

RESOLUTION F20-004: REASSURING YALE'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING ACA HEALTH POLICIES

Sponsors:

Julianne Rolf (Chemical and Environmental Engineering Representative)
Breeanna Elliott (History Representative, Facilities and Healthcare Committee Chair)
Nicolle Rosa-Mercado (Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry Representative)
Anne Taylor (Sociology Representative)
Stephen Breazeale (Nursing Representative)

Recipients:

Peter Salovey, *President of Yale University*
Scott Strobel, *Provost of Yale University*
Lynn Cooley, *Dean of Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*
Paul Genecin, *Chief Executive Officer*
Jennifer W. McCarthy, *Chief Medical Officer*
Madeline Wilson, *Chief Quality Officer*
Nanci Fortgang, *Chief Clinical Operations Officer*
Peter Steere, *Chief Operating Officer*
Catherine Kelly, *Manager of Member Services*
Cynthia Smith, *Associate Provost from Health Affairs & Academic Integrity*

Whereas on November 10, 2020, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the future of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and will render their final opinion in spring 2021.

Whereas the ACA guarantees access to healthcare regardless of health status, limits insurers' ability to vary premiums based on age, and requires insurers to cover services and devices to treat individuals with injuries, disabilities, and/or chronic illnesses.¹

Whereas the ACA stopped insurers from charging women up to 1.5 times more than men for health insurances and treating pregnancy as a preexisting condition.²

Whereas the ACA mandates basic services for insurance plans, including coverage for maternity services, pregnancy prevention, prescription drugs, lab tests for diagnosing illnesses, mental and behavioral health care, emergency room services, and hospitalization.³

Whereas the ACA requires preventive and wellness visits to have no copays; this includes well-woman visits, domestic violence screenings, and support for breastfeeding equipment.

¹ Affordable Care Act. <https://www.healthcare.gov/where-can-i-read-the-affordable-care-act/>

² N. Rapfogel, E. Gee, and M. Calsyn. *10 Ways the ACA Has Improved Health Care in the Past Decade*. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2020/03/23/482012/10-ways-aca-improved-health-care-past-decade/>

³ <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/fact-sheet/summary-of-the-affordable-care-act/>

Whereas the ACA allows children up to the age of 26 to be included as beneficiaries on their parents' plans and ensures dental and vision care for pediatric beneficiaries.

Whereas the ACA eliminates annual and lifetime limits, significantly reducing bankruptcy filings.⁴

Whereas Yale provides Yale Health Basic Coverage services free of charge for all students as well as Hospitalization/Specialty Care Coverage for full-time PhD students.⁵

Be it resolved that the GSA urges the recipients to publicly acknowledge to the Yale community the critical importance of the healthcare coverage and protections provided by the ACA as well as the serious financial and medical challenges individuals, including graduate students, will face if such protections are not guaranteed by law.

Be it further resolved that Yale continue to provide Yale Health Basic Coverage for all students and provide Hospitalization/Specialty Care Coverage for all full-time Ph.D. students.

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) implores Yale University to guarantee healthcare benefits as specified in the ACA regardless of the Supreme Court's ruling.

⁴ K. Amadeo. *Benefits of Obamacare*.

<https://www.thebalance.com/benefits-of-obamacare-advantages-of-the-aca-3306066>

⁵ Graduate Student Assembly. *Yale Health*.

<https://gsa.yale.edu/compass/life-yale/health-and-wellness/yale-health>