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**Statement by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka on
Republican Attempts to Repeal Health Care**

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The November elections sent a loud shock wave through Congress, as Americans called for elected officials to focus less on petty partisan bickering and more on jobs, jobs, jobs. Yet less than one month into the new Congress, Republicans are already sidetracked by old vendettas in a symbolic quest to “repeal” health care reform. The GOP knows this effort has no chance of succeeding. Yet despite its futility, Republicans are determined to rehash old fights and score points with their right-wing backers. They certainly aren’t offering any new ideas on how to address our national health care crisis, just vague promises about developing proposals in the future.

Meanwhile, 15 million Americans still can’t find a job and our economic recovery remains tenuous. And while Americans are just beginning to enjoy the benefits of the new health care law, shortsighted lawmakers are threatening to snatch it away. Repeal of health care would mean 1.2 million young adults losing their coverage through their parents’ health plan. It would mean higher drug prices for 2.7 million seniors, eliminating free preventive services for 44 million seniors and discarding cost control measures. And it would mean a win for insurance companies who could go back to denying health care and spending premiums on larger CEO salaries and profits.

This is not the change Americans voted for. The Republicans in charge have an obligation to live up to their campaign rhetoric and actually take some concrete steps to create jobs instead of going for the red meat. A vote to repeal health care signals that they won’t let go of old grudges to do the work of the people.

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