PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Jen Bersdale, Missouri Health Care for All
(314) 651-6568 cell; jen@mohealthcareforall.org

Health Advocates Denounce U.S. Senate Vote to Gut Health Care

Missouri Health Care for All urges Congress to reconsider reckless plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act with no replacement in place

The United State Senate voted in the wee hours of the morning to pass a budget resolution intended to dismantle much of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare or the ACA.

The vote was 51-48, with all Republican Senators except one voting for it and all Democratic Senators voting against it. Missouri Senator Roy Blunt voted yes on the resolution, while Senator Claire McCaskill voted no.

Last night’s vote was the first step in a process known as budget reconciliation, which will allow opponents of the Affordable Care Act to dismantle the law’s protections while avoiding a Democrat-led filibuster.

While many of the Senators pushing for an immediate repeal of the ACA have promised to “repeal and replace” the law, there is no replacement plan in place. None of the plans that have been proposed by individual lawmakers come close to matching the comprehensive protections of the Affordable Care Act.

“Moving to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a plan in place to replace it is a reckless move,” says Jen Bersdale, Executive Director of Missouri Health Care for All. “Last night’s vote is the latest example of elected officials putting politics before the lives of millions of people who stand to lose their health insurance under this scheme.”

Health care supporters across the state have contacted Missouri Senators and Representatives, urging them not to repeal the Affordable Care Act before there is a replacement plan that guarantees those currently covered do not lose their insurance.

“We applaud Senator McCaskill for heeding the calls of her constituents and standing strong for their health care last night,” says Crystal Brigman Mahaney, Deputy Director of Missouri Health Care for All.

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky was the sole Republican to vote against the resolution, after speaking publicly about the risks of repealing the ACA before a replacement is in place.
Brigman Mahaney continues, “Senator Blunt should have followed the leadership of his colleague, Senator Paul, and voted no last night. He is playing a dangerous game with his constituents’ health and should reconsider his position in future votes.”

The resolution now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives, which is expected to vote on it before the end of the week.

“We urge the House of Representatives, including the members of Missouri’s delegation, to act more responsibly than their colleagues in the Senate. Missourians have too much at stake in this debate to have their health care used as a political football,” says Bersdale.

**Media Opportunities:**

1. Missouri Health Care for All staff and board members are available statewide for phone or camera interview.
2. Impacted consumers are available for interview in many parts of the state.

To arrange for an interview, please contact Jen Bersdale, Executive Director, Missouri Health Care for All, at 314-651-6568 (cell) or jen@mohealthcareforall.org.

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