

Ronchetti Supported Getting Rid Of The ACA, But Does Not Have A Plan To Replace It

Ronchetti Wanted To Replace Obamacare...

Ronchetti Claimed That “We Need To Replace Obamacare.” “I’m on Obamacare right now because when I left my job, I had to do it. And I’ll tell you what, you pay sky high insurance premiums and you have incredibly high deductibles here. But what hurts us most in these situations is that through Obamacare it is so tight the way the money has to be used, it isn’t used correctly especially in this state. There are states that have tried to get out of some of these restrictions. And in fact the Trump administration has given individual states more flexibility to adjust as they need to here. So we need to replace Obamacare. But beyond that we also have to do here is give people more influence over the money that is spent on their behalf. There’s no reason Medicare, Medicaid or our jobs should determine where our dollars go, we should determine that with individual private plans.” [Vimeo, KSVP TV, 59:25-1:02:05, [5/19/20](#)]

...But Offered No Viable Replacement

Ronchetti’s Campaign Website Offered Generic Talking Points, But No Viable Plan For Health Care

During The Primary, Ronchetti’s Campaign Website Offered Generic Talking Points, But No Viable Plan For Health Care – It Simply Claimed That “Increasing And Improving Access To Healthcare Is Possible By Supporting Policies That Lower Costs While Protecting Quality And Choice.” “Mark supports protecting coverage for those who have pre-existing conditions and making sure they have the care they need. Increasing and improving access to healthcare is possible by supporting policies that lower costs while protecting quality and choice. Every American should be able to pick the healthcare plan that they want, not one the government picks for them.” [MarkRonchetti.com, Issues, accessed [6/3/20](#)]

Despite Ronchetti’s Claims That He Supported Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions Protections, He Wanted To Eliminate The Law That Is Providing Such Protections

The ACA Provides Those With Pre-Existing Conditions “Crucial Protections” & Ensures They Can No Longer Denied Coverage For Being Sick

Washington Post: “Before The Affordable Care Act, Insurance Companies Could Consider A Person’s Health Status When Determining Premiums, Sometimes Making Coverage Unaffordable Or Even

Unavailable If A Person Was Already Sick. “Before the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies could consider a person’s health status when determining premiums, sometimes making coverage unaffordable or even unavailable if a person was already sick with a problem that required expensive treatment.” [The Washington Post, [6/29/20](#)]

The ACA Provided “Crucial Protections” For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions, Including Prohibiting Insurers From Denying Coverage Of Charging More Based On Health Status, Prohibiting Annual Or Lifetime Limits On Coverage, And Requiring Plans To Cover Essential Health Benefits. “The ACA put in place crucial protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. It prohibits insurers from denying coverage or charging higher premiums based on health status, prohibits annual and lifetime limits on coverage, and requires plans to cover essential health benefits such as prescription drugs, mental health care, and substance use treatment. The Trump Administration has sought various ways around the protections, but the new bill would reverse these actions: * It would reverse the Administration’s expansion of short-term health plans. These plans are exempt from the ACA’s protections. They can and do deny coverage or charge higher premiums based on health status, exclude key benefits, and impose annual limits. * It would reverse the Administration’s expansion of association health plans. These plans are also exempt from many ACA protections. That lets them structure benefits and premiums to attract healthier-than-average firms and individuals, increasing premiums for people with pre-existing conditions who continue to purchase ACA coverage in the individual or small group markets.* It would revoke Administration guidance encouraging states to seek waivers directly and indirectly undermining pre-existing conditions protections. * It would undo Administration changes that weaken standards for what individual market plans have to cover.”

[CBPP, [3/26/19](#)]

AP: Without the law, people who recovered from COVID-19 and tried to purchase an individual health insurance policy could be turned down...” “Without the law, people who recovered from COVID-19 and tried to purchase an individual health insurance policy could be turned down, charged higher premiums or have follow-up care excluded from coverage.” [Associated Press, [5/3/20](#)]

Ronchetti’s Claim to Protect Pre-existing Conditions, While Getting Rid of The ACA Is A Page Out Of Trump’s Dishonest Playbook - And Has Been Debunked By Fact-Checkers Repeatedly.

