

TILLIS' CONSTANT ATTACKS ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PUT NORTH CAROLINA'S ACCESS TO COVID VACCINE AT RISK

The Affordable Care Act has vastly improved accessibility and affordability of critical vaccines for North Carolinians, both in terms of individual access and vital funding for health agencies necessary to distribute essential vaccines. If Senator Thom Tillis' ongoing efforts to repeal the ACA are successful, the cost of a future COVID vaccine could be out of reach for many North Carolinians, especially those struggling to make ends meet.

Provisions within the Affordable Care Act require health insurance companies to cover [essential vaccines](#), like a future COVID vaccine, without cost-sharing.

- Currently, health insurance companies must provide the vaccine [without charging](#) copays, coinsurance, or deductible requirements, making the vaccine much more affordable to any North Carolinian with health insurance.
- Without the protections in the ACA, even people who have managed to [keep their coverage](#) during the pandemic could incur costly bills from getting vaccinated for COVID. **Unless families meet their deductibles, they could be forced to pay the full cost of the vaccine out-of-pocket. As deductibles have [more than doubled](#) in the last ten years, this could be a considerable barrier to a vaccine for many families in North Carolina.**

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, [over 600,000](#) North Carolinians could risk losing their health insurance. This circumstance could force over half a million people to pay more for a COVID vaccine in North Carolina.

On a broader scale, a significant portion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vaccine programs comes from the Affordable Care Act. [The Prevention and Public Health Fund](#), created within the ACA, provides nearly 12 percent of the CDC's annual budget.

- ACA repeal would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, causing North Carolina to lose [nearly \\$86 million](#) over five years. This money provides states with funding for infectious disease control, including [vaccines](#).
- Without public health funding provided by the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ability to manage public health crises and provide vaccines would be at [serious risk](#).

Senator Thom Tillis has voted [eight times](#) to repeal the Affordable Care Act, putting access to lifesaving vaccines at risk each time.

- Tillis [most recently](#) voted against the Affordable Care Act earlier this month, after [212,000](#) North Carolinians had tested positive for COVID-19, and [over 3,500](#) had lost their lives.

Right now, Tillis is [rushing to confirm](#) Amy Coney Barrett, an outspoken advocate for invalidating the ACA, to a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court. One week after election, the Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments in a case that could [eliminate the ACA](#).

- Barrett [criticized Chief Justice John Roberts](#) for his decision to uphold Congress's authority to enact large portions of the ACA. According to Barrett, 'Roberts pushed the Affordable Care Act beyond its plausible meaning to save the statute.'"
- Barrett [criticized the Court's decision](#) in King v. Burwell, where the Court affirmed tax credits that nearly 6.4 million Americans rely on to pay for their health coverage.

The public health and safety of North Carolina is at serious risk because of Senator Tillis' constant attacks on the Affordable Care Act. Without the ACA's protections, many North Carolinians could lose their access to a lifesaving COVID vaccine when it becomes available. Tillis' failure to protect North Carolina during a devastating public health crisis is why he needs to be replaced in Washington this November.