



July 27, 2017

Vote “NO” on Health Care Repeal

Dear Senator:

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On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and our more than two million members and supporters, we urge you to oppose any final health care legislation that repeals key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, harms people with disabilities by cutting and capping Medicaid, denies women and men access to Planned Parenthood, restricts abortion coverage, and deprives millions of people of the health care coverage they need and without which they cannot fully participate in the life of our nation.

We have previously raised significant concerns about proposals to decimate Medicaid.¹ For millions of people with disabilities, Medicaid is the primary source of services and supports that allow them to get out of bed, go to work, and live in the community instead of an institution. It is no exaggeration to say that the lives and liberty of people with disabilities depend on a strong Medicaid program. Women, too, are impacted because they make up the majority of those enrolled in Medicaid. Massive cuts and caps to the program will disproportionately hurt women and families.

Similarly, we have denounced legislation that prevents individuals from seeking care at Planned Parenthood, eliminates coverage requirements for maternity care, and restricts coverage for abortion care.² These provisions make it harder to avoid an unintended pregnancy, have a healthy pregnancy, or raise a healthy family.

All of the major legislative proposals under consideration in the Senate appear to violate one or more of the core principles outlined above. Certainly, the Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act and the Better Care Reconciliation Act do, and reports suggest that the so-called “skinny repeal” bill, whose legislative text remains cloaked in secrecy, is also profoundly harmful. The non-partisan

¹ Letter from the ACLU to the U.S. House of Representatives Opposing H.R. 1628, The American Health Care Act (May 4, 2017), available at <https://www.aclu.org/letter/aclu-letter-opposing-hr-1628-american-health-care-act>.

² *Id.*

Congressional Budget Office has already estimated that 16 million people may lose care as a result of that plan. Additionally, by eliminating the individual mandate without a viable replacement, a “skinny repeal” would destabilize the individual market for insurance, make coverage unaffordable to those who need care, and set the stage for the return of pre-existing condition discrimination in the insurance marketplace. This will have a negative and disproportionate impact on people with disabilities, women, and other vulnerable populations who, prior to the ACA, had difficulty obtaining insurance and care.

We strongly urge you to bring this harmful effort and deeply flawed process to an end by voting no on the bill that will soon come to the Senate floor. Should you have any questions, please contact Georgeanne Usova at (202) 675-2338 or gusova@aclu.org, or Vania Leveille at (202) 715-0806 or vleveille@aclu.org.

Sincerely,



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