Trump, Like Ronchetti, Claimed He Supported Pre-Existing Condition Protections, Which The Washington Post Called A “Bottomless Pinocchio”

HEADLINE: “Bottomless Pinocchio: Trump’s Claim That He Will ‘Always’ Protect Those With Preexisting Conditions.” [Washington Post, [6/29/20](#)]

While Trump’s Administration Sought To Overturn The ACA In Court, Trump Claimed On Twitter, “I Will Always Protect People With Pre-Existing Conditions, Always, Always, Always!!!” “Now that the very expensive, unpopular and unfair Individual Mandate provision has been terminated by us, many States & the U.S. are asking the Supreme Court that Obamacare itself be terminated so that it can be replaced with a FAR BETTER AND MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVE..... Obamacare is a joke! Deductible is far too high and the overall cost is ridiculous. My Administration has gone out of its way to manage OC much better than previous, but it

is still no good. I will ALWAYS PROTECT PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS!!!’ — President Trump, in a pair of tweets, June 27, 2020.” [The Washington Post, [6/29/20](#)]

The Washington Post: “The Legal Brief Filed By The Justice Department Last Week Belies The President’s Claim. It Says Point Blank That The Entire Affordable Care Act — Including Its Coverage Guarantee For People With Preexisting Conditions — ‘Must Fall.’” “Key provisions of the health-care law prohibit insurers from denying coverage to people who are already sick, or who have ‘preexisting conditions.’ Trump has claimed nearly 100 times since he took office that he will ‘always protect people with preexisting conditions,’ but the legal brief filed by the Justice Department last week belies the president’s claim. It says point blank that the entire Affordable Care Act — including its coverage guarantee for people with preexisting conditions — ‘must fall.’” [The Washington Post, [6/29/20](#)]

CNBC: “President Donald Trump’s promise to protect pre-existing conditions coverage, perhaps the most popular Affordable Care Act provision, rings hollow. That’s because his administration is backing a lawsuit that would scrap it.” “President Donald Trump’s promise to protect pre-existing conditions coverage, perhaps the most popular Affordable Care Act provision, rings hollow. That’s because his administration is backing a lawsuit that would scrap it. As Republicans face midterm election pressure from an energized Democratic base over their efforts to repeal Obamacare, the president tweeted Thursday that ‘all Republicans support people with pre-existing conditions’ or ‘will after I speak to them’ if they do not already. He added that ‘I am in total support.’ His administration’s actions suggest otherwise. The Justice Department has declined to defend the health care law in court against a suit from 20 GOP-led states challenging Obamacare’s constitutionality. They argue the rest of the law does not hold up after Republicans rolled back its individual mandate provision last year. By doing so, the Trump administration tacitly supported the suit, which could roll back Obamacare’s coverage guarantees for people with pre-existing conditions if it succeeds.” [CNBC, [10/19/18](#)]

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While The Trump Administration Has Not Succeeded In Fully Repealing The ACA, It Has Sabotaged The Law, Including Provisions Protecting Those With Pre-Existing Conditions

The Trump Administration Sought Various Ways To Undermine The Pre-Existing Conditions In The ACA, Including By Expanding Short-Term And Association Health Plans, Which Are Exempt From ACA Protections. “The ACA put in place crucial protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. It prohibits insurers from denying coverage or charging higher premiums based on health status, prohibits annual and lifetime limits on coverage, and requires plans to cover essential health benefits such as prescription drugs, mental health care, and substance use treatment. The Trump Administration has sought various ways around the protections, but the new bill would reverse these actions: * It would reverse the Administration’s expansion of short-term health plans. These plans are exempt from the ACA’s protections. They can and do deny coverage or charge higher premiums based on health status, exclude key benefits, and impose annual limits. * It would reverse the Administration’s expansion of association health plans. These plans are also exempt from many ACA protections. That lets them structure benefits and premiums to attract healthier-than-average firms and individuals, increasing premiums for people with pre-existing conditions who continue to purchase ACA coverage in the individual or small group markets.* It would revoke Administration guidance encouraging states to seek waivers directly and indirectly undermining pre-existing conditions protections. * It would undo Administration changes that weaken standards for what individual market plans have to cover.” [CBPP, [3/26/19](#)]

The Trump Administration Weakened Standards For What Individual Market Plans Needed To Cover And Encouraged States To Seek Waivers That Would Undermine Pre-Existing Conditions Protections In The ACA. “The ACA put in place crucial protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. It prohibits insurers

from denying coverage or charging higher premiums based on health status, prohibits annual and lifetime limits on coverage, and requires plans to cover essential health benefits such as prescription drugs, mental health care, and substance use treatment. The Trump Administration has sought various ways around the protections, but the new bill would reverse these actions: * It would reverse the Administration's expansion of short-term health plans. These plans are exempt from the ACA's protections. They can and do deny coverage or charge higher premiums based on health status, exclude key benefits, and impose annual limits. * It would reverse the Administration's expansion of association health plans. These plans are also exempt from many ACA protections. That lets them structure benefits and premiums to attract healthier-than-average firms and individuals, increasing premiums for people with pre-existing conditions who continue to purchase ACA coverage in the individual or small group markets.* It would revoke Administration guidance encouraging states to seek waivers directly and indirectly undermining pre-existing conditions protections. * It would undo Administration changes that weaken standards for what individual market plans have to cover.” [CBPP, [3/26/19](#)]

