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ROCKEFELLER PROMISES TO OPPOSE HEALTH CARE REPEAL AND SAYS IT WOULD HURT WEST VIRGINIANS BY RESTRICTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

WASHINGTON – Senator Jay Rockefeller issued the following statement today after the House of Representatives voted to repeal *the Affordable Care Act*, the landmark 2010 health reform law:

“Instead of trying to fix our economy and create much-needed jobs, Republicans are rushing to strip important – and potentially life-saving – consumer protections away from every single American. I will never support that plan here in the Senate,” said Senator Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care and a longtime supporter of making health care more affordable for the middle class.

“According to a new analysis by the Department of Health and Human Services, 50 to 129 million people could be denied affordable coverage without health reform. Repeal would also take away from 32 million people the chance to finally obtain comprehensive, affordable health insurance – including 16 million fewer covered under Medicaid and CHIP.

“Furthermore, there is an undeniable link between health care and our economy, and the health care industry is a major employer in West Virginia. Over the last decade, the health care sector has continued to add jobs – and health reform makes even more investments in strengthening our workforce.

“There is no doubt that we must carefully monitor health care reform implementation, but wholesale repeal is just another way to say “no” to the American people. Once again, Republicans have voted to pull the rug out from under the American people and re-open the door to insurance company abuses, without a serious plan to replace the important consumer protections they are taking away. Repeal would leave people uninsured and then back at the emergency room door, and put them at the mercy of unaccountable health insurance companies that deny health care to sick people, drop coverage on a whim, and hike premiums on working families and businesses. West Virginia cannot afford to repeal health reform and that’s the bottom line.”

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