

ACA Repeal Op-Ed Template & Resources

Below are specific news outlets that are being targeted for op-eds. If you are interested in writing an op-ed, contact advocacy@amhp.us.

- AZ—Arizona Republic (longer lead), Arizona Daily Star
- AK—Alaska Dispatch, Juneau Empire, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
- CO—Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, Pueblo Chieftan
- LA—Baton Rouge Advocate, Times Picayune
- ME—Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald
- NV—Reno Gazette Journal (Heller’s hometown paper), Las Vegas Review-Journal
- OH—Cleveland Plain-Dealer, Columbus Dispatch, Cincy Enquirer
- PA—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Allentown Morning-Call, Philadelphia Daily News
- TN—Tennessean, Knoxville News Sentinel, Commercial Appeal, Chattanooga Times Free Press
- WV—Beckley Register Herald, Charleston Gazette-Mail, Parkersburg News and Sentinel, Weirton Daily Times, Huntington Herald Dispatch

Additional resources to draft your op-ed are included below:

- Healthcare repeal talking points can be found on AMHP’s website [here](#)
- [Faith Leader Quotes on Medicaid](#)
- [NETWORK Evaluation of the American Health Care Act](#)
- [Repealing Affordable Care Act will be more costly long term](#) - Op-Ed by Dr. Samina Sohail
- [Let’s Fight for Medicaid](#) - Op-Ed by Deborah Fink
- [Medicaid cuts a threat to disabled and poor seniors](#) - Op-Ed by Stephen Gold

REPEALING THE ACA WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT PLAN WILL HURT MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

Communities like ours across the United States have made huge strides in recent years to ensure more families and children are healthy and excel in life, particularly by increasing access to health coverage. The number of uninsured in our country has been reduced to an all-time low. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on the progress we have made. If families lose their healthcare coverage, local economies are at risk as well.

Yet members of Congress are proposing to do just that. Lawmakers in Washington intend to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without a concrete plan to immediately replace it – an ill-advised strategy that will have unprecedented consequences on families, hospitals and communities.

For starters, the number of children without health insurance would double nationwide. That means twice as many kids will go to school sick, will lack access to necessary medications, and won’t receive the preventive care that keeps them healthy and avoids costly emergency room visits. Secondly, 51% of non-elderly Americans (113 million) who have a pre-existing health condition that under pre-ACA definitions used by insurers, would deny them coverage or dramatically increase the cost of insurance without the consumer protections put in place by the ACA.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act without a well thought out replacement that maintains or improves affordable coverage, along with the full range of benefits and consumer protections, will also bring back high medical costs for working families, taking away precious life savings and resources they may not have.

Access to affordable health coverage is not just a health issue, it is a critical workforce and jobs issue. Too many families are working hard, yet still struggling to make ends meet. Affordable healthcare coverage is tied to a family's financial stability and their ability to move up. Urban Institute researchers note that 82 percent of those who are likely to lose health insurance are in working families.

Repeal without replacement also will hurt employers and cause turmoil in local economies and in healthcare and related industries. Lack of healthcare coverage impacts absenteeism and the productivity and profitability of companies large and small. Self-employed entrepreneurs depend on the ACA for their healthcare coverage. The loss of coverage impacts the financial bottom line for local hospitals and will shrink the significant job growth we have seen in the healthcare industry because of the ACA.

We have seen what the ACA has meant for real people in our community — it has literally saved lives and helped protect families from financial ruin while boosting the economy by creating jobs and allowing more spending by families who have avoided bankruptcy. Recently, we met Michele, a mother of two and a breast cancer survivor, who would not have received the care she needed without the ACA. In 2010 Michele was self-employed without insurance. Her previous health conditions made health coverage out of reach, but the ACA allowed individuals with preexisting conditions like hers to enroll in coverage. When a 2011 mammogram revealed a third type of cancer in her 20+ year battle, Michele knew she could never have afforded the double mastectomy, chemotherapy and surgeries that her doctors recommended without health coverage. But now her future is in jeopardy again with this proposal.

Those who work hard everyday to make sure that their children have food on the table shouldn't have their coverage taken away in exchange for a vague IOU. They can't rely on a promise that Congress will someday — after six years of not coming up with any realistic alternative — reach a consensus on a replacement for the ACA.

Repealing the ACA without a complete, comprehensive replacement strategy is not a plan; it's a risky gamble that threatens the health of children and families. Our elected officials in Washington, D.C. should not consider repealing the ACA before they have a firm plan that ensures children and families can access safe, affordable health coverage. Our elected representatives in Congress can be heroes by stating this message loud and clear.