

# Minuteman Indivisible

## TALKING POINTS

### ***Healthcare Concerns: Worried About Access to Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Options***

---

**Q: What is currently covered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare)?**

- The ACA provides coverage for substance use disorder services as an essential health benefit, including preventive care and treatment
- Medicaid covers substance use disorder services for low income adults and states can expand to non-elderly adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level
- State-based health insurance exchanges (e.g., MAHealthConnector) can provide subsidized plans for individuals/families with income between 100 – 400% of the federal poverty level

**Q: How will things change under the GOP House Plan (AHCA /Trumpcare)?**

- Massive cuts to Medicaid, the largest single source of funding for substance abuse treatment, would greatly reduce or eliminate preventive and rehabilitative care
- States would be allowed to waive the requirement that substance use disorder services be covered as an essential health benefit
- Insurance companies could thus be allowed to raise premiums to include such coverage as well as charge higher deductibles and co-pays possibly costing thousands of dollars a year in out-of-pocket expenses for treatment
- An estimated 2.8 million Americans could lose some or all of their insurance coverage for substance use disorder services under the AHCA

**Q: Are there other issues with the GOP's AHCA?**

- The AHCA slashes funding for substance abuse during an escalating nationwide opioid epidemic
- Many of the states that would suffer the most from ACA repeal are those states with the largest opioid overdose problems
- Many treatment centers, which are usually small businesses, may go out of business so that even those with coverage may find it even harder to get treatment
- Reducing funding for substance abuse treatment not only goes against the spirit of America's commitment to combating the opioid epidemic, but would result in increased spending on jails, prisons, homeless shelters and fighting crime

Isn't the ACA something worth saving?