

## **DEFEND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: PROTECT QUALITY, AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE CARE FOR WOMEN**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides a healthcare lifeline to 9.5 million women who could not otherwise afford health insurance. The ACA includes coverage, affordability, and accessibility provisions that are critical to women's health, and has been particularly beneficial for women of color, whose uninsured rates have dropped dramatically. The House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) fails to maintain the ACA provisions that are crucial for women's health, including essential health benefits, coverage for pre-existing conditions, access to reproductive health services, and a strong Medicaid program.

**Any health care legislation must maintain—and states must not be allowed to waive—key provisions of the ACA, including:**

- **Coverage for the full array of essential health benefits**—preventive care (like mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and domestic violence screenings), pregnancy and childbirth coverage, pediatric care, outpatient care and hospitalization, mental health and substance abuse services, chronic disease management, emergency services, lab services, and prescription drugs—that the ACA mandates for low income people in the Medicaid program, and for people who have health insurance through the healthcare exchanges, or have certain other individual and employer plans.
- **Protections for survivors of domestic violence** so that they are not penalized if their abusers block their access to health coverage.
- **A structurally sound, well-funded Medicaid program** that is available to all individuals who meet established income levels, including people who gained health coverage through their state's expansion of Medicaid eligibility.
- **The full range of reproductive health services for women and girls**, including continued Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood, which is often the only women's health provider in many communities.
- **Full and affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions**, so that they can get the care they need without fear of being denied or cut off from coverage when the costs for surgery, cancer, diabetes, or other health conditions run high.

**We urge you to:**

1. **Preserve the ACA's health care protections for women and girls**, including essential health benefits, coverage for pre-existing conditions, access to reproductive health services, and a strong Medicaid program that maintains both the expansion and the current financing structure, without block grants or per-capita caps.
2. **Ensure that the ACA is not repealed without a viable replacement plan** in place that preserves these important protections for women and girls.
3. **Vote against the House-approved American Health Care Act** if it is brought to a vote.