

# **The Nebraska Democratic Party Resolution Opposing Attacks on Our Health Benefits 3-3-2017**

**WHEREAS:**

Americans want and deserve health care that enables their children to grow into their full potential, does not force them into impossible choices between receiving lifesaving treatments and medicine and putting food on the table, and makes it possible for our seniors to be fully part of the life of their families and communities;

**WHEREAS:**

Comprehensive health benefits are essential to ensuring working families and retirees can get the health care they need, when they need it;

**WHEREAS:**

Health insurance should be affordable for all Americans;

**WHEREAS:**

Medicare is a promise to the American people that must be kept for current and future generations, including the 55 million seniors and people with disabilities enrolled today and the many millions more counting on it for their retirement;

**WHEREAS:**

Turning Medicare into a voucher system will break that promise—benefits would no longer be guaranteed and health care costs for seniors and people with disabilities would rise dramatically;

**WHEREAS:**

Raising the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67 will not only harm millions of American seniors, but also increase costs for employers and states because they will have to cover more medical costs for people ages 65 and 66;

**WHEREAS:**

Health benefits that working people earn on the job are the biggest source of health coverage in the United States, covering 178 million workers, retirees, and their family members;

**WHEREAS:**

Some in Congress want to tax part of the cost of workplace health benefits by including it in workers' taxable income;

**WHEREAS:**

Taxing workplace health benefits will penalize working people by raising their taxes and result in cuts to their health benefits, increased deductibles and other out-of-pocket requirements, and even the elimination of entire health plans by some employers;

**WHEREAS:**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was an important step toward providing comprehensive, affordable health care for all;

**WHEREAS:**

The ACA has reduced the share of people without health insurance to historic lows by guaranteeing everyone's right to buy insurance, providing new financial support for buying individual coverage, expanding Medicaid, and encouraging many employers to contribute toward the cost of workers' health benefits;

**WHEREAS:**

The ACA requires insurance companies to treat consumers fairly, to provide meaningful insurance without tricks and traps, and not to discriminate against anyone because they have a preexisting condition or because of their gender;

**WHEREAS:**

The ACA's expansion of health benefits has provided much needed help in addressing the opioid addiction crisis;

**WHEREAS:**

Repealing the ACA without a replacement will put 30 million people at risk of losing their health benefits entirely and strip away vital protections and benefits from the many millions more with Medicare, Medicaid, and workplace coverage;

**WHEREAS:**

More than 74 million people get health benefits through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

**WHEREAS:**

Repealing the Affordable Care Act in its entirety will take health benefits away from the approximately 11 million people who gained coverage through that law's Medicaid expansion.

**WHEREAS:**

Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid through block grants or per capita caps will shift health care costs onto our state, force impossible choices between cutting health benefits or even eliminating eligibility for them, take funding away from other essential services, and require state taxpayers to pay more;

**WHEREAS**

Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid will threaten the health care, nursing home care and the long-term supports and the services that allow seniors and people of all ages with disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities;

**WHEREAS**

Cutting federal funding to Nebraska for Medicaid will threaten the health benefits that, together with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), ensure that one-in-three children can get the medical care they need;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Nebraska Democratic Party opposes any and all attacks on our health benefits;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon all members of Congress representing the people of Nebraska to oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits, including legislation that:

- Turns Medicare into a voucher system, increases the Medicare eligibility age beyond 65, or in any other way cuts seniors' Medicare benefits or shifts additional costs onto them;
- Imposes new taxes on or otherwise threatens the health benefits working people earn on the job;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan that ensures that anyone with coverage today is able to afford it and keep it and that maintains key protections for all working families and seniors;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid benefits to millions of people; or
- Block grants or imposes a per capita cap on federal funding for Medicaid;

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

The Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon all members of Congress representing the people of Nebraska to support real reforms that bring us closer to the goal of providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all by strengthening and expanding health benefits and controlling and lowering health care costs, so that everyone in America can get the care they need, when they need it.