

From: Sherrod Brown – on- 8-15-2017

Subject Reply from Senator Sherrod Brown

From Sherrod Brown

TO: Susan Marie Cassady – Neuhart via her CONTACT form

Date Today[is>8-15-2017] 08:46

Dear Mrs. Cassady-Neuhart:

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding health reform. I appreciate your views on this matter.

The *Affordable Care Act* (ACA), signed into law in 2010, is the most significant reform to our nation's health care system since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The ACA ends insurance coverage denials for those with pre-existing conditions, unjustifiable premium rate hikes, and caps on annual and lifetime insurance coverage limits. It has helped provide access to insurance for more than 900,000 Ohioans, many for the first time in their lives.

While I have heard from many Ohioans who are disappointed that health reform does not provide universal coverage, I believe the ACA makes huge strides to ensure all Americans have access to comprehensive and affordable health coverage. However, like most laws, the ACA is not perfect. The ACA did not give Americans the option of purchasing coverage from a public plan, nor did it include a Medicare buy-in for Americans between the ages of 55 and 64, another policy I supported. Unfortunately, there was and continues to be insufficient support in the Senate for these proposals. Even more than five years after passage of the

ACA, I still believe that creating a public alternative to the for-profit insurance market could be a meaningful way to hold premiums in check and ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable, and continuous health coverage. I am a proud cosponsor of the Consumer Health Options and Insurance Competition Enhancement (CHOICE) Act, which supports efforts to build upon the ACA by adding a public option to health insurance Marketplaces established by the law.

In addition to working on a public option, however, I believe we must also work to strengthen the ACA's Marketplace to ensure it remains viable for the millions of Americans who purchased coverage from it over the past several years. We need to ensure that the necessary supports and policies are in place to maintain robust competition, and therefore lower premium prices, so that more Americans can access affordable, comprehensive health insurance. Congress should be working to reduce prescription drug costs, strengthen Medicare, and protect Medicaid. And since coming to Congress, I have supported legislation that would accomplish each of these goals and strengthen our country's health care system.

Everyone in Washington needs to understand the incredible progress we have made when it comes to health care in this country and that Congress cannot gamble with your health insurance. Unfortunately, those who oppose the ACA would eliminate all of the benefits of the legislation that are already helping millions of Americans across the country receive life-saving care.

Since joining Congress I have fought for the uninsured, and I am not going to abandon that fight until being uninsured is a

thing of the past. Know that I will fight to protect your care, and I will not stop fighting until all Ohioans have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance.

As issues concerning the ACA and public health insurance options come before the Senate, I will be sure to keep your views in mind. Thank you again for getting in touch with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator