



Entitlements Threatened

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Obamacare, Medicaid, and Other Health Entitlement Programs Threatened by Trump Campaign Promises

Former President Trump and many Republican elected officials continue to threaten repeal of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, and other major health plans benefitting low-income groups and children, which they classify as socialist programs. The big irony is that many suburbs in South Florida with many Republican and Trump leaning voters are where the “Obamacare” health care program is most popular nationwide despite their initial professed opposition to subsidized health insurance.

Trump has again pledged to renew efforts to repeal and replace the 2010 law, which would significantly adversely affect hundreds of thousands in South Florida and millions across the country. Although he and his team have failed to propose an alternate plan during the last eight years, the real driver for trying to eliminate Obamacare, despite its significant advantages to all Americans is the additional tax burdens it places on higher income taxpayers (single filers earning over \$200,000, married filers earning over \$250,000 annually). This is additional evidence of the deception of Republican policies towards working class and low-income earning Americans who have nothing to show for the benefits of GOP aspirational supply-side / trickle-down economic policies.

Florida, with a population of 22 million, leads nationwide enrollment with more than 3.2 million consumers, one fifth of the national total.

Miami-Dade is the county with the largest amount of enrolled people, with about 750,000 consumers, or more than one-fourth of its total population.

Florida, under its Republican dominated state government, is also one of 11 states that has resisted expanding Medicaid coverage under a provision of the health law during the last decade. This has deprived about 790,000 uninsured Floridians of more affordable healthcare insurance and access to needed services. They, as well as many others without access to employer health insurance, have had to turn to the federal marketplace for subsidized coverage, which is one reason Florida, the third most populated state, has such high enrollment.

According to several recent polls, 59% of Americans and 66% of Hispanics say they have a favorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act. According to another survey, 62% of 2022 midterm voters in Florida, and 77% of Hispanic voters said it should be the responsibility of the federal government to make sure that all people in the country have health care coverage.

Florida has a large community of Green-card holders, refugees and other migrants who have been granted temporary protected status or who have come recently with humanitarian parole. All these groups (largely comprised of people from Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, and Central America) also qualify for coverage under the Obamacare law once they are duly processed by immigration authorities.

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