

For Immediate Release

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**Coalition for a Better IL 6<sup>th</sup> Calls Peter Roskam “Cowardly” after Vote to Repeal Consumer Protections of the Affordable Care Act and Gut Medicaid**

*Statement of 30 local groups on Roskam’s Vote*

Wheaton - The Coalition for a Better IL 6<sup>th</sup> issued the following statement after Republicans steamrolled legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the House of Representatives with no Democratic votes in favor. Representative Peter Roskam voted in favor of the bill.

“Rep. Peter Roskam’s cowardly and shameful vote insults 322,000 of his constituents with pre-existing conditions who face the prospect of higher health care costs and less coverage because of his action”, said Jessica Vealitzek, a leader of People Over Party, a 6th district-based grassroots organization with more than 2,000 members in Lake and McHenry Counties.

“Despite hearing from thousands of constituents opposed to the Republican AHCA plan, he has joined President Trump again to support the right-wing agenda by voting in favor of a severely flawed bill that will increase health care costs for older, sicker people, and take away coverage from the poor. This bill impacts thousands of his constituents,” , including small business owners - he claims to support,” Vealitzek continued.

Today’s vote is a shameful display of partisan politics at its worst. Despite unprecedented outrage from constituents, House Republicans voted to take health care away from 874,000 Illinoisans, abandon Americans with pre-existing conditions, slash Medicaid, and raise health care costs for all families to give over \$600 billion in tax breaks to the very wealthy and the big insurance and drug companies.

The Coalition represents more than 25 grassroots organizations working in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Illinois with more than 20,000 members.

The AHCA plan passed today:

- Effectively takes away access to affordable health care for hundreds of thousands of 322,000 6th District residents with pre-existing conditions,
- Dramatically raises premiums for older Americans who may be priced out of the market;
- Creates flawed, underfunded, and unsustainable high-risk pools which will be insufficient to support the requirements they are designed to counteract;
- Gives huge tax breaks to the very wealthy, drug and insurance corporations instead of funding Medicaid;
- Allows insurers to go back to putting annual and lifetime limits on coverage for people with employer plans;

By allowing states to obtain waivers from certain ACA regulations, it threatens the healthcare of millions by allowing employers to avoid essential services benefits such as maternity care, prescription drugs, mental health treatment and hospitalization and place limits on the amount of coverage.

A recent poll in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, conducted by the highly regarded Public Policy Polling showed that “52 percent of voters in the district oppose the GOP’s health care plan, compared to only 35 percent that support it.” Representative Roskam clearly voted against the interests of his constituents.

Roskam’s vote in favor of President Trump’s agenda comes as no surprise. According to FiveThirtyEight.Com, Roskam has supported Trump on 96% of Congressional votes this year.

**Activists from the Coalition for a Better IL 6<sup>th</sup> will continue their efforts to influence Rep. Roskam tonight at 4:45 pm, Arrowhead Golf Club 26W151 Butterfield Rd. Wheaton, in front of a fundraiser for Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti where Roskam is scheduled to speak.** The Coalition will also be holding an Activists’ Expo on Saturday, May 20 at the Unitarian Church in Naperville from 1:00-3:00pm to showcase the member groups and their efforts to bring change to the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

**Members of the Coalition for a Better IL 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Act-Connect-Engage (ACE) – Naperville  
Brown Bag Progressives  
Carol Stream Huddle – 6th Congressional District  
Citizen Action/Illinois – State of Illinois  
Downers Grove Progressive Women  
Friends Who March  
Indivisible DuPage  
Indivisible Hinsdale  
Indivisible Illinois  
Indivisible Naperville  
Northwest Suburbs Organizing for Action  
Our Voice – DuPage County  
People Over Party  
Resist the 6<sup>th</sup>  
West Indivisible Suburban Engagement (WISE)  
Women United for Social Change

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