

May 2017



## **Dr. Diane Rowland**

### **Executive Vice President of the Kaiser Family Foundation**

**Dr. Diane Rowland** is Executive Vice President of the Kaiser Family Foundation. Kaiser is the “go-to” organization for an objective analysis of health care proposals as they are floated.

Dr. Rowland is a nationally recognized health policy expert, having had a distinguished career in public policy and research focusing on health insurance coverage, access to care, and health financing for low-income, elderly, and disabled populations. She oversees the Foundation’s health policy analytic work on Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance, HIV and global health policy, women’s Health Policy, and disparities.

Dr. Rowland is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Rowland frequently testifies as an expert witness before the United States Congress on health policy issues.

### **Subject Area/Topic: Affordable Care Act (ACA - Obamacare) and the American Health Care Act (ACHA - the Republican alternatives).**

**Highlights:** Dr. Diane Rowland, Executive Vice President of the Kaiser Family Foundation, gave a thorough analysis of both the Affordable Care Act (ACA - Obamacare) and the proposed American Health Care Act (ACHA - the Republican alternatives).

Dr. Rowland noted that many aspects of Obamacare are very popular including the coverage of preexisting conditions, the extended coverage for children until age 26, the end of gender ratings, the addition of single non-disabled, non-elderly adults to Medicaid, and the availability of Medicaid based solely on income (not the family situation). Unpopular features of Obamacare include the requirements that all individuals have health insurance and all employers offer health insurance or pay a fine.

Republicans have emphasized these unpopular features and the cost of the program as the justification for their alternative proposals. Dr. Rowland predicted that the Republican proposals could save the Federal government billions of dollars a year. However, eventually, it would increase the number of uninsured to over 50 million, close to the number before Obamacare went into effect.

Dr. Rowland concluded by noting that Obamacare could use improvement in the following areas: addition of cost control mechanisms; improvement of subsidy & cost-sharing provisions; improvement of the stability of exchanges through risk adjustment & community rating; and reduction in high deductibles especially for those without cost sharing.