



## We urge Congress to:

- **Protect & Extend the Under-26 provision to allow students the possibility of staying on parents health insurance while pursuing their degrees.**
- **Support the continuation of support for pre-existing conditions, mental health, and to include dependent coverage**

## Facts about Health Care for Students

### Graduate-Professional Student Population

- Over 1.78 million students enrolled in graduate certification, master's and doctoral programs in US universities in 2015 [1].
- Health Insurance coverage used as recruitment by universities to attract students.
- Unambiguous policies for health insurance benefits and access of university-subsidized student health insurance policies needed.

### Individual Coverage

- Between 1 and 3 million individuals under the age of 26 signed up for healthcare coverage under the ACA [2].
- The Under-26 population brings down the health insurance costs for all by lowering the median age. Historically, 37% of people in the 19-25 category were uninsured [2].
- Changing the current provision from age to completion of final degree allows for reduction of people 26-34 without health insurance.

### Mental Health Coverage

- In 2011, UT Austin conducted a survey of 26 universities and found 46% of graduate students reported feeling more stress than they could handle [3].
- One third of college students have reported difficulty functioning due to depression, and more than half have experienced overwhelming anxiety in a 12-month period [4].
- 48.7% of students have entered counseling for mental health concerns [5].
- Analysis by Health Care Economics Project states that AHCA will reduce state payments 370 billion dollars over the next decade [6].

**47 %**

of graduate students at UC Berkeley had reported being depressed while 10% had reported contemplating committing suicide [7]

**1.78**

**million+**

graduate and professional students at universities across the country [1]



## References

**[1] Council of Graduate Schools (2016). Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 2005 to 2015.**

<http://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Graduate%20Enrollment%20%20Degrees%20Fall%202015%20Final.pdf>

**[2] Blumenthal, D., & Collins, S. R. (2014). Health Care Coverage under the Affordable Care Act - A Progress Report. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 371(3): 275-281.**

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/nejmhpr1405667>

**[3] Grad Resources, UT-Austin Sociology Department (2013). Stress and Relief for American Graduate Students.**

<http://gradresources.org/research/>

**[4] American College Health Association (2013). *National College Health Assessment*.**

[http://www.acha-ncha.org/docs/ACHA-NCHA-II\\_ReferenceGroup\\_ExecutiveSummary\\_Spring2013.pdf](http://www.acha-ncha.org/docs/ACHA-NCHA-II_ReferenceGroup_ExecutiveSummary_Spring2013.pdf)

**[5] Center for Collegiate Mental Health (2014). *2013 annual report of the American Center for Collegiate Mental Health*.**

[https://sites.psu.edu/ccmh/files/2014/05/2013\\_CCMH\\_Report1.pdf](https://sites.psu.edu/ccmh/files/2014/05/2013_CCMH_Report1.pdf)

**[6] American Psychological Association (2017). APA Voices Concerns With American Health Care Act.**

<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/03/health-care-act.aspx>

**[7] The Graduate Student Assembly, UC Berkley (2014). Graduate Student Happiness & Well-Being Report.**

[http://ga.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/wellbeingreport\\_2014.pdf](http://ga.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/wellbeingreport_2014.pdf)