



Repeal of Health Care Reform Would Harm Ohioans

As a part of health care reform, changes to health insurance rules became a reality on September 23, 2010. These popular changes make health care coverage more secure by ensuring that consumers cannot lose their coverage or be forced into bankruptcy when someone gets sick and that children cannot be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

Yet, some policymakers are still calling for repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Despite growing support among Americans who recognize the great benefits of reform, the repeal of The Affordable Care Act will eliminate access to health insurance for millions of Ohioans and increase taxes on small businesses.

Too many Ohioans lack health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Approximately 2,438,000 Ohioans under the age of 65 have a pre-existing condition. That means—without the protections in The Affordable Care Act—more than one in four non-elderly Ohioans (25.3 percent) is at risk of being denied coverage.

Without The Affordable Care Act, health insurance coverage would continue to decline. A 2009 report by the Institute of Medicine found that health care costs and insurance premiums are growing substantially faster than the economy and family incomes. Rising health care costs and a severely weakened economy threaten not only employer-sponsored insurance, the cornerstone of private health coverage in the United States, but also threaten recent expansions in public coverage.

In addition to increasing the number of uninsured Ohioans, a repeal of The Affordable Care Act would increase taxes for 127,800 small businesses in Ohio. According to a report by Families USA and Small Business Majority, **127,800, or 86% of small businesses** in Ohio are eligible for premium health care tax credits this year (2010). Adding to the increase in taxes, small businesses would pay billions more in increased premiums. Projections by MIT economist Jonathan Gruber show that, without reform, Ohio's small businesses and entrepreneurs would see health care premium costs rise from \$5.3 billion in 2008 to \$12.5 billion by 2018.

Finally if health care reform is repealed, Ohio would lose the chance to receive \$34 billion over 10 years that would help improve access to health care coverage and improve the health of Ohioans.

The Affordable Care Act is already making a difference in the lives of hundreds of Ohioans. As more reforms are phased in, The Affordable Care Act will bring peace of mind to hundreds of thousands Ohio families.

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