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Dispelling the Myths: The Real Facts about the AHCA

Washington, May 15, 2017 | [0 comments](#)Published in [Sunshine State News and Florida Politics](#).

Beyond any measure, the Affordable Care Act, better known as "Obamacare," has failed in its promises to the American people. As it stands, Obamacare is in a death spiral and collapsing under its own weight of broken assurances, imperiling tens of thousands of Floridians with ever-increasing premiums and fewer and fewer choices for their medical needs. Here are the undisputed facts about Obamacare:

- It was sold to the American people based on broken promises.
- People [did not get to keep their doctors](#) if they liked them.
- [4.7 million Americans](#) have been kicked off their healthcare plans.
- Nearly [20 million Americans](#) remain uninsured today.
- It increased taxes on Americans by [\\$1 trillion](#).
- Deductibles will average [more than \\$6,000](#) this year, and premiums have risen by [25 percent](#).
- More than [one-third of all U.S. counties](#) have only one insurance provider.
- In Florida, premiums are expected to increase by [19 percent this year](#).
- [49 out of 67 Florida counties](#) are estimated to have only one insurance provider this year.
- [300,000 Floridians](#) had their plans cancelled under Obamacare.
- The Congressional Budget Office [incorrectly estimated](#) 22 million people would flock to Obamacare.
- Insurance [providers are fleeing the exchange](#) left and right, with [Aetna announcing](#) it will completely leave the exchange by 2018.
- Leading Democrats, like [former President Bill Clinton](#) and [Sen. Chuck Schumer](#), have admitted Obamacare was a mistake and has left Americans with less coverage.

Faced with these failures, doing nothing and watching more and more Americans be forced to pay higher premiums with unaffordable deductibles was not an option. The only responsible path forward was to repeal and replace the failures and broken promises of Obamacare.

The American Health Care Act (AHCA) that I voted for and passed in the House does just that:

- It establishes a healthcare system built upon free-market and consumer-driven principles that will revive competition, increase quality, drive down costs, and expand coverage.
- Cuts [\\$1 trillion](#) in burdensome [Obamacare taxes](#).
- Congressional Members and staff are *not* exempt from the AHCA. The [McSally Amendment](#) made sure this legislation applies equally to everyone.
- Those with pre-existing conditions [cannot be denied coverage](#). I have a pre-existing condition with my congenital heart defect, and I understand how important it is to maintain coverage for others.
- Low-income Americans are not losing coverage and will still receive coverage under Medicaid.
- The AHCA [modernizes and strengthens Medicaid](#) with the biggest entitlement reform in a generation.
- It honors the enhanced state match that beneficiaries have been receiving.
- Restores [\\$79 billion to hospitals](#) who provide a high proportion of care to the most vulnerable patients, including certain Medicaid and Medicare recipients.
- Establishes the [Patient and State Stability Fund](#) that provides \$130 billion to help states lower the cost of care for patients in need.
- Sets aside [\\$100 billion](#) for states to help low-income Americans access affordable healthcare.
- President Trump has agreed to give Florida hospitals [\\$1.5 billion to help treat the poor and uninsured](#).
- [No changes were made to the benefits Medicare provides in its current form](#), and the elderly will not lose or face more expensive coverage under the AHCA.
- Children up to 26 years old [can stay on their parents' plans](#).
- The AHCA substantially lowers premiums and [eliminates the individual and employer mandates](#) that are crushing small businesses and families.
- It provides [tax credits and health savings accounts](#) to help all Americans purchase affordable coverage, and ensures there is a seamless transition so no one has the rug pulled out from under them.
- [Defunds Planned Parenthood](#) by blocking more than \$500 million of taxpayer money, and maintains the Hyde Amendment. This measure is supported by the [National Right to Life Committee](#) and the [Susan B. Anthony List](#).

The AHCA is a great step in the right direction. After seven long years, we are finally putting patients first. We will continue working with the Trump Administration to further stabilize the health insurance market, increase choices, and lower costs for all Americans and families. We will fulfill our promises to those who sent us to Washington to help and protect them. I urge the Senate to quickly take up and pass this important legislation so we can provide relief to Americans across Florida and the entire nation.

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Frank Stonemen

So, what you are saying is that it s exactly like ObamaCare - except 25 million people will lose their coverage - or won't be able to afford coverage, and being over 50 years old, my insurance premiums can now be jacked up from \$25000 a year to \$125000 a year. Sweet!!!

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Frank Stonemen

The new CBO numbers are in, and they still paint a very bleak image of AHCA. Hopefully the Senate takes its time, and prepares something that actually helps people - other than only helping those making more than \$200,000 a year. As a member of President Trumps Transition Team, perhaps you should forget about health care for now, and start thinking of some good answers to "What did you know?" and "When did you know it?" Hopefully you can come up with better answers than you did with health care!

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