

# POLITICAL SHIFTS IMPACTING ACA

## Trump, Ryan, Price

President-elect Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Representative Tom Price, MD each have health insurance approaches that will present challenges to the IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health services (I/T/U) system. Each is invested in their campaign promise to “repeal the ACA,” but as they transition to “replace” the ACA, they are likely to make an effort to limit their apparent negative impact on the availability and affordability of health insurance, insofar as it could be blamed on Republicans. This can mean that Congress will act early to repeal, but the effective date would not be until 2018, by which time the replacement bill would be enacted by Congress.

A full repeal of the ACA will remain difficult as Republicans hold fewer than the 60 seats needed to stop a filibuster, but Republicans could use the budget reconciliation process to make substantial changes to the ACA. Based on the analysis by Doneg McDonough of Health System Analytics on the [Affordable Care Act and IHCA in 2017](#), the following SWOT table analyzes Trump, Ryan, and Price’s approaches to replacing the ACA:

Strengths	Weaknesses
None of the repeal and replacement plans acknowledge the Indian Health Care Reauthorization and Extension Act (IHCREA), which permanently reauthorizes the IHCA and makes permanent the urban Indian health program. Because a full repeal of the ACA is not likely to occur, the IHCREA provisions are likely to continue.	<p>None of the plans include the continuation of ACA’s Indian-specific Marketplace benefits and protections.</p> <p>Each plan will replace the ACA’s income-based tax credits with a federal income tax deduction for the cost of the coverage. Trump would adjust the deductions based on income, Ryan and Price would use an age-adjusted approach.</p> <p>Ryan and Price’s plans cap the amount of tax exclusion employers can take for employer sponsored health insurance.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
As far as the administration does not dismantel the ACA in 2017, tribal sponsorship continues to offer opportunities for tribes to secure health care resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives.	<p>The most immediate threat to the I/T/U will be cuts to appropriations.</p> <p>Each plan aims to implement a state Medicaid Block Grant system, which would likely lower the amount of funding overall, shift the burden of cost to states, and result in reduced eligibility and provider payments.</p> <p>Trump and Ryan plan to remove new Medicaid funding under the ACA’s Medicaid expansion prior to implementing the block grant system.</p>



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