

The American Health Care Act Moves Forward with Deep Flaws

Thursday, May 4, 2017, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), passed in the House of Representatives by a 217-213 vote. The bill is a revised version of the one previously introduced in February, and then in [March](#).

Among the changes is a [caveat](#) allowing members of Congress to keep popular Affordable Care Act (ACA) protections including the guaranteed package of “essential health benefits,” and the ban on denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. To give a bit of background, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) [requires](#) all members of congress and their staffers [purchase health care coverage through the health insurance marketplace](#), like any other ACA enrollee. But as Republican members met to introduce new amendments to AHCA, Rep. Tom McCarthur, (R-N.J.) [proposed the loophole](#) to keep ACA consumer protections for members of Congress, but eliminate those same protections for everyone else purchasing health care. Rep. McCarthur issued a public statement that he would [close the loophole](#), but the final bill that passed in the House retains the loophole.

Passed in the House of Representatives, the AHCA will next move to the Senate where it could be passed with 50 votes during the budget reconciliation process. Only time will tell the outcome, and we will all have to wait and see if the loophole is closed.

ANA remains [steadfast in opposition](#) to the American Health Care Act, AHCA. The bill restricts health care access and critical health service delivery that millions of people rely on. ANA stands ready to advocate for health care access, affordability, and delivery for individuals across the nation.