

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JANUARY 5, 2011
Contact: Avram Goldstein 202-587-1634
agoldstein@healthcareforamericanow.org

HCAN Statement on Boehner's Pledge to Give Our Health Care Back to Insurance Companies

Here is a statement from Ethan Rome, executive director of [Health Care for America Now](http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org) (HCAN), on the opening of the 112th Congress and the new Republican majority's campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

“Today, the health insurance industry got what it paid for in the 2010 elections, a Republican majority determined to let the insurance companies off the hook and kill the new law's strong consumer protections, such as the ban on denying sick people care. This law is already making a real difference in the lives of millions of Americans by stopping health insurers from denying care, dropping people when they're sick and jacking up rates anytime they please. The Republicans have scheduled a fast-track repeal vote next week to satisfy their extremist Tea Party base and to pay back the health insurance companies that funded their election campaigns.

“At the same time Speaker Boehner railed sanctimoniously against ‘fast legislating’ and called for ‘allowing additional amendments and open debate,’ he was preparing to skip the usual legislative processes and rush the repeal vote. Boehner said he and his party were “humbled” by the American people, but it's hubris that's driving the Republicans' reckless effort to rush a vote to give our health care back to the insurance companies.

“What do the Republicans want to replace the new law with? Nothing. They're referring that question to House committees that will deliberate for months and play political football with our lives and health.

“Repeal means letting the insurance companies run roughshod over consumers, deny our care and raise our rates with impunity. When the Republicans vote for repeal on Jan. 12, they'll be telling seniors to pay back the \$250 donut hole checks they received to help buy prescription drugs. They'll be booting young adults off their parents' health plans. And they'll be taking away the American people's newly won freedom from the fear of bankruptcy caused by crushing medical bills. We're finally getting the insurance companies off our backs and the first thing the Republicans want to do is let them off the hook.”

Health Care for America Now today launched an [online petition](http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/page/signup/fightrepeal) (<http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/page/signup/fightrepeal>) to urge Republicans in Congress to end their all-out assault on the Affordable Care Act.

Health Care for America Now is a national grassrootscoalition of more than 1,000 organizations in 46 states representing 30 million people. HCAN led the fight over the past two years to win passage of healthreform and to keep Congress from being steamrolled by corporate special interests.