

Young adult health care faces woes

By Ron Gillette
The Clackamas Print

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to rescind health care for young adults through bill HR2, entitled "Repealing the Job Security and Health Care Law Act."

The House passed the bill on Jan. 19. If the Senate follows suit and the President signs the bill into law, as its name suggests it will repeal all of the provisions of health care reform commonly referred to as "Obamacare." Some of the changes to health care in the U.S. that were passed last March have yet to be affected, but one part of interest to those under age 26.

The Affordable Care Act provides health insurance coverage for those under age 26 by requiring insurance companies who cover their parents to include them. There is no requirement they be in school, that they live with their parents, continue to be a dependent for tax purposes, or remain single. There would likely be an increase in a parent's insurance cost.

Republican Eric Cantor of Virginia pushed for the repeal on his website, cantor.house.gov. Cantor stated, "I simply disagree with our counterparts on the other side of the aisle that excessive government regulation and sweeping mandates on individuals and businesses is the right way to go about effecting the reforms Americans want."

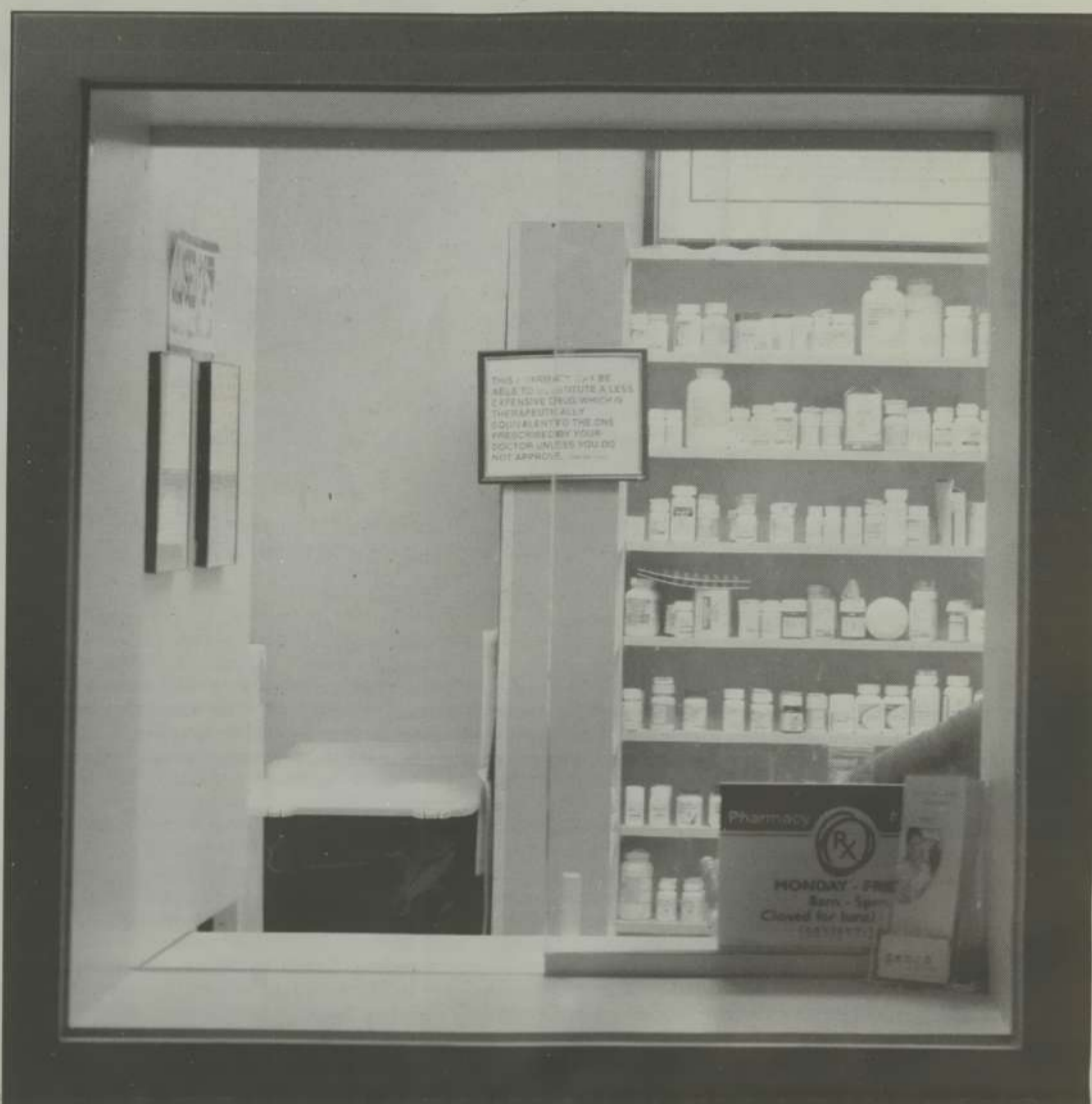
Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) from Oregon's 5th Congressional District remarked after the vote on

