



YWCA USA Bi-Weekly Policy Update

March 17, 2017

Dear Advocacy Points of Contact,

We are now in the thick of activity around budget and appropriations as well as the rapid movement on repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. Below, you will find a summary of recent activities of importance to YWCA. We have also provided links to resources for additional information.

We encourage you to keep updated on our advocacy through the [Advocacy](#) intranet page - which includes links to action alerts, letters, and resource materials - and to learn more about the [2017 – 2018 Public Policy Priorities](#) and explore [new fact sheets](#) to support your advocacy. As budget season picks up, please review our [Federal Budget Advocacy Toolkit](#) to help guide your work around the FY17 and FY18 budget processes.

Finally, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

YWCA USA Public Policy & Advocacy

Republicans Move on Repeal and Replacement of Affordable Care Act

On Monday, March 6, Republican representatives on the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee released proposed legislation that would repeal and replace major components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also referred to as Obamacare). Formally titled the American Health Care Act, the legislation presents recommendations to use the budget reconciliation process to:

- Eliminate the essential health benefits requirement for low income people who gained coverage through the ACA's Medicaid expansion and who otherwise cannot afford health coverage.
- Eliminate critical ACA protections for survivors of domestic violence, including exemption from financial penalties if coverage lapses, and the ability to file for tax credits for coverage without their abusive spouses.
- Roll back federal funding for Medicaid, shift funding burdens to states, and effectively terminate the Medicaid expansion program for low-income adults.
- Restrict access to the full range of reproductive health services and repeal funding for Planned Parenthood by excluding them from the Medicaid program.
- Repeal the individual mandate and many of the taxes that support the ACA, essentially gutting the ACA while increasing premium costs and penalties when coverage lapses for those who can least afford it.

As they are implemented, these and other changes will have a devastating impact on women, families and marginalized communities.

Throughout last week, the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means committees marked up their portions of the legislation and voted them out of committee on a party line vote. The Budget committee marked up the legislation on March 15th and voted it out of committee 19-17, with three Republicans voting against moving the bill forward. The bill is expected to go to the House floor soon.

On Monday, March 13th, the Congressional Budget Office, responsible for providing nonpartisan analyses on economic and budget decisions to Congress, reported to Congress that implementation of the American Health Care Act will:

- Cause 24 million people to lose health insurance coverage over the next decade.
- Lower the deficit by \$337 billion over the next decade.
- Increase premiums by 15-20% in the first year.
- Increase the cost of coverage for older individuals “substantially.”
- Leave women without crucial services through the defunding of Planned Parenthood.
- Cause 2 million fewer Americans to purchase health insurance coverage each year.

YWCA USA opposes this bill and urges local associations to act! [Call your legislator today](#) and tell them to vote NO on the American Health Care Act. You can also review [YWCA USA's letter](#) to members of the House of Representatives, and share with your networks.

[GOP hits the gas on ObamaCare repeal](#) [The Hill]

[The Parts of Obamacare Republicans Will Keep, Change or Discard](#) [NY Times]

[How Many People Are Affected by Obamacare Premium Increases? \(Hint, It's Fewer Than You Think\)](#) [NY Times]

[CBO: Millions Would Pay More for Less Under House GOP Health Plan](#) [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities]

[The Daily 202: CBO bombshell is going to force changes to health care bill](#) [The Washington Post]

[Budget panel advances ObamaCare bill with three GOP defections](#) [The Hill]

President Trump Releases New Executive Order on Travel and Immigration

On March 7, after great backlash on his initial executive order, President Trump released an updated version of his immigration ban. In the updated executive order, visas will not be issued to people from six specified majority Muslim nations—Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen—for the next 90 days. The original executive order included Iraq, which he has now removed. The new executive order will also not affect green card holders or any visa holders in the U.S. or abroad, while the previous version did. The new version also reinstates a 120-day ban on refugee admissions, orders a review of refugee admissions processes by federal agencies, and lifts the indefinite ban on Syrian refugees. The updated version of this ban is thought to be an attempt to “soften” immense criticism after the release of the first ban. Multiple states have initiated litigation to challenge the updated version of the travel ban. YWCA USA opposes this executive order and made [a statement](#) following its release.

[US President Donald Trump signs new travel ban, exempts Iraq](#) [CNN Politics]



[Lawyers refocus attack for Trump travel ban 2.0](#) [Politico]

Healthy Families Act Reintroduced

On March 15th, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) reintroduced the Healthy Families Act in the 115th Congress with 108 House cosponsors and 30 Senate cosponsors. The Healthy Families Act would set a national paid sick day standard by allowing seven job-protected paid sick days for workers in business with 15 or more employees. Additionally, the legislation would allow workers who are survivors of domestic violence to use their sick days to recover or seek services.

YWCA USA supports the Healthy Families Act as part of our [legislative priority](#) around improving women's economic security by expanding access to sick, safe, and family leave.

YWCA USA Signs on to Letters on Mission Related Issues

Over the past 2 weeks, YWCA USA has signed on to the following [letters](#):

CDBG Coalition THUD Appropriation (3/9)

Requesting Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Committee's support and prioritization of CDBG funding in the FY2018 spending bill.

NWLC Child Care Agenda (3/9)

Calling for a strengthening of American families by increasing investment in affordable, high-quality child care.

Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally Immigration EO and Gender-Based Violence (3/9)

Urging the President to rescind the travel ban and refugee suspension and to work with foreign governments, civil society organizations, and US government agencies to seek solutions to end violence against women.

LCCHR Hate Incidents (3/9)

Calling on the administration to respond more quickly and forcefully to hate-based incidents.

LCCHR Acosta HELP Committee (3/10)

Urging a thorough review of the prior record of Alex Acosta during the consideration of his nomination for U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Sign up to receive YWCA USA Action Alerts

YWCA USA has launched its new action alert tool! [Sign up](#) here to make sure you receive all the latest calls to action on pressing public policy issues.

YWCA.ORG

YWCA USA

1020 19th Street NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20036

P 202.467.0801

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Don't Forget to Act!

Please see the Action Alerts in YWCA USA's new [Action Center](#) to encourage your legislators on many of our policy priorities! Action alerts are currently posted encouraging legislators to support the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (ERRPA) and the FAMILY Act, and to protect access to quality, affordable health care.

Upcoming Webinars

[Register](#) for our next Policy Webinar on Child Care & Early Learning on **March 29th at 3PM!**

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