

Women & ACA Anniversary Messaging

Moving Forward...Protecting Women's Health Care

March 23rd marks the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act being signed into law. While Republicans want to refight the same old political wars to give control over your health care back to insurance companies, it's time to move forward to protect your care. It's about empowering every American – seniors, small businesses, women, young adults – to have more freedom and more control over their health care.

Top line messaging points—

- Moving forward means insurance companies can no longer charge a woman more just because of her gender.
- Moving forward means no longer branding a woman as a pre-existing condition, simply because of a Caesarean section or because she was a victim of domestic violence.
- It means women can no longer be dropped from their insurance because they get sick, their children can no longer be denied care because of a pre-existing condition, and women and their families can receive preventive health care without a co-pay.

Messaging points on what's at risk if the Affordable Care Act is repealed or defunded—

- Repealing the health care law will re-open the door to discriminatory insurance practices like charging women more than men for health care coverage and denying coverage to domestic violence survivors and mothers who have had Caesarean sections because these are "pre-existing conditions." Don't let insurance companies go back to treating women like a "pre-existing condition."
- The new health care law puts an end to insurance companies treating women like a pre-existing condition. But that's not all — the law is *already* helping women and their families by making it illegal for insurance companies to drop people once they get sick, prohibiting insurers from denying coverage to kids with pre-existing conditions, and providing no-cost preventive health care services, such as mammograms and pap smears. All this is at risk with repeal.
- Repeal would return us to the days of being at the mercy of the insurance industry. Women and their families are already benefiting from provisions in the health care law. It is now illegal for insurance companies to drop people once they get sick. Insurers are now prohibited from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. Women are now able to access no-cost preventive health care services. Repeal will take these critical gains away from women and their families.

Don't forget to include personal health care stories about how the law is already helping women and their families or about the struggles women and their families faced with the former, broken health care system.