

PROTECT HEALTH CARE ACCESS: OPPOSE REPEALING THE ACA & DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

NCJW Message: As part of NCJW's commitment to advancing reproductive justice, we strive to ensure each of us — regardless of income, gender, race, or other factors — can access quality, comprehensive, confidential, nondiscriminatory health care coverage and services, including mental health care. We all deserve the ability to make personal decisions about our body, health, and future per our own faith and circumstances without risking our economic security or other basic needs. Therefore, NCJW strongly supports the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Planned Parenthood. **Congress must protect health care access and affordability by opposing repeal of the ACA or significant parts of the law; rejecting replacement proposals that would reduce access to affordable, quality, comprehensive coverage; and stopping attempts to defund Planned Parenthood.**

TALKING POINTS:

- ▶ **It is a moral imperative to ensure individuals and families can access health care and coverage without threatening other basic needs.** Jewish values teach that we are all of equal worth. We all deserve to have the resources we need to care for our health, families, and futures regardless of our gender, income, race or any other factor. The ACA took historic steps toward ensuring health care access is a basic right rather than a privilege, expanding affordable access to quality health coverage and services — particularly for millions of people with low incomes, women, people of color, and LGBTQ individuals. It would be unconscionable for Congress to erode this progress.
- ▶ **Repealing the ACA would threaten affordable, quality coverage that millions have gained, disproportionately harming women and women of color.** Thanks to the ACA's health insurance marketplace, Medicaid expansion, and other reforms, the rate of those without insurance has dropped to historic lows; the law has helped more than 20 million nonelderly people (aged 18-64) get covered. Women in particular have made significant gains. When the marketplace first opened in 2013, nearly [16 million](#) nonelderly women lacked insurance. But from 2013-2015, more than [7 million](#) nonelderly women, including more than [5 million](#) women of color, gained coverage. Experts suggest that ACA repeal would cause chaos in the insurance market, threatening the coverage of nearly [30 million people](#) by 2019. These consequences would fall hardest on women struggling to make ends meet, women of color, young people, and others experiencing barriers to care.
- ▶ **Repealing the ACA would jeopardize access to critical benefits, risking the health and economic security of individuals and families.** Before the ACA, many were forced to forego or delay getting needed care due to cost. The law expanded access to health care by removing financial obstacles and improving the quality of health plans, guaranteeing coverage of many key services. More than [55 million](#) women now have coverage of a range of preventive care without copays or other added costs, including annual exams, birth control, cancer screenings, screening for domestic violence and other vital services. Since the law took effect, [significantly fewer women](#), particularly those struggling to make ends meet and women of color, have had to postpone or skip needed care due to cost. Repeal would jeopardize this affordable access to care, and thus risk a person's health and financial future.
- ▶ **Repealing the ACA could leave millions at risk of discrimination.** Thanks to the ACA, historic standards now protect [women, LGBTQ individuals](#), and people with pre-existing conditions, among others, from discriminatory insurance practices such as coverage denials, arbitrary coverage

limits, and unjust costs. No longer can insurers charge women more than men for the same coverage, or can health providers discriminate against LGBTQ individuals or same sex couples. ACA consumer protections have been especially key to those struggling to make ends meet, who are more likely to be women, women of color, and transgender or gender nonconforming people. Repealing the law would reverse these new safeguards to place millions at risk of discrimination.

- ▶ **Eliminating federal funds to Planned Parenthood as part of ACA repeal would immediately jeopardize the health, economic security, and personal decision making of millions.** Planned Parenthood provides high quality, accessible, confidential primary and preventive care, such as birth control, breast exams, and comprehensive sex education, to over 2.5 million people every year. Many health centers also ensure access to safe abortion care. A critical part of the health care safety net, [54-percent](#) of Planned Parenthood health centers are in health professional shortage areas, rural, or medically underserved communities. They are vital to patients who would otherwise have [nowhere else](#) to turn, particularly for comprehensive family planning services. Denying Medicaid reimbursement would force many Planned Parenthood clinics to immediately shut down — blocking patient access to care. Such closures would fall hardest on individuals struggling to make ends meet, young people, immigrant women, LGBTQ people, and others facing barriers to medical care, risking their health, economic security, and eroding their ability to make personal faith-informed decisions about their health, body, and future. It would also cost taxpayers [\\$130 million](#) over 10 years, per the Congressional Budget Office.

- ▶ **Any attempt to replace the ACA must ensure the same access to affordable, quality coverage and protections that millions have gained.** Congress continues to deliberate myriad ACA replacement plans, but many [current proposals would fail](#) to ensure individuals and families continue to have access to affordable, quality coverage and critical protections from discrimination established under the law. In particular, NCJW is deeply opposed to repeal proposals that aim to eliminate the ACA's Medicaid expansion, risking the health of [more than 14 million](#) people newly eligible and enrolled in the program; and to “restructure” the Medicaid program through per capita caps or block grants, which would reduce eligibility and access to health benefits, most harming women and women of color. Lawmakers must ensure any ACA replacement plan meets [key standards](#) to safeguard the health, well-being, economic security, and peace of mind that millions have attained thanks to the ACA. Such benchmarks must include:
 - Preserving gains in coverage, building upon them, and maintaining assistance to help consumers enroll and utilize their health coverage;
 - Ensuring coverage is at least as comprehensive, and that premiums and other costs are at least as affordable, as under the ACA;
 - Guaranteeing that women, LGBTQ individuals, older adults, and people with pre-existing conditions, among others, have guaranteed protection against discrimination by insurers and health providers; and
 - Ensuring individuals and families with low incomes have at least the same access to affordable, comprehensive coverage in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program that they now have under the law.