

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Trump tries to destroy ACA through mismanagement

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President Donald Trump waves after signing an executive order on health care in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The Associated Press

President Donald Trump has dropped a bomb on the Affordable Care Act. His new executive order ends critical payments to health insurers that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage.

The executive order would allow insurance companies to sell cheap, junk insurance, luring healthy customers out of comprehensive plans protected by ACA safeguards and driving up health insurance costs for everybody who isn't in perfect health.

The order directs the federal government to consider ways for more people to buy health insurance plans that are exempt from many of the ACA protections — such as the requirement that health plans cover “essential health benefits,” including maternity and mental health care, and the prohibition against charging people different premiums based on their health status.

The impact of these changes would be to set up a two-tier health insurance system: One where very healthy people could buy cheap insurance that would leave them vulnerable if their health suddenly changed; the other where the rest of us would face skyrocketing prices.

Congress failed to dismantle our health care system. Trump could not repeal the ACA; thus, he will try to destroy it through conscious mismanagement.

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