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On the One-Year Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act

PROVIDENCE, RI - Today marks the one-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010. In recognition of that occasion, Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair Ed Pacheco issued the following statement:

"One year ago today, President Obama signed the historic Affordable Care Act into law. In the 12 months since enacted, many new patient protections and benefits have already taken effect - insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions or take away individuals' health coverage when they need it most; all new health plans must offer free preventive care that will help Americans stay healthy; and young people can stay on their parents' insurance until age 26, while they look for a job or finish school. The Affordable Care Act has made a difference for people across the country, as it has for the life of Don Eddie in Burrillville, profiled last November in The Providence Journal. ([link to ProJo article](#))

"However, despite the clear benefits of this law for the people of RI, Republicans in Congress continue to challenge health care reform in Congress and in the courts. Repealing or even defunding the Affordable Care Act would put the many benefits of health reform at risk and add over a trillion dollars to the national deficit.

"It is critical that we continue to protect the Affordable Care Act and prevent Republicans from rolling back new health care benefits for Rhode Islanders. I applaud President Obama, our federal delegation and other Democrats in Congress for their leadership in making tough choices to improve America's health care system and I look forward to celebrating the passage of this historic law far into the future."