



## ISSUE UPDATE

**DATE:** July 28, 2017  
**TO:** Concerned Parties  
**FROM:** Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

### U.S. SENATE FAILS TO PASS MOST RECENT NAACP-OPPOSED BILL TO REPEAL CRUCIAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

*THE NON-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE DETERMINED THAT  
THE HOUSE-PASSED BILL WOULD HAVE CUT MORE THAN 23 MILLION  
PEOPLE FROM THE HEALTH CARE ROLLS AND THAT THE VARIOUS SENATE  
OPTIONS WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN 16 TO 22 MILLION FEWER AMERICANS  
RECEIVING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE*

#### **THE ISSUE:**

Between July 25 and July 28, 2017, the U.S. Senate considered legislation to repeal and replace, in varying degrees, the 2010 Affordable Health Care Act (a.k.a. “ACA”, a.k.a. “Obamacare”). The most aggressive “repeal and replace” choice would have, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), resulted in 22 million Americans losing their health care coverage over the next 10 years. The least aggressive choice, the so-called “skinny repeal” would have resulted in an additional 16 million uninsured Americans over the next decade and premiums would be 20% higher in each year than they were projected to be under current law.

The NAACP strongly believes that access to high-quality health care is a civil right which should be enjoyed by every American, regardless of his or her race, color, gender, age, point of national origin, disability, sexual orientation or station in life, and as such opposed all of these proposals. We were therefore relieved that all of them were defeated.

On May 4, 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 217 yeas – 213 nays passed H.R. 1628, the so-called *American Health Care Act* (AHCA). On May 24, 2017 the CBO found that if enacted, as it passed the House, the AHCA would increase the number of Americans who did not have health insurance by 23 million people by the year 2026 (an increase of over 80% of those who are currently uninsured). On June 27, 2017, Senate leadership announced that it is postponing the planned vote on its health care “reform” bill, the “Better Care Reconciliation Act” (BCRA). This delay came a day after the CBO determined that the BCRA, which was touted as a “repeal and replace” bill would result in 22 million additional Americans losing their health care coverage over the next 10 years. One of the first votes cast on July 25, 2017, was on the BRCA language; the bill failed, 43 yeas to 57 nays.

The next day, the Senate voted on a measure to strictly repeal the ACA without replacing it. This proposal, called the “Obamacare Repeal and Reconciliation Act” failed by a margin of 45 yeas to 55 nays. The final blow to efforts to repeal the ACA came at 1:24 a.m. on Friday morning, when the Senate voted, 49 yeas to 51 nays, to defeat the mis-named “Health Care Freedom Act.” This proposal, also known as the “skinny repeal” was crafted only a few hours before the vote and it would have permanently repealed the health law’s mandate for most Americans to buy insurance. It would eliminate the law’s employer mandate, requiring larger companies to offer coverage to workers, for eight years. It would delay the law’s tax on medical devices for three years. Additionally, it would provide new funding for community health centers and would have defunded Planned Parenthood for one year.

With the defeat of all of the Senate’s proposals, Congress and the Administration should now work together in a bi-partisan fashion in the open with lots of transparency to improve on the progress which has already been made under the ACA. The American people deserve nothing less.

**SEE HOW EACH SENATOR VOTED ON ALL 3 PROPOSALS, P. 2**

**Vote #168:** The “Better Care Reconciliation Act” (Repeal-and Replace) / It was determined that this bill would result in 22 million Americans losing health care coverage over 10 years.

**The NAACP was opposed to this bill, which was defeated on 7/25/2017 by a margin of 43 years – 57 nays**

**Vote #169:** The “ObamaCare Repeal and Reconciliation Act” (repeal only): This version of the bill would have repealed and not replaced the 2010 Affordable Care Act, through which over 32 Americans have enrolled in health care coverage.

**The NAACP opposed this version of the bill, which was defeated on 7/26/2017 by a margin of 45 years to 55 nays.**

**Vote #179:** The Health Care Freedom Act (a.k.a. “skinny repeal”) / It was determined that this bill would result in 16 million Americans losing health care coverage over 10 years.

**The NAACP opposed this version of the bill, which was defeated on 7/28/2017 by a margin of 49 years to 51 nays.**

168 169 179

168 169 179

168 169 179

<b>ALABAMA</b>			
Shelby	▽	▽	▽
Strange	▽	▽	▽
<b>ALASKA</b>			
Murkowski	▲	▲	▲
Sullivan	▽	▽	▽
<b>ARIZONA</b>			
McCain	▽	▲	▲
Flake	▽	▽	▽
<b>ARKANSAS</b>			
Boozeman	▽	▽	▽
Cotton	▲	▽	▽
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>			
Feinstein	▲	▲	▲
Harris	▲	▲	▲
<b>COLORADO</b>			
Bennet	▲	▲	▲
Gardner	▽	▽	▽
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>			
Blumenthal	▲	▲	▲
Murphy	▲	▲	▲
<b>DELAWARE</b>			
Carper	▲	▲	▲
Coons	▲	▲	▲
<b>FLORIDA</b>			
Nelson	▲	▲	▲
Rubio	▽	▽	▽
<b>GEORGIA</b>			
Isakson	▽	▽	▽
Perdue	▽	▽	▽
<b>HAWAII</b>			
Schatz	▲	▲	▲
Hirono	▲	▲	▲
<b>IDAHO</b>			
Crapo	▽	▽	▽
Risch	▽	▽	▽
<b>ILLINOIS</b>			
Durbin	▲	▲	▲
Duckworth	▲	▲	▲
<b>INDIANA</b>			
Young	▽	▽	▽
Donnelly	▲	▲	▲
<b>IOWA</b>			
Grassley	▽	▽	▽
Ernst	▽	▽	▽
<b>KANSAS</b>			
Roberts	▽	▽	▽
Moran	▲	▽	▽
<b>KENTUCKY</b>			
McConnell	▽	▽	▽
Paul	▲	▽	▽
<b>LOUISIANA</b>			
Kennedy	▽	▽	▽
Cassidy	▽	▽	▽

<b>MAINE</b>			
Collins	▲	▲	▲
King (Ind.)	▲	▲	▲
<b>MARYLAND</b>			
Van Hollen	▲	▲	▲
Cardin	▲	▲	▲
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>			
Warren	▲	▲	▲
Markey	▲	▲	▲
<b>MICHIGAN</b>			
Stabenow	▲	▲	▲
Peters	▲	▲	▲
<b>MINNESOTA</b>			
Klobuchar	▲	▲	▲
Franken	▲	▲	▲
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>			
Cochran	▽	▽	▽
Wicker	▽	▽	▽
<b>MISSOURI</b>			
McCaskill	▲	▲	▲
Blunt	▽	▽	▽
<b>MONTANA</b>			
Tester	▲	▲	▲
Daines	▽	▽	▽
<b>NEBRASKA</b>			
Fischer	▽	▽	▽
Sasse	▽	▽	▽
<b>NEVADA</b>			
Cortez Mastro	▲	▲	▲
Heller	▲	▲	▽
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>			
Shaheen	▲	▲	▲
Hassan	▲	▲	▲
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>			
Menendez	▲	▲	▲
Booker	▲	▲	▲
<b>NEW MEXICO</b>			
Udall	▲	▲	▲
Heinrich	▲	▲	▲
<b>NEW YORK</b>			
Schumer	▲	▲	▲
Gillibrand	▲	▲	▲
<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>			
Burr	▽	▽	▽
Tillis	▽	▽	▽
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>			
Hoeven	▽	▽	▽
Heitkamp	▲	▲	▲
<b>OHIO</b>			
Brown	▲	▲	▲
Portman	▽	▲	▽
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>			
Inhofe	▽	▽	▽
Lankford	▽	▽	▽

<b>OREGON</b>			
Wyden	▲	▲	▲
Merkley	▲	▲	▲
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>			
Casey	▲	▲	▲
Toomey	▽	▽	▽
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>			
Reed	▲	▲	▲
Whitehouse	▲	▲	▲
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>			
Graham	▲	▽	▽
Scott	▽	▽	▽
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>			
Thune	▽	▽	▽
Rounds	▽	▽	▽
<b>TENNESSEE</b>			
Alexander	▽	▲	▽
Corker	▲	▽	▽
<b>TEXAS</b>			
Cornyn	▽	▽	▽
Cruz	▽	▽	▽
<b>UTAH</b>			
Hatch	▽	▽	▽
Lee	▲	▽	▽
<b>VERMONT</b>			
Leahy	▲	▲	▲
Sanders (Ind)	▲	▲	▲
<b>VIRGINIA</b>			
Warner	▲	▲	▲
Kaine	▲	▲	▲
<b>WASHINGTON</b>			
Murray	▲	▲	▲
Cantwell	▲	▲	▲
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>			
Manchin	▲	▲	▲
Capito	▽	▲	▽
<b>WISCONSIN</b>			
Johnson	▽	▽	▽
Baldwin	▲	▲	▲
<b>WYOMING</b>			
Enzi	▽	▽	▽
Barrasso	▽	▽	▽

**VOTE KEY**  
 ▲ = Voted in support of the NAACP position and in opposition to the legislation  
 ▽ = Voted against the NAACP position and in favor of the legislation

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