



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

ACTION ALERT

Advocate for Public Health

Oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act

We need every public health advocate to make calls or email their senators today. The ultimate outcome of an ACA repeal bill in the Senate is likely hanging in the balance of only one or two votes. We have the power to keep the bill from coming to the Senate floor by ensuring every senator hears from their constituents that repealing or weakening the ACA would be devastating to the nation's health.

Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate are currently drafting legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act behind closed doors without input from the public and leading health and public health experts.

The Senate proposal could likely mirror a bill passed in May by the House of Representatives known as the American Health Care Act. The AHCA would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and according to the Congressional Budget Office the bill would force 23 million Americans to lose their health insurance coverage and drastically cut \$834 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade. In addition, the AHCA would allow states to opt-out of ACA provisions that currently block insurers from charging higher premiums for people with pre-existing conditions, allow states to eliminate or weaken a set of required essential health benefits such as maternity care and prescription drug coverage, and allow insurers to charge older adults even higher premiums.

Take the time TODAY to send a message to your senators and urge them to call for an end this secretive process and to instead work in a bipartisan manner to build on the successes of the Affordable Care Act.

TAKE ACTION

Call your senator and urge them to oppose efforts to repeal the ACA by dialing the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, introduce yourself as a constituent and public health professional, and use these talking points:

- I am deeply concerned about the ongoing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I am also concerned that the bill is being drafted in a secretive manner behind closed doors.
- I urge Sen. XX to oppose any legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act that would:
 - Result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage;
 - Cut critical premium subsidies for low- and moderate-income families and phase out the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, resulting in higher costs to consumers and plans that would provide less coverage;
 - Eliminate critical public health funding by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which makes up 12 percent of the budget at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and funds important programs like tobacco cessation, immunizations and lead poisoning prevention;
 - Cut and cap federal contributions to the Medicaid program;

- Allow states to opt out of requiring that health plans cover essential health benefits, allow insurers to charge people higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions and increase out-of-pocket costs for older adults; and
- Block Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood, resulting in less access to care, more unintended births and increased spending for the Medicaid program.
- Instead, senators should work together in a bipartisan manner to build upon the ACA to make it stronger.

You can also send an email using APHA's [action alert](#) or [tweet a message](#) to your members of Congress.

Thanks for joining us in this effort, and please encourage your colleagues to join us, too!

Oregon Public Health Association

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