We know 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; and increase premiums. Voters also need to know that as Nebraskans are dealing with a pandemic, Don Bacon wants to make it even harder by raising the Social Security retirement age and cutting benefits. He even backed a plan that could reduce benefits by over $3,000 a year on average.

**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]


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]


As Of October 3, 2020, Nebraska Had 46,185 Confirmed Coronavirus Cases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nebraska had 46,185 cumulative confirmed coronavirus cases as of October 3, 2020. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10/3/20]

Bacon Supported Raising The Social Security Retirement Age And Cutting Social Security Benefits. “Bacon argues that Social Security will become ‘insolvent’ by 2034 and that something needs to be done now to fix it. He suggests making some cuts to benefits, including increasing the full retirement age for people who are currently younger than 40. […] Bacon said that raising the retirement age for younger workers is one piece of the solution and that he’s willing to look at other solutions as well. He noted that average life expectancy has risen from age 61 in 1935, when Social Security was implemented, to almost age 80 today. ‘This issue is complex for many reasons,’ Bacon said. ‘Every tweak to the current system is controversial. This does not mean tweaks aren’t necessary — in fact, they are crucial. Fixing big problems incrementally is the path of least resistance in Congress, and unfortunately, often the only way to make major changes.’” [Omaha World Herald, 10/5/18]

2020: In An iVoter Guide Survey Bacon Called To “Raise The Retirement Age.” “Right now, the math behind Social Security just doesn't work. There are several options on the table that I have been considering, but this will take a combination of a lot of good ideas to fix. There is no magic pill to instantly solve the Social Security shortfall for future generations. One idea I'm strongly considering is raising the income cap for Social Security deductions. Another idea may be to raise the retirement age for those who are currently under 40. Ultimately, people have paid
into the system and it is the job of Congress to ensure they have access to those funds at retirement. We will need a bipartisan approach to preserve Social Security.” [iVoter Guide, 2020]

Bacon: “I Support Adjusting The Retirement Age.” Bacon said, “We need to take action because, for starters, we can’t afford to have it go insolvent. In 2037, I’ve seen actually, 2034 and some numbers in between. What happens when do we do nothing, when that happens, folks on Social Security will lose 25% of their benefits or their income immediately. So we have to take action. But it always gets demagogued. I support adjusting the retirement age for those who are younger, up to 30 and younger, as a start. When Social Security, the life expectancy was roughly retirement age. But now it’s gone up to 84 for those who are younger. And yet our retirement age will be 67. And the math – we’ve got to make the math work. I’m also willing with the caps to adjust it to inflation. But what the other side of the aisle wants to do is treat Social Security as a wealth redistribution program by taking the caps, which would raise the tax rates by 13%.” [KMTV, Debate, 0:20, 10/16/20] (VIDEO)

Bacon Backed Raising The Retirement Age, Arguing That Life Expectancy Had Increased Since Social Security Was Created. “CBO’s the one that says ‘insolvent.’ That’s not my words. That’s the Congressional Budget Office. And what that means is in about 2037, there’s also some estimates for 2034 and places in between, that if you’re getting paid through Social Security, you’re going to take a 25% reduction, because the only money that you’re getting paid is the money that’s coming in. And more’s coming out than coming in. And eventually, we’re going to have more people taken out than coming in. So they’re kind of shifting. The math does not work. So, when it was founded, the retirement age was very close to the life expectancy. I don’t think that was good either, but over time, that life expectancy’s gone up to 84 and the retirement age is 67. We have to make the math work, and I think we start with those who are under 40 and very gradual adjustments. I don’t mind indexing the cap with inflation but Social Security was never designed to be a wealth redistribution system and that’s essential what Kara Eastman is recommending here, taxing people over $125,000 an additional 13% while she’s also talking about raising taxes for those who are wealthy as well.” [WOWT, Debate, 17:20, 10/18/18] (VIDEO)

Bacon: “If People Are Retiring At 67, It’s Hard To Make That Math Work.” Bacon said, “According to the Congressional Budget Office, these aren’t my terms, that in 2037, was 2034, in our improved economy has built this out for three more years, but that Social Security would become insolvent. That is CBO’s terms, which means that those payments, the only payments going out would be the money that was coming in that month. That would be a 25% reduction in Social Security pay. So we have to work on this now, because it’s easier to work on this now than to wait until 2037. […] So I think we can do at least two things to add longevity and strength to Social Security, because I want to support and keep it strong for those who have paid in and I want to keep it strong for those going into their retirement, because we’re counting on it. So I believe we can index the cap with inflation so that will help. Raise the cap with inflation over time, so we don’t have to keep voting on it this year or that year, and we can just fix this. Second, we have to realize that the life expectancy for those 40 years and younger are 84 years old. So if people are retiring at 67, it’s hard to make that math work and keep the benefits where we want them. So I think we should look at those two areas first.” [KETV, Debate, 31:40, 10/28/20] (VIDEO)

Bacon: “We Need To Start Working Now By Studying And Adjusting The Retirement Age To Reflect The Increased Life Expectancy.” Bacon tweeted, “By 2033 social security will become insolvent: we need to start working now by studying and adjusting the retirement age to reflect the increased life expectancy and preserve social security benefits.” [Twitter, @RepDonBacon, 4/28/18]
Bacon: “We Must Raise The Retirement Age For Those Under 30.” Bacon tweeted, “Social Security will be insolvent within 20 years. We must raise the retirement age for those under 30. Not for anyone nearing retirement.” [Twitter, @RepDonBacon, 6/15/17]

2017: Bacon Co-Sponsored H.J.Res. 1, A Balanced Budget Amendment That Included A Constitutional Spending Limit And A Ban On Revenue Increases. Bacon co-sponsored H.J.Res. 1. “This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting total outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year unless Congress authorizes the excess by a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber. The prohibition excludes outlays for repayment of debt principal and receipts derived from borrowing. The amendment prohibits total outlays for any fiscal year from exceeding one-fifth of the economic output of the United States, unless two-thirds of each house of Congress provides a specific increase in outlays above this amount. The amendment requires a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber of Congress to increase the public debt limit or to increase revenue. It also requires the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress annually. Congress is authorized to waive these requirements when a declaration of war is in effect or if the United States is engaged in a military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security.” [H.J.Res. 1, Co-Sponsored 1/10/17, Introduced 1/3/17]

The H.J.Res. 1 Balanced Budget Amendment Could Lead To A 17% Reduction In Social Security Benefits. “This analysis focuses on House Joint Resolution 2 (H.J.Res. 2), introduced by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R–VA) in January 2017. However, Rep. Goodlatte has also introduced House Joint Resolution 1 (H.J.Res. 1), which differs by also including a constitutional spending limit and a constitutional ban on revenue increases. [...] This aspect of H.J.Res. 1 could also lead to a constant ratcheting down of revenues, even though it will be advisable to raise revenues in the years ahead to help cover the increasing costs of an aging population.[21] Consider, for example, a proposal to restore 75-year solvency to the Social Security trust fund in part by raising the Social Security payroll tax cap. Such a proposal would also reduce overall federal deficits. But such a bill would be unconstitutional under H.J.Res. 1 simply because it raised revenues. Instead, Social Security benefits
would have to be cut substantially (with no revenue increases) to make the trust fund whole; over 75 years, benefits would have to be cut by an average of 17 percent, according to the program’s trustees.” [Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/16/18]

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<th>Derived Average Social Security Reduction From H.R.</th>
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[Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet, 2020; Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/16/18; Google Calculator, accessed 10/3/20]