



## **FACT SHEET: Republican Plan to Shutdown Government and Repeal the Affordable Care Act**

*Under the Affordable Care Act, more than 100 million Americans are benefitting from consumer protections and access to stable, secure health coverage. Republicans are so obsessed with refighting old political battles over health reform that they are willing to push us toward a government shutdown that would hurt the economy. Threatening to shut down the government unless we go back to the days when insurance companies could deny people coverage based on pre-existing conditions or run up costs is reckless and irresponsible. Instead of holding the economy hostage, Republicans should work with us to improve the law and lay a foundation for economic growth.*

### **A One-Year Repeal Would Make Health Care More Expensive**

**Health care would be harder to afford.** A one-year repeal of health reform would increase the cost of health coverage and deny millions of Americans the help they need to purchase affordable insurance.

- **Individuals would pay higher prices for health coverage.** According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Republican one-year repeal would increase premiums in the individual market. By some estimates, individual market premiums could increase by 10%-20%. [Urban Institute, [3/12](#); CBO, [7/16/13](#)]
- **Consumers would bear more of the cost burden.** Under the Affordable Care Act, the majority of people purchasing health insurance coverage through the marketplaces would receive subsidies to help them afford insurance. A one-year repeal of the Affordable Care Act would delay the establishment of these marketplaces and subsidies, forcing individuals to pay more for health coverage. [CBO, [7/24/12](#)]

**In the new health insurance marketplaces, competition is already working.** In the federally run marketplaces, where competition forces insurers to offer the best coverage at the cheapest rate to consumers, premiums are 16% below CBO's expectations for the uninsured. After subsidies, 6 out of 10 Americans could get coverage for \$100 a month or less. And in an analysis of 11 state-based marketplaces, the lowest cost silver plan in the individual market for 2014 is, on average, 18% less expensive than CBO-based projections. [CBS News, [9/25/13](#); ASPE, [7/10/13](#)]

**Health care cost growth has slowed dramatically since the ACA was enacted.** In the 12 months ending in May, personal health care costs grew at the slowest rate in the last 50 years. Personal consumption spending rose by just 1.1%. [USA Today, [7/29/13](#); White House, [7/29/13](#)]

## **A One-Year Repeal Would Deny Millions of People Coverage and Benefits**

### **A one-year repeal would prevent millions of people from obtaining coverage.**

According to CBO, repealing the ACA for a year would prevent Americans from enrolling in Medicaid or buying coverage through new marketplaces, causing 14 million Americans to go uninsured. [CBO, [7/24/12](#)]

### **A one-year repeal would delay critical consumer protections and would:**

- Let insurance companies continue to deny coverage for up to 129 million Americans with pre-existing conditions. [HHS, [1/18/11](#)]
- Let insurance companies continue to treat being a woman as a pre-existing condition and continue to charge women more than men; and continue to let employers deny women contraceptive coverage with no cost-sharing. [New York Times, [3/29/10](#); NWLC, [3/12](#); NWLC, [11/9/11](#)]
- Let insurance companies continue to place annual limits on coverage for one more year and deny consumers the protections of limits on their out-of-pocket health care costs for one more year [HHS, [1/24/12](#); White House, [8/13/13](#)]

**Americans will continue to pay for the costs of the uninsured through higher premiums and government insurance.** According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in 2008 the uninsured accounted for approximately \$57 billion each year, with 75% of that cost borne by increased local, state and federal taxes to every American. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [10/12](#)]

## **A One-Year Repeal Would Increase the Deficit**

**A one-year repeal of the ACA would add \$24 billion to the deficit.** The ACA will reduce the deficit by about \$100 billion over the next ten years and by more than \$1 trillion in the decade after that. [CBO, [7/24/12](#); CBO, [11/29/12](#); CBO, [5/15/13](#)]

**The ACA extends the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 10 years, from 2016 to 2026.** Overall per-capita spending on Medicare and Medicaid has slowed dramatically as well in recent years, with CBO reducing its projected costs for these programs by a combined \$1.2 trillion between their March 2010 and May 2013 estimates. [CMS, [5/31/13](#); CMS, [5/31/13](#); CBO, [9/19/13](#)]