
OLYMPIA INDIVISIBLE

Research Report: October 14, 2017

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1. Repeal by Executive Order – Trump’s Latest Health Care Sabotage

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: On October 12, Trump issued an executive order (EO) designed to destabilize health care markets, and followed that up with another announcement that will lead to higher premiums and more uninsured Americans.

Talking Points:

- After months of watching the Republicans fail to pass a TrumpCare bill, Trump decided to take matters into his own hands by undermining health care markets through executive action.
- While his first EO will take time to implement, with new regulations expected by the end of the year, it will drastically reduce the number of Americans enrolled in plans that are covered by the ACA’s consumer protections. Businesses will have more leeway to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions.
- This first order also expands the time limit on short-term plans from three months to a year, making it clear that Trump wants to siphon off healthy consumers from the ACA markets.
- The result of these changes will be that more young, healthy consumers enroll in these skimpy plans, driving up the cost of more comprehensive ACA-compliant plans. The end result will be two insurance markets: one for relatively healthy people that offers cheap but inadequate coverage, and one for sick people that offers prohibitively expensive coverage.
- Finally, the White House announced the administration would no longer make cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers, which help reduce out-of-pocket expenses like co-pays and deductibles. This will hurt low- and middle-income Americans, and could result in insurers pulling out of health care markets—with no time left for others to fill those gaps. It will immediately result in higher premiums and fewer people covered. The Congressional Budget Office found that cutting off CSR payments would result in premiums spiking by 20%, 1 million fewer people having insurance, and a \$194 billion increase in the deficit over the next decade.
- Democrats have been negotiating with Republicans on a bipartisan “stabilization bill” that would include a guarantee that CSR payments continue. But merely guaranteeing those payments is not enough.

Our MoCs:

- Senator Murray: “Trump EOs will force patients to pay more, lose quality coverage options. The only way to get results for patients and families on health care is to work across the aisle and find common ground—and we’re doing exactly that in the Senate”
 - [Sen. Murray Statement on President Trump’s Latest, Worst Step to Create Trumpcare by Sabotage](#)
- Senator Cantwell: “President Trump is doubling down on throwing insurance markets into chaos. This action will threaten health insurance for millions of Americans. I remain committed to enacting bipartisan policies to drive down costs as we have done for years in Washington state.”
 - [Senator Cantwell Statement on President Trump’s Decision to Halt ACA Payments, Throw Insurance Markets into Chaos](#)
- Congressman Heck
 - [Congressman Heck’s Statement on EO to End Cost-Sharing Reductions for Health Insurance](#)

To Do: Ask your MoCs to stop Trump’s sabotage of the ACA: ensure that all health plans have guaranteed protections and that CSR payments continue.

- Senator Murray Script: Hello. My name is [name] and I’m calling from [area of state]. Please thank Senator Murray for her continuing bipartisan efforts to find common ground on the Affordable Care Act.

I am asking Senator Murray to commit to supporting a stabilization bill that will both guarantee the CSR payments, and close loopholes that allow association health plans and short-term plans to offer inadequate coverage.

- Senator Cantwell Script: Hello. My name is [name] and I'm calling from [area of state]. I am asking Senator Cantwell to commit to supporting a stabilization bill that will both guarantee the CSR payments, and close loopholes that allow association health plans and short-term plans to offer inadequate coverage.

2. No War with Iran: Stop Trump from Ripping up the Iran Deal

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: Trump announced on October 13, 2017 that he is decertifying the Iran nuclear deal. He is supposed to certify every 90 days that Iran is complying with the deal, but even though international inspectors and his own national security officials say that Iran is complying with the deal, Trump is decertifying it anyway.

