Physicians and medical students oppose a “repeal and delay” of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Experts estimate that 20 to 30 million Americans would lose coverage if the ACA were repealed, including 526,000 in TN alone.
- The US would lose 2.6 million jobs in 2019, with 57,000 jobs lost in TN alone.
- Repeal would result in a nationwide increase of $1.1 trillion of uncompensated care; $16.7 billion in TN alone.
- Repeal means $966 million lost in federal marketplace spending in 2019 and $10.8 billion over 10 years in TN. TN would lose $1.3 billion in federal Medicaid funding in 2019 and $15.9 billion over 10 years.
- TN should expect to see $898.7 million in lost state and local taxes from 2019 to 2023 and $34.2 billion lost from the gross state product in the same period.
- Health rankings place Tennessee 43 out of 50 states and rated toward the middle for most measures
  - 31st for lack of health insurance, 25th for immunization (children), 21st public health funding, 18th for primary care physicians.

Physicians and medical students want any changes to the ACA to preserve the gains made by the ACA in terms of expansions in health insurance coverage, quality of health insurance coverage, and protections provided to patients.

- The American Medical Association (AMA), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American College of Physicians (ACP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP) have all released letters sharing these goals.
- These professional organizations represent more than 400,000 doctors, the majority of doctors in this country.

Physicians and medical students are concerned that proposals for changes to the ACA may hurt our patients, especially block granting Medicaid.

- The Paul Ryan Medicaid Block grant was estimated to result in states having to cut Medicaid coverage for 14.3 to 20.5 million Americans, and would lead to further strain on TN’s state budget with tough choices to cut the number covered, cut the services offered, or cut the reimbursement rates.
- In TN, 118,000 uninsured are in the coverage gap and could be benefitting from Medicaid expansion, rather than cutting federal support for Medicaid through block grants.
- Patient Freedom Act 2017
  - Inadequate protection for women, by allowing insurance companies to discriminate in pricing based on sex and provide bare bones coverage that will may not cover reproductive health, including maternity care.
  - Inadequate protection for those with preexisting conditions by requiring continuous coverage, 44 million Americans with preexisting conditions went without coverage for at least one month from 2013 to 2014.
  - Inadequate coverage for preventative health services, such as annual check ups and cancer screening which can save lives and money.

Physicians and medical students are concerned about especially vulnerable parts of the TN population. Opioid treatment & mental health will be particularly hard-hit.

- Filled more opioid prescriptions than there are people, with 1,161 prescriptions per 1000 population.
- In TN, 78,000 people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders gained coverage through the Marketplace. Of these, more than 8,000 or 10.2% had a serious mental illness.
- Had a mortality rate from drug overdoses of 22.2 per 100,000 people.