
OLYMPIA INDIVISIBLE

Research Report: October 21, 2017

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1. ACA Open Enrollment - Explained

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: We need to spread the word ASAP: Open Enrollment for health insurance begins on November 1, 2017. Open Enrollment is the period when people can shop for insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces, and either renew their old plan or sign up for a new one. For most states, the Trump administration has chosen December 15, 2017 as the final day of Open Enrollment—cutting the length of time people have to shop for insurance [in half](#) compared to previous years. However, Washington state has extended its Open Enrollment period to January 15, 2018, although the deadline for coverage beginning January 1, 2018 is December 15, 2017.

Talking Points:

- Open Enrollment is the only time in the year when people can sign up for health insurance if they don't get coverage through their employer or a government plan. Open enrollment discourages people from waiting until they get sick to get covered. For most people, if they miss this period, they will be without health insurance in 2018.
- Trump has sought to undermine this year's ACA Open Enrollment period in a number of ways.
 - His administration shortened Open Enrollment from 3 months last year to only 45 days this year.
 - He decimated the government's outreach efforts by slashing the advertising budget for Open Enrollment by 90%, and shrinking the budget for navigators—who help people enroll in coverage—by 40%.
 - The Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for ACA outreach, broke its commitment to partner with nonprofit organizations on enrollment events.
- Thanks to Trump's sabotage, plus Congress's endless attempts to repeal health coverage, many people may either not know about their health care options or just assume the ACA is gone now.
- Spreading the word about Open Enrollment is the best way we can resist Trump's dangerous sabotage agenda. That's why we're releasing this and other resources: to ensure that Indivisible groups across the country have the knowledge and tools to get people in their community enrolled in coverage. The more people who enroll in ACA coverage this year, the harder it will be to repeal the ACA in the future.

To Do:

- We need to encourage our OI members to spread the word in every way they can – Facebook, Twitter, email, public forums, etc. Washington state residents can find additional information about healthcare plans at: [WA Health Plan Finder](#)
- You can also find a Navigator who, at no additional cost, can help you find, compare and select a health plan at the following page of the WA Health Plan Finder: [Find a Navigator](#)
- If you haven't done so already, give thanks to Senator Murray for her unrelenting efforts to reach a bipartisan bill to allow affordable and continued healthcare coverage for millions of Americans.

Bonus: WA State Indivisible (WAPolitics.org) has podcast #36 featuring a conversation with Senator Patty Murray's communication director, Eli Zupnick, all about the bipartisan bill the senator has introduced with Tennessee Republican Lamar Alexander to continue ACA subsidies to the insurance market (following Trump's executive order to end them). Zupnick explains the particulars of the bill, and how it might affect those who rely on the exchange here in WA state. All that, plus our call to action and dose of good news. Check it out at:

[WA State Indivisible Podcast #36](#)

2.

The Trump Tax Scam – What Happens Next

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: Republicans have cleared the first stage of jamming the Trump Tax Scam through Congress, by passing the budget resolution on a party line vote in the Senate. This resolution recommends cutting Medicare by \$473 billion, Medicaid by \$1 trillion in order to give \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts to the wealthy. It adds \$1.5 trillion to the deficit.

Talking Points:

- The Trump Tax Scam would give massive tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations, at the expense of Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. It lowers the tax rate for the wealthiest individuals and repeals certain taxes, like the estate tax and the alternative minimum tax, which only affect the wealthy. There's nothing in the Tax Scam that benefits the middle class that isn't wiped out by some other change the Tax Scam makes.
 - The resolution
- Just as bad, the Trump Tax Scam makes [existing racial inequality even worse](#). The vast majority of the benefits of the Trump Tax Scam flow to the highest quintile of families—an income band that is 77% white but only 6% African American and 7% Latino.
- This last week, the Republicans passed a budget resolution in both the House and Senate, strictly on party lines, that unlocks the special reconciliation process in the Senate. That allows them to pass the Trump Tax Scam with only 51 votes.
 - Here's what they have to do next:
 - Come up with a "conference report," the compromise version of the different resolutions (expected week of 10/23)
 - Vote on the conference report in both the House and Senate (expected week of 10/30)
 - Finalize the text of the Trump Tax Scam (expected week of 11/6)
 - Pass it through both the House (sometime before Thanksgiving) and the Senate (sometime after Thanksgiving but before the New Year)
- We can win on the Trump Tax Scam just like on TrumpCare by drawing from the same playbook.
- [Wa Po - The Finance 202: Now, the hard part: Writing a tax bill](#)