Talking Points:

- The Iran deal was struck in 2015 between the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Russia, China, the European Union and Iran. It forces Iran to give up its materials to build a nuclear weapon in exchange for some sanctions relief.
- The deal also imposes rigorous, invasive inspections on Iran. International inspectors have 24/7 access to Iran's nuclear sites and have confirmed that Iran is complying with the deal. Trump's own national security officials have also said the deal is working and the U.S. should stay in it.
- If the U.S. pulls out of the deal, it will all fall apart. Iran will probably pull out too, and resume its pursuit of nuclear weapons. We're likely to see Trump take us to war with Iran if we don't save this deal.
- Congress can act now to prevent this. In the next 60 days, Congress could use an expedited procedure to re-impose sanctions, effectively killing the deal. They only need 51 votes in the Senate to accomplish this. Make no mistake: a vote to kill the deal is a vote for war with Iran.
- Every single senator will be responsible for deciding whether the U.S. follows Trump into an unnecessary new war, or decides to keep relying on a diplomatic solution that verifiably works and makes us all safer.

Our MoCs:

- No information found.

To Do: Congress needs to hear from you today. Call your MoCs and ask them to commit not to re-impose sanctions and take us to war with Iran.

- Script: Hello, I'm a constituent from [part of state] and I'm very concerned about the Iran deal. Trump foolishly decertified it even though Iran is complying and it's keeping us all safe. It's up to Congress now—will [MoC] commit not to re-impose sanctions that would kill the deal and risk war with Iran?

3. Preventing Gun Violence

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: Late in the evening of October 1, a shooter opened fire on a crowd gathered for a concert in Las Vegas. This act of terror, inflicted by a single individual, killed at least 58 people and wounded at least 500. We stand in solidarity with, and extend our warmest comfort to, all impacted by this horrific terrorist attack. Donald Trump and all U.S. officials must condemn this violence, and call it what it is: terrorism.

Talking Points:

- **It is time for Congress to do something to stop this type of gun violence.**
 - We've all seen the chilling videos, with loud gunfire echoing in the background, causing people to flee for their safety. A survivor of the 2006 Virginia Tech massacre recounts [here](#) how the sound of gunfire meant the difference between life or death. Can you imagine the kind of damage that could have been done in Las Vegas if the sound of gunfire was distorted by a silencer? This is exactly what Congress is currently considering.
- **Congress is considering making it easier for shooters like the one in Vegas.**
 - Almost unbelievably, legislation has moved forward in the House of Representatives that would make it easier for people to obtain silencers for guns.
 - As part of a larger legislative package called the SHARE Act ([Sportsman Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, or H.R. 3668](#)), Congress is considering the so-called "Hearing Protection Act" (H.R.) that is backed by the gun lobby and would pave the way for convicted felons, domestic abusers, and others to more easily access silencers.
- **Silencers have no purpose beyond muffling the sounds of gunshots.**
 - This makes it more difficult for people to escape gunfire or to intervene and protect others. HR 3668 is out of committee and could be moved to the House floor for a vote at any time.
 - It's not nearly enough, but the very least that Congress can do right now to protect against gun violence is to strip the silencer provision out of the SHARE Act.
 - Removing the silencer provision would simply ensure that current law—that has been in place for decades—remains on the books. Silencers distort the sound of gunfire, making it harder for victims to flee and first responders to intervene.
- **S. 1916 – Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act**
 - [S. 1916 Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act](#) from congress.gov
- [Cantwell, Murray 25 Colleagues Urge National Institutes of Health to Renew Funding for Firearm Violence Research](#)

Our MoCs:

- Senator Cantwell: "We must take common sense steps to end gun violence."
- Senators Cantwell and Murray are co-sponsoring S. 1916 Automatic Gunfire Prevention Act
 - [Cantwell, Murray, Colleagues Introduce Bill to Close Automatic Weapon Loophole](#)
- From the Seattle Times: [Who among Washington's congressional delegation will act to reduce gun violence?](#)
 - Congressman Heck indicates he supports a more comprehensive federal background-check system, losing the gun-show loophole, and banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

To Do:

- Call Representative Heck
 - Script: Hello, I'm a constituent from congressional district 10 calling regarding the mass shooting in Las Vegas. I urge Representative Heck to support responsible policies that help prevent these acts of gun violence, and prevent our current gun laws from being gutted. The House will soon

consider a provision in the SHARE Act that makes it easy for dangerous people to acquire silencers for their guns. Will Representative Heck support removing this provision?

