

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 18, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

On January 20, 2017, just a few hours after taking office, you issued Executive Order 13765, *Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal*.¹ The executive order stated that your Administration planned to “seek the prompt repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (ACA). Pending the repeal of the ACA, your executive order also directed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and “all other executive departments and agencies” to, “exercise all authority and discretion available to them to waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay” the “regulatory burden” imposed by the ACA.”²

Since issuing this executive order, you and Republicans in Congress have advanced legislation that would eliminate health coverage for more than twenty million Americans, increase costs for millions more, and make devastating cuts to the Medicaid program.

Last month, in the midst of these repeal efforts, HHS issued a request for information, seeking public comments to help inform its implementation of Executive Order 13765. Tens of thousands³ of people from across the nation wrote to the Department to share their views on health care. The comment period closed on July 12, 2017.⁴

We conducted a review of the public comments posted to Regulations.gov shortly after the comment period closed. This review indicates that that the vast majority of commenters oppose the repeal of the ACA and want your Administration to improve the law—not sabotage it. We are writing to you in order to highlight the key themes in the comments and urge you to carefully consider those themes, the examples we have provided, and the thousands more like them before making any material administrative changes to or pursuing legislative efforts to undermine or repeal the ACA.

Many Americans wrote in to share personal stories about how the ACA has benefited them, including:

- **Gina (Ohio):** “The ACA positively impacted my life following my Crohn’s disease diagnosis and kept me from bankruptcy during an already stressful time. I would

encourage HHS to work within the framework of the ACA [...] rather than repeal important regulations, such as essential health benefits, which have made health care affordable for people with pre-existing conditions. Without these important regulations, million[s] won't be protected and will face bankruptcy and/or a serious decline in health.”⁵

- **Kass (Pennsylvania):** “I am a small business owner with Ulcerative Colitis. In 2005, when I was diagnosed with this debilitating disease, I was on disability because I could not work. I was so sick that I could not drive a car to get to work. When I obtained healthcare under the ACA, my doctor got my symptoms under control and I was not only able to get off disability, I started my own business and employed others. Today, instead of being a drain on my fellow taxpayers, I am paying taxes as both an individual and a corporation and I am contributing to the local and international economy with my business. If I lose healthcare coverage—which I am likely to do under the new GOP "healthcare" proposals—I will have to close my business and go back on disability. I will again become a burden on the state. Does that make sense? No, it does not.”⁶
- **Robin (Alaska):** “We were healthy, happy, insured, and living well within our means until the day our daughter was born. A complication during birth landed her on full life-support for two weeks and in the NICU for 31 days. The bill for her first year was over \$800,000. The ACA kept us from going bankrupt.”⁷
- **Anonymous (North Carolina):** “My grandfather, who went to Stanford and worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, who has owned an engineering business that has stood at the top of [its] class for decades, had a heart attack last year, three months after we got him signed up for the ACA for the first time. He was able to weather the storm and return to work, providing jobs and boosting the economy, because the ACA supported him when he needed it, even though he was diagnosed with Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes at age 15. He and my grandmother have paid their high self-employment taxes faithfully, but have always been without health insurance because the private option was too expensive for them to handle.”⁸

In addition, many Americans wrote in to express their disapproval of current Republican efforts to repeal the ACA and their fear of losing the ACA's protections. For example:

- **Trudy (New Hampshire):** “We need the Affordable Care Act. It is cruel to repeal it. My son would be without any health care if you do. I will have trouble paying for all the cost increases you are proposing and I am not poor but you will make me become poor.”⁹
- **Alexandra (Maryland):** “It is essential that we preserve the protections created by the ACA, in particular covering individuals with pre-existing conditions and allowing young people to stay on their parents' healthcare plan. Removing these protections would be disastrous for millions of Americans, and will result in many people being unable to obtain life-saving medical treatments. Please do not get rid of these protections, nor impose burdens on Americans for not being able to afford continuous coverage.”¹⁰

- **Charles (New York):** “I am a kidney transplant recipient, have been a type I (auto immune form) diabetic since 1980 and my wife has asthma. My mom is 69 and, I assume in the next decade or sooner, she will need nursing services. My wife teaches public school in NY and I am still on disability. The new GOP ‘healthcare’ (I use that term facetiously because it is a recipe for millions to fall into bankruptcy and/or die from lack of actual healthcare...) bill will potentially cause both my wife and I to go bankrupt and/or die prematurely from lack of affordable healthcare. [. . .]”¹¹
- **Dana (Vermont):** “The Affordable Care Act has improved the lives of millions of people by providing access to affordable and essential health care services; by providing access to Medicaid for the children, families, and elderly who need it; by protecting people with pre-existing conditions; by protecting our most vulnerable citizens. [. . .] The GOP health care bill passed in the House and now under consideration in the Senate is cruel, reckless, and dangerous, and will result in millions of people losing coverage, or worse. Don't undermine the health care of millions of Americans with the repeal of the ACA, with the deplorable GOP bill, or with Executive Order 13765.”¹²
- **Phil (Wisconsin):** “I like the Affordable Care Act, it's how I get my insurance. Not sure what will happen to me if the new bill passes, but it doesn't look good.”¹³
- **Kelly (West Virginia):** “Saying that the money saved on this heartless "healthcare" plan to give tax breaks to the wealthy so they can create jobs is a proven false pretense based on nothing. [. . .] There are solvable problems with the ACA that you should be focusing on and fixing. [. . .] Do not let this immoral bill pass. We are better than this.”¹⁴

Rather than asking you to repeal the ACA, commenters repeatedly expressed their hope that your Administration would work in a bipartisan fashion to “make [the] ACA better or leave it alone”¹⁵:

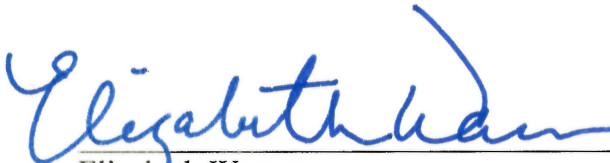
- **Andrea (Utah):** “The Affordable Care Act needs to be fixed, not repealed. The AHCA and Better Care Reconciliation Acts both make health care worse for tens of millions of Americans. I care far more about the hundreds of thousands of people in my home state of Utah who would lose their health care and hundreds of thousands more who would have needed services, medication and treatments cut for the benefit of a few politicians to carry out a promise of repeal. [...] On health care we need politicians willing to reach across the aisle to work together to do what's best for the American people. Right now there is no better solution than the Affordable Care Act, which is responsible for improving insured rates and care provided in every state in our nation.”¹⁶
- **Nancy (California):** “[S]top trying to take away health care and the ACA, put your energy into improving the ACA. [...] healthcare is a right for all citizens and the ACA, while in need of fixes, was a start in the right direction[. . .][S]o many people depend on Medicaid- older people, the working poor, children, do not cut their services.”¹⁷

- **Zillah (Georgia):** “I am totally opposed to the Trump care bill which will help the rich and hurt middle and low income Americans [.] [P]lease have a heart and join with Democrats to make fixes to the ACA.”¹⁸
- **Connie (Indiana):** “It seems to make more sense to build on what is already available. Why are we starting over when millions have benefitted from the program? Sure, it needs some changes but did anyone really think that something so new and comprehensive would work without some changes[?] Build on what is already existing rather than scrap it and start all over. Let’s stop thinking about what party wants to do what and look at the overall benefits and challenges and build on that foundation.”¹⁹

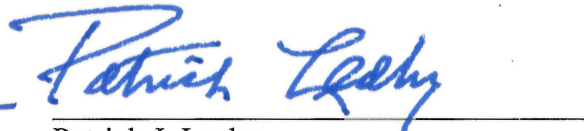
We have attached sample comments from all 50 states for your review (see Appendix).

Your Administration is attempting to ram a partisan ACA repeal through the Senate, negotiating in secret and refusing to inform the public or even hold a single hearing on this matter. But when HHS offered Americans an opportunity to comment on your efforts to “repeal and replace” the ACA, they responded—making it resoundingly clear that they oppose your actions. It is imperative that you listen. We invite you to work with us to improve and strengthen health care in the United States—rather than pressing ahead with plans to eliminate health coverage for over twenty million Americans and enact deep cuts to Medicaid.

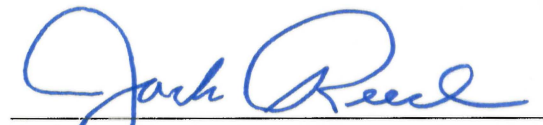
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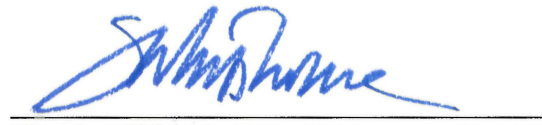
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



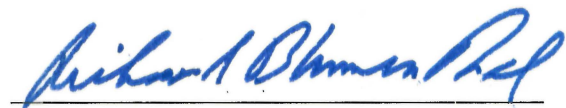
Jack Reed
United States Senator



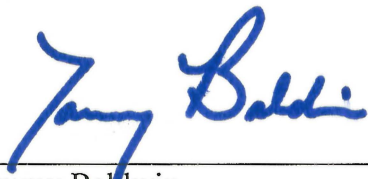
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



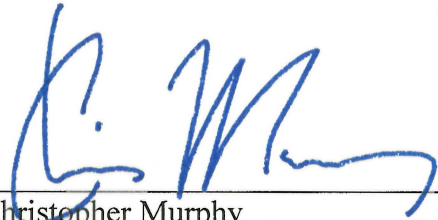
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



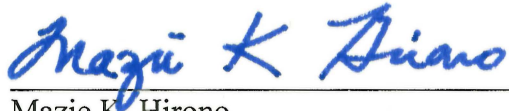
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



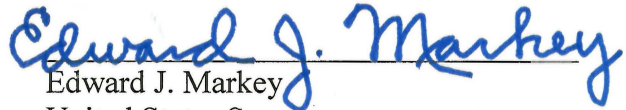
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



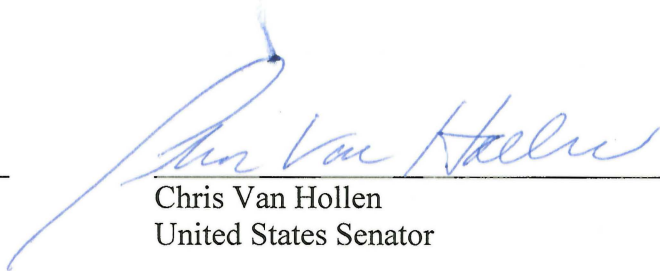
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

CC:

Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Tom Price, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Appendix

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Reducing Regulatory Burdens and Improving Health Care Choices to Empower Patients

Comments on CMS-2017-0078-0001

Available online at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CMS-2017-0078>

Name	State	Comment
Alabama		
Anonymous	AL	Due to the ACA, my husband and I have access to health insurance for the first time in a long time—after 14 years without for me, and just 4 for [my] husband. We are actually able to have tests done for chronic pain, have been able to access birth control so we didn't have a child we could in no way afford, and, now that we're in a slightly different phase of life, can start conversations about having a baby to grow our little family. If these measures are taken away, in the way that the Congress seems to be leaning toward, we will a) no longer have insurance for those tests, b) I won't be able to afford my birth control, and c) we will for sure not be able to start a family. Please: don't take this away.
Kelly	AL	I am in support of the ACA and against any form for repeal or replace. The ACA provides needed protections of pre-existing conditions and premium burdens as it stands. So not repeal, in the interest of all Americans.
Alaska		
Molly	AK	Multiple sclerosis (MS) took the lives of 2 of my siblings, stripping their ability to work and even care for themselves from young adulthood. Without access to Medicaid, SS Disability, and other social and health services, they would have died even younger from medical complications of the disease. One of my adult children and many friends have relied on Obamacare for vital health insurance when it was not available from the companies they worked for. This country needs to maintain the A[C]A and responsibly support health care for everyone! I oppose Trumpcare and the repeal of Obamacare!
Karen	AK	My frail and elderly parents are very soon going to need Medicaid for their long term care, as they are outliving their assets. Their care costs three times more than I make in one month, and I am the only child. They have worked hard all their lives, but their pensions and social security are not enough to cover the costs. I am terrified of what will happen to them if [Medicaid] is cut back or restricted. We do not have any other options. Apparently Republicans think my 88 year old father with Alzheimer's can just go "get a job!" Cutting off this support to those who need it is immoral!
Ann	AK	Please do all you can to impress on the President and Congress that we need the [] Affordable Care Act (ACA)! It may need some tweaking and we certainly need to work to contain and lower medical and pharmaceutical costs, but the ACA has saved countless lives and improved the lives of millions by removing lifetime caps, expanding access to Medicaid, lowering costs, protecting people with pre-existing conditions and making sure millions of people get healthcare. We cannot take away these vital health care options for millions of Americans!
Arizona		
Maureen	AZ	The passage of this act will [. . .] harm the care and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, those with chronic health conditions, children, pregnant women and especially impact people between the age of 50 and 65. I agree with the majority of my fellow citizens that healthcare should not place the burden of choosing between basic life necessities and healthcare on only the few who suffer such misfortune. I agree that providing healthcare to those who are chronically ill is far superior to condemning them to a life of pain and premature death because they could not "afford" healthcare. I stand opposed to the current House bill and the proposed Senate Reconciliation Act to repeal, replace and/or amend the Affordable Care Act.
Margaret	AZ	Republicans need to swallow their pride and admit that Obamacare is pretty good but needs to be adjusted and NOT repealed and replaced.

Name	State	Comment
Andrea	AZ	You can't "put the genie back in the bottle" now. Once the ACA was put into effect, it created a larger system of insurance for people who need it, and it would be catastrophic to those people - and the rest of society, as the emergency care gets put back on our shoulders to pay for, as well as creating a less healthy population. Healthcare may not be a "Right", but it's the right thing to do, to help others have a solid foundation of affordable access to healthcare [and] to allow them to reach their full potential without the burdens of poor health and/or high medical bills. The proposed bills in both the Senate and the one that passed the House do nothing to help the average or poor consumers, except if you are playing a 'numbers game' with peoples' lives. Less care, higher costs for most people (despite 'lower' premiums), and tax breaks for those who need them the least are not the "American Way". Please rethink your priorities, and listen to the consensus of the American People (not just Congress's little segregated bubbles), and fight ACA repeal.
Arkansas		
Lisa	AR	My son has a pre-existing condition so this is very important to us, and directly affects us.
Mary	AR	As a 2 time breast cancer survivor and will be on chemo for the rest of my life, I want to know how you want to charge 5 times more for older Americans for health insurance plus give states [the opportunity to] to opt out of pre-existing conditions. Trumpcare and the GOP are cruel and mean spirited with this bill. SHAMEFUL AND DISGUSTING!
California		
Daniel	CA	If it weren't for the Affordable Care Act, my son would not have been able to afford insurance for his daughter, who was born with a serious heart defect. It was so critical that she had to have surgery at 36-hour[s] old and again at 5 months old. She survived but no insurance company would provide coverage because of her pre-existing condition. Once ACA came into existence, my son was able to get her and his whole family covered. He was able to get his daughter regular check-ups and he was able to afford the costs of his daughter's final surgery at age 15. This is why so many people need and depend on ACA. Not everybody "saved" money under ACA. My older daughter, his sister, who is self-employed, saw an increase in her individual policy premium. She never complained because she knew that people like her brother and niece were now being covered. That's what real Americans do! They are happy to pay more so those less fortunate can survive. Do NOT repeal ACA, improve it!!!
Gwynne	CA	Bankruptcies due to medical bills have fallen dramatically under the ACA. The percentage increase in premium costs has been lower than it was prior to the ACA. Far from failing, insurers are just now starting to make a profit. The benefits of the ACA would have been even more dramatic if the GOP had not undermined it from the very beginning [. . .] The current bill under consideration has been rushed through in a partisan manner to achieve a tax cut for the very wealthy, and we do not even truly know what the effects will be on 1/6 of the economy and millions of Americans who depend on ACA plans and the Medicaid expansion. A bipartisan approach is needed that includes expertise from those who actually administer public health programs. On a personal note, my brother has Stage 4 cancer, and is self-employed, and has an ACA plan. His treatment and health issues are already costing him income as he loses time at his business. I am terrified for what will happen to him once protections for pre-existing conditions, and caps on lifetime maximums, are done away with by the proposed bill. The ACA can be fixed if Republicans can overcome ideology and work in the best interests of the American people.
Benjamin	CA	We must save Obamacare! Without the ACA Medicaid expansion, my three young nephews will lose health insurance coverage. Their mother has a good job as a visiting nurse, but her employer does not offer family coverage – only individual.
Shelly	CA	This is a mistake. Allowing states to diminish essential benefits diminishes basic healthcare. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are not possible if you are sick and you have a limited form of healthcare due to Trump rewriting the ACA.
Mary	CA	We should NOT repeal the ACA—Obamacare! We all knew it wasn't perfect and it needed some changes, but DON'T REPEAL and put something lousy in its place! My brother had no healthcare for 10 years, following the last recession, loss of job and house, and ONLY

Name	State	Comment
		because of the ACA, he was able to finally see a doctor and get much needed care. Without screening services and follow-up care, many Americans end up in the more costly Emergency Room. Please listen to your constituents, especially to those who are least able to advocate for themselves. The poor. The mentally-ill. The child. The single mother. Stop hiding the process behind closed doors—all stakeholders NEED TO BE INVOLVED.
John	CA	Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare), my family's overall health care costs have gone down and the quality of our care has increased. My child with Type 1 Diabetes has been able to receive excellent, affordable care that otherwise would have been incredibly expensive or even unavailable; and thanks to the ACA my child will receive affordable access to quality care despite this life-threatening preexisting condition. Repealing the ACA will create unreasonable financial burdens on my family and, ultimately, my child and millions of other insulin-dependent Americans – reducing their quality of life and perhaps even shortening their life if they cannot receive or afford the care and medications they require to live. Any replacement of the ACA must ensure patient protections at least as robust as in the ACA; and should do more to prevent insurance companies and pharmaceutical manufacturers from price-gouging their customers. Neither the "American Health Care Act" nor the "Better Care Reconciliation Act" improves upon the ACA from a patient perspective.
Colorado		
Judi	CO	I am so angered by the ridiculous amount of energy that has been devoted to trying to destroy, and then gleefully watch the Affordable Care Act die, rather than trying to continuously fix those things that the original bill did not get right. (I'm guessing The first few years of Social Security needed tweaking too...) The goal SHOULD be to create a plan that honors the right of ALL Americans to affordable, reasonable coverage and care. I was so proud of our country when the original bill passed—finally moving us in a good direction. How could the idea of making cuts to programs that serve the most vulnerable among us in order to cut taxes for people who will never know what it is like to be unable to afford going to the doctor, is ABSURD—as is the fact that the people (supposedly) representing us in Congress who decide on the health care plan for the rest of us, are set for life with a different, much better plan. Take the funds devoted to that plan and put them toward the ACA and, let those in Congress get insurance like the rest of us. Maybe then they would see things a little differently. Stop trying to kill the Affordable Care act and please, focus your time and energy on improving it [. . .].
Sandra	CO	I support the Affordable Care Act and its protections for the sick, the poor, and the elderly in the form of the Patient's Bill of Rights, the Medicaid expansion, establishing the employer and personal mandates, and the other ways that it protects the consumers of healthcare from the worst aspects of a for-profit healthcare system. "Repeal and replace" has shown itself to be dangerous, empty rhetoric based on the few bills so far proposed in 2017's congressional session, which accomplish no meaningful goal: number of people covered goes down, premiums and deductibles rise for the foreseeable future, poor people are less likely to be covered, medical bankruptcies become more likely, and people with pre-existing conditions face discrimination. Protect the ACA. Work for reform measures to correct the problems with the ACA, rather than scrapping all the progress that has been made toward the expansion of healthcare access and improvements in the general health of American citizens since the passing of the ACA in 2010.
Meg	CO	I am deeply concerned about the current efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. So far, the proposed legislation would take away health insurance from upwards of 20 million Americans. As someone who plans to become a parent in the relatively near future, I am especially concerned about the state of women's medical care and maternal health in the United States. Though the U.S. claims to be a world leader in development, maternal mortality has increased by 27 percent between 2000 and 2014 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5001799/). The current maternal mortality rate in the United States is three times higher than that of the U.K. and eight times higher than that of Norway and Sweden (http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT). Instead of replacing the Affordable Care Act with a health care bill that would increase mortality rates even further, we must be actively and aggressively seeking to improve maternal health care. Please keep the ACA and work to improve it in ways that that will protect women, low-income families, and the mentally ill—in short, our most vulnerable populations. Our future depends on it.

Name	State	Comment
Connecticut		
Dana	CT	It is obvious that people with access to medical care will be healthier and live longer than those without it. The Affordable Care Act has made it possible for millions of people to obtain insurance and health care by lowering insurance costs and expanding access to Medicaid for those who cannot afford insurance. Any change to the Affordable Care Act should ensure that all Americans have access to health care at a cost they can afford (free if necessary), regardless of their ability to pay. The current House and Senate health care bills provide no rational plan to achieve that goal; according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, 22 to 24 million Americans would lose their health insurance under these bills. Given widespread opposition to the current bills, HHS should not assume that ACA will be repealed or amended any time soon. Until it is, HHS should focus on making the existing system work as well as possible for all Americans. [. . .]
Nancy	CT	This act would remove healthcare for millions of Americans. Too many like my son and daughter, with disabilities and preexisting conditions, could find themselves unable to obtain any insurance at all if Medicaid caps are put through. This act is a travesty.
Delaware		
Kate	DE	My son had surgery on his ACL last year and had coverage to pay for it as a result of the ACA. His is only one success story about the ACA. It should be kept and improved.
Linda	DE	For many years, I worked in the function of Human Resources. I would support employees who were retiring, who became sick, whose family members became ill, or who were on disability. I would listen to their stories, and began to understand the challenges that families face in our American society when things fall apart in terms of jobs, tied to health, tied to family challenges and lack of societal infrastructure for support. In the past especially, we did such a poor job of helping those people caught outside the typical corporate job/health insurance paradigm. When it was implemented, with much relief, I saw that The Affordable Care Act saved countless lives and improved the lives of millions [. . .] It was a true step in the right direction. How can we support this proposal as Americans? How can we be so harsh and unsupportive of citizens? I truly believe access to healthcare is a human right. [. . .] Improve and support, but do not repeal the Affordable Care Act.
K. Blair	DE	Instead of repealing the ACA, it would be far better to build upon its strengths to make it even better.
Susan	DE	Congress should work on lowering prices instead of knocking people off of health insurance. Receiving medical health is a right.
Florida		
Anonymous	FL	The cut backs to the Medicaid program are mean spirited and costly to the low and middle income families. Repeal of the Affordable Care Act eliminates the tax burden of the very wealthy in this country. Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act, leave the tax provision in place, work to repair the ACA.
Hollie	FL	I am against changing any regulations that affect any repeal of the ACA. My elderly parents rely on their Medicare and Medicaid. The AHCA is an attempt to eliminate their coverage of preexisting conditions as well as those of younger people. Do not pass this horrendous AHCA bill.
Anonymous	FL	Leave the ACA alone and pay the [] cost-sharing monies the government committed to! You are messing with people's lives to feed your political egos!
Georgia		
Scott	GA	In 1970, healthcare spending was 7% of GDP. In 1990, it was 12% of GDP. Now, it is 18% of GDP. The ACA not only took steps to limit the rising cost of care, it encouraged more people to purchase health insurance so that insurance companies would have to compete in a more open market (this idea is fundamental to free-market economics). But health care is about more than economics, it is about people's lives. Without health, what good are the rights provided by the constitution? No one knows if and when they will develop a condition that will burden them

Name	State	Comment
		financially the rest of their lives. I developed diabetes when I was 11 and I rely on quality, affordable health care while I pursue a PhD in applied mathematics. Also, the ACA provided me with affordable health care while I cared for my dying mother in 2015. Though she always emphasized her diet and health, she was diagnosed with cancer in 2012. The ACA improved my life and it has saved many others who could not previously afford to care for themselves. I cannot support a party or bill who wants to give a tax break to the top 1% of earners at the expense of the poor and sick. If Trumpcare passes, it is proof that our democracy has been bought.
Sam	GA	Please find some compassion in your hearts. The rich have enough. Why make life harder for people who are already hurt, scared, and struggling? If the goal is to improve the Affordable Care Act, that is fine, but it seems as though the goal is to simply eliminate it at all costs just out [of] resentment [for] ... those who implemented it. You cannot be so separated from your fellow man that you will cast aside all morals, reason, and logic just out of spite. Do the right thing, please. Think of people who are really in trouble and scared for their lives. Everybody wins, including you, when actions are made for the benefit of the greater good.
Nancy	GA	I am one of the many Americans who is lucky enough to be able to share my story about how the Affordable Care Act has helped me, as a kidney transplant recipient, to lead a healthy and productive life, and raise my daughter without going bankrupt. I now feel like the rug is about to be pulled up from under me again. [. . .] Lives are at stake. It is the job of our elected officials to listen to their constituents and not to play politics with our essential human right of affordable healthcare.
Hawaii		
Cynthia	HI	I plead and ask that the ACA be repaired but not abolished. Please I am a cancer survivor [that has] been in remission almost four years and thanks to Welfare department, I am alive and thriving. I am currently attending college to obtain my Bachelor's degree in no more than two years. This is my way of giving back. Please save ACA. [...]
Idaho		
April	ID	I am a licensed therapist and have seen first-hand the powerful improvements, thanks to Obamacare, in the health and productivity of many low-income people who would not otherwise have been able to afford to work with me and get the help they needed. Our society needs the means to help those who can, get back on their feet and contribute something, and those who can't, access to the care they need so they don't suffer and die in pain and squalor because of their disabilities. Although the Affordable Care Act can use some tweaking, it truly has saved countless lives and improved the lives of millions [. . .] Give us a bi-partisan plan that supports those who are unable to help themselves—the elderly poor, the severely disabled, children of impoverished families. Fund Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs that support this work. Together, our society collectively has the bootstraps to pull our weaker members up. Alone, they either don't have access to bootstraps or the strength to use them. You in power did not get there single-handedly. You relied on countless others to fund and support you to get where you are. Doesn't everyone deserve funding and support according to their need?????? What becomes of our society without that?
Linda	ID	I have held senior positions in the healthcare and health insurance industries and have received coverage from the ACA upon retirement. I know MANY individuals personally, who would be bankrupt or placing greater demands on healthcare providers if Obamacare is gutted.
Janene	ID	Trumpcare would do one of two things to me. I would have to choose between treating my illnesses or being homeless. Wellness or homelessness...those are my choices and likely that of MILLIONS of people. That is a fact. How anyone...any thinking human could consider this bill is utterly beyond me.
Illinois		
Beth	IL	It would be nice if HHS could negotiate with pharma firms in reducing the cost of drugs. Also, I would like HHS to keep intact the ACA's 10 essential benefits. For me as a woman these benefits are essential and I would not like any cuts to the 10 essential benefits under the ACA.

