

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1211 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6576

DISTRICT OFFICES:
125 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET
IOWA CITY, IA 52240
(319) 351-0789

209 West 4th Street, #104
Davenport, IA 52801
(563) 323-5988
1 (866) 914-IOWA

March 27, 2019

U.S. Department of Justice
Attn: Attorney General William Barr
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr,

We write in objection to the brief filed by the Department of Justice on Monday, March 25, 2019 concerning Texas v. United States, No. 19-10011. The Department's statement endorsing the 5th Circuit's decision determining the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to be unconstitutional would harm tens of millions of Americans. We are deeply alarmed by your decision to support the Court's ruling, which would take away coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, reopen the Medicare donut hole, and allow companies to charge women higher premiums simply because they are female.

This decision would have terrible consequences for American families who deserve access to quality, affordable health care. Repealing the ACA would return us to a time when millions were uninsured due to pre-existing conditions and those who need health care most were limited by lifetime caps. The ACA has provided protections to millions of Americans who desperately need health care. According to a study by the Urban Institute, if the ACA is repealed in its entirety, the uninsured population will increase by 19.9 million Americans. In Iowa, it is estimated that without the protections of the ACA, a total of 336,000 Iowans would be left uninsured and without access to health care.

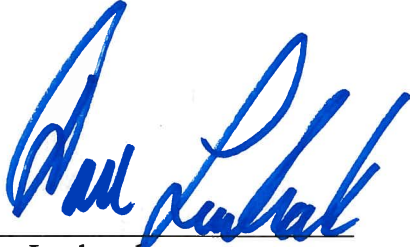
Overturing the ACA would also harm the 133 million Americans who have pre-existing conditions, including 1,290,000 Iowans. Additionally, insurers would be allowed to charge more to those with pre-existing conditions or deny coverage entirely, leaving millions of Americans without affordable options. In addition, insurers could set lifetime and annual limits on the amount they spend on essential services. These lifetime caps disproportionately harm those with serious medical conditions and those who most need health care access.

Premiums in Iowa have become unaffordable, and Congress and the Administration should be working together to improve the law to ensure all Americans have access to affordable health care. In 2016, the average premium cost in Iowa was \$300 and in 2019 this has risen to an astounding \$762.¹ Before the ACA, only those with employer coverage generally got tax benefits to help pay for health insurance. With the rising cost of health care services and insurance, it is imperative we focus on lowering costs.

¹ <https://www.kff.org/state-category/health-reform/health-insurance-marketplaces/>

We believe that Congress should continue working to improve the ACA while maintaining the protections that are currently in place for millions of Americans. The cost of health care has become a concern for the majority of Americans. We must focus on lowering the costs of health care services and prescription drugs and not remove insurance coverage and protections from those who need it most.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Member of Congress



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress