

S. Frame Open Forum Box 8/29/17

- See sample letter  
on next page.

- See Shasta County  
Letter.

August 29, 2017

To the Board of Supervisors

Thank you very much for your consideration of sending letters to our representatives encouraging them to VOTE NO on any repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

The key stake holders all agree that repeal is not good for Americans or the Health Care System. This includes physicians, hospitals and health insurance companies. Please request that our Health Care system needs improvement through a non-partisan approach to improve the Affordable Care Act for Americans. This behind the scenes work is not democratic and needs to proceed respectfully through the process to get input from all of our congressional representatives, stakeholders and the American people.

Here are the FAX number to send your letters

Tom McClintock - US House of Representatives  
FAX 202-225444

Dianne Feinstein - US Senate  
FAX# 202-228-3954

Kamala Harris - US Senate  
Fax# 202-224-2200

Mitch McConnell - US Senate  
Fax# 202-224-2499

Paul Ryan - US House of Representatives  
FAX# 202-225-2012

Thanks again for all you do.

Please let me know if you would like an electronic copy of the draft letter that we have compiled for your use.

Maureen Dion-Perry  
El Dorado Progressives, Health Care Work Group  
dionperry@att.net  
Phone 530-651-4245

- Good healthcare helps drive our rural economy. Our hospitals receive around 55% of their receipts from government sources, and of that, about 15% comes from Medi-Cal/Medicaid. Loss of revenue could mean loss of jobs, or even limited access to critical services.
- In the absence of medical coverage, many people will try to resolve minor healthcare issues by using the Emergency Room, leading to higher costs, poor use of emergency resources, and unpaid bills for our rural hospitals.

Beyond protecting Medi-Cal for vulnerable populations, we must ensure that all policies:

- Cover essential health benefits, such as maternity care, substance use and mental health treatment, and prescription drugs.
- Cover pre-existing conditions. One of the profoundly important aspects of the ACA was its prohibition on charging customers differently or refusing coverage entirely based on prior healthcare needs.
- Are priced the same for all populations. There can be no price gouging or discrimination based on age or demographics.

Considering the obvious need for reliable, consistent healthcare coverage, we must look to the ACA as a non-partisan framework and be willing to shore it up and stabilize the health care markets by:

- Consistently funding the legally mandated subsidies, and not funding these month-to-month, which causes destabilization of the healthcare markets and has led to higher premiums.
- Working to reduce the cost of insurance, hospitals, and pharmaceuticals.

In closing, we ask all of our elected representatives to work together in an honorable, bipartisan manner to protect and improve our access to affordable healthcare.

Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County, California

Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
May 2, 2017  
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- The national safety net of public hospitals and health systems, including county systems, would be under further stress with 14 million more people uninsured next year, rising to 24 million by 2026; and
- Providing states with the options to select a Medicaid block grant and/or require work for coverage would shift even more costs to states and increase the uninsured rate.

Finally, the recently proposed MacArthur Amendment permits states to allow insurers to sell plans that do not contain all ten of the Essential Health Benefits required of ACA plans, which include maternity care, substance use and mental health treatment, and prescription drugs. The amendment also allows states to approve insurance plans to charge higher premiums for persons with chronic and costly conditions such as cancer, which may lead to states creating high risk pools partially funded by the federal government to help pay for sicker individuals. These pools, however, have been woefully underfunded in the past and California's counties are concerned that these changes will negatively impact access to care for individuals with preexisting conditions. For these reasons, we urge you to vote 'no' on the American Health Care Act.

Sincerely,



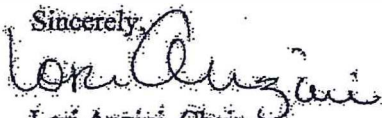
Les Baugh, Vice Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Shasta

cc: California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

2. The BCRA punishes people who have their insurance lapse for whatever reason (including job loss, prolonged disability, or bankruptcy) by not allowing them to regain health coverage for half a year. During that time, they would likely go for health care where they cannot be turned down for lack of insurance – to the local Emergency Rooms, further increasing the financial stress on our local hospitals.
3. Under the BCRA, insurance companies can charge older citizens up to *five times more* than younger people. El Dorado County has a large population of senior citizens, many of whom are on limited incomes and would not be able to afford being gouged by such high health insurance premium costs. Again, these seniors may well have to go without health insurance, and become yet another tide of uninsured patients flooding the Emergency Rooms for no-pay care.
4. This means that people now covered under the Affordable Care Act would *lose the guarantee* that *pre-existing conditions* will be covered. Instead, individual states would determine which conditions are covered or whether any pre-existing conditions at all are covered.
6. The reduction in funding for Medi-Cal funds will also impact the employment of many of the staff members at those hospitals, supporting services (home health care for seniors), convalescent operations, pharmacies, and several other health agencies that the County relies on for supportive services. This scenario will impact our local economy of jobs, sales tax revenues, rents/mortgages, and the domino effect of people not contributing or spending their dollars in El Dorado County.

We urge you, our elected representatives, to adopt a Board of Supervisors Resolution in opposition to the 'Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017' and in support of efforts to increase access to truly affordable health care for all of our residents. And we request that you send that Resolution to Congressman Tom McClintock, Paul Ryan and Senators Diane Feinstein, Kamala Harris and Mitch McConnell.

Sincerely,



Lori Anzini, Chair  
El Dorado County Democratic Party



Sean Frame, Resident  
El Dorado Progressives