

**The MceZ Core Principle for August is INTEGRITY!**

Open Letter

August 30, 2017

Subject: Thirteen White Male Republican Senators and the Secret Health Care Bill they are afraid to share with the American people.

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your detailed and informative response of August 29, 2017, to my letter of June 17, 2017, attached below. It's heartening to know that you stand ready to address the many challenges facing Congress in the upcoming months including improving the health care system. I look forward to contacting you in the future. Thank you, again.

Best regards,

Eunice Beck

[Policy and Disclaimer Statement](#)

[www.MceZ.org](http://www.MceZ.org)

August 29, 2017

Dear Mrs. Beck,

Thank you for contacting me and sharing your opposition to recent attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Like you, I believe we should focus on making health insurance more accessible and affordable for all West Virginians. Unfortunately, none of the Republican proposals considered in the House or Senate would have done this; in fact, they would have done the opposite – leaving tens of thousands of our neighbors without insurance and raising premiums for so many others. I simply could not support that approach. We were sent here to improve the lives of those we represent, and I am hopeful that we will seize this opportunity to put aside politics and work together to fix what is wrong with our country's healthcare system.

As you know, earlier this year the United States House of Representatives passed a healthcare bill after only one legislative hearing, without knowing how much the proposal would cost the American people, without knowing how many people would lose their insurance coverage, and without any feedback from Democrats in the House. We now know that this bill would deliver \$661 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while cutting critically important healthcare services for the poorest among us. This is unacceptable, plain and simple. It is contrary to everything I was taught growing up in West Virginia. And now we also know that the Congressional Budget Office estimates the House bill would have resulted in 14 million people losing healthcare coverage next year, cut \$834 billion from Medicaid, significantly reduced the critical subsidies that tens of thousands of West Virginians count on, and reduce healthcare access for thousands more. This was a bad bill for West Virginia, and it was made worse because in the rush to pass it, House Leadership skipped the hard work of writing our laws and put politics ahead of people.

Recognizing the devastating impacts of the House passed AHCA, Senate Republicans introduced a new proposal to repeal the ACA, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). Unfortunately, this bill would have been just as devastating for the people of West Virginia as the AHCA. According to the CBO, BCRA would have left 22 million people without insurance, including 218,000 West Virginians, and it would have cut \$772 billion from Medicaid. Realizing that BCRA was just as bad as the House bill, nine Republican Senators joined the Democrats to vote this bill down 43-57.

After failing to pass the BCRA, Majority Leader McConnell scheduled a vote on a bill to repeal the ACA without a replacement: an option even worse than the previous two bills. This bill would have caused 32 million people to lose their health insurance and cut \$842 billion from Medicaid in order to fund \$613 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy. Ultimately, seven Republicans joined the entire Democratic caucus to oppose the bill on a vote of 45-55.

Finally, just hours before the final vote, in a last ditch effort, Majority Leader McConnell unveiled a bill dubbed "skinny repeal" which would have stripped healthcare away from 16 million people. This "skinny repeal" would also have caused a 20% increase in premiums every year between 2018 and 2026. In 2018, that would have meant an average premium increase of \$1844 for West Virginians and an increase of \$2627 for older West Virginians. After only 2 hours of debate on this bill, it failed by a vote of 49-51. Three Republicans – Senator Collins (R-ME), Senator Murkowski (R-AK), and Senator McCain (R-AZ) – joined the entire Democratic Caucus in voting against "skinny repeal." All of these proposals failed for the same reason – they simply didn't make healthcare more accessible or affordable.

Even though these bills failed to advance in the Senate, the fight is not yet over. We cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater and go back to a time before the ACA when West Virginia families were one illness away from bankruptcy. While there are many good things in the ACA, major improvements are still needed to ensure the future stability of the market. I truly believe that if we come together as both Republicans and Democrats that there is a path to repairing this law through common sense bipartisan changes.

We must act immediately to stabilize the markets, including making the required cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments and work to increase flexibility and provide more options for people buying insurance in the individual market. It is also very important maintain protections for individuals that have pre-existing conditions and help reduce costs by implementing programs to help address the risk, including reinsurance programs. Additionally, there are ways that we can more efficiently administer federal dollars, particularly for individuals who gained coverage through the Medicaid expansion. While we took an important first step by getting them coverage, we need to do more to educate them and teach them how to use their health insurance effectively. By promoting health literacy, preventive screening, and regular primary care check-ups, we can decrease the number of individuals who utilize emergency departments for non-emergent care. These simple changes could save money while helping people live healthier lives.

