refuse to cover hospitals, doctors, prescriptions, lab tests, mental health, maternity and newborn care, preventive care, and substance abuse. There’s a reason these are called “essential health benefits” in the existing law. Eliminating essential health benefits also eliminates the prohibition on health insurance companies putting annual or lifetime limits on how much they pay for your care.

- **Cuts coverage while turning over $600 billion in tax breaks to the wealthiest households making over $250,000 a year, and the insurance industry and prescription drug companies.**

The updated deal called the MacArthur amendment makes minor changes to the existing proposal that basically makes a bad bill worse.

- The Republicans want to go backwards – way backwards – back to the days when we were all at the mercy of the big insurance companies, the days when you could lose your coverage because you got sick, be denied coverage altogether because you had a health care condition, or be forced to pay higher premiums for coverage because you actually needed health care.

- The ACA ended the biggest insurance industry abuses, including discrimination based on age, gender and health status. These are the protections that the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress would make optional in this bill.

- The MacArthur amendment does nothing to lower the cost of premiums, out-of-pocket costs, and prescription drugs for consumers, or to guarantee people with pre-existing conditions affordable coverage, or to stop the $600 billion in tax breaks for the rich and insurance companies in the repeal bill.

The Bill STILL Wrecks Health Care for American Families

Just like the bill that didn’t have enough support to pass in March, the latest GOP proposal would take health care away from 24 million people, slash Medicaid, and raise health care costs for all families in order to give $600 billion in tax cuts to the very wealthy and the big insurance and drug companies. It will blow a hole in state budgets so the wealthiest 400 Americans can get a tax break of $7 million a year. It will allow companies to charge older people five times as much as younger consumers and increase costs for people in their 50s and 60s by thousands of dollars a year.

HealthCareforAmericaNow.org
April 21, 2017