Event Suggestions on the GOP Assaults on the ACA & Americans’ Health and Economic Security

Visit A Senior Center And Discuss How Millions of Seniors Would be Harmed by ACA Repeal and the GOP Assaults on Medicare and Medicaid. Point out the many ways that ACA repeal would weaken Medicare and hurt seniors. First, repeal of the ACA would shorten the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund – with the ACA extending solvency by 11 years. Under ACA repeal, millions of seniors would have to pay more for their prescription drugs, because the ACA has been closing the donut hole. And under ACA repeal, seniors would have to pay sometimes hefty co-pays for key preventive services, such as cancer screenings, whereas, under the ACA, key preventive services are free under Medicare. Also point out how the radical GOP plan to turn Medicare into a privatized voucher program would harm seniors, shifting health care costs onto seniors and ending the Medicare guarantee. Also point out that Republicans plan to drastically slash Medicaid spending, either with a block grant or a per-capita cap. Slashing Medicaid would have a devastating impact on seniors, with Medicaid providing critical nursing home care for middle-class elderly, who have spent down their savings and have no other alternatives. Indeed, one-half of long-term care in this country is provided by Medicaid.

Roundtable with Local Patient Advocates, Including Disease Patient Advocacy Groups. Hold a roundtable with people in your district active in such organizations as the American Cancer Society Action Network, American Diabetes Association, and American Heart Association. Discuss what repeal of the ACA could mean to the millions of people with pre-existing conditions. Remind them that GOP health reform proposals have not included the ACA provision that prohibits insurers from ever denying health coverage or ever charging higher premiums to someone with a pre-existing condition.

Visit Hospitals in Your District. Hold a roundtable with hospitals in your district and discuss the enormous damage that the Republicans’ ACA Repeal Plan would do to hospitals. Point out to them that the Urban Institute finds that ACA repeal would cause health care providers, including hospitals and doctors, to see a dramatic surge in uncompensated or charity care -- $88 billion in 2019 alone and $1.1 trillion over ten years. This amount of uncompensated care would be crippling to hospitals across the country. The increase in uncompensated care would have a particularly devastating impact on rural hospitals, many of which are already operating on the edge. Finally, the GOP plan to repeal the ACA without a comprehensive replacement plan would create devastating uncertainty for hospitals.

Roundtable with Disease Patient Advocacy Groups, Faith Groups, Hospitals, Doctors, Nurses, Labor Unions, Etc. on Why Republicans’ ACA Repeal Plan Is Bad for Your State. Hold a press conference on why the Republicans’ ACA repeal plan would be bad for the people of your state – as well as the state’s hospitals, doctors, state government, employers, and state economy. Particularly focus on what would happen under ACA repeal to the up to 129 million Americans who have pre-existing conditions, who could once again face denial of coverage or higher premiums. [In mid-December, our office sent your office updated HHS state-by-state fact sheets on the benefits of the ACA in your state.]