



AMAC Action Statement for the Record
The Affordable Care Act: 15 Years Later
Senate Committee on Finance
“The Rising Cost of Health Care: Considering Meaningful Solutions for all Americans”
Wednesday, November 19

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the ongoing performance of the Affordable Care Act. Many of its structural flaws continue to drive up costs for ordinary Americans. For years, the ACA has struggled to deliver on its central promise of affordability. Premiums and deductibles have risen steadily, leaving many families facing thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs before they can meaningfully use their coverage. As a result, people are still delaying or avoiding needed care not because they lack insurance, but because the insurance they have remains too expensive to use.

Premium increases in the marketplace have become a recurring problem. Insurers are now seeking some of the largest rate hikes in years, with proposals that climb well into the double digits. This pressure is made worse by the fact that affordability relies heavily on federal subsidies. When those subsidies are reduced or expire, consumers are exposed to the full underlying price of ACA plans and those prices continue to climb. This dependency underscores a fundamental weakness: rather than lowering the real cost of healthcare, the system masks rising prices with taxpayer-funded assistance, leaving households vulnerable to policy changes in Washington.

Another continuing concern is the consolidation of hospitals and insurers, a trend not only left unaddressed by the ACA but worsened by the incentives within the system. As providers merge and grow larger, they gain increased market power to demand higher reimbursement rates. Those higher costs are passed directly to consumers in the form of rising premiums and medical bills. At the same time, the complexity and administrative burden of the ACA's regulatory framework add layers of cost that ultimately do not improve care but do contribute to higher overall spending.

Recent regulatory changes have also increased the financial exposure for enrollees by raising allowable deductibles, copays, and coinsurance levels. These adjustments shift more cost onto families and individuals who were already struggling with affordability, and they risk pushing people out of the marketplace altogether. If enrollment declines, the risk pool becomes more unstable, which in turn drives premiums even higher, in a cycle that has repeated several times since the law's implementation.

Finally, persistent instability in the ACA marketplaces continues to concern consumers and insurers alike. Sudden policy shifts, insurer exits, and uncertainty surrounding federal support have undermined long-term stability. When insurers pull out of regions or scale back participation, competition drops and premiums rise. Many of these problems stem from the ACA's foundational design, which attempted to

regulate the insurance market heavily without addressing the underlying drivers of high healthcare prices.

These ongoing issues reflect a system that has layered complexity and cost onto an already strained healthcare market. While the ACA expanded coverage, it has not delivered lasting affordability, and many of its policy choices have contributed to rising premiums, higher out-of-pocket costs, and continued instability. Thoughtful reforms are needed to address these structural weaknesses and move toward a healthcare system that is less expensive, more transparent, and more responsive to consumer needs.

AMAC Action strongly opposed the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and now 15 years later, many of our concerns at the time have become reality. Congress should move swiftly to get our country off the path to fully socialized medicine by enacting market reforms that increase competition in the marketplace and drive down prices for our members across the country.

Comments submitted by Andy Mangione, Senior Vice President, AMAC Action.

AMAC Action is the advocacy affiliate of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), with over 2 million members nationwide. www.AmacAction.org