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Action Together New Jersey Condemns Passage of GOP Healthcare Bill and Warns YES Voters Frelinghuysen and MacArthur

The fastest growing, progressive, grassroots group in the Garden State, Action Together New Jersey (ATNJ,) condemns the passage of the Trump administration's Healthcare Bill, the American Health Care Act (AHCA,) and warns GOP members in the House of Representatives that voted YES on the bill that they will be reprimanded at the ballot box in 2018.

Trenton, NJ – May 4, 2017- In Washington, DC today, Republican members of the House of Representatives celebrated as the American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed narrowly (217-213.) Twenty Republicans opposed the bill while every Democrat in the House voted no. This legislation repeals and replaces the popular Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as Obamacare.)

The state of New Jersey has five Republican representatives in the House of Representatives including Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2,) Thomas MacArthur (NJ-3,) Christopher Smith (NJ-4,) Leonard Lance (NJ-7,) and Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-11.) MacArthur and Frelinghuysen were the only two of the five GOP members of the House from New Jersey to support the AHCA. New Jerseyans expected MacArthur to support the bill because he is credited with drafting the amendment which won over the conservative House Freedom Caucus. But, residents in NJ's congressional district 11 were unsure which way their representative, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, would vote.

Just this afternoon, concerned citizens rallied outside their representative's Morristown, NJ office in a last ditch effort to convince him to oppose the latest version of the AHCA. New Jersey residents were hopeful that he would vote no because he has been pressured by his constituents to protect the Affordable Care Act since late last year and he did oppose previous versions of the GOP bill. At the same time, the co-founder and executive director of Action Together New Jersey, Uyen "Winn" Khuong, and State Director, Saily Avelenda, met with Congressman Frelinghuysen's Legislative Director, Austin Bone, in Washington, DC this morning to urge their representative to vote according to the will of his constituents, not along party lines. Unfortunately, the Congressman, who is also Chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, voted in line with the Republican party leadership.

Action Together New Jersey is committed to fighting for affordable and accessible healthcare for all US residents. The founders, directors, and members of the grassroots group are outraged that the latest version of the American Health Care Act passed the House. And, they issue a warning to Representatives Frelinghuysen and MacArthur that their actions today will not be soon forgotten. These Congressmen will be up for reelection in 2018 and they should expect to hear dissent from their constituents on election day in the voting booth. Both of these Congressmen are considered “moderate” Republicans, however their voting records suggest otherwise. Action Together NJ and other progressive grassroots groups in the state such as NJ Working Families Alliance will make sure that NJ residents understand the voting records of their representatives prior to the 2018 election.

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ABOUT ACTION TOGETHER NEW JERSEY:

How We Began

The 2016 election inspired millions of Americans to fight for the progressive values that they believe in. Action Together New Jersey, part of the grassroots national network, Action Together Network (ATN), was formed as thousands of New Jersey residents banded together to help secure a more inclusive and progressive future for our state and our country.

Who We Are

We are a growing grassroots group from all over the Garden State. We share a passion for equal rights, for progressive ideals, and for building a brighter future for all Americans. We are your neighbors, your friends, and your coworkers. And while we don't always see eye to eye on every issue (just look at the pork roll/Taylor ham divide), we combine our talents, our smarts, and our scrappy, underdog mentality to make Jersey Strong—and our nation stronger.

A few of the causes we value and fight for include:

Racial Justice, Reproductive Rights, Environmental Concerns, Women's Rights, LGBTQ+ Rights, Common Sense Gun Laws, Immigration, Education, Healthcare, Social Services, Criminal Justice Reform, Electoral Reform, Finance and Economic Reform, smart Foreign Policy, Workers' Rights, Civil Rights Protection and Expansion, and Military and Veterans Issues.

What We Do

We fight for civil liberties, social justice, and environmental protection.

We advocate for equality and human rights for all people.

We protect those who face discrimination, disenfranchisement, and persecution.

We fight for legislation that helps the working class, and supports equal pay and a living wage for all workers.

We support and collaborate with existing advocacy groups who share our beliefs.
We will fight to elect progressive leaders who share our values.
And we will fight against elected officials who don't.

To accomplish these goals, we look for ways to organize and take action, through working with (or against) our representatives, organizing rallies and boycotts, sponsoring social justice projects, and collaborating with other advocacy groups we believe in to help bring about the change we want to see.

Mission Statement

We're a growing grassroots group of like-minded individuals in the Garden State who have banded together to support progressive values and ideals, advocate for equality and human rights, and help elect leaders who share our views.

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