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Legislative Alert: Affordable Care Act (H.R. 9)

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AFL-CIO

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Legislative Alert: Affordable Care Act (H.R. 9)

Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to vote against legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act and against H. Res. 9, a symbol of Republican support for the status quo masquerading as reform.

Keywords

AFL-CIO, Legislative Alert, Affordable Care Act, H.R. 9

Comments

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815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ARLENE HOLT BAKER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

January 18, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to vote against legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act and against H. Res. 9, a symbol of Republican support for the status quo masquerading as reform.

Make no mistake, a vote for repeal is also a vote to deny health insurance to 32 million Americans. It is a vote to end dozens of new benefits, including a provision that would save 3.4 million seniors thousands of dollars annually on prescription drug costs, and another provision that would help 4,500 health plans across the country maintain affordable coverage for early retirees. And it is a vote to roll back important protections against the worst insurance company abuses, such as denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions.

A vote for repeal is also a vote to make over 1.2 million young adults lose their coverage through their parents' health plan. It is a vote to significantly increase drug prices for 2.7 million seniors. And it is a vote to eliminate free preventive services for 44 million seniors.

If Congress repeals reform, insurers would no longer have to spend at least 80-85 percent of premium dollars on health care rather than on CEO salaries, bonuses, and corporate profits. Over 165 million Americans with private coverage would once again face lifetime limits. And over 15 million people would be at risk of losing their insurance when they need it most because of a simple mistake on an application.

Finally, a vote for repeal is a vote to increase the budget deficit by \$230 billion over 10 years and by \$1.2 trillion over its second decade, as demonstrated by a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The \$250 million spent by the Chamber of Commerce and other opponents of reform has been very effective in sowing confusing and misinformation among the public, but Americans are starting to realize how many good things are in the Affordable Care Act and how much they would be giving up if reform were repealed.

The Affordable Care Act was an historic achievement that should be celebrated and built upon, not destroyed. The ACA represents an historic shift of power away from the insurance companies to working families. And it promises millions of Americans freedom from the fear of losing their insurance. The people who would benefit from repeal are big insurance companies, not working families.

Despite assertions to the contrary, House Republicans have not offered any credible alternative to replace health reform. Instead of focusing on the need to create jobs and strengthen the middle class, House Republicans have offered H. Res. 9, a cynical charade meant to convince working families that they support the goals of reform. But their steadfast refusal to take on either the big insurance companies or employers' resistance to providing a decent package of health benefits for their workers make H. Res. 9 an empty promise.

We urge you to vote for reform, for lower health care costs, for filling the Medicare donut hole, for health coverage for early retirees, for reining in insurance company abuses, for free preventive care, and for reducing the deficit by voting against H. Res. 9 and against repeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "S".

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT