

January 30, 2017

Women's Health Providers Stand United to Protect Our Patients' Access to Care

The undersigned organizations, representing 140,000 women's health providers, stand with American women to protect critical advances made for women under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We urge Congress not to turn the clock back on landmark women's health protections.

American women have a tremendous amount to lose as Congress contemplates repealing and replacing the ACA. The ACA has ensured American women full coverage and no cost-sharing for women's preventive health services, including contraception, maternity care, cancer screenings, and other important health services. A woman can no longer be denied, or charged more for, health care coverage simply because she is a woman. A woman no longer experiences coverage denials or higher insurance rates because she has been a victim of domestic violence, has a health condition that predominantly affects women, or has had a previous C-section.

The ACA has also extended affordable coverage to ten million people in 31 states through Medicaid expansion, including women who are not pregnant and were previously unable to access care. Any ACA replacement must maintain these essential provisions.

On behalf of our patients, our organizations unite to:

1. Ensure women's guaranteed access to evidence-based, affordable, quality health care throughout their lifetimes.
2. Reject political interference in the patient-provider relationship.
3. Preserve benefits and coverage gains for women established under the ACA.
4. Ensure all qualified providers, including health professionals employed at Planned Parenthood, are able to provide the full range of women's care and services allowable under Medicaid
5. Protect Medicaid coverage and financing from harmful restructuring that would limit access to care for American women.

Our patients are the foundation of our nation's economy and families. Guaranteeing access to women's health care means women deliver healthy babies, have fewer adverse birth outcomes, and experience better health throughout their lives. When women have access to quality, evidence-based, affordable care, they enrich our workforce, achieve higher levels of education, reach their goals, and actively contribute to the success of their families and their communities. Protecting women's access to care prior to, during, and between pregnancies ensures women are healthier as they age.

We call on the President and United States Congress to stand with us in these principles, and protect the health of American women.

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health