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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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### Statement of Rep. Danny Davis, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives Hearing on "Impact of Obamacare on Doctors and Patients"

July 10, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing more precious than good health and it should not be a privilege afforded to just a few. I have never been more convinced that millions of Americans will live better, healthier lives. That is because of the Affordable Care Act. And now that the U.S. Supreme Court has held the law to be Constitutional, millions of Americans can know that health coverage is on the way.

I just wonder what the majority thinks it is doing. Today, the Republican leadership scheduled the House to begin debate on a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This will be the 31<sup>st</sup> time House Republicans have voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. And it will be the 31<sup>st</sup> time they will not repeal it.

Today's subcommittee hearing purports to examine the effects on doctors and patients. But for a serious discussion of the impact of mandated care on doctors and patients, we need to look no further than Massachusetts. Since 2006, Massachusetts under Governor Romney, mandated near universal coverage for its population. Curiously, the majority did not invite a single doctor or patient from Massachusetts to share their experiences.

In fact, the majority invited no patients at all. The sole patient representative invited today was chosen by the Democrats of the committee. The majority has only granted us one witness.

Why are there no physicians on the panel from the only state in the Union with mandated care? Perhaps because the majority knows that you do not hear complaints from physicians there. In fact, polls show that Massachusetts doctors in large numbers support the health care law. The New England Journal of Medicine published a poll recently conducted by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of over 2,000 doctors, and 88% believe the reforms improved or did not affect the quality of patient care in Massachusetts.

So, in order to complete the record today, I am supplementing the hearing record with actual testimonials from Massachusetts doctors.

Many Americans are already benefitting from the protections provided to patients in the ACA: 86 million Americans have free preventative care; 6.6 million college students remain on their parents' insurance policies; 105 million Americans have no lifetime coverage limits, and 16 million are no longer vulnerable to rescission of insurance coverage after a precipitating health event. For the doctors, the ACA provides grants to states to increase the healthcare workforce, there are incentives for primary care physicians, nurses, and health care practitioners and doctors are no longer saddled with debt from uninsured patients.

I want the American public to know that Massachusetts' doctors firmly believe the reforms were beneficial and necessary. The doctors' testimonies include discussions about the positive quality of life created for their patients by health reform.

I thank the witnesses today for their appearance. I yield the remainder of my time.