

ACLU Healthcare Access Townhall Talking Points

We are here today because lives are at stake. We are standing up for [seniors, people with disabilities, women, families] here in our community who are terrified their healthcare will be taken away.

- [share what your healthcare means to you]

Taking healthcare away from millions means CHAOS. We will ALL see less care and higher costs.

Changes proposed for Americans' healthcare by President Trump and Congressional Republicans would affect every member of our community.

- Five million Californians could become uninsured – our ERs would be packed with people who can't get healthcare anywhere else.
- Costs would soar for everyone, even those covered by employer health plans.
- Defunding Planned Parenthood would result in a loss of or drastic reduction in vital services to 850,000 Californians, 86% of whom are low-income. A loss of as much as \$265 million dollars could lead to shuttering of many clinics in California. This means no access to birth control, life-saving cancer screenings, STI treatment, and other crucial reproductive care.
- People who buy insurance on the individual market would face enormous tax hikes – thousands of dollars each year.
- Disqualifying of millions of people from insurance due to preexisting conditions would resume.
- Essential nondiscrimination provisions (Section 1557) prohibiting discrimination against women and LGBTQ people in reproductive and health care services would be erased.
- Women could once again be subject to "gender rating," the discriminatory insurer practice of charging women more than men simply because they are women.
- Essential healthcare benefits like preventative services, mental health, maternity and newborn care, and birth control would no longer be fully covered.
- Steep drug price hikes would be forced on our seniors.
- Services that have helped end some of the segregation and institutionalization of people with disabilities would be severely undermined.
- Crushing cuts would damage our hospitals, clinics and local safety-nets.
- Thousands of people would lose their jobs in our communities.

- Our state budget would again be tossed into turmoil, threatening public education and social services and ending California's 5 years of economic progress/turnaround/recovery.

As our Congressman, [NAME] must put people before politics.

- You must vote NO on any proposal to rip care away from [Americans, seniors, people with disabilities, women, families, anyone].
- You must have a real plan that ensures no one loses coverage and that healthcare works better for people in our community.
- Any plan to change healthcare must meet these tests:
 - No one who is covered now loses coverage.
 - Cost less. No forcing higher premiums, co-pays, drug costs, or hidden costs on people who can't afford it.
 - Prevent insurers from discriminating against women, seniors and people with disabilities.
 - Does not end Medicaid expansion or jeopardize Medicaid coverage for low-income people, seniors, and people with disabilities.
 - Does not gut funding for Planned Parenthood's provision of essential care for women and families.
 - Protect people with pre-existing conditions from discrimination by insurers.
 - Be *at least* as comprehensive in coverage as the Affordable Care Act.
 - Allow young people to stay on their parents plan through age 26.