

PRESS RELEASE

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Statement of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care on Republican Repeal of Affordable Care Act

Bill Shreds Medicaid Safety Net, Strips Coverage from Millions, Drives up Premiums, Endangers Coverage for Pre-Existing Conditions, but showers Trillion Dollar Tax Cut on the Wealthy and Corporations

Washington, D.C. – The Republican-led House of Representatives voted today to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replace it with legislation that would potentially cost millions of families their health coverage and drive up costs for millions more, while giving a trillion-dollar tax cut to wealthy individuals and corporations. The entire West Virginia House delegation, Rep. David McKinley (R-Wheeling, WV-01), Rep. Alex Mooney (R-Harpers Ferry, WV-02), and Rep. Evan Jenkins (R-Huntington, WV-03), voted for the legislation.

The bill represents the largest restructuring and financial cut to the Medicaid program since its inception and allows West Virginia to opt out of ACA protections that prohibit insurers from charging higher premiums for those with pre-existing conditions.

Following is the statement of Chantal Fields, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care:

“This bill will strip insurance coverage from hard-working people here in West Virginia and drive up premiums for many more, making it unaffordable. The bill also gives a massive tax cut to the rich and corporations, while devastating Medicaid with the most significant cut in the history of the program. That means pulling the rug out from under some of West Virginia most vulnerable people – like children and seniors in nursing homes. At a minimum, we know that the bill decimates Medicaid, cutting more than \$800 billion over 10 years, and resulting in at least 24 million more uninsured people within a decade.

The bill will cost the state of West Virginia \$4 billion in federal funding cuts over a ten-year period. That’s an average of \$400 million a year in cuts to West Virginia’s Medicaid program. These cuts to Medicaid will put more than 550,000 West Virginians – a third of our state population - in harm’s way. Of those, more than 240,000 are children.

“We urge Senators Capito and Manchin to scrap this ill-conceived bill and begin working their colleagues in the world’s greatest deliberative body. American families need help, not another partisan fight.”

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