

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

## **Health Care Policy Advocacy and the Episcopal Church**

*“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.” –Matthew 9:35  
NIV*

As Episcopalians, we believe that the Body of Christ cannot be whole until each member of the Body has access to the resources they need to achieve fullness of life. One of these crucial resources is access to timely, affordable health care.

At the Office of Government Relations, we develop bipartisan relationships with members of Congress, share the policy priorities of the Episcopal Church, and advocate for these policies to be included in health care legislation. We view our health care advocacy as a Church ministry and an opportunity to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel through supporting policies that promote healthy American families and communities, including:

- Affordable and accessible health care for communities in need
- Timely and affordable health care for veterans
- Care for women’s reproductive and maternal health
- Health care that supports infant and childhood health and development
- Medical care for persons with preexisting conditions
- Treatment for those affected by HIV and AIDS.
- Legislation that safeguards the Medicaid and Medicare programs

Currently, the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress is working to reform to the Affordable Care Act (also known as “Obamacare” or the “ACA”). While the Episcopal Church was instrumental in the passage of the ACA, we do not uphold this law as the single gold standard for health care policy –rather, this specific law included key principles that the Episcopal Church supports. As the winds of politics change, the Church remains committed to its core values, and we will continue advocating for the inclusion of these principles in forthcoming health care legislation.

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