Colorado Health Care Stories

Erin Eastvedt, Longmont

"I have always had a preexisting condition, as I was born with medical problems and had to have several surgeries as a baby. Until the ACA was passed, I always had to get health insurance through my employers. In fact, many of the major decisions I've made in my life have been based on maintaining health insurance. For example, after graduating law school, I took jobs that weren't in the legal field, mainly to ensure that I maintained access to health coverage.

Once the ban on preexisting exclusions and the ACA went into effect in 2014, I was able to get coverage under Medicaid expansion, and open my own law firm. A repeal of the ACA would require me to close my business. I'm happier than I've ever been running this firm. I don't want that taken away."

Beth Utton, Longmont

"Millions of Americans depend on the Affordable Care Act for insurance. I am one of those people. Due to an illness that was classified as a "pre-existing condition" I was unable to get coverage prior to the ACA. In order to maintain my wellbeing I was faced with medication costs in the thousands of dollars per month. Mine is most certainly not an isolated case. In such a situation, people often don't get the care they need, or they go bankrupt getting the care and then cannot continue to get the care they need or even meet their basic living needs.

After the ACA passed, I was able to purchase coverage through Colorado's exchange. The tax credits I receive are critical in helping me afford my insurance. These days, I have access to the medication I need, and am now living a full and active life. Without my medication, I would be significantly disabled.

I believe that we, as a society, will pay much more in the long run if we don't promote preventative health measures and provide healthcare when it is needed. Please do not repeal the ACA."