

Shame on you, Cathy.

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers:

Last week you were the only member of Congress from Washington state — Republican or Democrat — to vote for the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the controversial legislation overhauling Medicaid and the U.S. health care system that narrowly passed the House, 217-213.

Shame on you.

Shame on you for supporting this bill, which will **cause at least 24 million Americans to lose health insurance**, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office analysis.¹ That includes more than 42,000 of your constituents here in the 5th District, over 10,000 of whom are children.²



Photo by Gage Skidmore

Shame on you for supporting **\$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid**, which provides no-cost health coverage to millions of low-income Americans, so you can give hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for people earning more than \$250,000 per year.¹ And shame on you for converting Medicaid into block grants and enabling states to cut benefits and restrict eligibility.

Shame on you for **allowing insurers to charge dramatically higher premiums to older Americans and people suffering pre-existing medical conditions**.³ That will put the cost of health insurance out of reach for many families. For those of us who get health coverage through our employers, shame on you for allowing insurers to impose annual and lifetime caps on coverage, revoking that critically important consumer protection from the Affordable Care Act.⁴

And shame on you for invoking your son, who was born with a serious medical condition, in your attempt to defend your vote on this bill.⁵ Your family is fortunate enough to have good health insurance, so your already traumatic circumstances didn't also include bankruptcy. Millions of Americans in your position won't be so fortunate if the AHCA becomes law.

In fact, it does not overstate the matter to say that if the AHCA becomes law, **people will die**. People who lose Medicaid or health insurance — which *will* happen to thousands of your constituents and millions of Americans — won't go to the doctor and find out how sick they are until it's too late.

This is serious. This is beyond politics, beyond "Obamacare" vs. "Trumpcare." This is literally a matter of life and death.

Shame on you for voting for this cruel, inhumane legislation.

Sincerely,

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Spokane Regional Labor Council
AFT Washington
Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME 28

SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
SEIU 775
SEIU 925
UFCW 21

1. Congressional Budget Office, American Health Care Act analysis (3-13-17)

2. Center for American Progress, "Coverage Losses Under the ACA Repeal Bill for Congressional Districts in All States" (3-21-17)

3. *Consumer Reports*, "Got a Pre-Existing Condition? Your Premium Could Rise Sharply Under New GOP Plan" (5-3-17)

4. *The Wall Street Journal*, "GOP Health Bill Jeopardizes Out-of-Pocket Caps in Employer Plans" (5-4-17)

5. *The Spokesman-Review*, "Cathy McMorris Rodgers: My son has a preexisting condition. He's one of the reasons I voted for the AHCA." (5-4-17)