

Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition in Opposition to the Current Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA)

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Representing the State of Texas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your principled leadership and for keeping your promise to fight for the people of Texas as you serve in the United States Senate. ***You are doing exactly what we sent you to Washington, DC to do.***

So, **before any “outside of Texas” political action group** starts attacking your position, **we want to go on record** sharing your concerns about the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) and supporting your opposition to the bill in its current form.

In fact, “concern” does not accurately portray our position on the BCRA. We are quite incensed that this is what Republican Senate leadership has produced after promising the American people to repeal ObamaCare. **We are neither fooled nor impressed.**

Specifically, we oppose the bill because it does not repeal Obamacare, nor does it significantly reform American health care. Instead, the BCRA bails out insurance companies and actually props up the current system through the next election. It leaves in place heavy-handed federal regulations that have driven up family health insurance premiums by 140 percent since Obamacare was implemented.

Even Jonathan Gruber, widely disdained as the principal architect of ObamaCare, praised the legislation because he said it no longer is an Obamacare repeal bill! The Senate bill actually preserves many of the worst features of ObamaCare, including the insurance regulations that force health insurance companies to provide policies without taking a risk assessment. This guarantees another spike in insurance costs and will do further damage to the health insurance market.

To further shore up our own critique of the BCRA in its current form, we cite the following two assessments from the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Center for Tenth Amendment Action (our emphasis added):

Director Chip Roy writes, "Today, the Senate released its version of the



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American Health Care Act. Simply put, the bill doubles down on the fundamentally flawed architecture of Obamacare and if implemented, **will neither increase the actual care available to the people nor drive down the cost of care or insurance.** It maintains Obamacare's subsidy regime, retains almost the entirety of the regulatory architecture driving up people's premiums and deductibles, **continues the previous Administration's unconstitutional bailouts to insurers,** and maintains the Medicaid expansion for five more years before slowly attempting to reform the program."

Senior Federal Policy Analyst Drew White writes, "While many of the Medicaid reforms are welcome, **these reforms occur too many years down the line and are far from guaranteed to be implemented.** If this bill passes, Obamacare will effectively be permanently enshrined as law. **This is not what Congress has promised the American people and will only pave the way for a government-run, single payer system.** The Senate should, simply put, start over."

Finally, Senator Cruz, we completely agree with you on this point – if Republicans pass just any health care bill for the sake of passing something, and health care costs continue to rise, **they will have utterly failed the American people.**

Please stand firm in your principles and keep your word to "fight to repeal every syllable of every word of ObamaCare." If the final bill does not repeal ObamaCare and will not bring down health care costs, we ask you to vote "no." **We have your back.**

For Liberty – For Texas,



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Maggie Wright, founding member/past president, Texas Patriots Tea Party

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CONSERVATIVES**



Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots



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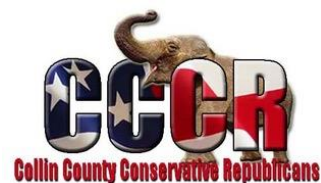
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Organizational names are for identification purposes.



Fredericksburg TEA Party

