

# HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA NOW!

## Don't Cut Health Care for Families to Give Tax Breaks to Millionaires and Corporations

The Senate plans to vote soon on a health care bill that they've been crafting behind closed doors. While they've been trying to keep it a secret, the word is out – the Senate bill is the same as the awful House bill the public has already rejected. **The Senate is just putting lipstick on a pig while actually supporting the same dangerous legislation that two-thirds of voters don't support.**

### Core Message:

The Republican health care bill takes health care away from 23 million Americans, slashes Medicaid, sends premiums through the roof, and puts people with pre-existing conditions back at the mercy of the private insurance companies. The bill allows insurance companies to opt out of coverage for essential benefits including prescription drugs, mental health care and maternity care. **All to give more than \$600 billion in tax breaks, mostly to the very wealthy and drug and insurance companies.**

### Key Points

- The Republican bill takes coverage away from 23 million Americans by drastically cutting tax credits to buy coverage and by making huge cuts in state funding for Medicaid. Maryland would have to raise an additional \$498.4 million to continue coverage for the quarter of a million people who would lose coverage under the bill, including 32,000 veterans.
- *The Republican bill will slash Medicaid by \$834 billion in two ways* – taking away Medicaid expansion coverage from millions of people and radically restructuring the federal funding for the traditional Medicaid program that serves mainly seniors, children, people with disabilities and low income adults. Nationally, the bill risks health care for 74 million Americans – including 77,000 seniors, 478,200 children, and 148,800 people with disabilities in Maryland.

**At the same time** that the bill takes healthcare from millions of families and puts at risk services for millions more, it provides over \$600 billion in tax breaks to wealthy households, insurance companies and their CEOs and prescription drug companies.

- The Republican AHCA includes \$145 billion over ten years in tax breaks for big insurance companies and \$25 billion over ten years in tax breaks for prescription drug companies.
- The ACA stopped health insurers from getting a tax deduction for CEO and other executives' pay that exceeds \$500,000 a year but the Republican bill reinstates this tax deduction—giving insurance companies a tax break for paying their CEO and other top executives more than that \$500,000 a year.
- In our state, 265,100 would lose coverage because of the Republican proposal while 6,770 households with over \$1 million would get an average tax break of \$27,981

**It's time for Senators to show their constituents which side they are on:** affordable healthcare for

families or tax breaks for wealthy households and the insurance and prescription drug companies.

- The Senate is no place for secrecy. Constituents have a right to know what the future holds when it comes to healthcare. The uncertainty caused by Republican repeal efforts in Congress and by the Trump administration's threats to stop paying the cost sharing reductions in the ACA that help lower out-of-pocket costs for consumers are driving up insurance premiums and forcing some insurers out of the market. There should be no vote until the Senate has held hearings and heard directly from hospitals, impacted people and advocates about the impact of this bill.
- GOP Senators should be working with Democrats to lower costs, expand coverage and make sure that families get quality, affordable coverage not adopting the House Republican bill that the CBO has already determined will cost 23 million Americans their coverage and jeopardize healthcare for millions more on Medicaid.
- Lawmakers should put families first, not partisan politics or big tax perks for their corporate cronies, including the insurance and prescription companies who will get big tax breaks from cutting healthcare for families in the repeal bill.