



A Union of Professionals

Healthcare Fact Sheet

The 2018 elections have taken on an urgency we haven't experienced in recent memory. This is truly a "which side are you on?" moment.

We have a president who ran as a populist but is governing as an elitist. Unions are under attack. Instead of bringing the country together, the Trump administration and its allies have spent more than a year undermining our democratic norms and pushing an agenda for the rich—from ripping healthcare away from millions to his new tax law that gives 83 percent of the benefits to the top 1 percent of earners.

But unions are built for these times; they were born out of tough times. Across the country, we have members who are showing up and joining the fight to protect public education and vital public services; to demand safe, gun-free schools; to make higher education affordable; to ensure affordable healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions; and to make our country welcoming to all nationalities. In fact, nearly 300 members have decided to run for office this year.

We have chosen to be educators, nurses and health professionals, and public service employees because we care for others—for our students, our patients and the public we serve.

Healthcare:

- Since the beginning of his campaign, President Trump has promised Americans he would repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- The AFT fought hard to defend the ACA. We will continue to prioritize guaranteed coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, despite efforts by the Trump administration and the Republican-led Congress to destroy this protection.
- Facts on this issue:
 - While the ACA is not perfect, under the ACA, people with pre-existing conditions knew their coverage couldn't be taken away, students knew they could stay on their parents' health plans until age 26, and more than 20 million people without health insurance—who could be one illness away from destitution, or worse—gained access to healthcare.
 - Since his election, Trump and the Republican-led Congress have consistently undermined the ACA. Their efforts are raising healthcare premiums, and their policies could strip millions of their healthcare. This will especially affect those with pre-existing conditions, who may lose their coverage as a result.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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- The AFT understands the crucial role healthcare workers play in the safety and health of our nation. We will continue to press for funding and policy that ensures safe workplaces and staffing levels for patients and healthcare professionals.

This election is a “which side are you on?” moment. Will you support candidates who will undermine the ACA, raise healthcare premiums and strip millions of their healthcare, or candidates who support covering people with pre-existing conditions and guaranteeing healthcare for more than 20 million Americans?