

Conservative Action Project

The Conservative Action Project (CAP), founded in 2008 by many conservative leaders with former **Attorney General Edwin Meese III** serving as the Founding Chairman. CAP is currently chaired by **The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop** and is designed to facilitate conservative leaders working together on behalf of common goals. Participants include the CEOs of over 100 organizations representing all major elements of the conservative movement-economic, social and national security.

Memo for the Movement

Real Repeal and Real Reform for Obamacare

July 11, 2017

Signatures updated: 7/12/17

Washington, DC

As the Senate considers new options to replace Obamacare, it is critical that any bill include solutions that give consumers more choice, create real flexibility for Medicaid, bring more free market principles into the market, and rein in long-term growth of Medicaid.

- *Consumer Choice:* Obamacare's insurance mandates have caused premiums to skyrocket. To address this, the Senate should allow insurance companies that offer at least one exchange plan deemed compliant with Obamacare to also sell other plans as well. These plans would still be subject to state laws and states would have the flexibility to create options without worrying about Obamacare.
- *Medicaid Flexibility:* Congress must create permanent solutions giving states the flexibility to create new innovative programs to protect our society's most vulnerable. States are the natural incubators for these new ideas and cannot be dependent on the waivers from the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- *Market Reforms:* Any new program must embody new consensus free market reforms. Some of these include allowing consumers to purchase insurance across state lines, expanding association health plans, allowing consumers to pay premiums from their Health Savings Accounts, and encouraging states to enact caps on punitive damages in medical malpractice cases.
- *Reining in Long-Term Medicaid Growth:* Medicaid is one of several entitlement programs which continues to push annual federal deficits at an unsustainable pace. We must use this historic opportunity to reform Medicaid and ensure its long-term fiscal sustainability.

If Congress cannot get the replacement program right, it should simply repeal Obamacare effective December 31, 2018, and take the time needed to get the new solution right. It must be a full and complete repeal of all the tax increases, all the spending, and all the regulations. Don't

try a partial repeal in which Republicans keep some of the tax increases, or some of the spending, or some of the regulations.

Conservatives still believe that repealing Obamacare must be a priority. Repealing Obamacare has been central to Republicans' electoral success – both in Congress and the White House. As noted in a [previous memo signed by more than 100 conservative leaders](#):

For the last six years, Americans have endured extraordinary hardship under Obamacare, a thousand-page law of broken promises and failed policies. Sadly, millions of families and individuals have had their insurance plans cancelled and access to their doctors and drugs limited. And they have lacked affordable insurance options. Those Americans who are stuck with Obamacare are facing skyrocketing premiums, soaring deductibles, and shrinking health care networks. Tragically, many of our most vulnerable citizens, who were participating in safety-net health programs long before implementation of Obamacare's Medicaid expansion, must now wait interminably to see overwhelmed health care providers — and some of those people die while they wait. It is true, of course, that some people have benefited from the President's law, but given the money spent, it would be extraordinary if there had been no benefit at all.

Either get the “replace” program right or fulfill the promise to repeal Obamacare now and take more time replacing it. It's more important we get it right than get it fast.

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