



July 27, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the over 170,000 members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I urge you to oppose the so-called skinny repeal bill, the Health Care Freedom Act (HCFA). The bill would leave millions uninsured and lead to increased premiums. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has greatly improved women's access to quality, affordable health insurance and care. The Health Care Freedom Act would put the health, well-being, and economic security of women in jeopardy.

AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care.<sup>1</sup> Since the enactment of the ACA, about 137 million Americans have access to preventive services without cost sharing, including 55 million women.<sup>2</sup> Fewer women of reproductive age were also uninsured as a result of the ACA.<sup>3</sup> The number of uninsured women ages 15 to 44 years old dropped by 36 percent under the first two full years of ACA implementation.<sup>4</sup> AAUW believes these positive changes underscore the need for a robust ACA.

The so-called skinny repeal bill, the Health Care Freedom Act, would undermine many of these advances. The Affordable Care Act has improved women's health and economic security, and AAUW opposes efforts to gut or repeal the law. AAUW also opposes any efforts that seek to weaken women's access to affordable, quality health coverage, and any attacks that endanger women's access to key health care services provided by Planned Parenthood health centers.

I urge the Senator to oppose the Health Care Freedom Act. Cosponsorship and votes associated with this legislation may be scored in the AAUW Action Fund *Congressional Voting Record for the 115th Congress*. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/785-7724, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Hedgepeth  
Interim Vice President of Public Policy and Government Relations

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<sup>1</sup> AAUW. (June 2015). *AAUW Public Policy Program*. [www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/).

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health and Human Services. (February 12, 2016). *HHS FY 2017 Budget in Brief – CMS - PHI*. [www.hhs.gov/about/budget/fy2017/budget-in-brief/cms/private-insurance-programs/index.html#coverage](http://www.hhs.gov/about/budget/fy2017/budget-in-brief/cms/private-insurance-programs/index.html#coverage).

<sup>3</sup> Guttmacher Institute. (November 17, 2016). *Uninsured Rate Among Women of Reproductive Age Has Fallen More Than One-Third Under the Affordable Care Act*. [www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/11/uninsured-rate-among-women-reproductive-age-has-fallen-more-one-third-under](http://www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/11/uninsured-rate-among-women-reproductive-age-has-fallen-more-one-third-under).

<sup>4</sup> Guttmacher Institute. (November 17, 2016). *Uninsured Rate Among Women of Reproductive Age Has Fallen More Than One-Third Under the Affordable Care Act*. [www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/11/uninsured-rate-among-women-reproductive-age-has-fallen-more-one-third-under](http://www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/11/uninsured-rate-among-women-reproductive-age-has-fallen-more-one-third-under).