



Graham-Cassidy Repeal and Replace Amendment

September 25, 2017

Talking Points

Last week, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) introduced legislation to repeal and replace portions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Known as the Graham-Cassidy Amendment, the legislation will likely go to a vote this week. Timing is critical for this last effort — under special reconciliation rules, the bill can pass the Senate with 50 rather than 60 votes. The House is expected to vote quickly if the Senate passes the measure. If passed, the legislation will have a significant negative impact on health care coverage nationally, and in particular for Californians.

- The Graham-Cassidy bill being considered by the U.S. Senate is downright dangerous to Californians. In fact, this proposal is more damaging to California — by far — than any other proposal to repeal or replace the ACA put forth this year.
- The Graham-Cassidy proposal targets California for doing the right thing. Under the ACA, California embraced the opportunity to provide health insurance to everyone. And because we did so, our uninsured rate has declined to 9 percent — one of the lowest in the nation.
- California has led the country in ensuring that the most vulnerable among us — children, low-income working families and seniors — have access to high-quality care whenever they need it. Kids are now getting the routine examinations and vaccinations they need to stay healthy and in school. Hard working low-income adults have gained help managing chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.
- The Graham-Cassidy bill will undo these important gains, leaving 7 million more Californians without health coverage.
- The Graham-Cassidy proposal will take billions of our tax dollars from California and redistribute them to other states. In the process, our state's health care delivery system will be decimated.

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- The Graham-Cassidy proposal could drastically undermine important consumer protections including lifting the lifetime caps, reducing the basic benefit package and allowing insurers to charge exorbitant prices for those with pre-existing conditions.
 - The financial insecurity created by the Graham-Cassidy amendment will be detrimental to California's economy and is cruel to our patients.
 - California's hospitals are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week whenever you or your family need care. Our patients deserve better than the draconian cuts that will result if the Graham -Cassidy plan is enacted.