

House Republicans Work to Provide Americans with Relief from ObamaCare While Advancing Health Reform That Lowers Costs and Improves Access to Care.

Courtesy of the House Committees on Energy & Commerce, Ways & Means, and Education & the Workforce

Real healthcare reform should protect patients and the most vulnerable, empower families, employers and states with better choices, lower costs and improve access to quality health care.

Broken Promises

The president's health reform law was sold to the American people on *three* promises that have since been broken:

1. If you like your plan, you can keep your plan.
2. If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor.
3. Families will save an average of \$2,500 per year on health insurance premiums.

Back when Congress was considering ObamaCare, House Republicans predicted the bill would:

- Increase Costs
- Reduce Jobs
- Limit Choice and Access to Care

Those predictions have come true.

- **Costs have gone up.** A Manhattan Institute analysis of 3,137 counties shows 2014 premiums increased an average of 49% in the first year [for those purchasing individual policies].
- **Americans are losing jobs and hours.** According to the Hoover Institution, the 30-hour rule alone puts 2.6 million low-income workers at risk of losing their jobs or having their hours cut. 89% of workers impacted by the rule do not have college degrees, and 63% are women.
- **People are losing choice and access.** ObamaCare's onerous mandates and regulations pushed insurers to limit provider networks to control costs, leaving many families without access to their child's pediatrician or nearby hospital.

The Congressional Budget Office recently acknowledged it can no longer estimate the budgetary impact of ObamaCare because of the administration's numerous unilateral delays and exemptions. The HHS Inspector General recently reported to Congress that the income verification system is not working and up to 2.6 million inconsistencies have not been resolved – putting taxpayers at risk for paying billions of dollars for unlawful tax credits.

House Republicans have offered solutions to improve our healthcare system. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office said the House Republican bill was the only proposal that would **lower** health insurance premiums (by up to 15%). But President Obama, Nancy Pelosi, and Harry Reid ignored the will of the American people and rammed through a poorly-drafted, unworkable law.

House Republicans will continue to protect Americans from the president's health law.

Providing Relief

House Republicans have led the fight and succeeded in repealing some of the most onerous parts of ObamaCare.

- **H.R. 4:** Repealed the small business paperwork (“1099”) mandate. Signed by President Obama on April 14, 2011.
- **H.R. 1473:** Cut \$2.2 billion from CO-OPs (a “stealth public plan”), froze the IRS budget for ObamaCare enforcement and eliminated a provision that would have weakened the employer-provided insurance system. Signed by President Obama on April 15, 2011.
- **H.R. 674:** Saved taxpayers \$13 billion by adjusting eligibility for ObamaCare programs. Signed by President Obama on November 21, 2011.
- **H.R. 2055:** Made more cuts to CO-OPs, IPAB, and IRS. Signed by President Obama on December 23, 2011.
- **H.R. 3630:** Slashed billions from ObamaCare slush funds. Signed by President Obama on February 22, 2012.
- **H.R. 4348:** Saved \$670 million from the “Louisiana Purchase.” Signed by President Obama on July 6, 2012.
- **H.R. 8:** Repealed the unsustainable CLASS program and eliminated remaining CO-OP funds. Signed by President Obama on January 2, 2013.
- **H.R. 2775:** Required the Secretary of HHS to certify to Congress that exchanges verify eligibility for tax credits and required HHS Inspector General to report on the effectiveness of the verification system. Signed by President Obama on October 17, 2013.
- **H.R. 4302:** Repealed ObamaCare’s limitation on deductibles for small group health plans. Signed by President Obama on April 1, 2014.

Working for More Relief:

House Republicans will continue to fight for the American people to get more relief from ObamaCare. Under the Republican majority, the House has passed 61 bills that would protect taxpayers, lower costs, increase jobs, and provide more choice. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Senate has failed to act on *any* of these House-passed bills. The common -sense bills that Republicans are offering include:

- Fully repealing of ObamaCare (H.R. 2, H. Con Res. 112, H.R. 6079, H. Con. Res. 25, H.R. 45, H. Con. Res 96)
- Repealing and/or delaying of the individual mandate (H.R. 2668, Amendment to H.J. Res. 59, H.R. 4118, H.R. 4015)
- Delaying the employer mandate (H.R. 2667)
- Restoring the 40-hour definition of full-time work (H.R. 2575, H.R. 4)
- Allowing individuals to keep pre-ObamaCare health plans (H.R. 3350)
- Allowing small and large businesses and their employees to keep pre-ObamaCare plans (H.R. 3522)
- Repealing IPAB (H.R. 5)
- Protecting volunteer firefighters and other emergency responders from the employer mandate (H.R. 3979)
- Protecting veterans from the employer mandate (H.R. 3474, H.R. 4)
- Expanding the religious exemption from the individual mandate (H.R. 1814)
- Repealing the job-killing medical device tax (H.R. 436, Amendment to H.J. Res. 59, H.R. 4)
- Repealing the prohibition on use of FSA/HSA funds to purchase over-the-counter medicines (H.R. 436)
- Prohibiting the use of IRS funds to implement or enforce provisions of ObamaCare (H.R. 2009)

Republican Solutions Stand the Test of Time

While House Republicans fight for full repeal and immediate relief from ObamaCare, it is important to remember that Republican health care solutions have lowered costs, expanded choice, and worked better than promised:

- **Health Saving Accounts (HSA):** Enrollment in an HSA has been growing over 15% per year and now more than 15.5 million Americans are enrolled in an HSA.
- **Medicare Advantage (MA):** As of July 2014, nearly 16 million beneficiaries have voluntarily enrolled in private Medicare Advantage plans, which represent approximately nearly 30% of all Medicare beneficiaries.
- **Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit:** 90% of seniors have access to affordable medicines due to Part D, and premiums have remained steady since Part D launched in 2006 because of strong competition among private plans.

We believe health care reform should:

- Lower the cost of health care
- Protect patients and the most vulnerable
- Empower patients, employers, and states with more choices and flexibility

We support a step-by-step approach to truly reform our health care system by **lowering costs, improving access and quality, and increasing choices** – the very reforms the American people deserve.

We will continue to look for opportunities to offer immediate relief from this law's mandates to as many Americans as possible. The goal is to offer an escape route from a law that does not work for Americans.

We will invite state leaders to have a seat at the table, offering flexibility for governors to reshape programs based on their citizens' needs.

Republican Members' policy prescriptions have included, but are not limited to, the following:

- Equalizing tax treatment for Americans buying coverage on their own
- Coverage for pre-existing conditions and a new continuous coverage protection
- Reauthorizing and funding state high risk pools
- Banning health insurers from canceling or rescinding coverage
- No annual or lifetime caps on benefits
- Modernizing Medicaid to create a strong safety net, protect the most vulnerable, and allow people access to quality health insurance and private plans if they choose.
- Allowing dependent children up to age 26 to stay on parents' plan
- Strengthening Health Savings Accounts
- Purchasing insurance across state lines
- Protecting patients' and physicians' rights of conscience
- Allowing for creation of small business health plans
- Promoting privately-run health care exchanges
- Protecting employers' flexibility for self-insurance
- Enacting medical liability reforms
- Providing state innovation grants

ObamaCare and the Courts

A three-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit recently rebuked the Administration's implementation of the health care law and its attempt to extend subsidies where the law did not provide them. The ruling also dramatically limited the IRS' legal authority to enforce the individual and employer mandates. However, the D.C. Circuit has agreed to rehear the case *en banc* in December, with all thirteen judges presiding. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals located in Virginia issued a conflicting ruling on this matter, increasing the possibility that this case may be brought to the Supreme Court.