



## **EDPMA Action Alert: Urge Senators Not to Repeal the ACA Health Insurance Mandate as Proposed in Senate Tax Package**

The current version of the Senate tax package would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provision that mandates that most individuals either have health insurance or pay a penalty. The Senate is expected to vote on its tax package later this week, so **please weigh in with senators before Thursday**. An explanation of how to identify and contact your two senators is at the bottom of this alert.

The vote on the tax package is expected to be partisan, with no Democrats voting in support of the package. Therefore, the bill likely will not pass if more than two Republican senators oppose it. Although more than six Republican senators have raised concerns about the package (Sens. Corker (TN), Johnson (WI), Daines (MT), Collins (ME), McCain (AZ), and Flake (AZ)), the Republican leadership is trying to negotiate changes that would allow those senators to support the package. The ACA mandate does not appear to be on the negotiating table. The tax package passed in the House did not repeal the mandate. However, the Trump Administration has indicated that, if the Senate is able to pass the tax package, it would like the House to approve the Senate package without any changes. In other words, this week's vote in the Senate may be the last chance to save the ACA health insurance mandate.

Early last week, EDPMA sent a [letter](#) urging senators not to repeal the ACA health insurance mandate. We hope you will reiterate these concerns:

1. Eliminating the mandate would destabilize the insurance market and cause premiums to rise.
2. An estimated 13 million more Americans would be uninsured than under current law.
3. Uncompensated care in the emergency department would skyrocket as tens of millions would have nowhere else to turn. Emergency physicians already provide more than their fair share of uncompensated and undercompensated care. Although emergency physicians are only 4% of physicians, they provide 50% of all care given to Medicaid and CHIP patients and 67% of all care to uninsured patients.

4. Repeal of the mandate would jeopardize the nation's health safety net - the network of emergency departments. Wait times for everyone would increase and some emergency departments, especially in rural areas, would be in jeopardy of closing down altogether.

### **Contact Your Senator**

EMAIL: Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and click on the drop down menu under "Senators." Click on the State where you reside. It should give you the web forms to email both of your senators. When emailing your senators, be sure to include your name, address (to show you are a constituent), and email address.

PHONE: You can also reach your senators by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at **202 224-3121** and asking for the Senator's office (you don't need to know the Senator's name - just ask for one of the senators from your state). When you leave a message, be sure to include your name, address (to show you are a constituent), and email address.

You may also want to call the 6 Republican senators who have raised concerns about the tax package: Sens. Corker (TN), Johnson (WI), Daines (MT), Collins (ME), McCain (AZ), and Flake (AZ). If you do not reside in their state, yet your practice or company serves patients in their state, you should share how many patients in their state your practice/company serves.

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