he opposed repealing the health care law because it would foolishly add more than a trillion dollars to our national debt while creating more uncertainty in the marketplace which we can ill afford," he stated in an e-mail. "I've said since day one there are some improvements that need to be made, but this bill unnecessarily punishes Oregon seniors, families, small businesses and especially young adults."

Thanks to the new health care law younger young adults, who are more likely to lack health care coverage, can now remain on their parents' health insurance until they turn 26. As a father of five I know it's a deal that is for young adults, and I will continue to fight to keep that opportunity available for my sons."

The enrollment period differs with each insurance plan depending on "plan year anniversary" periods. In general, enrollment of young adults would occur during a thirty day window prior to the policy anniversary after Sept. 23, 2010. Insurance companies are required to implement coverage early, as Regence Blue Cross of Oregon did. They implemented the plan without regard to plan year anniversaries on Oct. 1, 2010.

Christina Baker, a high school senior taking classes at Clackamas Community College, expressed surprise and concern that health care was under fire. She noted that the time you are in college and after graduation every time you can't afford any more expenses. The cost of finding housing and arranging transportation, and adding health insurance premiums is inappropriate.



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Drugs line the walls at the Clackamas Mental Health Clinic in Oregon City. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, access to health and mental health care might change for young adults.

Derrick Hayes, 20, a basketball player and AAOT student, summed up the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

"(It's) crazy. Why would you do that?" said Hayes.

Deputy Communication Director Courtney Warner Crowell of Senator Merkley's (D-Ore.) office struck a similar note.

"Senator Merkley has been a strong supporter of providing all Americans with quality, affordable health care while reducing our deficit and creating new health workforce jobs. That is what this law does and if it comes before the Senate again, he will continue to support it," Crowell stated in an e-mail.

Ernesto Zamora, a 19-year-old student, thought he might be eligible for health insurance on his parent's policy but had not looked into coverage. When asked what would happen if he got sick, he said "Right now, I'm not really sick."

If you would like more information on the Affordable Care Act, go to healthcare.gov.

Children of eligible military members were covered by provisions similar to the Affordable Care Act effective Jan. 1, 2011. The military insurance (TRICARE) is presently preparing policies and procedures to enroll eligible young adults. Additional information is available at tricare.mil/tya.

Two day film class Feb. 5-6

Have you ever wanted to know how to use a high definition camera like the ones professionals use? An opportunity is coming up for you then. On Feb. 5 and 6, Andy Mingo will be advising a 1 credit instructional course on the uses of digital/DSLR single-lens reflex cameras and the application of those skills. DMC-199 will be held Feb. 5 from 4-7:50 p.m. and Feb. 6 from 9 a.m.-3:50 p.m. and will be taught by local cinematographer Justin Alpern in room M125.

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