

# JANUARY 2014 PLAYBOOK

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE  
Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers

## Best Practice:

### Hold a Roundtable to Discuss Obamacare's Impact on Education (Courtesy of the Education & Workforce Committee)

- WHAT:** Host a roundtable event to discuss with education stakeholders how the president's health care law is affecting students, teachers, and school leaders.
- WHO:** Parents, teachers, superintendents, principals, school board members, higher education leaders, professors, and students.
- WHERE:** An auditorium, cafeteria, library, or classroom in a local school or college campus.
- WHY:** For almost four years, the nation has been grappling with the realities of President Obama's health care law. We are learning more each day about how the resulting increase in health care costs, decrease in full-time jobs, and loss of existing health coverage harms our families and workplaces. However, the repercussions of the health care law for the nation's education system have received less attention. A forum with education stakeholders offers an opportunity to examine the challenges ObamaCare has created for students, educators, and schools.

## KEY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- At a recent House Education and the Workforce Committee [hearing](#), a [witness testified](#) his school system is bracing for \$4.6 million in higher costs – potentially costing 58 teaching positions. Another [witness warned](#) his university might have to raise tuition by up to 20 percent. Are school administrators in your district facing similar budgetary challenges as a result of the health care law? If so, how do they plan to deal with the higher costs?
- [Press reports](#) continue to [highlight](#) the challenges imposed on the education community as a result of the health care law. [Students are losing their health plans](#). [Teachers](#), [adjunct faculty](#), and [support staff](#) are having their hours cut. Has your school had to make changes to employees' hours to comply with the law? Are teachers, adjunct professors, support staff, or student workers seeing their hours increased or decreased?
- At a time when schools are already struggling with tight budgets, increased health care costs could result in fewer educational opportunities for students. According to one [school administrator](#), "We cannot effectively sustain these significant health care expenses. This will cause us to cut staff, reduce programs, minimize current health care plans, cut employee hours, and consider outsourcing current services. It will be our students who lose out." Are schools and postsecondary institutions expanding educational services and programs for students or cutting them as a result of the health care law?
- To continue the discussion after the roundtable concludes, encourage education stakeholders to share their views on the health care law's consequences for the nation's education system by visiting [www.edworkforce.house.gov/YourStory](http://www.edworkforce.house.gov/YourStory) or emailing their thoughts to [TellYourStory@mail.house.gov](mailto:TellYourStory@mail.house.gov).

For assistance in planning your roundtable, contact the Education and the Workforce Committee press shop at x69440. To learn if a school district near you has reported concerns about the health care law, click [here](#).