Our MoCs:

- No recent information for Senator Murray.
- Senator Cantwell – H Con Res 71 – Amendment No 1141: [Sens. Cantwell, Van Hollen Introduce Amendment to Ensure Tax Fairness, Protect Middle Class from Being Taxed Twice on Their Paychecks - Republicans want to nix state and local tax deductions](#). This amendment was defeated on Thursday.
- No recent information for Congressman Heck.

To Do: [Call your Democratic Members of Congress](#) and tell them to gear up for a fight and do everything they can to slow down and expose the Trump Tax Scam for the scam it is. Thank Senator Cantwell for sponsoring amendment to ensure tax fairness.

- **Script:** Hello! My name is [___] and I'm calling from [part of state]. I'm calling to thank [Congressman / Senator ___] for voting against the budget resolution in the [House / Senate] earlier this month. Will the [Congressman / Senator] commit to me that he/she will do everything he/she can to slow down and expose the Trump Tax Scam? [For Senators, including withholding their consent?]

3.

Online Ad Disclosures

Summary: Congressmen Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6) and Mike Coffman (R-CO-6) introduced HR 4077 (Honest Ads Act) on October 19, 2017. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), along with Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Mark Warner (D-VA), have introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

Talking Points:

- HR 4077 has been co-sponsored by Democratic (Derek Kilmer) and Republican (Mike Coffman) congressmen, titled the Honest Ads Act.
- Senators Klobuchar and Warner, along with Senator McCain have introduced a similar bill that would require Facebook, Google and other internet companies to disclose to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) election commission who is buying online political advertising. This follows the revelation that Russian-linked operatives purchased deceptive ads on Facebook and Google prior to the 2016 election.
- Facebook and Google capture about 85% of all digital political ads. In 2006, the FEC made most online [political activity exempt](#) from the rigorous regulations to which paid television, radio and print political advertising has been subject for years.
- Federal election law bars foreigners from spending money to try to influence United States elections.
- After initially resisting requests to turn over [Russian-linked ads](#), Facebook has provided them to a congressional committee investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election. But Google has yet to do so, and neither company has made the ads public. Facebook has said it is too difficult to identify political ads.
- [NYT - Senators Demand Online Ad Disclosures as Tech Lobby Mobilizes](#)

Our MoCs:

- No information available

To Do:

- Call our MoCs and ask them to co-sponsor HR 4077 (Heck) or the Senate Honest Ads Bill (Murray and Cantwell).
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4. Donald Trump is a National Security Risk. Here's the current #TrumpThreatLevel Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: From his tweets to his bluster to his white supremacist policies, Donald Trump poses a security risk to the United States. He is actively making us less safe with each day in office. Here is a running list of just some of the ways he has threatened our safety.

Talking Points:

