

May 3, 2017

**Under AHCA, Over 6 Million Women of Childbearing Age Will Lose Health Coverage**

Dear Representative,

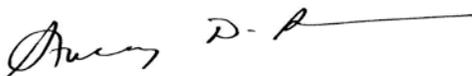
Prior to 2010, low-income adult women could generally only obtain Medicaid coverage after they were pregnant. By the time they enrolled in this coverage, many of the best opportunities for guaranteeing a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby had already been missed.

Today, states that have expanded Medicaid can extend Medicaid coverage to low-income women of childbearing age, giving them the chance to get healthy before they get pregnant. The March of Dimes estimates that **approximately 6.5 million low income women of childbearing age are currently covered under Medicaid expansion**, giving them access to treatment for tobacco use, obesity, substance abuse, and other conditions that can have a major impact on future pregnancies. Between 2012 and 2015, the rate of uninsurance among women of childbearing age dropped by 40%, with much of that decline attributable to Medicaid expansion.

The American Health Care Act (AHCA) would do away with these advances by rolling back Medicaid expansion. Its fundamental restructuring of the traditional Medicaid program would also likely lead to significant coverage losses or restriction of services to beneficiaries, including pregnant women. These changes do a serious disservice to low-income women and families by denying them access to the care they need to lead healthy lives and, ultimately, have healthy pregnancies and give birth to healthy infants.

**The MacArthur amendment and other proposed changes to the AHCA do not address these issues.** Women, infants, families, and communities will bear the long-term cost if health care for women of childbearing age and pregnant women is shortchanged and more babies are born sick as a result. The March of Dimes urges all Representatives to oppose the American Health Care Act.

Sincerely,



Stacey D. Stewart  
President