

THREATS

**TO PRE-EXISTING
CONDITION PROTECTIONS**

WASHINGTON



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PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

UNDER THREAT:

WASHINGTON

BACKGROUND: Earlier this year, the Trump Administration escalated their deliberate attempts to take away Americans' health care insurance protections. While the Administration had previously asked the Department of Justice to strike down the community-rating and guaranteed-issue provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), in March they announced they 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. These vital protections will be gutted if the Trump Administration has its way. About 130 million Americans under the age of 65 have a pre-existing condition.

Oral arguments are expected to start in the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals the week of July 9. Ultimately, the Supreme Court could decide the fate of the ACA as early as 2020.

By the Numbers: Washington state

- **3,034,500** Washingtonians under 65 live with a pre-existing condition;
- **385,200** Washingtonians under the age of 18 live with a pre-existing condition;
- **1 in 2** Washingtonians 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

KING COUNTY

In Focus:

867,970

Washingtonians under 65 in the county live with a pre-existing condition

385,000

residents below age 18 live with a pre-existing condition

3,000,000

people under 65 live with a pre-existing condition

Sleep Apnea
Tonsillitis
Urinary Tract Infections
Varicose Veins
Vertigo

What Senator Cantwell is Doing to Protect Pre-Existing Conditions:

On July 2, 2018, Senator Cantwell sent [a letter](#) to President Trump to urge the Administration to direct the Department of Justice to preserve pre-existing condition protections by reversing its actions in *Texas v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*.

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.

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](#).

"Trump-Backed Texas Lawsuit Would Devastate Washingtonians." Protect Our Care. 2019. [Link](#).