



The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on the LGBT Community

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has served as a lifeline for millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ) who too often have found themselves cut off from critical health care services and the negative impact that the American Health Care Act (AHCA) would have on vulnerable and marginalized communities – including the LGBTQ community - that already face systemic discrimination and health care disparities are deeply concerning.

Accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Prior to implementation of the ACA, LGBTQ people had some of the lowest insurance rates of any population in the country. [The percentage of LGBT adults without health insurance decreased from 21.7% to 11.1%, between 2013 and 2015.](#)

The Medicaid expansion has helped to improve coverage rates among low-income lesbian, gay and bisexual people by eight percent. In addition, tens of thousands of people living with HIV have qualified for care and treatment under the Medicaid expansion, gaining access to life-saving treatments before becoming disabled by the virus. Now people living with HIV are able to have healthier and longer lives. [Medicaid expansion dramatically increased access to coverage to 8,750 people living with HIV, accounting for 42% of people with HIV on Medicaid.](#)

[Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV increased by 52% from 2013 to 2016. In 2013, only 13,694 Illinoisans living with HIV had Medicaid coverage.](#)

Put control back in the consumer's hands by making it illegal for Health Insurance companies to charge higher prices because of pre-existing conditions and banned annual lifetime limits.

Harm of the American Health Care Act (AHCA)

Rather than improving care, **the AHCA would disproportionately impact people who already face structural barriers to accessing care including and members of the LGBTQ community.**

Eliminating the Public Health and Prevention Fund will undercut local capacity building which is critical to detect and respond to infectious diseases, such as hepatitis C and HIV, and other public health threats. Abandoning this critical investment will set back public health and security.

The provision barring Planned Parenthood and its clinics from participating in essential public health programs will jeopardize the ability of these providers to deliver preventive healthcare services, such as cancer screenings and STD and HIV testing, as well as services like transition-related care that may not be offered elsewhere in many communities. Often, health centers such as Planned Parenthood offer the only culturally competent healthcare available to LGBTQ people, especially in rural and isolated areas.

Protect Our Care Illinois is a statewide coalition of health care advocates, providers, consumers, and workers, standing together to protect and expand access to quality affordable health care provided by the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

www.protectourcareil.org

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