



League of Women Voters  
of Wyoming



[www.wyominglww.org](http://www.wyominglww.org)  
[statewy@wyominglww.org](mailto:statewy@wyominglww.org)

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Michael Enzi and Honorable John Barrasso  
2120 Capitol Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Dear Senator Enzi and Senator Barrasso:

The League of Women Voters of Wyoming (LWVWY) urges you to fix critical failures of the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) or let the current health insurance law stand, so an estimated 20,000 Wyoming residents can keep their insurance and get health care in Wyoming.

We are fortunate to have both of Wyoming's senators as members of the Senate working group formulating a new health insurance reform law for our country. LWVWY presumes the Senate legislation will address the deficits of the hastily written, considered and passed House bill. Unfortunately, all the work so far has been behind closed doors.

Please use your position on the working group to preserve important patient health care and insurance protections while fixing flaws with the current law. It may become necessary to scale back promised tax for wealthier Americans. We urge you to work this bill in a public forum, with the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office scoring of the final version and with the benefit of public hearings from stakeholders.

LWVWY joins the National League and Leagues of several states to assert that the AHCA version so far fails to reflect values of community and concern for all and violates LWV's commitment to access to affordable, quality health care. Provisions cause people to lose coverage and make coverage less affordable or less comprehensive. It is worth noting the problems with the AHCA so far, so they can be avoided in the Senate proposal.

- The AHCA cuts \$839 billion over 10 years for health care coverage by Medicaid. It ends Medicaid as we know it for seniors in nursing homes, people with disabilities and families with children.
- Millions of Americans would pay more in health insurance premiums, get less in tax credits and face higher deductibles. In Wyoming, with the fifth-highest health care costs

among the states, consumers in the individual health insurance market would face a net insurance premium of \$5,100 after tax credits (compared to \$1,200 under current law).

- The House bill removed key protections. Insurance plans could use annual and lifetime limits on coverage, could exclude key services and could make coverage unaffordable for people with pre-existing conditions.
- The House version used most of the savings from cutting marketplace subsidies and Medicaid to pay for some \$660 billion in tax cuts primarily for the wealthy, insurers and drug companies.

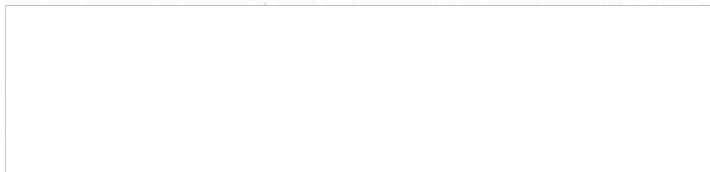
Please avoid the pitfalls of the House version, which would undermine our health care system, revoke coverage for millions of Americans and raise health costs for millions more, while threatening essential care that women and children need. Letting the states make the hard cuts seems like a thinly veiled attempt to pass along the political liability, under the guise of “local control.”

We urge you to support provisions that:

- Guarantee affordable health coverage and access to comprehensive health services for all people who have gained coverage under the ACA,
- Require all health plans to cover “Essential Health Benefits” as defined by the ACA,
- Preserve affordable coverage for individuals with pre-existing health conditions,
- Ensure coverage equity for all Americans, regardless of age, gender and/or income level,
- Preserve Medicaid as a state entitlement program with a federal match, and
- Retain the option for states to expand Medicaid programs to include low-wage adults

We recognize the complexity of America’s health care and health insurance systems and the difficulty of controlling health insurance costs while protecting services. Please ensure the bill you help write achieves affordable and accessible healthcare for patients and providers in Wyoming and all the states, and please ensure the bill is worked thoroughly and openly in the best tradition of Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Simpson, President  
League of Women Voters of Wyoming