

Does Your Candidate *Actually* Support Protections for People with Preexisting Conditions? The Three-Part Test

Most Americans agree that people with preexisting conditions should be protected from being denied health insurance coverage, being charged outrageous prices for insurance, or only being sold plans that don't cover their most important conditions. In recent surveys, more than 90 percent of people say it is important that the current federal protections for people with preexisting conditions remain in place.

Yet over the last several years, many members of Congress and other policymakers have taken actions that do not support these protections, and instead support policies that would let insurance companies once again discriminate against people with preexisting conditions. Now many of these same policymakers are running for federal and state office, claiming that they support people with preexisting conditions. They promote insufficient policies that do not fully support people with preexisting conditions, and try to hide their past actions that would harm people with preexisting conditions.

How can you know the truth about a candidate's support for preexisting condition protections? Families USA has developed a simple three-part test to identify which candidates actually support people with preexisting conditions and which ones don't.

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Part 1: Does your candidate support or oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act?

Last year, Congress came within just a couple of votes of repealing the federal health care law. The 2017 repeal bill would not have preserved all of the federal protections for people with preexisting conditions and would have taken health care coverage away from millions of people with preexisting conditions. Candidates who support protections for people with preexisting conditions will oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

If your congressional representative is running for re-election this year, see how he or she voted on health care repeal in 2017: See how [members of the House of Representatives voted](#). See how [Senators voted](#).

If your candidate was not in Congress last year, or is running for state office, ask the candidate directly, "Would you support or oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act?"

Part 2: Has your candidate taken action, or would your candidate take action, to forbid or restrict junk short-term plans?

The Trump administration has expanded the sale of junk insurance plans that are allowed to discriminate against people with preexisting conditions. Many congressional and state policymakers have fought these short-term plans and similar types of junk plans, while others have embraced them despite their harms to people with preexisting conditions. Candidates who support protections for people with preexisting conditions will work to forbid or restrict junk short-term plans.

Ask your candidate directly, “Have you taken action, or would you take action, to forbid or restrict junk short-term plans?”

Part 3: Does your candidate support or oppose the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act?

Led by the Texas attorney general, attorneys general from 18 states and governors from two others have joined together to sue the federal

government to overturn the Affordable Care Act, including its preexisting condition protections. The Trump administration, instead of enforcing the law, is arguing specifically to overturn protections for people with preexisting conditions. Attorneys general from 17 states are defending the Affordable Care Act and its protections in court. Candidates who support protections for people with preexisting conditions will defend the Affordable Care Act and oppose the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit.

Many attorneys general on both sides of the lawsuit are either running for re-election or running for other offices. Candidates for other offices have also spoken out against or in favor of the lawsuit. Find out if your state is a party to this lawsuit on either side [here](#).

Ask your candidate directly, “Do you support or oppose the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act?”



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