

# THREATS

TO PRE-EXISTING  
CONDITION PROTECTIONS

## KING COUNTY



MARIA CANTWELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR WASHINGTON

# PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS UNDER THREAT: **KING COUNTY**

**BACKGROUND:** Earlier this month, the Trump Administration escalated their deliberate attempts to take away Americans' health care insurance protections. The Department of Justice is now refusing to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA)'s pre-existing condition protections in a federal legal challenge brought by state Attorneys General who are seeking to nullify the entire law.

The Affordable Care Act prevents insurance companies from denying coverage to people or charging them more because they have a pre-existing condition.

However, these vital protections would be gutted if the Trump Administration has its way. About 130 million Americans under the age of 65 have a pre-existing condition.

## **By the Numbers: King County**

- **867,970 Washingtonians under the age of 65 in King County** live with a pre-existing condition;
- **3.034 million Washingtonians under the age of 65**, 41 percent of the state's under-65 population, live with a pre-existing condition;
- **385,000 Washingtonians below the age of 18** live with a pre-existing condition;

## **Examples of Pre-Existing Conditions at Risk:**

Acne  
Allergies  
Anxiety  
Arthritis  
Asthma  
Basal Cell Skin Cancer  
Bipolar Disorder  
Depression  
Dementia  
Diabetes  
Ear infections  
Eating Disorders  
Epilepsy

Fractures  
Hepatitis  
High Cholesterol  
Hypertension  
Incontinence  
Joint Injuries  
Kidney Stones  
Menstrual irregularities  
Migraine headaches  
Muscular Dystrophy  
Restless Leg Syndrome  
Severe Obesity  
Sleep Apnea

**KING COUNTY**

***In Focus:***

**867,970**

**Washingtonians under 65 in King County have a pre-existing condition**

**385,000**

**Washingtonians below age 18 have a pre-existing condition**

**3,000,000**

**Washingtonians under 65 have a pre-existing condition**

Tonsillitis  
Urinary Tract Infections  
Varicose Veins  
Vertigo

## What Senator Cantwell Is Doing To Protect People with Pre-Existing Conditions:

Senator Cantwell and her Democratic colleagues are preparing a resolution in the U.S. Senate to intervene in federal court in order to defend the Affordable Care Act's pre-existing condition protections.

On June 26, 2018, Senator Cantwell and the entire Senate Democratic Caucus sent a letter to President Trump after it abandoned its legal responsibilities to defend our nation's laws. The letter urged President Trump to make good on his campaign promise to stand with patients and stop his administration's attack on Americans with pre-existing conditions.

On June 14, 2018, Senator Cantwell joined her Democratic colleagues in [calling on the Trump Administration](#) to rescind its proposed rule to expand "junk insurance" plans that can exclude protections for people with pre-existing conditions and do not have to cover essential benefits, like hospital stays or prescription drugs.

### Sources:

"Health Insurance Coverage For Americans With Pre-Existing Conditions The Impact of the Affordable Care Act." *Department of Health and Human Services: Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation*. 2017. [Link](#).

"Number of Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions by Congressional District." *Center for American Progress*. 2017. [Link](#).

"Pre-existing Conditions and Medical Underwriting in the Individual Insurance Market Prior to the ACA." *Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation*. 2016. [Link](#).

"Trump Administration Attempts to Reverse Pre-Existing Condition Protections, Threatening 3.0 Million Washingtonians Care." *Protect Our Care*. 2017. [Link](#).

"Trump Administration Move Imperils Pre-Existing Condition Protections." *NPR*. 2018. [Link](#).