Name	State	Comment
Henrietta	IL	Please keep the ACA. The poor, sick, and elderly are not going to be able to afford healthcare under the new plan. The preexisting condition list is long and constitutes a double whammy - what little a poor or sick or elderly person could afford would still fail because of preexisting conditions. I'm not elderly but getting there and do have a "preexisting condition" ... [I'm] thinking about my current as well as future care for myself as well as everyone. Please do not repeal the ACA or let it founder. Strengthening it strengthens us all. Thank you.
Indiana		
Millcent	IN	Repealing the essential health services (or comparable list) and letting states allow insurers to charge more for people with pre-existing conditions (i.e. re-instating caps and medical-under-writing) will force many insured individuals to buy costly insurance (or be forced to go without)—and we will be back where we were in the early 2000's. In Indiana, before the ACA, every insured individual paid an estimated \$900 in additional premiums to cover our un-insured neighbors. As a former breast cancer patient I paid nearly \$600/month in private insurance when I was unemployed. I had to decide whether to keep the insurance, or pay for my mortgage (luckily I got a loan). Fortunately I was able to get coverage again in my new job, and now as a retiree, have Medicare. The further proposed cuts to Medicaid (through caps, per-capita limits and block granting) will result in 25% less funding for this program over 10 years—at least. It is one of the major programs for community-based care for the elderly and disabled (allowing the less expensive option of staying at home instead of institutions). The ACA is not perfect—but it at least allowed comparisons to be made between similarly structured policies--- and provided protection for the most common health conditions. No one argues with states when they require all registered vehicles to carry basic insurance policies. I agree if you are going to replace the ACA—consider a basic-level single payer system, similar to Medicare, where the healthy and young are included in the pool.
Rachel	IN	This bill is incredibly harmful to the American people and must not be passed. It is unbelievable that this tax cut for the wealthy is even being considered. Lifetime coverage limits and gutting maternity care and birth control access would be devastating to me and millions of other people in this country. I cannot afford to pay extra premiums for my pregnancy, not to mention my future pregnancies being considered a pre-existing condition. This will affect people on Medicaid and people on employer plans. No one will be safe. This bill does not serve the American people and must be struck down. Work on fixing Obamacare instead of destroying it and putting something else in.
Iowa		
Lisa	IA	My 60 year old sister has healthcare for the first time in years because of the ACA. She returned to school at the age of 50 to get a teaching certificate only to find there were no openings. After trying to survive by substitute teaching for 2 years with no benefits, she now supports herself by working 2 nanny jobs—again no benefits. She will be completely dependent on her social security if she is ever able to retire. The ACA made it possible for her to visit the doctor when she was sick and receive mammograms and other preventive treatment.
Mary	IA	We love the ACA. It has made access to good healthcare affordable to many of us. Do not repeal it. Fix the weak spots—keep it and strengthen it.
Jason	IA	What fate does the GOP propose for all those who will lose their ability to stay in their retirement communities because of the cutbacks in Medicaid?
Dawn	IA	My daughter's life has become immeasurably improved since gaining insurance through the ACA and Medicaid. She is a single mother who works full time but receives less than a livable wage. She does not get insurance through her employer as Congress does. She is able to afford the medications she needs to remain free from Bi-polar issues, depression and anxiety. She is able to visit a mental health professional that keeps her stable. Without ACA and Medicaid she will be unable to proceed in her job.
Kansas		

Name	State	Comment
Alan	KS	Most people with an open mind recognize that the Affordable Care Act is a reasonable attempt to make health care available to all Americans. Yes, it makes healthcare affordable for the poor by taxing to wealthy. But is that really so bad? Why can we spend so much on military hardware to "protect" Americans while ignoring their health needs? My leaning is to find ways to improve the Affordable Care Act. I believe it was fairly well thought out and implemented. But, as with any such an undertaking, corrections along the way make it better. It is obvious that all related legislation that has been passed is only meant to torpedo it. Alternatively, if the health insurance companies only want to insure young, healthy people, we should begin to lower the age of Medicare eligibility.
Mary	KS	My recommendation is to amend the ACA to fix the issues with the legislation. The ACA should require everyone to have health insurance or they pay a significant penalty. The ACA must require younger individuals to participate so that there is a large enough pool enrolled to cover costs and lower premiums. It makes no sense to me to throw out the ACA and create a new health care plan. Fix the ACA and then start moving the country towards single payer coverage for all. All Americans have the right to health care at a reasonable cost or no cost. Stop making healthcare a political issue and do the right thing for the country [.]
Kentucky		
Samantha	KY	Stop being selfish and trying to push this through merely because you want to overturn Obamacare. Let's keep it real. You are not concerned with your own constituents and how many of them suffer at the hands of this bill. If this were YOUR healthcare you wouldn't act this way so why not apply that same logic to this sad attempt at healthcare? Why pad the pockets of the wealthy and hurt the poor who stand to lose the most? [...]
Raymond	KY	Trump promised better. This IS NOT better. It would seriously compromise the health care of millions. One of the hidden costs of healthcare is the money hospitals write off for non-payers. This alone contributes to the high cost of healthcare. Affordable insurance would reduce or even alleviate this problem. Our nation is one of the only civilized nations in the world that does not have universal healthcare. We need affordable healthcare options for ALL, especially for low income people and those in poverty. Unless congress can come up with a plan equal to or better than the ACA, it would be irresponsible and immoral to repeal it for something less comprehensive and inferior.
Patty	KY	My daughter has insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. What do I tell her when she asks why Republicans don't want her to have insurance? This makes no sense!
Louisiana		
Salvador	LA	It certainly needs fixing, as many problems remain, but it would be much easier to fix than to pass a health care bill that would harm millions of Americans.
Beth	LA	This bill gives millions or more in tax cuts to the wealthy while taking away healthcare options for millions of people. This is an outrage!
Will	LA	I am self-employed with a median income and in my early 60s. My wife and I receive subsidies to cover most of our insurance premiums. The wellness benefits saved my life last year.
Maine		
Anonymous	ME	My son and his family benefitted from being able to afford health insurance in the marketplace under the ACA while he was laid off and doing contract work for various employers. He and his wife both needed medical treatment during that time. The ACA was a lifesaver for them. Do not repeal unless replaced with Medicare for All!
Maryland		
Alexandra	MD	It is essential that we preserve the protections created by the ACA, in particular covering individuals with pre-existing conditions and allowing

