

*Don Bacon bragged that he was voting “hell yes” to gut protections for pre-existing conditions; allow insurance companies to charge an “age tax” on older Americans; increase premiums; and leave 175,500 more Nebraskans without health insurance.*

**Bacon On The American Health Care Act: “I’ve Changed My Vote From ‘Yes’ To ‘Hell Yes.’”** “Abandoning negotiations, President Donald Trump late Thursday demanded a make-or-break vote on health care legislation today in the House, threatening to leave the Affordable Care Act in place and move on to other issues if the vote fails. The risky move, part gamble and part threat, was presented to GOP lawmakers behind closed doors Thursday night after a long and intense day that saw a planned vote on the health care bill scrapped as the legislation remained short of votes amid cascading negotiations among conservative lawmakers, moderates and others. [...] As Bacon emerged from the meeting, he said it included great speeches calling for unity. He reiterated his strong support for the GOP bill. ‘I’ve changed my vote, from ‘yes’ to ‘hell, yes,’” Bacon said.” [Associated Press, [3/24/17](#)]

**After A March 17, 2017 Republican Meeting, Bacon Told Reporters He Had Changed His Vote On The American Health Care Act From “Yes” To “Hell Yes.”** Omaha World-Herald reporter Joseph Morton tweeted, “Omaha area @RepDonBacon left tonight's GOP mtg saying he's changed his vote on AHCA - from ‘Yes’ to ‘Hell Yes’” [Twitter, @MortonOWH, [3/23/17](#)]

**Omaha World-Herald: “Bacon ... Cast An Enthusiastic ‘Hell Yes’ Vote For Repealing And Replacing The Affordable Care Act.”** “In his first term, Rep. Don Bacon has helped pass a sweeping GOP tax package, cast an enthusiastic ‘hell yes’ vote for repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act and backed significant increases in military spending.” [Omaha World-Herald, [9/28/18](#)]

**2017: Bacon Voted For The American Health Care Act – The Republican Health Care Repeal Bill.** In May 2017, Bacon voted for: “Passage of the bill that would make extensive changes to the 2010 health care overhaul law, by effectively repealing the individual and employer mandates as well as most of the taxes that finance the current system. It would, in 2020, convert Medicaid into a capped entitlement that would provide fixed federal payments to states and end additional federal funding for the 2010 law’s joint federal-state Medicaid expansion. It would prohibit federal funding to any entity, such as Planned Parenthood, that performs abortions and receives more than \$350 million a year in Medicaid funds. As amended, it would give states the option of receiving federal Medicaid funding as a block grant with greater state flexibility in how the funds are used, and would require states to establish their own essential health benefits standards. It would allow states to receive waivers to exempt insurers from having to provide certain minimum benefits, would provide \$8 billion over five years for individuals with pre-existing conditions whose insurance premiums increased because the state was granted a waiver to raise premiums based on an individual’s health status, and would create a \$15 billion federal risk sharing program to cover some of the costs of high medical claims.” The bill was passed by a vote of 217-213. [HR 1628, [Vote #256](#), 5/4/17; CQ, [5/4/17](#)]

**HEADLINE: “The Congressman Willing To Sacrifice His District For His Party”** [The Hill, Michael Connolly, [1/25/17](#)]

**PolitiFact Found That The American Health Care Act “Would Weaken Protections” For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions And “Would Allow States To Give Insurers The Power To Charge People Significantly More.”** “An ad by the American Action Network says that under the American Health Care Act ‘people with pre-existing conditions are protected.’ The only kernel of truth here is that the amendment has language that states insurers can’t limit access to coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. However, the ad omits that the House GOP health plan would weaken protections for these patients. The legislation would allow states to give insurers the power to charge people significantly more if they had a pre-existing condition. While Republicans point to the fact that those patients could get help through high-risk pools, experts question their effectiveness. Current law does not allow states to charge people with pre-existing conditions significantly more. We rate this claim Mostly False.” [PolitiFact, [5/24/17](#)]

**AARP: The American Health Care Act Had An “Age Tax” That Would Allow Insurance Companies To Charge Patients Over 50 Premiums Five Times Higher Than For Younger Patients.** The health care bill being debated in Congress would hit older Americans with a two-part “age tax” that would dramatically increase what they pay for coverage, according to a new report from AARP’s Public Policy Institute (PPI). The age tax would hit in two ways: First, the American Health Care Act (AHCA) would allow health insurance companies to charge older Americans five times what they charge others for the same coverage. Current law prevents insurance companies from charging more than three times more. Allowing insurance companies to charge people 50 and over five times more than they charge other people would raise premiums for consumers over 60 by more than \$3,000.” [AARP, [3/20/17](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Age Tax Is A One-Two Punch For Older Americans”** [AARP, [3/20/17](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Older Americans Oppose Age Tax In Health Care Bill”** [AARP, [3/21/17](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Don’t Get Fooled: The Age Tax Is A Real Thing”** [AARP, [3/4/17](#)]

**Center For American Progress Analysis: The American Health Care Act Would Have Increased The Average Marketplace Premium In Nebraska By \$1,427 In 2018.** According to a Center for American Progress analysis, the American Health Care Act would have raised average marketplace premiums in Nebraska by \$1,427 in 2018. [Center for American Progress, [6/15/17](#)]

**Congressional Budget Office: The American Health Care Act Would Increase Average Premiums For Marketplace Plans In 2018 And 2019 By 15% To 20%.** “The legislation would tend to increase average premiums in the nongroup market prior to 2020 and lower average premiums thereafter, relative to projections under current law. In 2018 and 2019, according to CBO and JCT’s estimates, average premiums for single policyholders in the nongroup market would be 15 percent to 20 percent higher than under current law, mainly because the individual mandate penalties would be eliminated, inducing fewer comparatively healthy people to sign up.” [Congressional Budget Office, [3/13/17](#)]

**Center for American Progress Analysis: Under The American Health Care Act, 175,500 Nebraskans Would Lose Health Insurance Coverage By 2026.** According to a Center for American Progress analysis, under the American Health Care Act, 175,500 Nebraskans would lose health coverage by 2026. [Center for American Progress, [5/25/17](#)]

**Congressional Budget Office: Under The American Health Care Act, An Additional 23 Million Americans Would Be Uninsured By 2026.** “CBO and JCT estimate that, in 2018, 14 million more people would be uninsured under H.R. 1628 than under current law. The increase in the number of uninsured people relative to the number under current law would reach 19 million in 2020 and 23 million in 2026 (see Table 4, at the end of this document).” [CBO, [5/24/17](#)]