



TALKING POINTS

October 1, 2017

President Trump and Republicans in Congress: Still Trying to Take Our Health Care

Hundreds of thousands of organizers, activists, and constituents successfully defeated the latest Republican effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act in September. The Graham Cassidy repeal bill would have taken coverage from over 30 million people, raised premiums, allowed insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing coverage more for services, and gutted federal funding for Medicaid, creating massive new burdens for state budgets.

Despite widespread unpopularity and failure to secure enough support even from their own members for yet another repeal vote, it's clear that President Trump and Republican leaders in the House and Senate **have not given up** on demolishing the ACA and making massive cuts to Medicaid and Medicare.

President Trump and HHS Secretary Tom Price continue to sabotage the Affordable Care Act.

- President Trump is withholding cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments that lower costs for 6 million people buying coverage in the ACA exchanges, creating the instability and uncertainty in the insurance market that is causing insurers to drive up premiums by 20% next year and forcing some insurers out of the market.
- President Trump's administration will not enforce the ACA's individual mandate, a key feature of the law, and has slashed funding for enrollment and outreach, ensuring that many consumers miss key deadlines and increasing barriers to enrollment.

President Trump, Senate and House Republicans will cut Medicaid and Medicare to pay for over \$5 trillion in tax breaks for wealthy and corporations in the federal budget.

Right now, President Trump and Republican leaders in Congress are trying to pass another massive tax cut package for the wealthy and corporations paid for by cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, education, and other services for working families in the FY2018 federal budget through the same fast-track reconciliation process we just saw used in ACA repeal.

The House Republican budget proposal includes trillions in cuts to critical programs, including \$2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare for seniors, children, veterans, people with disabilities and working families:

- The House Republican Budget Resolution assumes adoption of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) that repeals the ACA and creates per capita caps in Medicaid. The AHCA takes health care coverage away from over 20 million people and makes deep and permanent cuts to Medicaid for seniors, people with disabilities, and children. Overall, the budget proposal cuts Medicaid and related health care programs by over \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years.
- The budget also includes a \$487 billion cut to Medicare and privatizes the program through vouchers.

The House will vote on their budget in early October while the Senate works on a their own version of a budget blueprint that will prioritize trillions in tax breaks for the rich and corporations. In addition,

President Trump just announced a \$5 trillion tax “reform” package that would cut taxes for the richest 1% and big corporations while increasing taxes on middle and lower income people.

- Tax breaks for millionaires and big business paid for by slashing Medicaid, Medicare, education, and public services will cut jobs, hurt the economy and leave families worse off. *We can't afford to give one penny in tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations while families are struggling to afford health care and make ends meet.*
- Cutting Medicaid and Medicare for seniors, people with disabilities, children and veterans to pay for trickle down tax cuts to the rich and corporations making record profits won't help our economy. *Instead, the rich will get richer while the rest of us will lose our health care.*
- Big corporations like Pfizer, Apple and Google are already making record profits while paying almost nothing in taxes thanks to giant loopholes that let them shift jobs and profits offshore. *Rather than give Wall Street millionaires and big business more big breaks, politicians should make them pay their fair share of taxes like the rest of us.*

Americans want quality, affordable health care, Medicaid and Medicare for their families—not tax breaks for millionaires and big corporations.

It's time to stop the Republican's relentless attacks on our health care and to focus instead on bipartisan solutions to make health care more affordable, to lower prescription drug costs and to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions do not face discrimination from insurers.

- In poll after poll, Americans have rejected repeal of the Affordable Care Act, radical changes to Medicaid and cuts to Medicare.
- Voters do not support tax giveaways for the rich and corporations that are paid for with cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.