Name	State	Comment
		young people to stay on their parents' healthcare plan. Removing these protections would be disastrous for millions of Americans, and will result in many people being unable to obtain life-saving medical treatments. Please do not get rid of these protections, nor impose burdens on Americans for not being able to afford continuous coverage.
Paul	MD	Repeal of the Affordable care Act would be harmful to millions of American. Fix it don't repeal it.
Massachusetts		
Anonymous	MA	I do not support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Please keep the Affordable Care Act and work to make it better by increasing coverage and lowering premium costs, instead of removing people's health care to pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
Anonymous	MA	Improve upon the ACA - don't approve a bill that removes access to healthcare for millions of people, or allows states to have plans that don't cover pre-existing conditions. I have a chronic condition, and currently, if I change employers and get different insurance, my condition will still be covered. At some point in life, all of us will have a pre-existing condition.
Marisa	MA	I am writing to let the HHS know that a move away from the ACA is a move away from health for the majority of Americans. When I was 16, I watched my best friend's mother die of a cancer that would have been easily prevented and detected had she had access to regular preventative care like doctor's visits. That same friend now relies on the ACA for access to mental health care to recover from the trauma of falling into poverty while caring for a terminally ill parent. I cannot stand idly by while anything like this happens to anybody else in the wealthiest country in the world. Any study of regulations involving the ACA must protect access to care above all else. Not access to care that costs \$1,000 / month, or access to care that is subpar, but health insurance for all Americans for needs big and small. The coffers of insurance companies are not my concern; the wellbeing of the millions of Americans who would die without coverage is. Please protect the most crucial parts of the ACA to protect American lives. Thank you for considering my comments.
Michigan		
Samuel	MI	I am a case manager at an organization that provides housing and services to people who have experienced chronic homelessness. While not perfect, I have seen the huge positive impact ACA has on the clients I serve. Some of them have only recently accessed physical and mental health care that, if they had received earlier in life, may have prevented them from losing their housing in the first place. This access has also reduced some of my clients' use of Emergency services, which is more costly than preventative care. Please don't repeal the ACA, which has both saved money and has improved the quality of countless lives. [. . .]
Anonymous	MI	Stop chipping away at the Affordable Care Act. Listen to the people that elected you to represent them. We want to keep Obamacare protections in place. We demand hearings and debate on any replacement legislation. To hide behind closed doors and exclude the media is more than cowardly. [It's] undemocratic.
Minnesota		
Bruce	MN	This rule is a mistake. The ACA was designed to provide a minimum level of care in all insurance policies, and this rule will allow states to drop these requirements. Dropping penalties and taxes designed to fund the ACA will further destabilize the private health insurance market by ensuring there won't be enough customers to keep them cost effective. I expect that this will directly impact me within the next year or so, as my employer will be laying me off within the next year, and I may be needing private health insurance instead of employer based insurance. [. . .] By my reading of this regulation, all of this coverage could be dropped for everyone from the qualified plans by states claiming this is a financial burden. Well, medical bankruptcy, or premature death or disability due to the sort of incomplete insurance policies that used to be sold before the ACA are an indirect financial burden on us all. It is important that we maintain a social safety net for health care, not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it prevents the large number of bankruptcies due to medical expenses that were

Name	State	Comment
		common prior to the ACA. Furthermore I object to the idea that it is better to make 22-23 million people more vulnerable financially so that a few hundred thousand people will benefit by paying millions of dollars less in taxes, an amount that they will barely notice. Implementing a rule designed to weaken the ACA, so that one can make the case that the ACA is failing is disingenuous at best, and cruel to the 20-40 million people who rely upon it.
Mississippi		
Debbie	MS	As a disabled veteran with chronic health problems the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid could very well lead to an early death for me and other seniors. Please don't become a death panel.
Brenda	MS	The ACA saves lives and allows Americans to live a fuller and more productive life while making a contribution to society and paying state and federal taxes. Rural hospitals can remain open and provide continuous and vital services to remote communities; many jobs are also saved by continuation of the ACA. Health care should not be a privilege and the wealthiest 1-2% of Americans DON'T NEED A TAX BREAK!!! I'm happy to participate in a SINGLE-PAYER, MEDICARE FOR ALL health care plan and support H.R. 676 but until we shift to a universal health care system, I fully support continuation of the ACA. It's draconian, heartless, short-sighted and unnecessary to REPEAL AND REPLACE the ACA and it is socially very disruptive. AND the American people APPROVE of the ACA!! Back off of repeal and replace; WORK WITH THE DEMOCRATS to strengthen the ACA and fix its problems (some of them self-inflicted by state (Republican) governors!!), which is the honorable and patriotic thing to do!! Then begin hearings to include respected medical organizations like the AMA, AHA, American Heart Association, SEIU, and many others for their INVALUABLE input so we can move toward a UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR AMERICA -- joining the rest of the major industrialized countries already providing health care to their citizens, controlling and saving costs in the process! DO THE RIGHT THING FOR AMERICA, FOR AMERICANS!!!
Sharon	MS	The cuts to Medicaid are unreasonably cruel and inhuman. They deeply impact the quality of life for the poor and elderly, and especially the children. Is that really worth it to give tax breaks to the wealthy. The wealthy are doing alright - they don't really need more money while the people helped through these programs really, really need good quality health care and assisted living.
Missouri		
Diana	MO	I want the Trump administration to continue paying subsidies that defray the cost of insuring sick and low income people. I also want CMS to continue advertising the ACA to encourage more people to sign up for insurance.
Todd	MO	I am pleading with the leaders of my government to please work together to improve the ACA. Yes it needs work, but so many more Americans are now covered with good quality health coverage at prices they can afford. It would be perilous to remove the progress that has been made. Truly the lives and health of many, many (millions) of people are at risk. Is it not possible to work to improve this law? The question is not whether or not people in this country need health care or whether or not we will have health care—because I believe they will—HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT! The question is - "how will we pay for it?" The mandate that all have coverage is not a good idea—it is a GREAT IDEA! Costs must be absorbed, equitably throughout. I have worked for a non-profit for more than 16 years. I became a licensed / certified Navigator at the beginning of the ACA. I have seen FIRST-HAND the positive impact that this law has made in the lives of so many people. It truly would be a travesty to repeal and replace with something that leaves 20+ million un-insured! PLEASE - IMPROVE WHAT WE HAVE—DON'T DESTROY IT! I plead with the President—DON'T SABOTAGE THE ACA!!! PLEASE! [. . .]
Keri	MO	It is imperative that you work together to make the ACA work. Thousands of people in my service area have benefitted greatly from the ACA. Yes, we know it's not perfect. Nothing will ever be perfect but it is time the legislators work together to strengthen this program and to not destroy it. Why would anyone want to deny someone affordable health care? I will never understand that logic. People need this and the ACA has helped many people. Just fix what is wrong and make it a stronger, more robust program for all Americans. The lives of many, many

Name	State	Comment
		(millions) of people are at risk simply because they can't afford health care. Is it not possible to work to improve this law? Please do not destroy the ACA just improve it. Thank you!
Montana		
Susan	MT	This "repeal" would basically put some individuals on what amounts to Death Row (like my 30 year old nephew who is battling brain cancer). The plan exceeds "immoral". It's criminal.
Susan	MT	We are seniors: 61 and 67, respectively. My husband in 2016 had Hodgkins Lymphoma but it was discovered in time so it had not spread. Today he is alive and cancer free. Had it not been for Medicare and Medicaid, my husband would have been DEAD!
Marilyn	MT	We knew that after opening access to those in need of medical care, after not being able to secure it, would be expensive. However, once you get a healthier population the cost will stabilize. We don't want our citizens to go without lifesaving care ever again!
Valerie	MT	Trumpcare is a mean-spirited proposal that provides nothing to the voters who supported this direction in government health-care subsidies. I suppose the president and the Republican congressional team sleep at night because they really don't care what happens to the poor, children, the elderly, and working-class Americans. Good grief.
Misty	MT	I work at [a behavioral health service] in Montana. We employ around 850 people throughout the state. Most of the clients that [we] serve[] use Medicaid. If it passes, I don't think our organization will stay open for very long. I'm afraid I'll lose my job. Not to mention, thousands of people we help each year will be tossed aside. What will happen to them? What will happen to our communities when people with mental health and drug addiction issues have nowhere to go? I am hoping beyond hope that this fails on Thursday. I honestly have no idea how it's going to go down. All I can do is wait [with] fear in my heart and tears in my eyes...
Nebraska		
Diane	NE	As a Public Health Nurse I know many people whose health and health care would be compromised by repeal of the ACA. We are not simply consumers of health care, we are citizens who deserve the right to adequate health care. Refining any seminal legislation, such as ACA, is an iterative process. Work on the ACA to improve it and, thus, assure the opportunity for a healthy citizenry. For those who simply live on the business side of life, recognize that an unhealthy citizenry is a less productive workforce. Do not purposefully diminish the strengths of the United States.
Mark	NE	DO NOT repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act! Do not sabotage it, amend it to improve it. Trumpcare and the Senate's version hurt millions and will be responsible for many people dying unnecessarily. They are not attempt[ing] to make healthcare more affordable for Americans but to give huge tax breaks to the wealthiest, most privileged amongst us. They are immoral and unfair.
Nevada		
Mark	NV	I will celebrate my 62nd birthday in September and join the ranks of Social Security retired. I am also currently on Medicaid. While the ACA has room for improvement and should be the focus of any changes in our medical care laws, EVERYTHING about the Republican healthcare plan is wrong starting with the tax cuts for wealthy people and companies that don't need cuts down to the fact that the Republican plan will charge elders much, much more for worse coverage. This is dangerous and immoral! In fact everything about Republican governance in general seems to be dangerous and immoral!!!
Ethel	NV	Health care legislation needs to be planned in a nonpartisan way, and needs to be discussed and negotiated in Congress, not rushed through just to get political points. We are better when we are all better. Health care for all should be something that is a matter of fact in this rich, great nation. Stop Trumpcare. Stop the repeal of Obamacare. Fix Obamacare. Make it a better health system. Stop all this rhetoric. Just get down to work—work for all the American people!!!!

