

A TOP 10 LIST EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Key Health Reform Benefits Washington Republicans Are Threatening to Strip Away

After months of spreading misinformation and engaging in desperate efforts to kill health reform for political reasons, Washington Republicans are now threatening to try to repeal the benefits for Americans that health reform legislation would provide. It's clear that the GOP's efforts to defend insurance companies' massive profits and freedom to abuse consumers won't end when the President signs this historic legislation. Here are the top 10 benefits Americans stand to gain if the legislation gets signed into law:

- 1. PROTECTIONS AGAINST INSURANCE COMPANY DISCRIMINATION AND LOSING COVERAGE WHEN YOU GET SICK:** People who have been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition will finally have access to affordable coverage. Insurers will no longer be able to drop your coverage when you get sick and are in the middle of treatment.
- 2. INSURANCE SECURITY IF YOU LOSE YOUR JOB:** Never again will you lose access to insurance if you get laid off or switch jobs.
- 3. RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS, JOBS FOR AMERICANS:** Small businesses and employers getting crushed by soaring health care costs will see lower costs, allowing them to create as many as 4 million more jobs over the next decade.
- 4. NO ANNUAL OR LIFETIME LIMITS ON COVERAGE:** Never again will you be subject to annual or lifetime limits on what insurance companies will pay, protecting millions of Americans from the threat of medical bankruptcy.
- 5. FREE PREVENTIVE CARE:** Insurers will be required to offer free preventive care, lowering your out-of-pocket expenses and helping ensure that diseases or conditions can be caught early on.
- 6. INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATES AND SUNSHINE ON RATE INCREASES:** For the first time, consumers will have independent advocates dedicated to upholding consumer protections, answering their questions, and helping with any problems related to their plans. Insurance companies will be required to disclose their rates to consumers – discouraging them from runaway rate increases.
- 7. LOWER DRUG COSTS FOR SENIORS, LOWER PREMIUMS FOR EARLY RETIREES:** Seniors who fall into the Medicare Part D donut hole will see lower prescription drug costs as immediate steps are taken to close the donut hole. Employers who cover their early retirees will receive temporary funds to help offset the cost of expensive claims for retirees' health benefits – lowering premiums and protecting coverage for early retirees.
- 8. BETTER ACCESS AND STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN:** Prohibits insurers from charging women more than men for health insurance or discriminating on the basis of domestic violence as a pre-existing condition. Required maternity services as part of the essential benefits package in the exchange.

9. **EXTENDED COVERAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS:** Young adults will now be able to stay on their parents' insurance much longer, through their 26th or 27th birthday.
10. **AT LEAST 30 MILLION MORE AMERICANS WILL FINALLY HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE:** Health reform will finally guarantee access to quality, affordable health insurance for 30-35 million Americans who don't have coverage today, also eliminating the annual hidden tax of \$1,100 that American families pay to cover the cost of the uninsured. While the official health insurance exchanges are being created, a temporary insurance pool will be available for individuals with pre-existing conditions or chronic illnesses.

Washington Republicans Vow to Repeal Health Reform Benefits For Americans

While Democrats fight for reforms that will ensure health care security for all Americans, Washington Republicans – who failed to make any of the above reforms a priority when they were in the majority - are pledging to repeal health reform legislation that is signed into law. In practical terms, any repeal of health reform would strip away each of these benefits from American families. Washington Republicans' latest political strategy represents a new low in their efforts to protect insurers and deny the American people reforms that have been almost a century in the making. Each of the Republicans below has benefitted from tax-payer funded health insurance ... yet wants deny millions of Americans and American businesses the economic security that our health reform bill will provide.

- **NEWT GINGRICH, 20 years of taxpayer funded health care, suspects that every Republican running in '10 and again in '12 will run on an absolute pledge to repeal Health Care Legislation.** During an appearance on Meet the Press, Former Speaker Gingrich stated, "I suspect every Republican running in '10 and again in '12 will run on an absolute pledge to repeal this bill." [[Meet the Press](#), December 28th, 2009]
- **Sen. TOM COBURN, 11 years of taxpayer funded health care, "promised to introduce legislation repealing [Health Care legislation] if it resembles the bill that passed the Senate last week."** On January 1, 2010, Politico reported: "Even before a final version of the bill has reached President Barack Obama's desk, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and several House members have promised to introduce legislation repealing it if it resembles the bill that passed the Senate last week." [[Politico](#), January 1st, 2010]
- **Rep. ROY BLUNT, 13 years of taxpayer funded health care: "Since you don't have these government programs starting until 2013 or 2014, you're almost guaranteed that this will be an ongoing topic of political discussion,"** Democrats "have really brought it on themselves." [[Politico](#), January 1st, 2010]
- **Rep. JOE BARTON, 25 years of taxpayer funded health care, Pledges to Repeal Health Care Legislation in the 112th Congress as Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.** Regarding reform, Rep. Joe Barton stated, "If they somehow manage to get the votes and get enough Democrats to walk the plank and commit suicide, in the next Congress, I'll be chairman Joe Barton of the Energy and Commerce committee, and we'll repeal it." [[Real Clear Politics](#), August 31st, 2009]

- **Rep. JERRY MORAN, 13 years of taxpayer funded health care, “supports a legislative push to repeal the Democratic-supported health care plan that hasn't passed Congress yet,”** as reported by the Topeka Capital Journal. Politico.com also quoted Moran stating that “The legislation would serve as a rallying call for Americans to once again express their opposition” [[The Topeka Capital Journal](#), January 3rd 2010; [Politico](#), January 1st, 2010]
- **Rep. MICHELLE BACHMANN, 3 years of taxpayer funded health care, advocates “Defunding the Left” and Passing “Repealer Bill After Repealer Bill” to Undo a Democratic Agenda.** Bachman stated during a Heritage Foundation briefing: “We have to defund the left. And this is great. Gallup came out with a poll, I think last week or the week before, that said the American people believe that Congress wastes 50 percent — 50 cents or 50 percent of every dollar it spends. God love the American people. They get it. They understand the truth that actually there’s huge waste. So we defund that but then the third thing that we do, which you’re getting into with economic development, is we have to after we defund the left, we pass repealer bill after repealer bill after repealer bill. Because there’s a huge machinery that’s been built up in this town. And we have to just repeal it.” [[Think Progress](#), October 6th, 2009]

Prepared by House Democratic Leadership Staff