

# FACT SHEET

## Improving Health Care Access and Affordability for Millions of Americans

**The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* follows through on Democrats' commitment to lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs for consumers. It expands health coverage and makes health care more affordable.**

**The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* invests in Americans' health by using the savings from lowering prescription drug costs to lower health insurance costs and expand eligibility for health care tax credits that help consumers afford coverage.**

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has projected that a fair price negotiation program will lower prescription prices significantly. Drugs subject to negotiation will see [price reductions of up to 55 percent](#).
- This bill will level the playing field—American seniors and families should not have to pay on average four times more for their medicines than what the drug companies charge people in other countries for the same drugs.
- These reductions in prices translate into lower out-of-pocket spending for consumers, and lower premiums in Medicare Part D and the private health insurance market, cutting employer-sponsored health insurance premiums by \$116 billion.
- With lower drug prices, Americans can have access to the drugs they need. This would save \$42 billion in other health care costs like physician and hospital visits thanks to overall improved health.

**The bill would provide financial assistance for more people by expanding health care premium tax credits to more middle-class Americans, including those with incomes above 400 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL).**

- A family of four with an annual income of [\\$40,000](#) would save nearly \$1,600 more annually.
- A family of four with an annual income of [\\$60,000](#) would save an additional \$2,000 annually.
- A family of four with an annual income of [\\$100,000](#), who previously did not qualify for premium subsidies, would save \$8,000 annually.
- Americans purchasing health insurance through the Marketplace would spend less than 8.5 percent of their income for meaningful comprehensive coverage.
- The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* would ensure that families who don't have an offer of affordable family coverage from an employer can qualify for subsidies in the Marketplace.
- The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* would further invest in programs to reduce health care premiums and deductibles for all Americans, including through a national

reinsurance program. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), individual market premiums would be [10 percent](#) lower than under current law.

**The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* would expand access to comprehensive health care for even more people and reverse the Trump Administration's relentless and ongoing sabotage of the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA).**

- According to CBO, the bill would reduce the number of uninsured by [4 million](#) relative to current law.
- The bill would protect people with pre-existing conditions and guarantee that insurance companies cover basic health services.
  - The bill would reverse the Trump Administration's expansion of junk plans that allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, put consumers at financial risk, and drive up comprehensive insurance costs.
- The bill would further lower health care costs and expand access to coverage for Americans by making key investments in the Navigators program, restoring outreach and enrollment funding, and offering incentives for states to establish state-based Marketplaces.
- The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* takes power away from insurance companies and gives it back to patients. The bill would reinstate important consumer protections for American consumers.

**The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act* builds on the historic coverage gains and better health care value provided to American families through the ACA.**

- Under Democratic leadership, the uninsured rate of U.S. adults steadily [fell from a high of 18 percent in the third quarter of 2013 to 10 percent](#) by the end of 2016.
  - Unfortunately, since 2017 the uninsured rate of U.S. adults [has steadily climbed from 10.9 percent to 13.7 percent in 2018](#), the highest rate in four years due to the Trump Administration's sabotage of both the Marketplaces and the Medicaid program.
- Over [20 million Americans](#) have gained coverage due to the ACA.
  - Approximately 9 million consumers now receive subsidies to make their health care more affordable.
  - Nearly [13 million Americans have health care](#) under Medicaid expansion.
- The ACA requires insurance companies to cover preventive care for free. Approximately 138 million people receive no-cost coverage for preventive services, such as flu shots, birth control, and cancer screenings.
- The ACA requires insurers to spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on health care and quality improvement, not executive bonuses and advertising.