Name	State	Comment
Edith	NV	The purpose of a healthcare bill should be to PROVIDE HEALTHCARE—not take it away from the poorest, or to enrich those who don't need any more money.
New Hampshire		
Mackenzie	NH	Without the Affordable Care Act, my husband, a self-employed respected member of our community, would not be able to have [insurance] due to a preexisting condition. 15 years ago he hurt [h]is back remodeling out home, and has suffer[ed] from chronic pain. Additionally, expanded Medicare benefits have made it possible for our three children to have insurance coverage that we can actually pay for.
Jane	NH	I have personally benefited from the ACA after not having health insurance for 7 years, because I was unable to afford it. The ACA allowed me to get insurance for that I could afford and I was able to get my health care back on track and take care of things as they came up. I am so grateful for ACA!!!
Nancy	NH	The Affordable Care Act has saved countless lives and improved the lives of millions, including my adult disabled daughter who depends on Medicaid, and my brilliant writer husband, whose existing condition would make him an invalid without coverage. Then there are the scores of colleagues and neighbors and friends who opted for food instead of meds and doctor visits until Obamacare. DO NOT IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THESE MILLIONS OF VULNERABLE CITICENS. [. . .] Trumpcare would steal health care from at least 22 million in order to give a \$ 700 BILLION tax cut to millionaires. This greed is repugnant!
New Jersey		
Stephen	NJ	I object to repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. [Its] regulations are meant to provide affordable health insurance to those in society who need it most. The current proposals in the House and Senate are a cruel joke.
Anonymous	NJ	Leave the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to do its good work. Stop tampering with it. Tweak it, fix it but don't repeal it. The more you hobble the PPACA in this manner, the more people worry and suffer. By reframing "Protections" as "Regulations" you introduce a doublespeak that confuses people, and your cynicism costs lives. Good regulations protect people. The ACA provided health insurance for the first time. It is not a perfect system but it could be fixed. If you could only listen to Dr.s and Hospitals administrators you could work on reducing the costs not eliminating who can get it. Stop sabotaging it by infusing the markets with uncertainty and terrifying citizens who deserve basic health care. By sabotaging the ACA, you are not improving care, choices, or nor empowering patients. You are hobbling legislation that is working for millions. As somebody who works with cancer patients, patients affected by chronic illnesses I know some who will die if the provision against lifetime caps is removed as part of the repeal efforts. I know many, many others with pre-existing conditions that will put decent health insurance and decent care utterly out of reach. I am self-employed and 60 years old, do you seriously think that I could afford to pay \$20,000 to \$24,000 a year for health insurance? I am already paying \$10,000 and that is brutal enough. You decided that the country cannot afford to give health insurance to every citizen especially the old, the sick, the children. It is a very easy position when you, your family and your staff have those great insurance plans that WE pay with our tax money. Do the honorable thing, negotiate with the democrats and fix the ACA.
New Mexico		
Brian	NM	Prior to the ACA, some insurance companies were taking nearly a third of customers' premiums for administrative costs. It still accounts for 25%. To contrast, Medicare administrative costs, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, are roughly 2%. Nearly a quarter of the 3.2 trillion we currently spend on healthcare could be saved. That would buy a lot of coverage. Rather than limiting health care options, either offer universal health coverage or limit the amount insurers are able to charge for "administrative" costs.
Edna	NM	[. . .] Fix the existing problems of the ACA. The point is to make sure we have a healthy population. Health care should not just be reserved for the wealthy!

Name	State	Comment
New York		
Mary	NY	My husband and I are both freelancers, and we've been buying our insurance on the open market for more than a decade here in NY. Before the ACA, our insurance market was the wild West. I bought insurance for myself that didn't cover any prescriptions. I had another plan that had a \$50k lifetime limit. When I signed up for my state's proto-exchange, one of the "insurers" hounded me to sign me up for a plan that offered medi-vac services, but had no other details on their website. It felt like a scam, but it was so hard to compare plans across insurers that I wasn't sure that the other insurers weren't scams. Many major insurers just didn't take small businesses and individuals, or had prices that intentionally kept people from buying them. My mom told me that I should go with her insurer, so I looked up Blue Cross Blue Shield for my state. Their prices were \$1500/month for their lowest-tier plan. If you want to empower me as a patient, you need to make major regulatory changes that I don't see anyone talking about. My insurer stands in the way of healthcare for me on a regular basis. They have their own rules and regulations that prevent me from accessing care, and if I want to disobey their rules, I'd pay ridiculous charge-master prices that they don't pay. There's "competition" in name only. No one is addressing why healthcare costs what it does, in this legislation or any other proposal I've seen. The current legislation only tries to roll us back to the bad old days where people didn't have working health insurance. I see Obamacare and the ACA as a floor. We should be working to make health insurance work for more people.
Wendy	NY	If Trump and the Republican Congress are serious about wanting to fix the health care system, than you would double down to fix—not sabotage—the ACA. I'm a single mom who works freelance. I don't have employer provided health care; the ACA has made health insurance affordable for me and my child. It is deeply cynical and destructive to pursue what was always a politically motivated attack on ACA. Don't repeal ACA. Make it work.
North Carolina		
Anonymous	NC	Please stop this reverse Robin Hood nonsense. Remember who voted for you and do right by them, because without this help, many of them could die or be forced into poverty by their medical bills and your "replacement" does very little to prevent this. You should all [b]e ashamed of yourselves.
Anonymous	NC	DO NOT repeal Obamacare, but instead improve upon it. Removing 20 million, and especially children, from healthcare is not the answer!
Anonymous	NC	Before the ACA, I could not afford to pay for my most basic health needs. My father, a strong supporter of the current administration, could not receive the medical support he needed because of his pre-existing health conditions. The ACA gave us a choice. The bills we've been presented this year prove to us that we'll have no choice. We'll see \$663 billion in tax cuts, but no indication about the choices you'll provide us with in terms of pre-existing conditions, covering basic benefits like maternity care, and giving more power to those with money to decide what services are best for us. We both understand the ACA is not perfect, and with Congress' current attempts to let the system implode, the government is doing a disservice [] by not working to improve it. The versions of the American Health Care Act are taking steps back to keep American citizens healthy. Congress is well aware of that as displayed by the inability of lawmakers to come together to create a bill that will upend the ACA. The actions of Congress indicate that they value reducing the federal deficit instead of improving or maintaining the health of its people. Health is a right. And if you think otherwise, then who are you representing? Sincerely, Republicans fed up with the lack of American representation
Carole	NC	So many people will be hurt by this bill—these are your constituents. These are older people, young children and all the people with mental health issues, addiction problems and chronic diseases. Do NOT vote for this bill. The rich can afford to pay a little extra. This is what society does—it protects those in need and vulnerable.
Anonymous	NC	Please do not get rid of the ACA. I have been in the private market for most of my life (I'm 48). I slept soundly for the first time the night I bought my first ACA policy. I don't get a subsidy. It was not cheap, but it was worth every penny. Let's keep the ACA and make