- **Escalating tensions with North Korea.** Trump continues to tweet insults and threats at NK, including saying that NK “won’t be around much longer” and scoffing at the idea of diplomacy. North Korea has indicated that they consider these statements a [“declaration of war.”](#)
- **Taking us closer to war with Iran.** Trump [has made it very clear](#) that he wants to rip up the Iran nuclear deal that President Obama put in place.
- **Failing to equip our diplomats.** Trump has so far [failed to appoint qualified, career diplomats](#) to key positions that help keep us safe.
- **Expanding the Muslim Ban.** Despite the many losses he has faced in court, Trump has continued to push forward with more and more versions of his “Muslim Ban.” It emboldens bigots in the US and stokes anti-American sentiment abroad.
- **Gutting funding for peace but ramping up spending for war.** Trump’s budget proposed [slashing funding](#) for U.S. diplomacy and international aid, [in exchange for](#) bloated military and border security spending.
- **Ignoring cybersecurity experts.** Eight members of the White House’s National Infrastructure Advisory Council resigned in August, citing Trump’s actions that “threaten the security of the homeland.”
- **Recklessly exposing classified information.** Trump has proven he can’t be trusted to keep secrets. From [spilling information to Russians](#) in the Oval Office to conducting a sensitive meeting about North Korea [in public at Mar-a-Lago](#), Trump’s recklessness is dangerous.
- **Slashing refugees admitted into U.S.** Trump has consistently scapegoated refugees, ramping up the idea that they are dangerous. His administration has slashed the maximum amount of refugees allowed into the US down to the [lowest level in decades](#). This shows our international partners that we can’t be counted upon to help solve the global refugee crisis, and inflames racial tensions.
- **Pulling us out of the Paris Climate Agreement.** With his dramatic declaration that the US would pull out of this historic global partnership on climate change, Trump signaled to the world that the US [can’t be counted on](#) as a partner, and that we don’t take climate change—[a major security threat](#)—seriously.
- **Insulting our international friends and allies.** Trump has frequently insulted and embarrassed key world leaders, including the [prime minister of Australia](#), German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) and the [mayor of London](#). He’s harmed our international relations.
- **Voicing support for war crimes.** Trump often suggests that the U.S. should engage in atrocities in order to display their strength and fight terror—sometimes spreading [debunked fake stories](#) in the process. From [“bombing the shit”](#) out of people to [“taking out” terror suspect’s families](#), to assassinating Muslims with [pigs’ blood-soaked bullets](#)—Trump is using his platform of power to support the kinds of human rights violations that the global community has been working to eliminate for decades.
- **Saying “torture works.”** Even though torture is totally illegal, immoral, and counterproductive, Trump used a major media platform to say [“torture works”](#) and he has frequently discussed his fantasy of “fighting fire with fire” and “doing things that are unthinkable almost.”
- **Emboldening anti-Muslim and other hate speech.** Trump consistently fails to speak out when marginalized communities are threatened or harmed, and refuses to unequivocally condemn white

supremacy, choosing instead to say that blame exists [“on many sides.”](#) These messages have an effect—[hate crimes are on the rise](#) as extremists feel emboldened by Trump’s words.

- **Leaving open the possibility that even Americans could be thrown in Guantanamo.** [Trump has indicated](#) that maybe a U.S. citizen could go to Guantanamo—not a remote possibility, as under Trump we are currently holding [a U.S. citizen in secret military detention](#). This puts us all at risk.
- **Ramping up civilian casualties.** From his first [botched Yemen raid](#) to the “Mother of All Bombs” [dropped on Afghanistan](#), Trump has demonstrated callous disregard for civilian lives trapped in conflict due to U.S. military force. National security experts tell us this increases anti-American sentiment and makes us more prone to blowback and further violence.
- **Planning to further roll back protections for civilians.** We’ve already seen how reckless Trump is with the protections that currently exist—it’s downright scary to think of the damage he can do if he [follows through on repealing](#) Obama-era rules protecting civilians in the U.S. “global war.”
- **Providing the weapons for atrocities.** Trump secured a [massive \\$110 billion](#) deal with Saudi Arabia in exchange for heavy military machinery—which the Saudis will use to commit war crimes in Yemen. To do this means that Trump is comfortable with the U.S. being complicit in other nations’ war crimes.
- **Launching a missile strike in Syria without congressional authorization or a strategy.** On April 6, 2017, Donald Trump [stunned the nation](#) by unilaterally launching missile strikes against a Syrian base with no Congressional authorization, no explanation of his legal justification prior to the attack, and no apparent strategy for what happens next.
- **Scoffing at Russia’s interference in our democracy.** Even as special counsel Mueller and several congressional committees deeply investigate the role that Russian interference played in our elections (and the Trump campaign’s collusion), Trump himself continues to call the situation a “hoax,” and appears [totally indifferent](#) to these threats to our democracy.
- **Banning transgender people from the military.** Trump has made moves to impose a “trans ban” on the U.S. military, which experts say [harms national security](#) by creating unnecessary vacancies and damaging morale.

