

EMPOWERING PATIENTS FIRST ACT

A Solution from the Republican Study Committee for Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care for All Americans

The *Empowering Patients First Act*, a solution from the Republican Study Committee, grants people greater control over their own personal, private health care coverage. It rests on six fundamental health care principles – accessibility, affordability, choice, innovation, quality and portability. And most of all, it believes in individuals and the power of free people to make independent decisions, not Washington.

In the months to come, the RSC will not abandon the American people or our principles. We will continue to fight for patient-centered health care solutions. This begins by fully repealing the Democrats’ government takeover of health care and replacing it with H.R. 3400.

Patients First – Choice and Portability

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

Offers new innovative solutions for individuals to shop across state lines and make insurance companies responsive to patients. And employers can offer a “defined contribution” to individuals to purchase a plan which they can keep if they change jobs.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Blesses individuals to “choose” from a set of plans approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Americans will pay for plans they don’t want or coverage they don’t need.

If You Like What You Have, You Can Keep It

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

Grants power to individuals and their families with no fear that existing coverage will be deemed unacceptable by Washington.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Cuts Medicare Advantage making the choice of additional coverage under private insurance unfeasible for millions of seniors. Reports of employers possibly dropping retiree prescription drug coverage are coming in as a result of eliminating a favorable tax exclusion.

Preserve the Employer-Based System

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

Keeps intact the current pre-tax benefits while permitting employers to offer discounts for healthy habits through wellness and prevention programs. And tax incentives are granted for auto-enrollment programs.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Requires employers to change their current health care plans if they do not comply with new stringent government requirements. Independent analysis confirms tens of millions of Americans may lose their employer-based coverage.

Medical Liability Reform and Reining in Costs

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

Reduces frivolous lawsuits by establishing health courts in each state and adding affirmative defense through best practices set by physicians, not trial lawyers chasing a buck in lottery courts.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Next to nothing. Awards five-year demonstration grants to study alternatives, meanwhile this is up to a \$650 billion problem annually.

Lower Taxes

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

Gives Americans back their own hard-earned tax dollars, through credits and deductions, to purchase the quality health insurance of their choice. It makes the purchase of health care financially feasible for all Americans.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Taxes businesses (pay or play), innovators (medical equipment), the “wealthy” (net investment income) and the middle class – you know, those making less than \$250,000 a year (individual mandate).

Limitations on Abortions

RSC Plan (H.R. 3400)

No funds may be used to pay for an abortion or cover any part of the costs of any health plan which includes coverage of abortions.

Democrat Govt. Takeover (H.R. 3590)

Permits taxpayer dollars to be spent on abortions. The Executive Order issued by the President does not change this fact and can be rescinded just as easily as it was signed.

And the *Empowering Patients First Act* contains **NO** sweetheart deals like the “Louisiana Purchase,” the “U-Con” deal, and many more!