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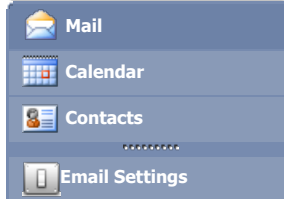


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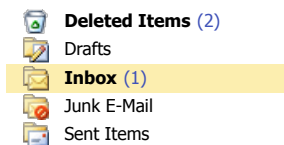
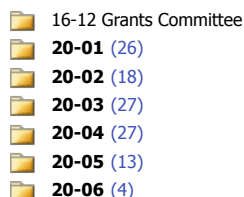
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## Rep. Adams Votes to Pass Patient Protection & Affordable Care Enhancement Act

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:18 PM

To: Steve Johnston


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## Rep. Adams Votes to Pass Patient Protection & Affordable Care Enhancement Act

*Bill reflects Rep. Adams' Maternal Health Advocacy: "Black Lives Matter in Healthcare"*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** took bold action to build on the Affordable Care Act to lower health costs and prescription drug prices for all Americans by joining House Democrats to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act. Today's vote comes days after the Trump Administration filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to strike down the entirety of the ACA.

"In the midst of a pandemic, affordable health care is more important than ever for North Carolina families. **That's why I voted to lower your insurance premiums today,**" said **Congresswoman Adams**. "House Democrats have been fighting tirelessly since day one to expand coverage for all Americans. As the co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, I've been working to end the maternal health crisis in our country. Today's passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act takes bold action to deliver the lower health costs and prescription drug prices that hard-working Americans need, while speaking loudly to say that **Black Lives Matter in Healthcare.**"

**The bill significantly increases the ACA's affordability subsidies** to be more generous and cover more middle-class families. For the first time, no person will have to pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for a benchmark silver plan in the ACA marketplaces, and many Americans will see their premiums cut in half or more:

- [A family of four earning \\$40,000 would save nearly \\$1,600 in premiums each year.](#)
- A 64-year-old earning \$57,420 would save more than \$8,700 in premiums each year.
- A single adult with income of \$31,900 would see premiums cut in half.
- An adult earning \$19,140 would see premiums cut to zero, saving

\$800 dollars a year.

**The bill negotiates for lower prescription drug prices,** delivering the power to negotiate lower drug prices so that Americans no longer have to pay more for our medicines than Big Pharma charges for the same drugs overseas. According to a new report from Patients for Affordable Drugs, from January to June, 245 drugs were subject to an average price increase of more than 20 percent. Of these drugs with price hikes by Big Pharma, more than 75 percent directly relate to the COVID-19 crisis, including 30 drugs that are currently in clinical trials for their effect against the virus.

**The bill expands coverage,** pressing Medicaid expansion hold-out states with new carrots and sticks to adopt coverage for the 4.8 million Americans cruelly excluded from coverage, while restoring the outreach and advertising funding that the Trump Administration has slashed to prevent Americans from learning about the affordable health coverage available to them under the ACA.

**The bill combats inequity in health coverage faced by communities of color,** expanding more affordable coverage to vulnerable populations and fighting the maternal mortality epidemic by requiring states to extend Medicaid or CHIP coverage to new mothers for a full year post-partum. Maternal Mortality rates in the United States are significantly higher than those in other developed countries, and Black birthing parents are 3-4 times more likely to die during childbirth than white mothers.

**The bill cracks down on junk plans & strengthens protections for people with pre-existing conditions,** reversing the Trump Administration's expansion of junk health insurance plans that do not provide coverage for essential medical treatments and drugs and that are allowed to discriminate against people with pre-existing medical conditions.

"I made a promise to lower the cost of health care for North Carolina families," continued **Congresswoman Adams**. "I am proud to join my colleagues to pass this critical legislation to fulfill that promise For The People. As we combat the COVID-19 crisis, I will continue to demand an end to the Administration's dangerous lawsuit to destroy the ACA and call on both of North Carolina's Republican Senators to join us to ensure all Americans have access to the quality, affordable care they need to stay healthy and safe."

A fact sheet on the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act is available [here](#).

**Congresswoman Alma Adams** represents North Carolina's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Charlotte) and serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, she serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Education & Labor Committee, where she serves as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. In 2019, she co-founded the **Black Maternal Health Caucus** with Rep. Lauren Underwood, and together they introduced the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020** in March.

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