In the middle of a pandemic, Collins and Trump want to repeal health care reforms and eliminate protections for more than 300,000 North Texans with pre-existing conditions, including coronavirus.

Collins Said It Was “Disappointing” That Congressional Republicans Have Been Unable To Repeal Or Replace Obamacare In Over A Decade. “[00:19:38] INTERVIEWER: ‘Let’s talk a little bit about health care, ‘cause you had brought that up. Now, I’m wondering, do you believe, as a lot of Republicans do, that Obamacare should be dismantled? I know the courts are now weighing in on that, but where are you on that?’ COLLINS: ‘Well, Jack, to be honest, I think it’s really disappointing that over a decade our Republicans in Congress have yet to do anything to repeal or replace or come up with another idea on the other side of Obamacare. So, I think that that – in my opinion – that ship has sailed a little bit. After a decade, it’s going to be really hard to move or overturn outside of the court system.’” [CBS Local Dallas Fort Worth, Interview, 1/7/20]

CNN: The Trump Administration Will Continue To Push The Supreme Court To Invalidate The Entire Affordable Care Act. “The Trump administration will continue to push the Supreme Court to invalidate the entire Affordable Care Act, President Donald Trump said Wednesday, rejecting a last-minute attempt by Attorney General William Barr to change course. ‘We're not doing anything. In other words, we're staying with the group, with Texas and the group,’ Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.” [CNN, 5/6/20]

The Affordable Care Act Prevented Insurers From Denying Coverage Or Charging More If An Individual Had A Pre-existing Condition. “In the old days, insurance companies had ways to avoid selling policies to people who were likely to cost more than insurers wanted to spend. They might deny them coverage outright, or exclude coverage for a known condition, or charge so much that insurance became unaffordable. The Affordable Care Act boxes out the old insurance practices with a package of legal moves. First, it says point-blank that carriers ‘may not impose any preexisting condition exclusion.’ It backs that up with another section that says they ‘may not establish rules for eligibility’ based on health status, medical condition, claims experience or medical history.” [Politifact, 10/17/18]

2017: Repeal Could Have Denied Coverage To As Many As 133 Million Americans. “This analysis updates that earlier study. It confirms that a large fraction of non-elderly Americans have pre-existing health conditions: at least 23 percent of Americans (61 million people) using a narrow definition based on eligibility criteria for pre-ACA state high-risk pools, or as many as 51 percent (133 million people) using a broader definition closer to the underwriting criteria used by insurers prior to the ACA. Any of these 133 million Americans could have been denied coverage, or offered coverage only at an exorbitant price, had they needed individual market health insurance before 2014.’” [HHS.gov, Issue Brief, 1/5/17]

Center For American Progress: 331,600 Non-Elderly Persons In TX-32 Had Pre-Existing Conditions. [Center for American Progress, 10/2/19]

AP: COVID-19 Could Have Stamped A Person Uninsurable If Not For The ACA’s Ban On Insurers Using Pre-Existing Conditions To Deny Coverage. “COVID-19 could have stamped a person “uninsurable” if not for the Affordable Care Act. The ban on insurers using preexisting conditions to deny coverage is a key part of the Obama-era law that the Trump administration still seeks to overturn. Without the law, people who recovered from COVID-19 and tried to purchase an individual health insurance policy could be turned down, charged higher premiums or have follow-up care excluded from coverage. Those considered vulnerable because of conditions such as respiratory problems or early-stage diabetes would have run into a wall of insurer suspicion.” [Associated Press, 5/3/20]