



## International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

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### IAM Opposes the American Health Care Act

**Position:** The American Health Care Act (AHCA) failed to pass earlier this year, but extreme Republicans determined to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, aka: Obamacare) will try an even bigger attack this month. The IAM opposes this new revised AHCA and believes that health care is a basic human right and everyone should have affordable health benefits.

**The extremists are back with the same bill plus new cuts in basic protections.** In the original plan, 24 million people would have lost their health coverage. This new plan is expected to impact many more working families. The bill will take away protections for those with pre-existing conditions, allowing big insurance companies to opt out of providing basic essential benefits, like emergency services, maternity care and prescription drugs.

**The AHCA gives tax credits to the wealthy and taxes working families.** Wealthy people will have their taxes cut on the average of \$7 million each. This Republican plan will give pharmaceutical manufacturers a tax break of \$28 billion and insurance corporations will get \$145 billion over the next 10 years. Meanwhile, American working families with employer provided health care will be forced to foot the bill by paying a "40% Cadillac tax" on their health plan. This will result in the form of higher co-pays, higher deductibles and more out of pocket costs.

**Working families with pre-existing conditions like diabetes and cancer will be forced to pay higher premiums and penalties.** Americans that lose their job or have some financial hardship and are forced to lose their health insurance will be penalized 30%, or forced to pay higher premiums, if they lapse in their coverage.

**The AHCA allows the states to tax older Americans because of their age.** In the past, insurers could charge older individuals up to three times as much as younger ones. The new bill allows the amount to rise as much as five times or more, costing older Americans more to get insured.

**The Republican plan forces you to pay higher premiums.** Under Obamacare, workers who make less than \$48,000 a year and purchase insurance through the exchanges receive subsidies to help them buy insurance. Those subsidies are tied to a person's income and to the cost of insurance in the person's area. Under the new plan, subsidies would be tied to a person's age, not income. So a younger person would get a smaller subsidy, regardless of where they lived, than an older one, thus, forcing Americans to pay higher premiums.

The AHCA is bad for health care, it's bad for working families, it's bad for our economy and we fully oppose it.