As Illinois was hit by the coronavirus pandemic that Donald Trump made worse, Jeanne Ives gave Donald Trump an “A” grade as President. Like Trump, she supports a plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act that would weaken protections for people with preexisting medical conditions who are at greater risk of coronavirus.

Mach 2020: Illinois Had 5,994 COVID-19 Cases And 99 COVID-19 Related Deaths. “The news comes as state officials announced 937 additional coronavirus cases and 26 more deaths. There have been 5,994 known cases of COVID-19, including 99 deaths, in 54 of the state’s 102 counties since the outbreak began in Illinois in late January.” [Chicago Tribune, 3/31/20]


March 2020: Ives Gave Trump An “A Grade” For All Of His Policy Stances. “Ives, a West Point graduate and Army veteran, also praised Trump's approach to the military and his desire to ‘extract our troops from entanglements that we should not be involved in that have gone on too long.’ But she gave the president an ‘A’ grade more broadly than Kinzler, saying it applies for all of Trump's policy stances.” [Daily Herald, 3/6/20]

HEADLINE: Trump’s Outrageous Refusal To Lead Is Making The Pandemic Worse. “Trump's refusal to use his full powers of his office and the government to confront the worst domestic threat since World War II is looking more negligent, callous and politically self-defeating with each virus ravaged day that passes. Not only is Trump refusing to act in a manner appropriate to the magnitude of the emergency, he is using the country's loudest megaphone in a way almost guaranteed to make it worse, from presiding over a White House campaign to discredit the lifelong work of Dr. Anthony Fauci -- a new front in his war on science and truth -- to undermining efforts by local officials to convince people to wear masks to slow the spread of the disease.” [CNN, 7/17/20]

Trump: “It Will Go Away. Just Stay Calm. It Will Go Away.” “We’re prepared, and we’re doing a great job with it. And it will go away. Just stay calm. It will go away.” [White House, 3/10/20]

Ives Supported The Republican Study Committee's Health Care Plan. “Up until the beginning of July, Ives had a more detailed health care statement on her campaign website in which she expressed her support for a plan proposed by the Republican Study Committee in October of last year. The Ives-backed plan was proposed as a replacement for the Affordable Care Act, relaxing some federal protections for people with pre-existing conditions and instead tasking states with helping those with expensive plans cover the cost.” [Northwest Herald, 8/6/20]

The RSC Plan Undid The Essential Health Benefits Required Under The ACA. “Specifically, the framework sets out to undo ACA regulations on essential health benefits — benefits health plans are required to cover under the ACA — as well as preventive care cost-sharing and dependent coverage, among others.” [Becker’s Hospital Review, 10/23/19]

FierceHealthcare: The RSC Plan Would Weaken Protections For People With Pre-Existing Conditions. “However, it takes out provisions that ensure patients with pre-existing conditions get affordable coverage such as requirements that prevent plans from charging sicker people higher premiums than healthy customers.” [FierceHealthcare.com, 10/22/19]

Trump Supported The Lawsuit Working To Repeal The Adorable Care Act. “The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court late Thursday to overturn the Affordable Care Act — a move that, if successful, would bring a permanent end to the health insurance program popularly known as Obamacare and wipe out coverage for as many as 23 million Americans.” [New York Times, 6/26/20]

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]

**Without Protections For Pre-Existing Conditions, People Could Be Charged Thousands More For Coverage.** Without pre-existing condition protections, health care would become prohibitively expensive for those who need it most. People with asthma, a relatively minor chronic condition, would face a markup of about $4,000 for coverage, while those with severe illnesses such as heart trouble or cancer would face premiums tens of thousands of dollars above standard rates.” [Center for American Progress, 4/21/17]

**Those With Pre-Existing Conditions Were At A Greater Risk For Coronavirus.** “The risk of developing dangerous symptoms of COVID-19 may be increased in people who are older and also in people of any age who have other serious health problems — such as heart or lung conditions, weakened immune systems, severe obesity, or diabetes. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza. While each of these serious health problem increases the risk of severe COVID-19 symptoms, people who have several of these underlying health problems are at even higher risk.” [Mayo Clinic, accessed 8/31/20]

**Associated Press: COVID-19 Could Have Made Someone Uninsurable If Not For The ACA.** “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]