



NEWSLETTER

WHAT CAN YOU DO

1. Tell Congress to Vote No on Repeal

The House of Representatives is set to vote on a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Just as many of the new provisions under the PPACA take effect, the new leadership in the House wants to strip it away. As physicians and medical students, we have seen first hand the need for health reform in this country. Already, many of our patients' lives are improving because of reform. Congress needs to hear your voices again! [Call your House member today and tell them to vote NO on repealing health reform.](#)

2. Educate Your Colleagues, Patients and Community

Physicians across the country are educating their community about the impact of the new health care law. Play a role and pledge 15 minutes of your time to educate your patients and community by participating in the [Speak The Truth About Health Reform Campaign!](#)

Tell us what you have been up to:

Do you have an interesting story to share? Have you participated in meetings or discussions on health reform? Let us hear about it by contacting Doctors for America at josh.spaulding@drsforamerica.org.

OVERVIEW

The 112th Congress was sworn in this week and lawmakers picked up where they left off before the November election—battling over the merits of the health-care overhaul. The two parties clashed Tuesday over plans by Republicans, who took control of the House, to hold a vote next week to repeal the health law. Meanwhile, Doctors for America held several events as part of our petition campaign to demonstrate support for implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Find out more below!

KEY POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Republicans Move Forward with Health Care Repeal Bill

Earlier in the week, House leadership unveiled a two page health care repeal bill entitled "[Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act](#)," making good on a top GOP campaign promise and setting up a showdown with President Barack Obama over his signature domestic policy achievement. It was immediately denounced by proponents of healthcare reform and the administration.

Today the House leadership will hold an up-or-down vote that will set the terms of the debate on the repeal bill itself. During that debate, Democrats will be unable to introduce their own amendments and have been closed out of the process more generally. An earlier plan to force committee-level votes on popular elements of the bill was scuttled earlier this week.

The repeal bill is scheduled for a House vote on Wednesday, January 12. The repeal effort is not expected to succeed, given that Democrats maintain control of the Senate and the president can veto the legislation, but Republicans also plan to chip away at pieces of the law over the long term. Thursday night the Obama administration put out a [four-paragraph statement](#) against H.R. 2, threatening to veto the measure.

CBO Scores Repeal Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has reviewed H.R. 2, as introduced on January 5, 2011. That bill would repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, Public Law 111-

DFA MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Highlights from the last week:

This week, we delivered over 2,000 signatures from doctors and medical students across the country to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) to send them a message that doctors and medical students support health reform and oppose their attempt to repeal the law. You all are making a difference. Thank you for all you do! View some of the news coverage [here](#).

- On January 6, Ohio State Director Dr. Don Nguyen, along with other DFA members and supporters delivered the petition and stories to Speaker Boehner's district office in Troy, OH. [Watch the report!](#)
- On January 6, Virginia State Director Dr. Chris Lillis met with Majority Leader Eric Cantor's district staff in Glen Allen, VA to deliver the petition and let the majority leader know that doctors support reform and are willing to work with him to move health reform forward.
- On January 1, Gayathri Suresh Kumar, Georgia State Director for DFA had an article published in the Atlantic Journal Constitution entitled [Health care Georgians deserve](#).
- On January 6, Ken Kelly Executive Director of DFA participated in a meeting with White House staff to discuss health reform implementation.
- On January 7, DFA members Rahul Rajkumar and Harold Pollack published an op-ed in the [Los Angeles Times](#).

148) and the provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152) that are related to health care. As a result of changes in direct spending and revenues, CBO expects that enacting H.R. 2 would probably [increase federal budget deficits](#) by over \$230 billion by 2021.

The Administration Reverse Course on End of Life

On Tuesday, January 4, it was [reported that the administration has decided to reverse course](#) and will revise a Medicare regulation to delete references to end-of-life planning as part of the annual physical examinations covered under the new health care law. The move is an abrupt shift; coming just days after the new policy took effect on Jan. 1.

Many doctors praised the regulation, which listed “advance care planning” as one of the services that could be offered in the annual wellness visit for Medicare beneficiaries. Administration officials cited procedural reasons for changing the rule. However most observers believe that political concerns also played a major factor in the decision. Many feel that the debate over advance care planning was threatening to become a distraction to the administration as it seeks to defend the health care law against attack by the new House leadership.

News stories:

- [Health Care Debate Builds Momentum](#)
- [Doctors Petition Congress to Keep Health Care Law](#)
- [Doctors urge GOP to improve, not repeal, reform law](#)
- [Petition Supporting Health Care Delivered To Boehner's Office](#)
- [Doctors Fight Back Against Proposed Health Care Repeal](#)

Stay informed on latest developments

You can stay informed on the latest developments in health care reform by following DFA on [Progress Notes](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,

The Doctors for America Team

Doctors for America is a grassroots group of over 15,000 physicians with a presence in all fifty states fighting for a system in which every American has equal access to quality healthcare. We envision a fair, effective and affordable healthcare system — one fundamentally transformed and guided by the core values of doctors and their patients.

