



Colorado Health Care Stories

Jeanine Draut, Denver

“The Affordable Care Act makes it possible for me to be a freelancer and run my own business without the worry of accessing health insurance. I purchased individual insurance before the Affordable Care Act, but never went to the doctor for fear I would be diagnosed with something and have a pre-existing condition, and not be able to get health insurance anymore. Having my own business has enough obstacles -- the Affordable Care Act has taken this one away.”



Julius Condolora, Denver

“Last month, Congress voted to repeal The Affordable Care Act without offering a replacement plan. The ACA has helped over 600,000 Coloradans obtain insurance and has saved us money in the process. Access to coverage means improved health, less pricey emergency room visits and financial security for Coloradans. The ACA allowed me to afford better coverage. Without it, I would have had to obtain the worst catastrophic insurance coverage with a deductible so high I would need to borrow money in the event something catastrophic happened.

Health insurance allows people to see the doctor regularly to stay healthy and avoid going to the emergency room. Coloradans should be able to get the health care they need, when they need it and not have to wait to go to the

emergency room. Repealing the ACA is harmful and irresponsible, especially without a replacement. Any repeal or replacement must not result in an increase in the uninsured or higher costs to Colorado consumers.”

Janet Caspers, Denver

“With out the Affordable Care Act, I would be in over \$100,000 in debt and unable to afford health insurance. The ACA helped me get insurance in a great time of need along with over 600,000 Coloradans. I was shocked when I heard the Republicans in Congress were pushing a repeal in Congress without a replacement plan, a strategy that would hurt thousands of Coloradans.

Two years ago, I had a psychiatric emergency and was hospitalized for three weeks. Up until that time, I was full time self-employed. After my hospitalization, I was unable to work and forced into taking early Social Security. Thankfully, I enrolled under the ACA prior to my hospitalization. Without that coverage, I would have had more than \$100,000 in medical bills. The Affordable Care Act helped me afford my monthly premiums. Without the ACA, I would have never been able to afford health insurance. I could have also been denied coverage due to a “pre-existing” condition.

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but without it, I and over 600,000 Coloradans would be without insurance. If its repealed, I would be forced to go without treatment and those with pre-existing conditions could lose access to insurance. The repeal-only strategy will throw the health system into chaos. Congress must identify a path forward before they take action to repeal -- leaving Coloradans without access to quality, affordable and accessible coverage.”