

BB 3**Election 2020: How the Affordable Care Act is taking center stage**

In deciding how to cast their votes on Election Day, Americans have to first answer one question - whether they want an administration that continues to build upon a key piece of health legislation, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or one that sees the entire removal of the health law as its end goal.

President Donald Trump, who has successfully branded himself as a fierce opponent to the ACA, has long worked to repeal the law. But his unrelenting hostility towards the health law, especially in the midst of a deadly pandemic, has drawn concerns that it may be hurting his reelection chances.

As the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the United States, tens of millions of Americans have lost their jobs and hence become uninsured, raising the stakes of catching a deadly disease without having the ability to pay for its treatment. What many of the unemployed can now count on is the inexpensive insurance options that were made possible by the ACA, popularly known as Obamacare.

The health law, which defined former President Barack Obama's domestic politics, aimed primarily to increase medical coverage for low-income and unemployed Americans. Through an expansion of the previous Medicaid programme, a federal program that provides free health care for the poor, the ACA helps a huge bulk of people who were not qualified for Medicaid but still couldn't afford insurance premiums to gain medical insurance.

As the fast-spreading disease raises the risk of people expecting costly medical bills, the ACA options have become an indispensable safety net for the newly unemployed. According to an estimate by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), 79 percent of 27 million people who have become jobless between March and May are eligible for the ACA coverage.