Washington Post: The Trump Administration Issued New Rules Promoting “The Use Of Low-Quality, Short-Term Plans That Were Prohibited Under Obamacare,” Which “Typically Don’t Have The Same Protections For People With Existing Health Conditions, Allowing Insurance Companies To Deny Coverage Or Charge Higher Prices.” “The Trump administration also has issued new rules that promote the use of low-quality, short-term plans that were prohibited under Obamacare. These plans typically don’t have the same protections for people with existing health conditions, allowing insurance companies to deny coverage or charge higher prices. (A number of states, mainly Democratic-leaning, have acted to prohibit or limit these Trump plans.)” [The Washington Post, [6/29/20](#)]

Ronchetti Supported Efforts Of The Trump Administration To Sabotage The ACA, Which Has Included Undermining The Protections The Law Created For Those With Pre-Existing Conditions

Ronchetti Supported The Trump Administration After It Eliminated The “Restrictions” In The ACA, Claiming, “The Trump Administration Has Given Individual States More Flexibility To Adjust As They Need.” “I’m on Obamacare right now because when I left my job, I had to do it. And I’ll tell you what, you pay sky high insurance premiums and you have incredibly high deductibles here. But what hurts us most in these situations is that through Obamacare it is so tight the way the money has to be used, it isn’t used correctly especially in this state. There are states that have tried to get out of some of these restrictions. And in fact the Trump administration has given individual states more flexibility to adjust as they need to here. So we need to replace Obamacare. But beyond that we also have to do here is give people more influence over the money that is spent on their behalf. There’s no reason Medicare, Medicaid or our jobs should determine where our dollars go, we should determine that with individual private plans.” [Vimeo, KSVP TV, 59:25-1:02:05, [5/19/20](#)]

Ronchetti Is A Staunch Trump Supporter Who Stated He Supports Trump’s Agenda

Ronchetti’s Campaign Website Listed Support For Trump As His Top Issue. Ronchetti’s campaign website issue section lists support for President Trump as Ronchetti’s top issue, followed by ‘Jobs and the Economy.’

Issues

President Trump

Mark Ronchetti is a proud conservative who supports President Trump, because his policies are improving the lives of New Mexicans. As a result of those policies, unemployment rates are at historic lows, our military has been rebuilt which directly impacts New Mexico's bases and labs, and new oil and gas revenue has led to a massive state surplus. Most importantly, the Trump administration is sending federal resources to help tackle the crime epidemic in New Mexico. Unfortunately, our congressional delegation is so blinded by partisanship they refuse to work across the aisle, even when doing so would benefit New Mexicans.

Mark believes you should never hate your political opponents more than you love New Mexico. We must elect a U.S. Senator who will always put the people of New Mexico first.

[Mark Ronchetti for Senate, accessed [2/14/20](#)]

Ronchetti's Campaign Website Cited Trump's Policies As The Reason For Ronchetti's Support Of Trump.

"Mark Ronchetti is a proud conservative who supports President Trump, because his policies are improving the lives of New Mexicans." [Mark Ronchetti for Senate, accessed [2/14/20](#)]

Ronchetti Launched Facebook Ads Pledging His Support For Trump's Agenda. "I will support President Trump's agenda and fight for conservative values in D.C."



The screenshot shows a Facebook ad from the page of Mark Ronchetti for New Mexico. The ad is titled "About social issues, elections or politics". It features a profile picture of Mark Ronchetti and the text: "Mark Ronchetti Sponsored • Paid for by Mark Ronchetti for New Mexico". The main message reads: "YOU CAN VOTE TODAY! I am a principled conservative that wants our borders secure, crime low, and our economy booming. I will support President Trump's agenda and fight for conservative values in Washington DC. Click below to find a polling location!". Below the text is a large image of Mark Ronchetti smiling, with the text "VOTE MARK RONCHETTI FOR US SENATE" overlaid. At the bottom of the ad, there is a button labeled "FIND YOUR VOTING LOCATION". The ad is attributed to BERNCO.GOV and provides links to find a voting site and vote for Mark Ronchetti. It also includes financial information: "Amount spent (USD): <\$100" and "Potential Reach: 10K - 50K people".

[Facebook Ad Library, accessed [5/22/20](#)]

Ronchetti Launched A Facebook Ad Claiming He Will Stand With Trump. “If you want a political outsider that will represent your conservative [sic] and stand by President Trump, click below to find your voting site and vote ‘Mark Ronchetti’ for US Senate!”

