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Media Contact: Kim Cavill 773-573-8710

Patrick Watson 630-947-4865, coalitionforbetteril6@gmail.com

Coalition for a Better IL 6th Hosts Die-In Rally For Health Care at Roskam's Barrington Office
Constituents express concerns over Congressman Roskam's vote for the American Health Care Act

Barrington--The Coalition for a Better IL 6th will host a Die-In rally from 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 13, at Congressman Peter Roskam's district office, 200 Hough St., Barrington. A Die-In rally is a form of nonviolent direct action protest where participants publicly bring light to healthcare issues by pretend to die while holding signs with their preexisting conditions.

Roskam's May 4 vote in favor of the American Health Care Act was a shameful display of partisan politics at its worst. Despite unprecedented outrage from constituents, House Republicans voted to strip health care from 874,000 Illinoisans, abandon Americans with pre-existing conditions, slash Medicaid, and raise health care costs for families while giving more than to \$600 billion in tax breaks to the very wealthy and big insurance and drug companies.

Experts estimate that in District 6 there are 322,200 individuals under the age of 64 with pre-existing conditions--about half of the under-65 population. Under the bill supported by Congressman Peter Roskam, these individuals can expect to be placed in a high-risk pool with much higher premiums and older adults between the ages of 50 and 64 can be charged five times more than younger persons for insurance coverage. Many will face premiums so high they will not be able to afford health-care coverage.

"This bill will also allow insurance companies to reinstate annual and lifetime caps on health care coverage, a practice that was banned under the ACA," said Sandra Alexander, Glen Ellyn. "This is a return to the days when individuals who faced a serious illness had to choose between medical treatment or bankruptcy."

Lea Grover, says "My husband was diagnosed with brain cancer almost ten years ago, before the Affordable Care Act. Even though he had coverage through his employer, the insurance company was allowed to deny him treatments for a host of reasons, and we were lucky not to go into bankruptcy. When the ACA came along, it saved us. Not because we had been buying our insurance on the open market, but because it created new laws about lifetime caps and preexisting condition clauses that hadn't existed." Congressman Roskam continually claims that

high-risk pools will provide coverage for people like Lea's husband, but he's not telling the truth. High-risk pools don't work, especially when they are as underfunded as those in the AHCA. Lea says, "Peter Roskam keeps claiming that everyone will have "access" to care by the terms of the AHCA, but that "access" only exists if you're able to pay the premium. To insure my husband in one of the proposed high-risk pools, our family will have to pay \$140,000 a year to have "access" to insurance. We're not rich people. We do not have hundreds of thousands to pay for his care. This bill says that only the rich should survive cancer, and it is morally reprehensible."

Peter Roskam refuses to listen to his constituents who have barraged his Washington and District offices with calls and emails. A recent poll conducted by Public Policy Polling found that 52 percent of District 6 constituents are opposed to the bill supported by Roskam, with only 36 percent in favor. He continues to cite examples of constituents who have been harmed by ACA, yet he refuses to hold town hall meetings, preferring tightly controlled telephone town halls and private meetings with small groups.

Holly Hootman, a member of the coalition and Action 6th District, says, "My son was born with a common birth defect in his heart. Every year he needs an Echocardiogram to check that the valve is not leaking to the point that it would need to be replaced. It is not a matter of "if" it will need to be replaced but when. If the AHCA becomes law and my husband loses his job for any reason, we could never afford out of pocket Pediatric Cardiac Surgery to replace our son's heart valve. Those of us who remember PRE-ACA remember sitting in waiting rooms during surgery not only worried about our loved ones but what will be denied and how will we pay."

Kim Cavill, Palatine, says, "During my freshman year of college, I was sexually assaulted at a fraternity party. I was an out-of-state student and had no regular doctor. I went to Planned Parenthood, where I got compassionate, respectful care at a price that I could afford on a student budget. Planned Parenthood was there for me when no one else was, and today, I am here for Planned Parenthood. Congressman Roskam says he is pro-life and voted to make it harder for millions of Americans, mostly low-income women to go to Planned Parenthood, yet affordable, accessible contraception care is the best way to reduce abortion rates. Congressman Roskam's vote is a disgrace."

The Roskam Healthcare Die-In Rally on Saturday, May 13th marks the Coalition For A Better Illinois 6th continued efforts to bring light to elected officials record and issues. The Coalition represents more than 25 grassroots organizations working in the 6th Congressional District of Illinois.

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