

Patients Rising Supports:

H.R. 5608 The ACCESS Act

THE PROBLEM

In 2003, Congress created Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to make it easier for Americans to pay for qualified out-of-pocket medical expenses with tax-advantaged dollars. However, federal law effectively limits access to this powerful financial tool to just 10–20% of the American population.

Individuals who obtain health insurance through an Affordable Care Act exchange currently have no access to an HSA. Tax-free health savings accounts save money, reduce medical inflation, and give patients more choice and control. Expanding access to HSAs is key to reducing medical inflation and giving Americans more personalized options in health care.

THE SOLUTION

The ACCESS Act, H.R. 5608, creates a new health care access option for 5 million lower-income Americans by allowing them to receive an existing federal health insurance subsidy in the form of a government contribution to a tax-free Health Savings Account that they own and control. This new HSA Option will give millions of lower-income Americans more access to affordable health care and trusted doctors — at no additional cost to taxpayers. These less-advantaged Americans will enjoy the same kind of access, choice, and control that affluent families have always enjoyed. They will have a Personal Option.

- **MORE OPTIONS FOR PATIENTS:** Creates a new HSA option whereby eligible low-income individuals may receive a portion of their federal cost-sharing reduction (CSR) subsidy as a cash deposit to a personally owned and portable Health Savings Account.
- **EMPOWERS PATIENTS:** Empowers patients rather than insurance companies. CBO estimates this widely supported reform will reduce deficits by about \$30 billion over the first 10 years.
- **ACCESS:** HSA owners have more access to care, because they can use their account to pay for services and providers that their health plan does not cover.
- **TARGETED:** Available to taxpayers between 100% and 250% of poverty (\$14,580 a year for an individual, \$30,000 for a family of four) whenever they are enrolled in a health plan eligible for an Advance Premium Tax Credit.

Access Act Polling Stats

82% of Americans support the bill, with support strong across party lines

- 88% of Democrats
- 78% of Republicans
- 79% of Independents

THE SOLUTION *continued*

- **RESPONSIBLE:** Reduces wasteful spending by appropriating funds for the CSR program. CBO estimates this widely supported reform will reduce deficits by about \$30 billion over the first 10 years.
- **PEACE OF MIND:** For many HSA Option participants, the deposit amount will equal their health insurance deductible, effectively giving them full protection against unexpected medical bills.
- **SECURITY:** Unspent funds can be saved or invested to build a health care nest egg for the future. The HSA account is the participant's personal property and remains so after he or she leaves the rolls.
- **FRAUD-PROOF:** Requires individuals, while participating in the HSA Option, to use a special debit card for HSA purchases that can only be used for federally qualified medical expenses.
- **TAX-PAYER FRIENDLY:** Repurposes an existing subsidy rather than creating a new one.

ASK

Cosponsor the ACCESS Act introduced by Congressman Greg Steube (R-FL-17) and Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-3) and endorsed by Americans for Prosperity.

LET'S TALK

Terry Wilcox, Chief Mission Officer, Patients Rising
MacKay Jameson, Executive Director, Patients Rising
Democratic Lobbyist placeholder
Republican Lobbyist placeholder

Our Mission

Provide support, learning, and advocacy to people with chronic, rare or life-threatening disorders, or disabilities.

Our Core Values

- The doctor-patient relationship is the core of healthcare.
- Empowerment is possible through learning and self-determination.
- Every person should be treated with dignity.
- Those who cannot provide healing, should provide support.

Access Act Polling Stats *continued*

- 69% agree that the ACCESS Act gives lower-income Americans access to some of the same health care options better-off Americans enjoy.
- 68% like that the HSAs created by the ACCESS Act would allow account holders to pay for services that their health plan doesn't cover.
- 65% like how unspent funds in these HSAs can be saved or invested, allowing lower-income Americans to build a rainy-day fund for future health expenses.