



## Issue Essentials

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### Jay Webber Bill Allows Skimpy Healthcare Plans

*While most people give lip service to the need for quality, affordable healthcare for all, they disagree on what “quality and affordable” means. State Assemblyman Jay Webber introduced a bill to allow the sale of out-of-state short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans in New Jersey. Many [health experts and state policymakers](#) say these plans provide substandard coverage as well as substandard financial protections – and support GOP efforts to undermine Obamacare (Affordable Care Act).*

#### What’s in Webber’s bill?

- Background: The Republican-led Congress tried and failed to repeal Obamacare several times. Now they are attacking the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions piece-by-piece to cause it to collapse. In October 2017, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) supporting the sale of short-term, limited-duration health insurance policies across state lines. While this order doesn’t change any laws, it provides a way to bypass Obamacare protections.
- [Webber’s bill](#) is aligned with Trump’s Executive Order, and would change NJ state law to allow the sale of out-of-state limited plans if they comply with the laws of **that** state -- side-stepping N.J.-mandated safeguards.

#### What’s wrong with that? First, it means allowing substandard insurance coverage:

- All NJ residents – regardless of age or health status – are now guaranteed a minimum [standard of comprehensive health coverage](#) that [must include](#) office visits, hospital, maternity, well-child care, mental illness, substance use disorder, prescription drugs, etc.
- Some of the cheaper out-of-state plans actually fail to meet the [Congressional Budget Office](#)’s definition of health insurance coverage: insurance that, at a minimum, provides “comprehensive major medical coverage” for high-cost medical events.

#### Webber’s bill would end guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions ... and worse:

- The [National Association of Insurance Commissioners](#) (NAIC) says Webber’s claim that his bill provides a “wider range of affordable health benefits plans” is a “**myth.**”
- Allowing plans that **do not cover pre-existing conditions** and **can charge more for sicker customers** would [force out insurers](#) who do comply with these provisions.
- Rather than improving and stabilizing the health insurance markets, changes that Webber advocates would start “a race to the bottom,” concludes the [NAIC](#).