

Some Thoughts on Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its Proposed Repeal

I am one of the millions of Americans with a "pre-existing condition" who will likely suffer if "Obamacare" is repealed. I did not bring this on myself but I cannot afford to pay for my health care costs if preexisting conditions limits (should I change jobs) and lifetime cost limit restrictions come back.

We are now faced with the repeal of ACA. Personally, I would favor single payer health care solution.¹ Many others would prefer a more market-oriented approach. But if you put people in the room and said come up with a plan that acknowledges that neither of these is likely to happen, and makes both sides compromise, you would come up with something like the ACA. It covers 20 million more people, protects others from catastrophic costs if they develop a chronic condition, and expanded access to Medicaid (though 19 states opted out).²

ACA is a *centrist* approach that makes sense for most people. Moreover, while the partisan divide remains,³ most people in the US believe the government should play a role in health care,⁴ and oppose an ACA repeal until a replacement is developed.⁵ There has also been a recent uptick in support for the law.⁶

For me, it is hard to listen to the partisan push for the repeal of a solution that is imperfect but has helped millions and will save lives. I am not a huge fan of ACA, but repealing ACA will have tremendous consequences for millions of Americans like me who felt relieved when the law was passed. I urge people to do what you can to help limit the damage. It is vitally important.

¹ American Medical Student Association. Single Payer 101. <https://www.amsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SinglePayer101.pdf>.

² <http://kff.org/health-reform/slide/current-status-of-the-medicaid-expansion-decision/>

³ Views of health care law break sharply along partisan lines <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/10/27/health-care-law-partisan-divide/>

⁴ Bialik, K. (2017) More Americans Say Government Should Insure Health Care. Pew Research Center. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/13/more-americans-say-government-should-ensure-health-care-coverage/>

⁵ <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/01/06/508379529/poll-most-americans-say-dont-repeal-obamacare-without-a-replacement>

⁶ CNN/ORC Poll Shows last-minute love for Obamacare. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/19/politics/obamacare-approval-cnn-orc-poll/>. Other polls show differing results based on various methodological differences.