

“Any attempt to repeal or defund this legislation is simply unfair to us, our daughters, our mothers and our granddaughters”¹

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today called repeal of the Affordable Care Act discriminatory as she defended the landmark legislation. Her comments on the floor of the House of Representatives came as the Republican-lead House continues day two of their futile attempt to strip rights away from women and benefits from seniors, families and small businesses.

A transcript of Slaughter’s remarks are included below and a video of her floor speech is available [here](#) .

Transcript of Slaughter’s Remarks on the House Floor

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak to you on behalf of the women of America, the millions of whom I will never meet, but are set to receive countless protections from the affordable care act by the time it is fully implemented in 2014. Health care reform is a major victory for women and any attempt to repeal or defund this legislation is simply unfair to us, our daughters, our mothers and our granddaughters.

The fact of the matter is that the Affordable Care Act ends the widespread discrimination that has existed and will come back against women in the health care system. It took us decades until we could pass this bill to make it illegal finally for insurance companies to charge women higher premiums and stop the egregious practice of charging them 48% more and to not cover domestic violence victims. Yes, that's right. In eight states the District of Columbia, insurance would not cover victims of domestic violence on the grounds that it might happen again. Equally as egregious, women were routinely denied health insurance if they had children. Pregnancy was considered a pre-existing condition as were C-sections. Both of those reprehensible practices were outlawed in the passage of the affordable health care.

Thanks to the new law, women do not have to worry any more about being treated as second class citizens or being discriminated against for being a woman. But that's not where the benefits end. When it's fully implemented, all maternity services will be included in health insurance plans. They will no longer be able to deny coverage or higher premiums with people who have had c-sections or pregnancy and I will thank you very much and put the rest in the record.