- Call Senators Murray and Cantwell
 - Script: Hello, I'm a constituent from [part of state] calling regarding the mass shooting in Las Vegas. I want to thank Senator [] for co-sponsoring S. 1916, a bill to close the automatic weapon loophole; for urging the NIH to renew funding for firearm violence research; and I urge her to continue supporting responsible policies that help prevent these acts of gun violence, and prevent our current gun laws from being gutted.

4. The Trump Tax Scam

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: Republicans are choosing to use the same process for the Trump Tax Scam that they tried to use for TrumpCare. That means passing a budget resolution that has reconciliation instructions for the tax scam, and then passing the tax scam bill itself. **The most important thing your MoC can do now to fight Trump’s Tax Scam is to oppose the FY18 budget resolution.**

Talking Points:

- **Step 1: Pass a Budget Resolution**
 - Republicans want to use the special process called “reconciliation” that allows them to pass a bill through the Senate with only 51 votes.
 - The first step in reconciliation is passing a budget resolution. The budget resolution has the “instructions” that set up the reconciliation process, but it also has spending levels and other policy guidance on mandatory and discretionary spending.
 - Last week, the House passed its budget resolution, making deep cuts to health and other vital services. This begins the process for pushing the tax cut package with just 51 votes in the Senate.
 - We can stop the Trump Tax Scam if we can stop the budget resolution in the Senate. The longer it takes Republicans to fight over and pass the budget resolution, the better.
- **Step 2: Pass the Trump Tax Scam**
 - If Republicans are able to pass the budget resolution, the next thing they’ll have to do is the pass the tax bill itself. We know it will be filled with huge tax breaks for the wealthy and for corporations. It will be paid for by taking away Medicaid, Medicare, and other basics.
 - The American people do not support the ideas that make up the Trump tax scam. Most Americans think corporations don’t pay enough in taxes. Most Americans support the mega-rich paying higher taxes.
 - Despite the deep unpopularity of these ideas, Mitch McConnell will try to jam the tax scam through the Senate just like he did TrumpCare. The Senate Finance Committee may hold “hearings” on “tax reform,” but the actual bill itself will most likely be drafted in secret.

Our MoCs:

- No recent information.

To Do: Call our Senators

- **Script:** Hello! My name is [____] and I’m calling from [part of state]. I’m calling to let [Senator ____] know that I do not support any Budget Resolution that will pave the way for massive tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations, like the one the House passed on October 5. In addition, I’m asking Senator [name] to oppose any bill that cuts taxes for the rich and for corporations.

5. Trump Continues His Attack on Immigrants – Defend DACA

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: On Sept. 5, Trump announced that he was terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Obama-era program provides relief from deportation for an estimated 800,000 young immigrants. These immigrants have gone to our schools, they live and work in our communities, they have families, and now they're at an even greater risk of deportation. Congress must act immediately to protect DREAMers.

Talking Points:

- In 2012, President Obama created the DACA program to grant relief from deportation to individuals who came to the U.S. as children, if they met a number of requirements (like extensive background checks). It does not provide a path to citizenship. Check out this [short video](#) explaining the program.
- **DACA is constitutional.** Opponents of DACA, including Trump, are falsely claiming that DACA is unconstitutional. But nationally renowned constitutional scholars have weighed in, like in this [letter to Trump](#), arguing that not only is DACA constitutional, but that previous presidents from both parties have used the same process to grant relief from deportation to other immigrants.
- Trump's elimination of DACA is part of his **white supremacist agenda**.
- There is **bipartisan support** for the DREAM Act in both the Senate and House. And the bill enjoys [massive support](#) from the American public. It is now up to Congress to take action.
- DACA works, and it has improved the lives of its recipients and their families. Among DACA recipients:
 - 95% are currently working or in school
 - 48% got a job with better working conditions
 - 63% got a better paying job
 - 90% got a driver's license or state ID
 - 54% bought their first car
 - 12% bought their first home
- **The biggest leverage we have is on the December spending bill.** However, it will only work supporters in Congress are willing to play hardball.

