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Republican Proposal to Repeal and Replace Health Care Helps Rich and Hurts Poor

Last night, House Republicans unveiled their bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Until now, the bill has been kept under lock and key. There has been no opportunity for public input on the bill or for estimates of how the bill will affect people. Members of Congress don't know how many people may lose coverage under this proposal or how much premiums will increase, but they will soon be asked to vote on the bill in committee.

A few of the provisions included in the bill:

- The bill will effectively force states to end Medicaid expansion by cutting federal funding. The 700,000 Ohioans who gained coverage through Medicaid expansion will stand to lose access to health care.
- Per-capita caps to Medicaid funding will shift costs to the states, leading to state budget shortfalls that will force states to cut Medicaid eligibility and benefits. More than two million Ohio children, older adults, and people with disabilities will be at risk of losing coverage or having fewer covered services.
- The bill will reduce the tax credits that help moderate-income families afford coverage. Over 238,000 Ohioans enrolled in coverage through Healthcare.gov for 2017, and most are eligible for a tax credit to make coverage more affordable. [Analysis shows](#) that under this bill, they could pay thousands more.
- Premiums and out-of-pocket costs like copays and deductibles will rise, especially for older adults, because the bill allows insurance companies to charge higher premiums than under the Affordable Care Act.
- The bill provides health savings accounts, which benefit the rich more than middle- or low-income Americans. When many families can't afford to contribute to a health savings account, they simply provide a tax break for the rich.
- Cuts to Medicaid and tax credits for low- and middle-income people under this bill make it possible to cut taxes for the rich, insurance companies, and insurance CEOs.

"This proposal takes health coverage from the poor and gives money to the rich," said Steve Wagner, executive director of Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio). "Americans have asked their Republican members of Congress not to destroy the gains made by the ACA. Instead of listening, Republicans have proposed a bill that would strip away coverage and make care more expensive for millions of the most vulnerable Americans while cutting taxes for the wealthiest."

UHCAN Ohio is a statewide non-partisan, non-profit organization building the voice of consumers to achieve quality, affordable, accessible health coverage for all Ohioans. www.uhcanohio.org

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