Let me be clear, the only way to fix what is wrong with the Affordable Care Act is to work together in a bipartisan way to improve the system for all Americans. Throughout my time in the United States Senate, I have worked in a bipartisan manner to develop common sense solutions. The current healthcare debate in Congress is anything but bipartisan or common sense. Republicans and Democrats must put partisan politics aside and come together to find a pathway forward that does not include ripping healthcare coverage away from Americans, including the seniors and low-income families who need our help the most. I remain committed to working with all of my colleagues to ensure all West Virginians and Americans have accessible and affordable healthcare.

Again, thank you for taking the time to add your voice to this important discussion. If I may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Manchin III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

[On July 6, 2017](#), Walter Schaub, Director of the Office of Governmental Ethics, submitted his letter of resignation to President Trump stating that public service employees are required to put public trust and loyalty to the Constitution and ethical principles above private gain. It is [reported by npr](#) that during the six months between October 2008 and March 2009, as the Obama presidency was taking shape, it got 733 public contacts, such as calls, letters and emails. During the October 2016 to March 2017 period in the Trump era, it was swamped with 39,105 contacts — an increase of 5,235 percent between October, 2008.

Media reporting: On Thursday, June 22, the Tax Cut bill for the rich was finally revealed. 850 billion dollars will be cut from Medicaid transferring trillions of dollars from seniors, children, the poor, the disabled, the working class and the middle class to the 400 wealthiest families in the US. **ADAPT** protesters consisting of 41 Citizens with disabilities, staged a sit-in in front of Senator Mitch McConnell's office to confront power with the truth that quality, affordable Healthcare is not just for the privileged. We live in a democracy that is diverse in every way. Let's follow their lead: Stand for Freedom. Stand for Justice. Stand for Equality. Stand for the right of EVERY citizen to have quality, affordable healthcare. The survival of our country is based on these values. Also reported, Donald Trump has doubled his income to 191 million dollars on the backs of tax paying citizens, business conflicts of interests and Emoluments.

### **The MceZ Core Principle for August is INTEGRITY!**

Open Letter

**Third Sending:** August 12, 2017

Dear Senator Manchin:

As this is my third sending, this document will be published in Mcezupedia at mcez.org. If you care to respond to my letter at a later date, please do so and it will be added to the published document. As you already know, this is too important to be a partisan bill. A well written healthcare bill requires a minimum of one year of public hearings and debate including discussion of a single-payer national healthcare system, Committee review and multi-partisan input. I look forward to hearing from you and contacting you in the future.

### **MceZ Core Principle for July is INNOVATION!**

**SECOND SENDING:** July 23, 2017

### **The MceZ Core Principle for June is FREEDOM!**

Open Letter

June 17, 2017

Subject: Thirteen White Male Republican Senators and the Secret Health Care Bill they are afraid to share with the American people.

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your service.

The headlines are screaming about the secret GOP Health Care Bill that 13 White Male Republican Senators have written in private because Republican Senators are afraid of backlash from a diverse population who will have to live with or barely survive the consequences. The attitude appears to be “We the People” being viewed as “You the Enemy” rather than as taxpaying citizens concerned for their and their family's well-being, for whom these senators work and from whom they receive their salaries. The Senators working on the Senate health care bill are: McConnell (**Kentucky**), Hatch (**Utah**), Alexander (**Tennessee**), Enzi (**Wyoming**), Thune (**South Dakota**), Cruz (**Texas**), Lee (**Utah**), Cotton (**Arizona**), Gardner (**Colorado**), Barrasso (**Wyoming**), Cornyn (**Texas**) and Portman (**Ohio**). .

This behavior could be considered as arrogant, cowardly, undemocratic and unethical.

My question to you as a Democratic Senator is: With what in the above paragraph do you disagree as you contemplate voting “yes” or “no” for this secret health care bill?

I look forward to hearing from you soon. I will contact you again if I have not received a response. Thank you.

Best regards,

Eunice Beck

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