MoCs:

- [Members of WA Delegation Condemn President Trump's Decision to End DACA; Call for Protecting Dreamers](#)

To Do:

- **TELL YOUR MOC TO TAKE THE DREAMER PLEDGE** What is the DREAMer Pledge? If Congress hasn't passed the DREAM Act by Dec. 8th—when funding for the government expires—then they will insist on it being a part of the December spending bill. The pledge is that they will commit to voting against the Dec. "continuing resolution" unless it contains a clean DREAM Act.
- Script: Hello! My name is [name] and I'm calling from [place in state]. Will the [Senator/Representative] take the "DREAMer Pledge"? The DREAMer Pledge is a commitment to do everything he/she can to pass the DREAM Act as soon as possible, but if it hasn't passed by December that they will insist that it be included in the December government spending bill.

6. Congress Needs to Reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: The Children’s Health Insurance Program ensures nearly 9 million children have health insurance. CHIP is a federal-state partnership where the federal government provides most—or in some cases, all—of the funding necessary to cover uninsured children. Federal funding was increased as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Talking Points:

- No one thought Congress would let CHIP funding expire on September 30, but that’s exactly what they did. Republicans invested so much time and energy in making one last push to pass TrumpCare, that they couldn’t find time to reauthorize a program giving 9 million kids health insurance.
- If Congress doesn’t act soon, states will start running out of money. Some states have already stopped taking new applications for CHIP.
- Washington State has separate CHIP coverage; the FY 2018 budget assumes continued federal funding; the FY 2018 budget assumed ACA enhanced match continues. Washington estimates that it will exhaust federal funding in the first quarter of 2018.

MoCs:

- Congressman Heck: (from FB) Here are things we can all agree on. An easy one: our kids should have the chance to grow up healthy! That’s why at the very minimum, we need to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
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To Do:

- Call our MoCs
 - Script: Hello! My name is [] and I’m calling from [part of state]. I’m calling to ask that the [MoC] support reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program immediately. Washington state runs out of funding during the first quarter of 2018 so it’s really important that Congress do this immediately.

7. Prevent Trump's Sabotage of the Russia Investigation

From Moveon.org

Summary: There's finally bipartisan momentum in Congress to rein in Donald Trump's sabotage of the Russia investigation. The Graham-Booker (S.1735) and Tillis-Coons (S.1741) bills limit Donald Trump's authority to fire special counsel Robert Mueller.

Talking Points:

- After months of Republican obstruction, Republican Senators Lindsey Graham and Thom Tillis are both sponsoring legislation to limit Trump's authority to fire special counsel Robert Mueller, who's leading the Trump-Russia criminal investigation.
 - [Newsweek - Legislation to Protect Russia Investigation's Robert Mueller from Trump](#)
- There are already four Democratic Senator co-sponsors between these bills: Richard Blumenthal, Cory Booker, Chris Coons, and Sheldon Whitehouse. Let's get more to sign on and urge their Republican colleagues to join them!
 - [USA Today - Senators seek to block Trump from removing special counsel Robert Mueller](#)
- [congress.gov - S.1735 - Special Counsel Independence Protection Act](#)
- [congress.gov - S.1741 - Special Counsel Integrity Act](#)

Our MoCs:

- No information

To Do: Call Senators Murray and Cantwell

- Calls our Senators and ask them to co-sponsor the above bills to protect the Trump-Russia investigation
 - Script: "I want Senator [name] to co-sponsor legislation to protect the Trump-Russia criminal investigation from political obstruction. Please support and help pass the Graham-Booker (S.1735) and Tillis-Coons (S.1741) bills to limit Donald Trump's authority to fire special counsel Robert Mueller."