

# HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES:

**Republicans Sabotage Health Care During a Pandemic...**

**...Democrats Work to Lower Costs, Expand Coverage**

In the middle of a global pandemic, President Trump and Republicans are pursuing a partisan lawsuit to strike down the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in its entirety and take away protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions. In stark contrast, House Democrats are taking action to defend the ACA, lower health care and prescription drug costs, expand coverage, and protect Americans with pre-existing conditions. Since day one of our Majority, House Democrats have been passing legislation to achieve those goals, and this week, we delivered on our pledge to strengthen and enhance the ACA.

**Here's a look at legislation passed by the Democratic-led House and what's at stake if the Republican lawsuit succeeds...**

# DEMOCRATS VOTE TO LOWER HEALTH CARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS, EXPAND COVERAGE

## Defending the ACA in Court:

On the first day of the 116th Congress, January 3, 2019, House Democrats voted to authorize the House Counsel to intervene in the *Texas v. U.S.* lawsuit that seeks to invalidate the entire ACA, including its protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

## Voting to Condemn the Administration's Health Care Sabotage:

House Democrats passed a resolution on April 3, 2019 to condemn the Trump Administration's efforts to sabotage the ACA. The resolution expressed the sense of the House that the Administration's sabotage of the ACA is being taken with "total disregard for the lives of millions of Americans."

## Passing Bipartisan Bills to Lower Prescription Drug Costs:

The House passed two bipartisan bills addressing prescription drug costs on May 8, 2019. H.R. 1520, the Purple Book Continuity Act, and H.R. 1503, the Orange Book Transparency Act, amend the information that must be included in the Purple and Orange Books at the FDA, which generics and biosimilars manufacturers use when they are considering where to invest their research and development dollars.

## Passing H.R. 986, the Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions Act:

House Democrats passed H.R. 986 on May 9, 2019 to protect coverage for 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions. The bill revokes the Trump Administration's guidance on Section 1332 of the ACA, which encourages states to allow junk insurance plans that do not provide Americans with the coverage they need.

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## Passing H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act:

House Democrats passed a package of seven bills on May 16, 2019. The legislation included four bills that strengthen access to affordable, quality health care by protecting patients with pre-existing conditions and funding outreach and enrollment efforts to help Americans sign up for coverage. H.R.987 also includes three bills that aim to lower the cost of prescription drugs by bringing generic drugs to market more quickly.

## Passing H.R. 3, The Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act:

The House passed this bill on December 16, 2019 to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs for all Americans by ending the ban on Medicare negotiating directly with drug companies and making the lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare available to all Americans, including those with private insurance.

## Passing H.R. 1425, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act:

The House passed this bill on June 29, 2020 to strengthen and enhance the ACA. CBO estimates it would benefit over 17 million Americans – expanding coverage to an additional four million Americans through an expansion of Medicaid, while bringing down coverage costs for at least 13 million more. In addition, the bill will lower prescription drug costs; address long-standing racial health disparities, which have become starkly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic; crack down on junk plans; and strengthen protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

# REPUBLICANS PURSUE PARTISAN LAWSUIT TO STRIKE DOWN THE ACA, TAKE AWAY PROTECTIONS FROM AMERICANS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Even during a pandemic, Republicans are continuing to pursue their lawsuit to strike down the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. Here is a look at what's at stake if the Supreme Court sides with them in the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit:**

- 23 million Americans would lose coverage.
- Over 130 million Americans with pre-existing conditions will lose protections.
- Over two million young adults will no longer be able to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.
- Older Americans between the ages of 50 and 64 will face an age tax, with their premiums increasing.
- Insurance companies will no longer be required to cover essential health benefits, such as prescription drugs, hospitalization, and maternity and newborn care.
- Twelve million seniors who have saved millions of dollars on their prescription drugs under the ACA will no longer receive these savings.
- The Medicaid expansion, which was adopted by 37 states, will be gone, and millions of Americans will lose health coverage as a result.
- Affordability tax credits that reduce the cost of health care premiums for millions of Americans will no longer be available.
- Insurance companies will no longer be required to provide free preventive care visits.
- Insurance companies will be allowed to place lifetime caps and annual caps on coverage.
- Insurance companies will be able to charge women more than men for the same health coverage.
- Insurance companies will be allowed to use premiums for unlimited executive bonuses instead of paying for the health care of their customers.