



**Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider
the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal**

September 25, 2017

Statement Submitted by
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Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has fought for decades to strengthen our health care system and advance the rights and well-being of women. On behalf of women across the country who are the health care decision-makers for themselves and their families, we write in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal (“the Graham-Cassidy proposal”) to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The Graham-Cassidy proposal is yet another assault on the health care women and families rely on.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal would devastate women’s health care and coverage. For example, it would:

- Repeal the ACA marketplace financial assistance, endangering the health and economic security of the 6.8 million women who depend on the Marketplace for affordable health coverage.ⁱ
- End Medicaid as we know it, harming the nearly 1 in 5 adult women who are covered by Medicaid.ⁱⁱ
- Block Medicaid enrollees from accessing care at Planned Parenthood, denying millions of people access to essential preventive services such as birth control and cancer screenings.
- Eliminate guaranteed coverage of critical health services for women, like maternity care, prescription drug coverage and mental health services.
- Allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, including 67 million women and girls.ⁱⁱⁱ This means coverage could become prohibitively expensive for those in dire need of care. For example, insurers would charge about \$17,320 more in premiums for pregnancy.^{iv}
- Discourage private insurance coverage of abortion by penalizing health plans that offer it with burdensome bureaucratic requirements, and pushing abortion coverage further out of reach for many women. Denying coverage for abortion means women must cover the costs of care themselves – often delaying care to come up with the funds, or sacrificing other essential expenses to do so.
- Lead to 32 million people losing coverage;^v \$4 trillion in cuts to states over the next two decades;^{vi} and a 20 percent increase in premiums for the same coverage.^{vii}

Put simply: this proposal would devastate the health and economic security of women and families.

It is long past time for Congress to work in a bipartisan way to stabilize the insurance markets and make quality, affordable care available to all, not continue trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which has been the greatest advance for women’s health in a generation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Katie Martin, vice president for health policy and programs, at kmartin@nationalpartnership.org or 202-986-2600.

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- i U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016, March 11). *Issue Brief: Health Insurance Marketplaces 2016 Open Enrollment Period: Final Enrollment Report*. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/187866/Finalenrollment2016.pdf>
- ii National Partnership for Women & Families. (2017, September). *Fact Sheet: Women's Health Coverage: Sources and Rates of Insurance*. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/health-care/womens-health-coverage-sources-and-rates-of-insurance.pdf>
- iii U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017, January 5). *Issue Brief: Health Insurance Coverage for Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions: The Impact of the Affordable Care Act*. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/255396/Pre-ExistingConditions.pdf>
- iv Berger, S. & Gee, Emily. Center for American Progress. (2017, September 18). *Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill Would Cause Huge Premium Increases for People with Pre-Existing Conditions*. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/18/439091/graham-cassidy-aca-repeal-bill-cause-huge-premium-increases-people-pre-existing-conditions/>
- v Collins, Sara R. (2017, September 20). *What Are the Potential Effects of the Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal-and-Replace Bill? Past Estimates Provide Some Clues*. Commonwealth Fund. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2017/sep/potential-effects-of-graham-cassidy>
- vi Carpenter, E., & Sloan C. Avalere. (2017, September 20). *Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion* [Press release]. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>
- vii Congressional Budget Office. (2016, December 8). *Repeal the Individual Health Insurance Mandate*. Retrieved 22 September 2017, from <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/2016/52232>