



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

A Repeal of the ACA Would Hurt Women and Families

The American Medical Women's Association remains committed to the Affordable Care Act and against its repeal. A repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would jeopardize the health of women and families nationwide. The ACA provides insurance for over 9.5 million women who would otherwise be uninsured¹ and provides them with essential resources for family planning.

Since its implementation, fewer than 8% of women and girls are uninsured.² The ACA provides access to more affordable women's services such as mammograms, pap-smears, maternity care, contraceptive coverage, and critical services care. It also prevents insurance companies from charging women more than men for the same healthcare coverage. Further, 17% of the nation's non-elderly women have signed up for Medicaid programs under the ACA, which provides comprehensive, low cost health care.³ Women and their families have benefitted substantially from many the above provisions of the ACA.

Repealing the ACA would detrimentally hinder the ability of women to access safe and affordable medical care. The obstacles women would face in accessing health care would be greatly increased because they will be subject to higher costs for premiums and more out of pocket expenses. Insurance companies will be able to consider breast cancer, prior pregnancies or sexual abuse as "pre-existing conditions."⁴ There is no federal law that prohibits comprehensive protections against sex discrimination, and increased costs placed on women would lead to less women seeking care.

If the ACA is repealed, those who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance may choose to go uncovered. Those who are in between jobs may remain uncovered for that period. Those facing emergencies or with preexisting conditions would face much

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Servs., Office of the Asst. Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2016, March). Health Insurance Coverage and the Affordable Care Act, 2010- 2016. Available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/187551/ACA2010-2016.pdf>

² National Women's Law Center calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, available at <http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>.

³ Seventeen (17) percent of adult women ages 18 to 64 are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 13 percent of adult men. National Women's Law Center calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, available at <http://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>.

⁴ Brigitte Courtot & Julia Kaye, National Women's Law Ctr, Still Nowhere to Turn: Insurance Companies Treat Women Like a Pre-Existing Condition 10 (2009), available at <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/stillnowheretoturn.pdf>.



American Medical Women's Association

The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

greater burdens in accessing care, putting their health in greater jeopardy. The impact of repealing the ACA would be an unprecedented setback in affordable coverage. A repeal of the ACA would cripple the health and economic security of women and their families. The American Medical Women's Association supports a continuance of safe, affordable care for all Americans.

American Medical Women's Association

Two Woodfield Lake • 1100 E Woodfield Road, Suite 350 • Schaumburg, IL 60173 • Telephone (847) 517-2801 •
Fax: (847) 517-7229 • www.amwa-doc.org