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Coalition of Cities Led by Columbus Amends Lawsuit in Fight Against Trump's Unlawful Sabotage of the Affordable Care Act

City of Philadelphia also joins lawsuit as millions of Americans have lost insurance coverage, suffered double digit increases in health premiums due to Trump's lawbreaking

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the sixth largest city in the country, joined Columbus' coalition of individuals and cities representing nearly six million Americans in their [suit](#) against the Trump Administration's intentional and unlawful sabotage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The coalition, represented by the Democracy Forward Foundation, amended their complaint to detail President Trump's most recent deliberate and systematic attacks on the healthcare law, which have driven premiums up and pushed Americans off of quality insurance plans. Trump's intentional sabotage of the ACA violates his constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

"Since we first filed our lawsuit against the Trump Administration for their premeditated and intentional destruction of the Affordable Care Act, the resulting damage has only gotten worse," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **"More of our fellow Americans are uninsured and millions are facing higher and higher premiums, all in the matter of months. These dire circumstances underscore how important our fight is and we welcome the City of Philadelphia in challenging these unlawful acts in court."**

Trump's most recent efforts to sabotage the ACA include additional cuts to outreach and advertising funding and attempts to undermine the exchanges by pushing non-ACA compliant junk plans. The Trump Administration's intentional and unlawful acts since the suit's initial filing five months ago have made quality health insurance more expensive and less accessible. Impacts as shown by statistics include:

- The number of uninsured Americans is going up. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the number of uninsured Americans under age 65 rose from 27 million in a [2016 study](#) to 29 million in a [2018 study](#). A recent [Gallup poll](#) shows that the uninsured rate is currently at a four-year high;
- Premiums are higher than they would be without President Trump's sabotage. From 2017 to 2018, premiums increased by [37%](#) for a benchmark plan under the ACA. Studies

[estimate](#) that nationwide, the average unsubsidized annual insurance premium in 2019 is between [\\$580 and \\$970](#) higher than it would be otherwise; and

- Americans have fewer insurers to choose from. The average number of insurers per state fell from 5.6 in 2016 to 4.0 in 2019.

“President Trump has explicitly and repeatedly declared that he wants to destroy the Affordable Care Act,” said Democracy Forward Executive Director Anne Harkavy. “His actions have not only hurt the American people by driving up the cost of insurance and making it harder for Americans to obtain quality healthcare, they also violate his constitutional duty to enforce the law.”

“The President has blatantly ignored his constitutional obligation to uphold the law – in this case, the Affordable Care Act,” said Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney. “Philadelphia is proud to join with other cities and individuals who are asking the Court to protect the ACA . We need to thwart these shameful efforts to sabotage health care coverage for millions of Americans.”

The suit challenges the Administration’s attempts to sabotage the ACA under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Take Care Clause of the Constitution. The Plaintiffs ask that the court order the President and his Administration to take certain steps to faithfully execute the law, including restoring funding for advertising and for Navigator groups, expanding open enrollment periods, and promoting the availability of comprehensive, reasonably-priced health insurance for individuals and families with preexisting conditions.

The cities of Columbus, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and Chicago, and residents of Charlottesville, VA originally filed [suit](#) on August 2, 2018 in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. On December 24, 2018, the Trump Administration [moved to dismiss](#) their case, defending its illegal sabotage of the ACA and ignoring the clear evidence that its sabotage has made premiums higher than they would be otherwise. Earlier in 2018, the Trump Administration refused to defend the ACA in ongoing litigation in [Texas](#).

Read the amended complaint [here](#).

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