The screenshot shows a Facebook ad from 'Mark Ronchetti' for the New Mexico Senate election. The ad is active and started running on May 22, 2020. It is sponsored by 'Mark Ronchetti for New Mexico'. The ad content includes a photo of Mark Ronchetti and text encouraging early voting: 'EARLY VOTING IS UNDERWAY! If you want a political outsider that will represent your conservative and stand by President Trump, click below to find your voting site and vote 'Mark Ronchetti' for US Senate!'. Below the photo, it says 'VOTE EARLY, ABSENTEE, OR IN PERSON ON JUNE 2ND' and 'VOTE MARK RONCHETTI FOR US SENATE'. At the bottom, there are links to 'BERNCO.GOV Find Your Voting Site' and 'Click Here to Find out Where to Vote for Mark Ronchetti'.

[Facebook Ad Library, accessed [5/22/20](#)]

If The ACA Were Repealed, New Mexico’s Uninsured Rate Would Skyrocket, Harming The 860,000 Residents With Pre-Existing Conditions, And The State Would Suffer Major Economic Harm

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Cause The Number Of People In New Mexico Without Insurance To Increase By 136 Percent & 266,000 People In The State To Lose Their Insurance

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Cause The Number Of People In New Mexico Without Insurance To Increase By 136 Percent. “Across the country, 29.8 million people would lose their health insurance if the Affordable Care Act were repealed—more than doubling the number of people without health insurance. And 1.2 million jobs would be lost—not just in health care but across the board. [...] New Mexico The number of people without insurance would jump by 136%. 266,000 people would lose their health insurance.” [Economic Policy Institute, accessed [7/8/20](#)]

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If The Affordable Care Act Is Repealed, Coverage For 860,000 New Mexicans With Pre-Existing Conditions Would Be Put In Jeopardy

Up To 862,000 People In New Mexico Have Pre-Existing Conditions, And Repealing The ACA Could Jeopardize Their Health Care. According to the Burrell Institute For Health Policy And Research, “The ACA prohibits insurers from denying someone coverage because he or she has a ‘pre-existing condition.’ Repeal of this provision is of serious concern for New Mexicans: Up to 862,000 people in New Mexico, including up to 122,000 children, have pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes. Without the protection of the pre-existing conditions clause, they will once again have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.” [Burrell Institute For Health Policy And Research, [2017](#)]

Repealing The ACA Would Have A “Devastating” Impact On The Economy – Total Employment In New Mexico Would Drop By 3.9 Percent And 31,853 Jobs Would Be Lost

Repealing The ACA Would Have A “Devastating” Impact On The Economy, With The Economic Policy Institute Finding That Total Employment In New Mexico Would Drop By 3.9 Percent And 31,853 Jobs Would Be Lost. “Losing health insurance would also be devastating for family finances and hurt the economy. By helping pick up the tab for individual insurance and expanding coverage on Medicaid, the ACA has helped millions of Americans afford their care. If this support were withdrawn, people would have less money to spend on other basic necessities like food and rent. Fewer dollars spent at grocery stores and other businesses means 1.2 million jobs would be lost. [...] New Mexico: Total employment in New Mexico would drop by 3.9%, 31,853 jobs in New Mexico would be lost. This would eliminate 38.6 out of every 1,000 jobs. New Mexico would lose \$2.3 billion in federal health care dollars.” [Economic Policy Institute, accessed [7/8/20](#)]

Economic Policy Institute: Repealing The ACA Would “This Would Eliminate 38.6 Out Of Every 1,000 Jobs” In New Mexico And The State “Would Lose \$2.3 Billion In Federal Health Care Dollars.” “Losing health insurance would also be devastating for family finances and hurt the economy. By helping pick up the tab for individual insurance and expanding coverage on Medicaid, the ACA has helped millions of Americans afford their care. If this support were withdrawn, people would have less money to spend on other basic necessities like food and rent. Fewer dollars spent at grocery stores and other businesses means 1.2 million jobs would be lost. [...] New Mexico: Total employment in New Mexico would drop by 3.9%, 31,853 jobs in New Mexico would be lost. This would eliminate 38.6 out of every 1,000 jobs New Mexico would lose \$2.3 billion in federal health care dollars.” [Economic Policy Institute, accessed [7/8/20](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Decreased The Likelihood That A Rural Hospital Would Close

The Medicaid Expansion Included In The ACA Substantially Lowered The Likelihood Of Rural Hospital Closure. “Comprehensive research in the journal Health Affairs was recently published looking at the effect of state Medicaid expansions on hospital closures. Focusing on especially rural hospitals, the authors conducted a comprehensive and sophisticated analysis, finding: ‘[T]he ACA’s Medicaid expansion was associated with improved hospital financial performance and substantially lower likelihoods of closure, especially in rural markets and counties with large numbers of uninsured adults before Medicaid expansion.’” [Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, [1/12/18](#)]