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

Information from Indivisible.org
(No change from October 14 Research Report)

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?

6. Trump Continues His Attack on Immigrants – Defend DACA

Information from Indivisible.org
(No change from October 14 Research Report)

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.

7. Congress Needs to Reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Information from Indivisible.org
(No Change from October 14 Research Report)

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.

8. Support Those Impacted by Wildfires in Northern California

Information from Indivisible.org

Summary: After more than a week, wildfires continue to consume Northern California. Thousands of homes have been destroyed and more than 40 people have died. Contribute now to the North Bay Fire Relief fund endorsed by Indivisible Sonoma County to support relief efforts.

Talking Points:

- Our hearts go out to those affected by the devastating 2017 North Bay fires. Redwood Credit Union (RCU), in partnership with the RCU Community Fund, Inc., The Press Democrat, and Senator Mike McGuire, is now accepting financial donations to assist fire victims and aid relief efforts. 100% of your tax-deductible donations will go directly to support those affected.
- The generous donations to the North Bay Fire Relief Fund are already helping victims. See how [here](#).

To Do: How you can help

- Donate today to support North Bay fire victims and relief efforts. When you donate, you can choose to support any of the four counties affected: Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, or Lake. You may also designate "all" and your funds will be equally distributed among all four counties. If no county or "all" is indicated with your donation, it will be equally distributed among the four counties impacted by the North Bay fires.
- 2 Ways to Donate:
 - [Online](#)
 - **Mail:** Please make checks payable to RCU Community Fund. Include "2017 North Bay Fire Relief" in memo area, along with which county (or "All") you'd like to support. Mail to: P.O. Box 6104, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.

9. Other Issues

- A. **HR 861** to Terminate the Environmental Protection Agency (Like to breathe? This one is not for you.)
- This bill was introduced in February 2017, and referred to committees in April. No further action has occurred since April.
- B. **HR 610** - Vouchers for Public Education (which may end free public education as we know it)
- This bill was introduced and sent to committee on January 23, 2017. No further action since that time.
- C. **HR 899** to Terminate the Department of Education (which may lead to greater disparity between states but nobody who uses public education ever moves so it's all good)
- This bill was introduced and sent to committee February 2017. No further action since that time.
- D. **HR 69** to Repeal the Rule Protecting Wildlife (nobody likes nature anyway, right?)
- This appears to be an error. HR 69 for 2017-2018 is titled "Thoroughly Investigating Retaliation Against Whistleblowers Act"
- E. **HR 370** to Repeal the Affordable Care Act (didn't we already try this umpteen times?)
- This was introduced on January 9, and passed to multiple House committees over the next 4 weeks. No further action since that time.
- F. **HR 354** to De-fund Planned Parenthood (because exactly none of your tax dollars go toward abortion services)
- This was introduced on January 6, 2017, and passed to committee on January 25. No further action since that time.
- G. **HR 785** - National "Right to Work" (this one is actually a 'Right to fire you whenever your boss feels like it' law, and it would effectively end unions)
- Introduced and passed to committee in February 2017. No further action since that time.
- H. **HR 83** - Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Bill (California should just secede now and take all its money)
- Introduced and passed to committee in January 2017. No further action since that time.
- I. **HR 147** to Criminalize Abortion ("Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act") (because these private decisions should be made by your legislator and employer)
- Introduced and passed to committee in January 2017. No further action since that time.
- J. **HR 808** to Impose Sanctions Against Iran (even though they are in compliance with the agreement according to those in the know)
- Introduced and passed to committee in February 2017. No further action since that time.