



National Federation of Democratic Women

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The National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) stands in solidarity and opposition of the Senate healthcare bill disclosed to the public by Senate Leader Mitch McConnell last week. In a back room, behind closed doors, 13 Republican men created a bill that is disastrous to the American people, and especially so to women and our most vulnerable citizens. According to the recent report of the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office, under the proposed bill:

- ✓ 22 million **more** Americans would be uninsured, including 15 million by next year alone
- ✓ **\$772 billion would be cut from Medicaid**, leaving those most in need, including seniors, newborns, the disabled, single parents, and those at or below poverty, without healthcare
- ✓ Much of the cuts to Medicaid funding would be given to top earners in the form of tax breaks. Let that sink in. **Those who are the most vulnerable would lose benefits so that the rich can become richer.**
- ✓ Planned Parenthood would be defunded for a year. Many communities find Planned Parenthood to be the only women's healthcare provider available. If closed, hundreds of thousands of women will no longer have access to routine checkups, mammograms, vaccines, counseling, cancer screenings, and birth control.
- ✓ Rural healthcare will be devastated due to the loss of Medicaid funding. Hospitals and nursing facilities in these areas will suffer greatly.
- ✓ The cost of **premiums will rise 20%-30% over the next two (2) years** and thereafter, **if** premiums decrease, it will be at the expense of reduced services and higher deductibles.
- ✓ Basic healthcare needs such as preventive care, cancer screenings, maternity care, birth control, will no longer be guaranteed services.
- ✓ Pre-existing conditions will not be protected, potentially making healthcare unaffordable to those who frankly need it most. Premium costs for those with pre-existing conditions can be up to five (5) times their current premium.

Groups and associations representing pediatricians, cancer specialists, heart doctors and family physicians have all weighed in and universally agree; the Senate offering will make things worse, not better. The NFDW firmly believes that affordable healthcare is a right for all Americans and we hereby urge the United States Senate to vote against the Better Care Reconciliation Act and to further reach across the aisle to work in a bipartisan manner to improve the Affordable Care Act which has positively affected the lives of millions.

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