



555 W Washington Avenue, Suite 200 • Madison WI, 53703 • 608-284-0580 • www.wccf.org

For immediate release: December 8, 2016

Contact: Jon Peacock, 608-284-0580 x 307
jpeacock@wccf.org

New Report Finds Repealing ACA Could Double the Number of Uninsured Children

*Study Forecasts Huge Increase in Uninsured if Health Law is Repealed
Without a Viable Replacement Plan*

(Madison, WI) – The number of uninsured Americans would increase by more than 100 percent if Congress follows through with its plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without immediately replacing it, according to a new analysis. The [report by the nonpartisan Urban Institute](#) estimates 431,000 more Wisconsinites could become uninsured. Additionally, the number of uninsured children in the U.S. could double to nearly 8 million.

The Urban Institute report analyzed the impact of a partial repeal of the ACA, modeled on the 2015 reconciliation bill that was approved by Congress and vetoed by President Obama. Congressional leaders recently announced that they will try to pass a similar reconciliation bill in January 2017.

“Federal lawmakers risk the nation’s health by rushing forward to repeal the Affordable Care Act before they have done the difficult but necessary work of figuring out how to ensure that people don’t lose affordable coverage,” said Jon Peacock, research director for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

The new study is based on a scenario where repeal of the law is passed quickly but a replacement plan stalls. Under that scenario, their analysis concludes that the uninsured population will climb by almost 30 million by 2019 and will be higher than it was before the Affordable Care Act was implemented.

For Wisconsin, the report concludes that the number of people without health insurance would jump from an estimated 299,000 to about 731,000 in 2019 – an increase of 144 percent. That dramatic increase assumes that the state would repeal the extension of BadgerCare eligibility for childless adults below the poverty level. That change made in 2014 added roughly 125,000 childless adults to BadgerCare, although the state also ended coverage for about 60,000 parents.

“An ill-conceived two-step process would create chaos for our health care system, and it will prove to be a bridge to nowhere for millions of children, working families and people with pre-existing conditions like cancer,” Peacock added, “Legislators owe it to them to act responsibly and have a clear path forward.”

The study attributes the large decline in insurance coverage primarily to three factors – rolling back recent expansions of Medicaid eligibility; ending federal subsidies for private plans purchased in the health insurance Marketplace; and other damage to the individual insurance market during the period of uncertainty between the repeal legislation and the development of a replacement plan.

While the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families believes that the Urban Institute’s calculation of the effect of ACA repeal in Wisconsin is a worst case scenario, it cautioned against an immediate repeal because of the instability it would create in the state and nationally.

To read the full analysis, visit: <http://www.urban.org/research/publication/implications-partial-repeal-aca-through-reconciliation>

###

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is a multi-issue policy research and advocacy organization promoting statewide policies that ensure a safe and a healthy future for every child in Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.wccf.org.