Name	State	Comment
		improvements over time—or better yet, go to a universal coverage system.
North Dakota		
Dan	ND	Trumpcare is pure evil. It takes away vital services from those that desperately need it.
Susan	ND	How is this different than just pointing a gun at the poor and shooting them? This Trumpcare nonsense is a death sentence for millions! Do Republicans have any consciences, or are they all about their own wealth at any price?
Ohio		
Anonymous	OH	Make ACA better or leave it alone.
Anonymous	OH	I find it difficult to comprehend why fair, affordable and accessible healthcare which is so vitally important for all residents of a county, would not be of primary importance to the people elected or appointed to run the federal government. I realize that in creating a bill as comprehensive as the ACA, there are going to be unforeseen issues, poor compromises and a desire of some to prefer that healthcare be handled at a state level. I understand this but do not support it. People should be able to relocate throughout this beautiful country and have the same healthcare north or south, east, west or middle. It is possible for such a thing to happen when the legislators allow for bipartisan efforts without outside special interest lobbying but with information necessary to create a bill which takes into account the needs of all. [...]
Oklahoma		
Charlotte	OK	First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment. Next I would like to ask: who on this planet does not have a "pre-existing condition"? This is the main point about this bill that concerns me the most. It is so vague a term that it could mean 22 million people may lose the one thing that is helping them stay alive and out of debt at the same time. If insurance companies have a problem with spending money on people and don't think of the number of lives they help, then they are in the wrong business. Stop listening to the greed of the insurance companies and stop thinking of people as a liability. Start listening to all the angry voices of your constituents.
Jennifer	OK	I have exactly three relatives in my family: my mother, my aunt, and my grandmother. The first two are disabled and unable to work, and my grandmother is aging. I am deeply worried about what the new healthcare bill would do to my family.
Oregon		
Margaret	OR	I am responding, but I believe the solicitation for comments is disingenuous. In #1, the Executive Order mandates objectives that "provide relief from any provision or requirement of the PPACA that would impose ... a cost, fee, tax, penalty, or regulatory burden on ...health insurers...or makers of ...medications" (or virtually anyone else). It is impossible to develop a plan for health care that will not involve loses and sacrifices for some. It seems to me that the purpose of this dubious missive is to quiet the masses while insuring that nothing of consequence will be done to make health care in the U.S. the affordable right that it is in other Western countries.
Marguerite	OR	Improve Obamacare, don't repeal it. Quality healthcare should be a birthright.
Pennsylvania		
Anonymous	PA	As a type 1 diabetic currently purchasing health insurance on the open market, the best way to "enhance the affordability of coverage" would be to stop threatening to change the entire health insurance system without having bipartisan support or adequate funding and just let the market stabilize by guaranteeing subsidies will be paid and increased as appropriate for a given area. Placing me in a "high risk pool" will not make my incredibly expensive medications cheaper, only increase my premiums and the likelihood of having disease complications from lack of access to the proper medication and treatment. Single payer would be a much better approach to making things truly affordable for all

Name	State	Comment
		Americans and works well everywhere else.
Glenn	PA	Any changes to healthcare regulation "must" be directed toward the goal of providing equal access to all healthcare for every citizen independent of health condition or ability to pay.
Kari	PA	I have been purchasing my health insurance through the ACA since it became available. Some years I didn't—the premiums were just too high, and I'm a healthy young adult. Right now, I'm terrified that the proposed policy changes will only continue to drive premiums up, making it impossible for me to afford health insurance. I work 50 hours a week, across three part-time jobs. I love what I do, and I don't want to be forced to seek other, less fulfilling employment only in the hope of securing health insurance. Having access to the health insurance marketplace and the premium subsidies has made it possible for me to make the life choices I want to make. I am not interested in bare-bones insurance that doesn't cover everything—there are low-cost clinics to get basic care. If I have health insurance, I want that to mean that I can go to a doctor of my choosing, and see any specialist my doctor recommends, and not worry that a car accident or other emergency will leave me thousands of dollars in debt. I fear that, with less regulation requiring insurance companies to offer comprehensive coverage, my healthcare options will become much more limited. I make less than \$30,000 a year—while that's enough to cover my basic needs, there's no room in my budget to finance health costs out-of-pocket. Paying thousands of dollars for necessary care or going without is not a "choice." I want government regulations to keep health care costs down, and to require insurance companies to offer real insurance. [. . .]
Iva	PA	I urge you to vote against this bill. This bill will increase premiums, increase deductibles and decrease coverage. It will affect millions of Americans who were able to obtain insurance under the ACA. It will negatively affect senior citizens, the disabled, children, and women while providing tax relief to large corporations. If this bill represents the "best" healthcare bill available, then why has Congress specifically exempted itself from its provisions? Why has Congress decided to strip funding from Planned Parenthood despite the fact that no federal funds are spent on abortion? Why does Congress want to increase the number of teen pregnancies, the incidence of STIs? Why does Congress want to deny basic health care to so many American citizens? I am appalled at your lack of common human decency, particularly those among you who call yourself Christians.
Rhode Island		
Anonymous	RI	Please do not roll back the vital protections offered by the ACA such as affordable and available coverage, coverage for preexisting conditions, the elimination of lifetime limits on spending by insurers, and so on. The ACA may not be perfect, but it can be improved in ways that give more people more coverage. The AHCA is a thinly veiled tax cut for the wealthy that will endanger millions of American lives and certainly lead to many deaths. Please stop the ACHA.
Anonymous	RI	I feel that changing the ACA at this point would be a disaster. Although I am sure that the ACA needs some minor tweaking, we do not need to replace it with a new health care act that would cause 22 million to lose health insurance and produce tax cuts for the richest 1% of the country. I work in a community mental health center, and many of my clients rely on their health insurance and entitlements to eke out a living. Cutting insurance or making it unaffordable would only serve to increase the number of costly hospitalizations and ER visits. Prohibiting coverage for opioid treatment could exacerbate the already devastating toll that opioids take on our communities. Pre-existing conditions should also not be held against people and increase their premiums.
South Carolina		
Brenda	SC	This rule is misguided and wrong-headed. The ACA was designed to provide a minimum level of care in all insurance policies, and this rule will allow states to drop these requirements. People who are sick and weak cannot work. The proposed changes to the ACA will affect people's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It also will cause unemployment in the health care delivery systems, among other things. It is important that we expand the existing social safety net for health care rather than curtail it and increase the numbers of the

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		uninsured. It is in the best interest of the society. It also is a fundamental human right. See Article 25(1) of the United Nation's (1948) Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [. . .]
South Dakota		
Lisa	SD	I URGE YOU TO IMPROVE ON OBAMACARE, NOT TRASH IT! WHO OF US HAS NO PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS? EVEN BABIES HAVE THEM SOMETIMES. TRUMPCARE IS AN AWFUL PLAN, AND I OPPOSE IT VEHEMENTLY! SURELY YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS! IT'S A THINLY VEILED EXCUSE TO PUT \$ IN THE POCKETS OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND FOLKS WHO HAVE MONEY TO SPARE.
Tamara	SD	The recent Senate bill proposed to repeal and replace the ACA is not a health care bill, and should not even be dignified with a vote.[. . .]This fake "health care" bill does nothing but give billions of dollars to corporations and some already-wealthy people, at the expense of the working poor, the disabled, the elderly, veterans, and average Americans who barely scrape by and need help paying for outrageous medical expenses. This proposed bill will destroy our quality of life and the American economy when the average person either spends way too much on health insurance for little return, or cannot afford health insurance, health care, or nursing care for their families or themselves. Untreated infectious diseases. Medical bankruptcies. Hospitals closing down, especially in rural areas. How is this good for the country?
Sherilyn	SD	Under the Affordable Care Act, my husband, who has a congenital heart defect, was finally able to get affordable health insurance and be on the same plan as me and our sons for the first time in our nearly 20 years of marriage. I am also very worried on behalf of those Americans who stand to lose Medicaid coverage. Millions of people is not something anyone should turn a blind eye to. Supporters of Trumpcare either aren't honest about the effects of the bill or lack empathy for those who would be affected. Either way, they should not be in public office claiming to represent others.
Tennessee		
Nell	TN	[. . .]If you don't have a family member who is disabled or addicted to opioids, or in a nursing home, you have no idea the burden it places on both the family and the patient. Medicaid has saved millions. Don't throw us under the bus.
Chris	TN	I am opposed to "Trumpcare" in all its forms. I am opposed to any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Period.
Texas		
Sister Patricia	TX	I feel that the efforts to replace the Affordable Care Act are very misplaced. Wouldn't it be better to work together to improve what is not working well with our present plan? I am deeply troubled by the several proposed plans, which seem to be crafted for the sake of saving tax money, rather than improving healthcare for the citizens of our country.
Anonymous	TX	Don't repeal PPACA. Improve on it.
Utah		
T.S.	UT	This doesn't affect me yet, since I make the threshold and we are healthy, but I want healthcare for ALL citizens.
Leslie	UT	FIX the Affordable Care Act and make it better!!
Andrea	UT	The Affordable Care Act needs to be fixed, not repealed. The AHCA and Better Care Reconciliation Acts both make health care worse for tens of millions of Americans. I care far more about the hundreds of thousands of people in my home state of Utah who would lose their health care and hundreds of thousands more who would have needed services, medication and treatments cut for the benefit of a few politicians to carry out a promise of repeal. Americans will die for a political win. That is both immoral and impractical. On health care we

