

What's the plan?

Obamacare to Trumpcare?

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, is at grave risk. The new President and Congress want to repeal this major law that has provided health insurance coverage to over 20 million previously uninsured Americans.

In New York State, over 3.5 million people have enrolled through New York State of Health, the state's health insurance exchange set up under the ACA. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers were insured for the first time. Many have had their first mammogram, countless lives have been saved, and hundreds of thousands have gained Medicaid coverage. Children can remain on their parents' insurance until age 26, much to the relief of working parents. These are just some of the huge gains working families realized under the ACA.



Community groups, healthcare advocacy groups, and others attend the ACA summits in Brooklyn and Queens (*top*) and Staten Island (*bottom*) organized by HEP and its allies. Summits were held statewide.



Many Americans stand to lose coverage because Congress wants to repeal the ACA. But what is their plan for replacement?

The draft replacement proposal released by House Republicans is, as feared, a bad deal for New York, and for working-class and poor Americans. Here are some of its key provisions:

- **Ends Medicaid expansion** and significantly reduces the money available to states forcing them to raise billions of dollars from new taxes or drop millions of people from the rolls.
- **Ends entitlement to Medicaid** Therefore states would not get the money according to need but rather through a per capita cap. States will be forced to make cuts to providers, benefits, or eligibility.
- **Undermines protections for those with pre-existing conditions** Individuals with a gap in coverage, even for a couple of months, will have to pay a heavy penalty for the next year.
- **Will lead to higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs** for those who keep coverage on the exchanges.
- **Reduces the tax credits that make coverage more affordable** Tax credits will no longer be based on income but rather on age.
- **Cuts funding to hospitals** in states that expanded Medicaid – such as New York – to achieve savings.
- **Eliminates support for the Basic Health Plan** that 600,000 New Yorkers depend on by ending the ACA's cost-sharing provisions.
- **Ends the penalty for large employers** who do not provide health coverage.
- **Savings used to give big tax cuts to the wealthy** Medicaid cuts will be used to fund large tax cuts for pharma, insurers, the richest Americans, and even health insurance company CEOs.

The Healthcare Education Project (HEP) and its community allies and partners who have fought for affordable and quality healthcare know what we need to do to protect the most vulnerable New Yorkers. So what is *our* plan and what can we do together?

HEP in the Community

We need to ensure that every American who is insured can keep their coverage, and that major protections of the ACA continue to exist. HEP is working with communities on the ground in a number of ways.

Education and Action:

HEP continues to organize healthcare forums across the state. We bring information directly to communities through presentations by experts in the field. We work with community leaders including clergy, activists, and others to highlight healthcare issues that directly affect the communities they serve. We help organize and participate in forums that discuss the impact of the ACA on New Yorkers. To find out about upcoming events in your area, contact your local HEP organizer whose information is on our website at www.healthcareeducationproject.org. (Look under 'Contact'.)

Since January, HEP, along with New Yorkers for Healthcare, has been participating in a series of forums to discuss the impact of repealing the ACA without a proper replacement. Expert panelists discuss what is happening locally and at the federal level, and community members share stories and their own experiences. To find out about these events in your community, contact your local HEP organizer, or visit <http://newyorkersforhealthcare.org>.



1199 members and community leaders meet with Rep. Eliot Engel of the 16th District. Left to right: Derek Grate, Olympia Striplin, Suli Bennet, Renella Mitchell, Rev. Hargrove, and Maurice Gray.



1199 members Vicki Linell, Anestine Bentick, Hilda Haye, and Lisa Murphy meet with Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

HEP on the Hill

In December 2016, HEP led a delegation of members of 1199SEIU from New York, Massachusetts, and Maryland to Washington, D.C. for meetings with their Congressional representatives. 1199 members who work in hospitals, nursing homes, and homecare facilities, among other healthcare institutions, shared their real concerns about an ACA repeal without an adequate replacement.

They discussed how even with a phased-in repeal, there would be immediate consequences. Insurance rates could skyrocket, insurance markets would collapse and, importantly, millions would lose insurance coverage. Hospitals would close. Members urged their representatives to ensure a replacement plan was in place before any attempt to repeal the ACA. Such a plan must assure continued health insurance for the 22 million Americans, including children, and guarantee that all Americans with preexisting conditions could still obtain affordable health insurance.

