



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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## Columbus Sues Trump-Vance Administration to Protect Healthcare Access for Millions of Working People and Families

*City Attorney Zach Klein says latest attack on the Affordable Care Act would intentionally make insurance more expensive for less coverage, ultimately costing taxpayers when families can no longer afford coverage of their own*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the City filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Trump-Vance administration's latest attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act and make healthcare less accessible and more expensive for millions of Americans and their families who get their coverage through the Marketplace.

New rules proposed by the Trump-Vance administration would impose additional fees, weaken coverage standards, and set barriers to care that would make it harder for people to get and stay covered by insurance. As a result, the City argues more people will go without coverage and that uncompensated care costs—paid for by local taxpayer dollars—would skyrocket.

**“Paying more for less is always a bad deal, but that’s exactly what the president is proposing for healthcare coverage—a bad deal for working people, families, and cities that rely on the Affordable Care Act to decrease costs and increase accessibility. We’re standing up to these attacks and urge the Court to protect healthcare coverage for millions of Americans,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

The new regulatory rule adopted by the Trump-Vance administration's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would result in more than 2.2 million Americans losing their health coverage. These new standards, set to take effect in August, would increase premiums and out-of-pocket costs, destabilize the risk pool, reduce benefits, and allow insurers to refuse to enroll people over old medical debts as low as \$10, without notice.

In addition, the administration is proposing a junk fee for people who auto-enroll in zero-premium plans, even though they qualify for fully subsidized coverage, as well as cutting annual tax credits by hundreds of dollars per family. For a typical family of four, the rule is projected to increase the cost of coverage by \$714 per year, even if they keep the same plan.

Under the new rules, fewer people will have insurance coverage due to intentionally higher costs. As a result, these individuals would be forced to seek healthcare services at hospitals or their local health departments, which operate clinics and other facilities that treat all patients regardless of insurance status. This influx of patients without coverage seeking care at local health departments would leave cities on the hook to cover more costs out of pocket using taxpayer dollars.

Experts warn that this new rule would disproportionately harm low-income families, communities of color, and patients with chronic or serious medical needs—all while forcing cities and local health departments to make hard choices about how to cover these additional costs.

Joining Columbus in this lawsuit are the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, City of Chicago, Doctors for America, and the Main Street Alliance, with Democracy Forward set to represent the coalition.

*\*Editor's note: A copy of the lawsuit is attached.*

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