

Rep. MacArthur AMENDMENT TO THE American Health Care Act

House Republicans' goal is simple: Helping people buy affordable health care. The underlying American Health Care Act (AHCA) achieves this in several ways: giving patients more health care options, improving how much consumers pay by age, providing states with incentives to help cover lower-income Americans and stabilize markets, and a new protection for continuous coverage. Taken together, these solutions help every get – and keep – better health care.

The MacArthur Amendment builds on these reforms, giving patients even more choice by allowing states greater flexibility to design their health care markets.

Specifically, the Amendment would allow states to waive three of Obamacare's costliest mandates: essential health benefits, known as EHBs; age rating; and, community rating. In waiving these federal mandates, health insurers would not be allowed to discriminate by gender or preexisting conditions, and no one could be denied coverage – period.

Here's how it works. A state may apply to waive EHBs or to increase the age rating ratio from the underlying bill's 5:1 ratio. They may also change the way individuals who have not maintained continuous coverage are charged for their health care plan, but only if the state has a risk-sharing program in place – like the Federal Invisible Risk Sharing Program (FIRSP) established by the Palmer-Schweikert Amendment.

In order to receive a waiver, a state must explain how the program will:

- reduce average premiums for patients;
- increase enrollment for residents;
- stabilize the state's health insurance market;
- stabilize premiums for individuals living with pre-existing conditions; or,
- increase patients' health care plan options.

Applications would automatically be approved after 60 days unless the Secretary notifies a state of the reason for denial within that timeframe. If approved, a state can operate the waiver for up to 10 years. At any point during an approved waiver, the waiver becomes void if a state ends its risk-sharing program.

Everyone in Congress wants a market that works. All House Republicans want patients to have access to high-quality, affordably-priced health coverage. To achieve this shared goal as laid out in *A Better Way*, patients need a well-functioning and stable marketplace that encourages and incentivizes patients to get covered and stay covered.