Any plan would have to ensure that states continue to receive adequate Medicaid funding to cover working families and support long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities. Providers, including hospitals, should not face damaging cuts to Medicare payments that would impact their ability to provide medical education to train physicians.

Make your voice heard!

Call Congress at 1-866-426-2631 and tell them to protect the ACA against any repeal without a proper replacement.

Get petitions signed by your block association in your Congressperson's district and deliver them to his or her office.

Visit <http://newyorkersforhealthcare.org> to find out about ACA events in your community.

Get Screened. **Don't Wait!**

Last year, HEP launched a statewide initiative to bring information on breast cancer screenings, as well as mobile screening services, to women in New York State. HEP's healthcare advocates organized breast cancer forums in New York City, Long Island, and Upstate. In partnership with providers, we set up mobile screening vans on site for free screenings. The response from the community was tremendous, with many women getting screened – some for the first time – and women and their families gathering information on diagnostic screenings.



Activists with The Witness Project tabling at the HEP-sponsored 30th Annual Gospel Fest in Buffalo, where women signed up for appointments with the Mobile Mammography Unit of the Erie County Medical Center.



The breast cancer awareness campaign kicks off with a rally in Long Island.



The mobile mammography van on site for free breast cancer screenings at a HEP-sponsored event in Queens, NYC.

The most common cancer among New York women is breast cancer. **Yet many women do not go for regular screenings; some have never had a screening in their lives.**

The reasons are usually related to cost, inconvenient hours, or not knowing the importance of screening. Early detection is the key to survival.

In 2016, Gov. Cuomo signed an important piece of legislation that removes many of these hurdles for women in New York. As a result:

- ✓ **All New York State health insurance plans cover breast cancer screenings at no cost to the patient.**
- ✓ **Screening facilities offer extended hours during mornings and evenings, and even weekends.**

In 2017, HEP will continue its breast cancer awareness campaign. Contact your local HEP organizer to find out where there is a HEP event near you, by visiting our website at www.healthcareeducationproject.org. (Look under 'Contact'.)

To find out more about the state's free screenings and diagnostic services, and locations for services, call 1-866-442-CANCER (2262) or visit www.nybreastcancerhelp.com

DON'T WAIT.



How to use health insurance:

HEP video guides

New York State has done a remarkable job of insuring its residents through its health insurance exchange. Millions are signed up and using their newly purchased insurance.

In response to the enormous demand for information on how to choose a health plan and use it, HEP has created a series of video guides for consumers. These videos are step-by-step guides that tell you how to find a plan that's right for an individual or family. They explain the basic terms of health insurance such as co-pay, co-insurance, and deductible. The video guides are in English and Spanish, and are available on the HEP website, and on HEP's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

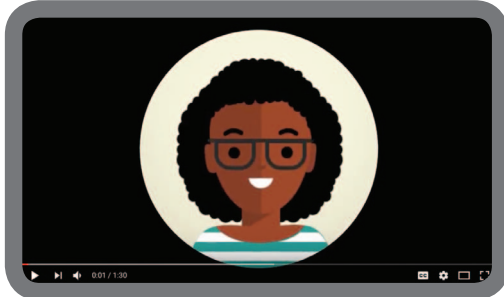
On the HEP website: www.healthcareeducationproject.org

HEP Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HealthcareEducationProject/>

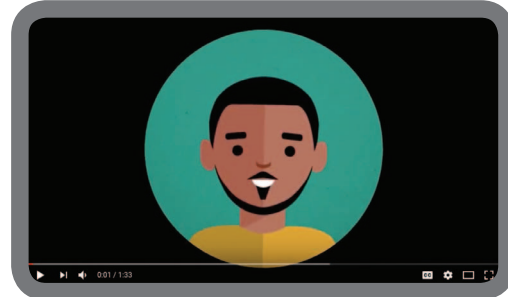
Healthcare Education Project on YouTube



How to Enroll in a Health Insurance Plan



Lisa's Story: Prediabetes Covered By Her Insurance



Juan's Story: A Doctor's Visit and an ER Visit

Personal Health Journal

HEP has collaborated with Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need, to produce a personal health journal that is distributed by our healthcare advocates at various public forums and events. The journal, available in English and Spanish, allows consumers to document their health goals and health history, and includes items like a doctor's visit checklist and a section where you can catalogue information on your health providers, including general physicians and specialists. The journal is online at the HEP website, www.healthcareeducationproject.org.



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