

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Abortion, Birth Control & Reproductive Health

Despite conservative lawmakers' fixation on repealing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), eliminating this landmark legislation would leave 23 million individuals without insurance coverage. The GOP has had their sights set on repealing the ACA since 2010, and with President Trump's support, they have a clearer path to disrupt ACA protections such as affordable birth control, coverage for pre-existing conditions, expansion of Medicaid coverage for low-income people, and subsidies for those not eligible for Medicaid.

The ACA is a Women's Issue

The ACA repeal would disproportionately impact low-income women who rely on the ACA for their holistic healthcare needs. According to the Center for American Progress, approximately **9.5 million women who were previously uninsured have gained health coverage through the ACA** and 55 million women now have access to vital preventive care without copays or deductibles. These services include: annual exams, contraception, screening for sexually transmitted infections, and counseling for domestic and intimate partner violence. For the first time, the ACA made it illegal for federally funded health insurance providers to discriminate based on sex, race, national origin, and ability.



The ACA & Planned Parenthood

As a component of to repealing the ACA, conservative lawmakers intend to defund Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood receives federal funds primarily through the Title X family planning program and Medicaid reimbursements. By eliminating these federal funding mechanisms, Planned Parenthood would have to cut vital healthcare services such as mammograms, prenatal care, and access to affordable birth control. Planned Parenthood largely serves low-income women, women of color, young women, and immigrant women; these communities will be disproportionately impacted by efforts to eliminate women's healthcare choices.

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The ACA & Birth Control

The ACA provides coverage for all FDA approved birth control methods prescribed by a doctor. These include: diaphragms and sponges, birth control pills, vaginal rings, intrauterine devices (IUDs), and emergency contraception such as Plan B®.

According to a survey commissioned by Planned Parenthood, **55% of women ages 18-34 had difficulty affording birth control before the ACA.** Currently, the ACA saves women 1.4 billion dollars in birth control copays annually. If the ACA is repealed, many women will have to pay out of pocket for birth control, making it less accessible and costlier.

Repealing the ACA's Birth Control Mandate will also disproportionately women of color. According to a survey, 51% of African-American women ages 18 to 34 said they have had financial challenges purchasing birth control, and that cost can be one of the most significant barriers for women of color in getting health care.

Public Support for the ACA & Repro Rights is High

Strong pushback from constituents, particularly at recent town halls and demonstrations across the country, underscore the necessity of the ACA. Women across the country are extremely energized, mobilized, and watching their representatives.

Additionally, According to Pew Research Center, public support for legal abortion is as high as it's been in two decades of polling: "about 6-in-10 U.S. adults (59%) say abortion should be legal in all or most cases."

What Can You Do?

Want to take action to defend healthcare? Check out the National Action Campaign's resource Take Action: Protect the ACA [here](#).

Sources

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- 4 Burns, Janet. "Birth-Control Repeal May Cost Women \$1.4B A Year In Copays (For Starters)", Forbes.com, N.p., 17 Jan. 2017, Web. 24 Feb
- 5 Taylor, Jamila. "How Women Would Be Hurt by ACA Repeal and Defunding of Planned Parenthood." Center for American Progress. N.p., 17 Jan. 2017. Web. 24 Feb.2017.
- 6 McDonald-mosley, R. (2017, October 06). Trump Takes Away Fundamental Health Care for Women. The New York Times. Retrieved January 24, 2018, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/06/opinion/trump-birth-control-contraception.html>