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Dear Friend,

This week, I supported House passage of a budget tool to begin the process of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, with more affordable and accessible health coverage for Americans. The budget measure, called reconciliation, does not immediately repeal the ACA but directs the four health care committees to find more affordable and accessible health care solutions for Americans and save billions in taxpayer dollars.

I do not believe in simply repealing the ACA and walking away. If repeal is to happen, I will work with my colleagues to replace the law gradually over time with a system that offers Americans more and better choices for health insurance. Any replacement of the law must improve affordability, plan choice and doctor and hospital choice for people in the 14th District, or I won't support it.

Health insurance coverage should be accessible and affordable for all Americans, but Obamacare has delivered on none of these promises. The ACA has created a marketplace with more expensive and fewer insurance options, and fewer doctor and hospital networks for everyone. Illinois residents have had to pay some of the highest premium increases and have faced some of the fewest plan, doctor and hospital options in the country.

I have heard countless stories from my constituents who have lost insurance plans, been shut out of doctor networks they rely on for care and faced an effective pay cut with new high-deductible plans. Many in Illinois cannot go to their nearest hospital for care.



I supported this measure because I believe we need to do better by people in Illinois and the 14th District.

Below my signature is additional information on how the ACA has affected Illinois residents, as well as the principles I want to see directing health reform efforts.

Since I entered Congress I have heard from individuals and families around the 14th District about the ACA. As always, I still want to know your thoughts as I represent you in Congress. Please click the Contact link above to let me know your views.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois*

Background on Illinois' ACA Health Exchange

This year, **three of the seven counties in the 14th Congressional District are left with one insurance issuer**, leaving residents of McHenry, Lake and Kendall Counties with a true insurance monopoly. Kane, Will and DeKalb Counties will be left with only two insurance issuers. Individuals with these exchange plans could face **proposed rate increases for 2017 of up to 77.3 percent**.

In addition, Illinois exchange plans have removed some of the best hospitals and doctors in the state from both their HMO and PPO provider networks, such as Northwestern Medicine and Lurie Children's Hospital, leaving the most vulnerable people with the most significant medical needs without the options or the care they need.

My Principles for Health Reform

I believe the answer to shrinking health insurance markets

and increasing out-of-pocket costs lies in state innovation, which is why I introduced my own plan last Congress, the [State Health Care Options Act](#), to free states to develop solutions tailored to their residents. I believe a comprehensive ACA replacement should:

- Allow states to develop and implement their own free market solutions to insurance monopolization.
- Offer portable tax credits or subsidies that don't restrict choice.
- Stop locking individuals out of plan changes by making enrollment more flexible.
- Allow individuals and employers to work together to negotiate lower plan prices.
- Use technology like private insurance exchanges to make enrolling in and changing coverage quick and easy.

In addition, House Republicans have presented a plan for replacement at [better.gop](#).

Washington, DC Office

2455 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2976
Fax: 202-225-0697

14th District Office

40W310 Lafox Road, Suite F2
Campton Hills, IL 60175
Phone: 630-584-2734
Fax: 630-584-2746

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