

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today House Democrats passed H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, a historic bill to reform our nation’s health insurance system that offers security and stability to all Americans. Following the vote, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, released the following statement:

**“Today we took a historic vote in the House of Representatives and passed meaningful health insurance reform for almost every American.□ This legislation will mean affordability for the middle-class and security for our seniors. It honors our responsibility to our children, by not adding one single dime to the deficit.**

**“Health care reform is critical to securing the economic future of our nation and bringing peace of mind to families like the ones in my district, which has the second highest rate of uninsured residents in the country. Our bill accomplishes this by reducing costs, improving coverage and preserving our choices of doctors, hospitals and health plans.**

**“Earlier today the president urged us to be on the right side of history. It is a glorious night to write a page of American history and that’s what we did.”**

The legislation passed today will cover 96% of Americans and guarantees stability, lower costs, higher quality, and a greater choice of plans for all Americans. It puts you and your doctor – not the insurance companies – in charge of your health care decisions.

If you have insurance, this bill:

- Keeps your insurance company from denying you care or coverage – or charging you more – because of diabetes, heart disease or any other “pre-existing condition.”
- Gives you peace of mind that you won’t lose coverage if you lose your job, move, or change jobs.
- Prevents insurance companies from dropping you because you get “too sick.”
- Covers preventive care with no co-pays or deductibles.
- Limits out-of-pocket expenses your insurance company can make you pay.

If you don't have insurance, this bill:

- Lets you comparison shop for a quality, affordable health plan through a new health insurance exchange or marketplace.
- Offers you low group rates even for individual coverage.
- Helps lower your premiums with affordability credits for those who need help paying.
- Prevents any insurance company from denying you coverage for heart disease, diabetes or another "pre-existing condition."
- Extends coverage for young Americans, allowing them to stay on their parents' health insurance plans up to their 27th birthday if they choose.
- Includes a public health insurance option to compete on a level playing field with private insurers.

For our seniors, this bill:

- Strengthens Medicare, extending its solvency for years to come.
- Improves access to your doctor.
- Lowers Medicare drug prices by beginning to close the coverage gap or "donut hole" immediately.
- Reduces inefficiencies and program costs to help Medicare remain solvent without cutting benefits.
- Improves coordination and increases the quality of care for seniors with diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions.

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