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		need politicians willing to reach across the aisle to work together to do what's best for the American people. Right now there is no better solution than the Affordable Care Act, which is responsible for improving insured rates and care provided in every state in our nation. We need to acknowledge the many, many good aspects of the ACA and work to fix the few flaws.
Heather	UT	I am proud that America has been able to provide better medical access to millions of people with Obamacare. We should not be reducing the amount of care people can afford to get. Do not allow for the repeal of Obamacare! Everyone should have good medical care!
Vermont		
Dana	VT	The Affordable Care Act has improved the lives of millions of people by providing access to affordable and essential health care services; by providing access to Medicaid for the children, families, and elderly who need it; by protecting people with pre-existing conditions; by protecting our most vulnerable citizens. Healthy Americans are productive Americans, and any health care bill put forward by Congress and signed into law must ensure that ALL Americans, not just wealthy Americans, can afford to keep themselves and their families healthy. The GOP health care bill passed in the House and now under consideration in the Senate is cruel, reckless, and dangerous, and will result in millions of people losing coverage, or worse. Don't undermine the health care of millions of Americans with the repeal of the ACA, with the deplorable GOP bill, or with Executive Order 13765.
Georgia	VT	[[I]t is essential to save the protections the ACA created. [. . .] People will die from not being able to afford healthcare under the AHCA. Leave well enough alone!
Virginia		
Erika	VA	I was stunned by a diagnosis of breast cancer at 35. No family history, non smoker, I am active and eat clean. I am married with two young sons. I never paid much attention to "pre existing conditions" because I thought it would be decades before I had one. Now I am bound to my employer for coverages, restricting my family's opportunities and location. My treatment over the last year would have cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars and bankrupted us through no fault of our own. That's not the American dream.
Aubrey	VA	Repealing the ACA without an appropriate replacement is irresponsible. My family has benefited from the ACA. We just had our first baby in the fall. The ACA covered the numerous doctor's appointments needed to make sure my baby was developing well. I required a caesarian section and had to stay in the hospital extra days. Later in the year I had to have my gallbladder out. We are still paying bills from before meeting our deductible, but thankfully the bills are minimal compared to the tens of thousands of dollars they could have been. I am very thankful for the ACA. Now that I've had my c-section, that would have been considered a pre-existing condition preventing me from getting insurance. Do not repeal the ACA without an APPROPRIATE replacement.
Washington		
Ellen	WA	My family has benefited from the "essential benefits" package required under the ACA because preventive care is covered; we get an annual check-up on our basics and, therefore, are in a better position to control potential onsets of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions. My sister is a breast cancer survivor and benefits from the prohibition against charging more—or denying care entirely—for people with preexisting conditions. She has peace of mind about being able to afford her care, something that helps her enormously since she will worry about being revisited by cancer the rest of her life! This provision benefits her daughter as well, since she knows that concern about the costs of treatment would worry her mother very much. I am very worried about movements to cut health care services and coverage to the poor and middle class and shifting the money saved to provide tax cuts to people, the very wealthy, who won't even notice them! The ACA taxes on the rich were put there so that the program was paid for; the benefits of these contributions to the public at large far exceed their impact on the people taxed. We all pay when our fellow citizens don't have basic health care services—one way or the other.

Name	State	Comment
Anonymous	WA	My employer's insurance improved to more closely match the ACA requirements. I'm healthy, and haven't needed to use my insurance much, but now my screening mammograms and annual physicals are covered, so I make sure I get them.
West Virginia		
Bert	WV	My wife and I are both alive today thanks to the ACA. Neither one of us would be able to afford health care under the GOP's proposed replacement. We are not wealthy, but we deserve to have health care the same as any other American should have.
Kelly	WV	Saying that the money saved on this heartless "healthcare" plan to give tax breaks to the wealthy so they can create jobs is a proven false pretense based on nothing. [. . .] There are solvable problems with the ACA that you should be focusing on and fixing. [. . .] Do not let this immoral bill pass. We are better than this.
Carl	WV	Have you really lost your empathy for other people and can only think about yourself only? Maybe it is time for a new approach. Since you have not come up with any alternatives to ObamaCare in 7 years that are workable, why not fix ObamaCare's problems and quit undermining a good and valuable resource for Americans? If you fixed ObamaCare, you could get onto slashing and burning other parts of the government. That is time management gentlemen.
Charles	WV	Eliminating access to health care for millions does not reflect who we are as a country.
George	WV	The fact that this legislation will make it impossible for millions of Americans to even think about having healthcare is diabolical. I am going to spread the idea far and wide to have people send their representatives obituaries of people that die because of this travesty. We need a new political party to replace the GOP since they seem to be soulless husks of inhumanity.
Wisconsin		
Hank	WI	The Affordable Care Act combined important principles that need to be maintained: all must take part to create a strong and diverse pool, people who cannot afford health care need assistance, people should not be denied health care because of preexisting conditions, women should not be charged more for health care, and there should not be lifetime caps on health care. The opportunity to expand Medicaid was made available to the states but was not required. The package included revenue to cover costs. It is especially important that people not be penalized for having past health care problems. Denying health care to people who have heart problems, who are cognitively impaired, who have suffered physical problems because of accidents or who were born with physical or cognitive issues is not reasonable. It is important that elderly people be able to obtain health care at an affordable price as all people will get older. Women should not be charged more than men for health care including pregnancy. After all while women may need prenatal and birth assistance, there was a man involved in the process that caused the condition. The AHCA does not empower consumer choices or insure affordability of health care options. It does not stabilize the individual, small group, and non-traditional health insurance markets. It hurts states that want to take part in the expansion of Medicaid, but did not do so at the beginning. The AHCA is actually more of a tax bill than a health bill. Support the principles and the regulations needed to implement the ACA. There is far more good than bad in them.
Terry	WI	This piece of legislation is a moral and economic travesty. Any politician, federal, state or local, who supports it will lose my vote.
Wyoming		
Christy	WY	We need to fine tune ACA, and not get rid of it. A measure of a Society is how it treats its most vulnerable.
Anne Hay	WY	The Affordable Care Act is not a perfect solution, but many people rely on it. Repealing it is very unpopular with the majority of the American People. For those who think that is the way to go, then find they themselves are hurt by the repeal, the action will become even more unpopular. Congress should instead be working together to improve the act, defunding parts of it that impact millions of people, is heartless,

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		and unacceptable.
Nicholas	WY	I'm writing to express my opposition to the current Senate Health Bill. The currently proposed repeal of Obama is completely unacceptable. Cutting health care for 22 million Americans to facilitate tax cuts is a deeply cynical and disturbing move that should have no place in American politics. The Affordable Care Act has literally saved lives and it continues to provide health care to the most vulnerable Americans. We should be working to strengthen the ACA, not repeal it and replace it with something which is obviously inferior.
Myron	WY	I am very opposed to the idea of repealing the Affordable Care Act. The proposed cuts to Medicaid are even more egregious. Many poor and elderly people will be needlessly hurt in order to give a tax cut to the richest Americans. I can't understand the callous thinking that goes into this sort of unconscionable proposal. Please show some humanity.

Notes

¹ President Donald Trump, *Executive Order Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal* (January 20, 2017) (online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/20/executive-order-minimizing-economic-burden-patient-protection-and>).

² *Ibid.*

³ As of July 17, 2017, CMS had received 3,239 comments. Of those, 968 were available for public review. These 968 comments included two comments from CREDO Action, which compiled 110,947 individual public comments in 26 PDFs.

⁴ Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Reducing Regulatory Burdens and Improving Health Care Choices to Empower Patients* (July 12, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0001>).

⁵ Comment by Gina Bericchia on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 5, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0400>).

⁶ Comment by Kass McGann on CMS-2017-0078 (posted June 28, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0295>).

⁷ *Available in* Comment by Murshed Zaheed, Political Director, CREDO Action on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0346>).

⁸ Comment by NC on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 11, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0479>).

⁹ *Available in* Comment by Murshed Zaheed, Political Director, CREDO Action on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0346>).

¹⁰ Comment by Alexandra on CMS-2017-0078 (posted June 16, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0121>).

¹¹ Comment by Charles Reavis on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0359>).

¹² Comment by Dana Goss on CMS-2017-0078 (posted June 28, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0242>).

¹³ Comment by Phil Marshall on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0380>).

¹⁴ *Available in* Comment by Murshed Zaheed, Political Director, CREDO Action on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0346>).

¹⁵ Comment by Anonymous on CMS-2017-0078 (posted June 16, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0070>).

¹⁶ *Available in* Comment by Murshed Zaheed, Political Director, CREDO Action on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0346>).

¹⁷ Comment by Nancy Morosohk on CMS-2017-0078 (posted June 28, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0267>).

¹⁸ *Available in* Comment by Murshed Zaheed, Political Director, CREDO Action on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 3, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0346>).

¹⁹ Comment by Connie Pepler on CMS-2017-0078 (posted July 11, 2017) (online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=CMS-2017-0078-0460>).