

## SUPPORT CITIES:

# Protect America's Health Insurance

As Congress considers changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), NLC urges Congress to continue to support these important provisions:

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- 1 Insurance standards and consumer protections**, which include insuring dependents through age 26, assuring eligibility for coverage with pre-existing conditions, eliminating lifetime and annual limits and the provision of preventative services at no additional cost.
- 2 Coverage expansion for CHIP and Medicaid**, which has strongly benefitted low income children and families in cities across the country. NLC supports the flexibility to determine eligibility for CHIP and opposes any efforts to convert Medicaid to block grants or per capita caps.
- 3 Expanded mental health and substance use disorder coverage, benefits and parity**, including preventive screenings for adults and assessments for kids and continued funding of provisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures bill and opioid funding to localities.
- 4 The continuation of the Prevention and Public Health Fund**, which supports twelve percent of the overall budget for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provides access to vaccinations, chronic disease prevention and other public health programs directly to cities and municipalities.
- 5 Tax-exempt hospital community health needs assessments/ community benefits** to continue to align population health priorities and needs in communities.



**“The National League of Cities calls on Congress to ensure that any proposal to amend or repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) sustains and builds upon the nation’s progress toward the goal of health insurance coverage for all Americans.”**

**//NLC PRESIDENT MATT ZONE,  
COUNCILMEMBER, CLEVELAND**

The health of our nation’s cities is paramount to local leaders as they balance the needs and budgets of their communities. As one of the largest employers in the country, the rising costs of health care will have a direct effect on city budgets. Local leaders remain concerned about the potential impact of a dramatic increase of uninsured individuals in local communities, which could reach as high as an estimated 32 million Americans, if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is repealed and not replaced. And for the Americans living in our

cities, healthcare is a key component to economic mobility and opportunity. Without access to affordable healthcare, millions of Americans will continue to struggle to afford preventative care, pay for critical care and maintain employment, in turn impacting intergenerational economic mobility.

NLC remains concerned by the potential financial burden that the Cadillac Tax, a 40% excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans, poses to cities nationwide who offer their employees higher-end health insurance policies. Should this tax be imposed, cities will be forced to choose between absorbing the financial burden of the tax or altering the healthcare options offered to their employees. Additionally, proposals placing a dollar cap on the income tax exemption for employer-sponsored health coverage would likely impose a disproportionate financial burden on cities and municipal employees. The National League of Cities supports the repeal of the Cadillac Tax and efforts to find replacement sources of revenue that would not burden city budgets or negatively impact access to healthcare for individuals in our local communities.

**For more information**

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