

Provided by Healthcare for All Virginians - April 21, 2017

Despite overwhelming opposition to the failed House Republican ACA repeal bill, congressional Republicans and the Trump administration are vowing to hold a vote on a new repeal plan next week to coincide with the end of the president's first 100 days in office.

The latest plan makes a bad bill even worse.

Not only would it strip health insurance from 24 million people and make draconian cuts to Medicaid, it would eliminate key protections for people living with pre-existing conditions and allow insurers to offer skimpy plans that don't cover critical life-saving health services.

Changes are still being made to the repeal bill, some of which are being made to sway the support of key moderate Republicans in the House. As a result, some of our national partners recommend that we focus our efforts on Reps. Barbara Comstock, Rob Wittman, and Scott Taylor.

Action

1. Call and email House Legislative Assistants and Directors and let them know that this legislation will hurt even more Virginians than the original legislation. It must be rejected.

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Talking Points

There is no excuse for Congressman/woman _____ to vote for this bad legislation.

The plan would:

- Allow states to waive the ACA's prohibition against charging people higher premiums for health coverage based on their health status.
- Allow states to waive the ACA's "essential health benefits" requirement, which would allow insurers to offer plans that lack key services, like inpatient and outpatient care, prescription drugs, mental health and substance use treatment, maternity care and others.
- Return us to the dark days when people with pre-existing conditions like cancer or diabetes were unable to get health insurance, insurers charged women more than they charged men for the same coverage and insurance plans failed to provide basic care.

- Reintroduce high-risk pools, like the kind developed by states prior to the ACA, which imposed huge premiums and were particularly discriminatory for people living with serious health conditions including pre-existing conditions, substance use disorders, and mental health conditions.

Despite their promises, Republicans in Congress continue to threaten the ACA's protections for people with pre-existing conditions and its guarantee of affordable coverage for millions.

Please contact these Virginia legislators today and urge them to **say no to this terrible legislation!**

Thank you,

Kenneth L. Gilliam, Jr.

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