



Barbara B. Kennelly, Chair

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NEWS RELEASE

Repealing Healthcare Reform Will Hurt Seniors and our Nation

“Today’s House vote to repeal Healthcare Reform ignores the real-life benefits that millions of American seniors have received thanks to this reform legislation. We urge members of the Senate to think long and hard before voting to take away Part D doughnut hole discounts, improved preventive care and extended Trust Fund solvency. Dismissing the urgent need for reforms in our healthcare system ignores the needs of millions of older Americans struggling to afford the high costs of staying healthy in America.” Barbara B. Kennelly, LCAO Chair

The 65 senior advocacy groups that comprise the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations have spent decades educating and advocating on behalf of the nation’s older Americans. LCAO worked closely with lawmakers to ensure healthcare reform provided important benefits for seniors and their families.

Among the significant changes for seniors, the Affordable Care Act:

- Strengthens and improves Medicare by, among other things:
 - Improving Medicare’s fiscal health and extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund.
 - Closing Medicare’s “doughnut hole” drug coverage gap for all beneficiaries.
 - Eliminating cost-sharing for preventive services and adding coverage for a new annual wellness visit.
 - Establishing new service delivery systems that focus on coordination of care, which studies show can reduce health care expenditures, improve quality of care and enhance health outcomes.
 - Strengthening the fight against fraud, waste and abuse.
- Provides new Medicaid options to allow older people with chronic conditions to live at home rather than in institutions.
- Allows all Americans to remain in their homes as they age by establishing the CLASS program to help pay for long-term services and supports.

America needs healthcare reform. LCAO, on behalf of millions of American seniors, urges the Senate to defeat any efforts to turn back the clock returning our nation to a healthcare system that threatens our economic security.