Preserving Access in Washington State
How Coverage Supports Communities
How to use this PowerPoint

This PowerPoint is being provided to WSHA members to help support local conversations about the importance of supporting the Medicaid expansion aspects of the Affordable Care Act.

Feel free to use or modify the content to tell your story. To localize the content, we suggest putting the content of these slides into your organization’s template. You can also add slides that show the work your organization did to help enroll people, add quotes from care providers about how they’ve been able to improve services to the newly insured, etc.

If you have questions about these slides or any aspect of WSHA’s work to preserve coverage, contact Mary Kay or Chelene.
Situation Summary

- President-elect Trump and members of the Republican Congress have started to repeal-and-replace the 2010 Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”)

- If repeal happens before a feasible replacement, 22 million Americans could lose their health insurance

- The unraveling of that law without an alternative would hurt patients and destabilize hospitals and communities.
What’s at Stake in Washington

More than 700,000 residents were able to get health insurance because of the 2010 health reform law.

- Expansion of Medicaid (AppleHealth): 600,000
- Subsidized commercial insurance: 120,000

Total: About 720,000

10% of Washington residents got health insurance as a result of the Affordable Care Act.
Who Benefited from Expansion?

The expansion of Medicaid helped individuals, families and communities across the state.

• Very low income individuals, some of whom have chronic medical conditions

• Working families who were priced out of the insurance market

• Some older Americans may never have recovered after the big recession and still struggle to find employment
Medicaid expansion provided coverage for about 600,000 adults. An additional 120,000 people received federal subsidies to help pay their insurance premiums. The map shows the actual number of people who benefited by county, and the shading indicates the reduction in the uninsured rate.
Other aspects of the ACA

- Children stay on parents plans until 26
- No discrimination for preexisting conditions
- Quality improvements such as new reporting requirements
- Support for value-based purchasing
- Incentives to improve development and sharing of electronic medical records
- Hospital payment cuts
Why We Care

• People without health insurance don’t have access to ongoing health services and are sicker

• Improving the health of the population is harder when people are uninsured

• Hospitals provide care, regardless of someone’s ability to pay. When patients don’t have health insurance, the cost is shifted to other paying patients.

• Hospitals with a high number of un- or under-insured patients are less financially stable, which means the whole community suffers.

• If our state picks up the tab to keep people covered, it would cost the state billions of additional dollars.
The Approach

- The Washington State Hospital Association has a non-partisan, data-driven approach to this issue
- They are meeting with legislators on both sides of the aisle to discuss the importance of coverage
- The goals are to:
  - Preserve meaningful access to care for more than 700,000 Washingtonians who have gained coverage
  - Promote stability of the health care market
  - Support a replacement law before a repeal
What you can do!

Contract your U.S. Representative and Senator
  • Call or email health legislative assistants

www.wsha.org/policy-advocacy/legislative/u-s-congressional-delegation-contacts/
For more information

www.wsha.org/keep-covered-washington/

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