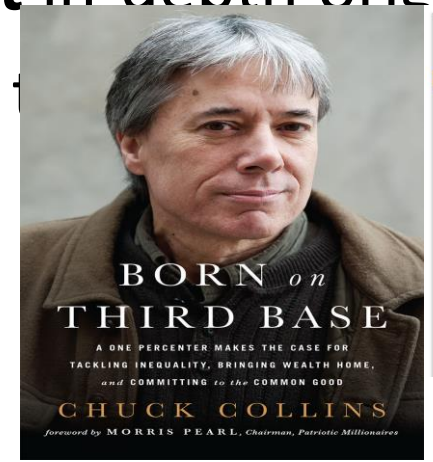
# Health Equity & the Rollback of U.S. Affordable Care Act

Chuck Collins
Institute for Policy Studies
Program on Inequality & Inequality.org

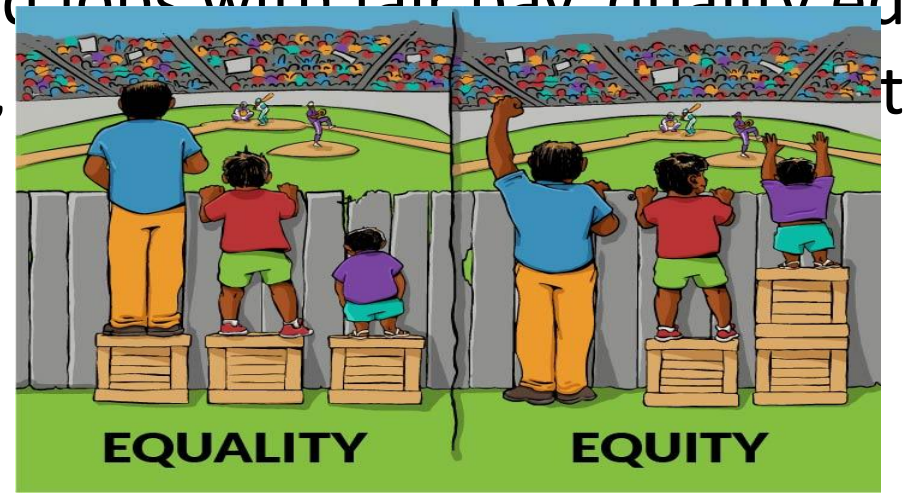
# Institute for Policy Studies Program on Inequality

- **Partner** with grassroots and policy organizations
- **Publicize** research and analysis: *Inequality.org*
- **Elevate** stories of activists
- **Conduct** in-depth original research
- **Disrupt** t ıality



# Health Equity: A Definition

Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, th care.



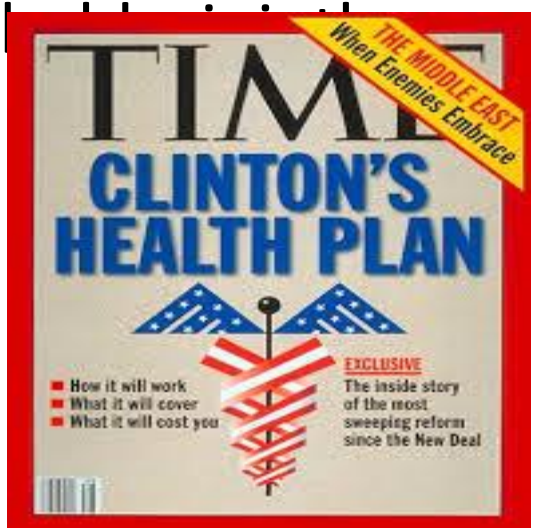
# Measuring Health Equity

reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities in health and its determinants that adversely affect excluded or marginalized groups.

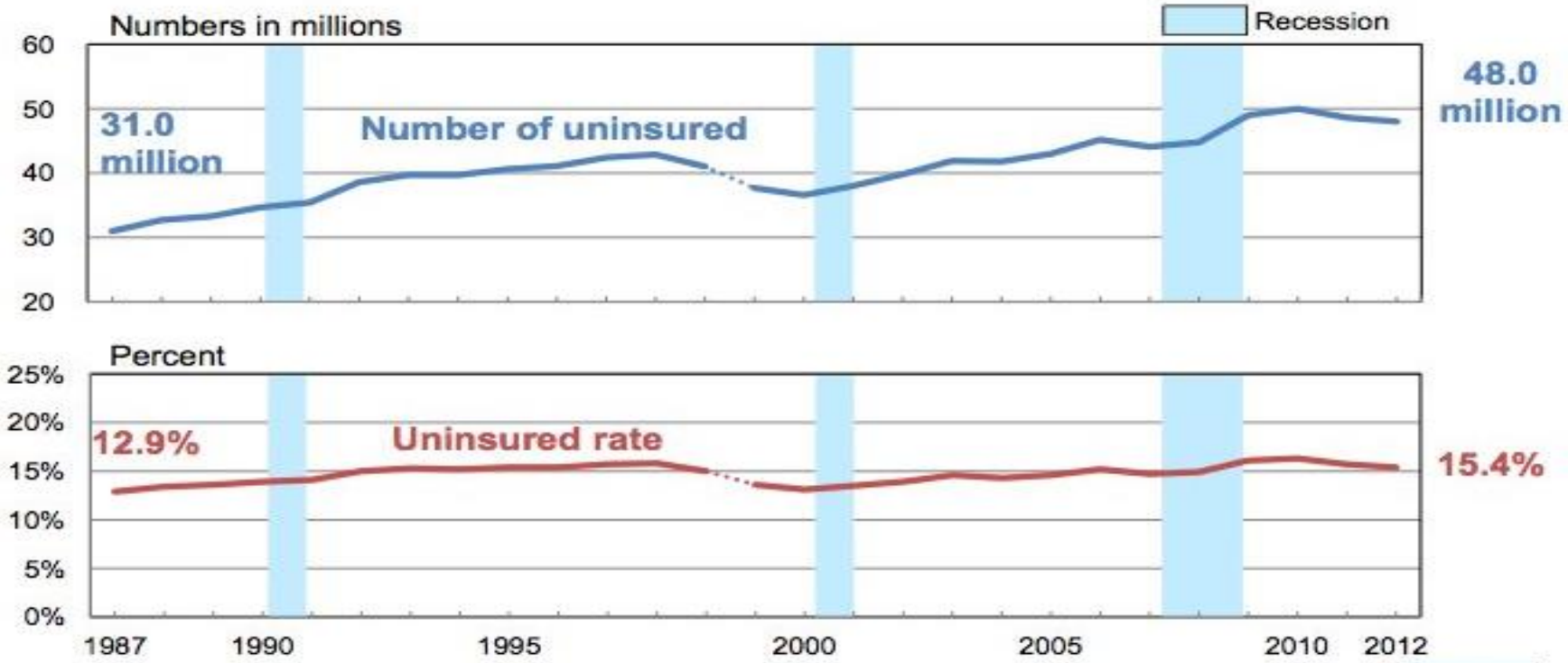
# U.S. Stumbling Toward Universal Health Care

# A Long Road

- 1965 Medicare and Medicaid
  - **Medicare** is universal for those over 65 or with disabilities
  - **Medicaid** is for low income house
    implemented with states
- on attempt



# Uninsured Rate and Number of Uninsured: 1987 to 2012




United States Census

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration

Note: The data for 1999 reflect the results of follow-up verification questions, creating a break in the historical series.

# Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”)

Passed October 2009 Implemented 2012

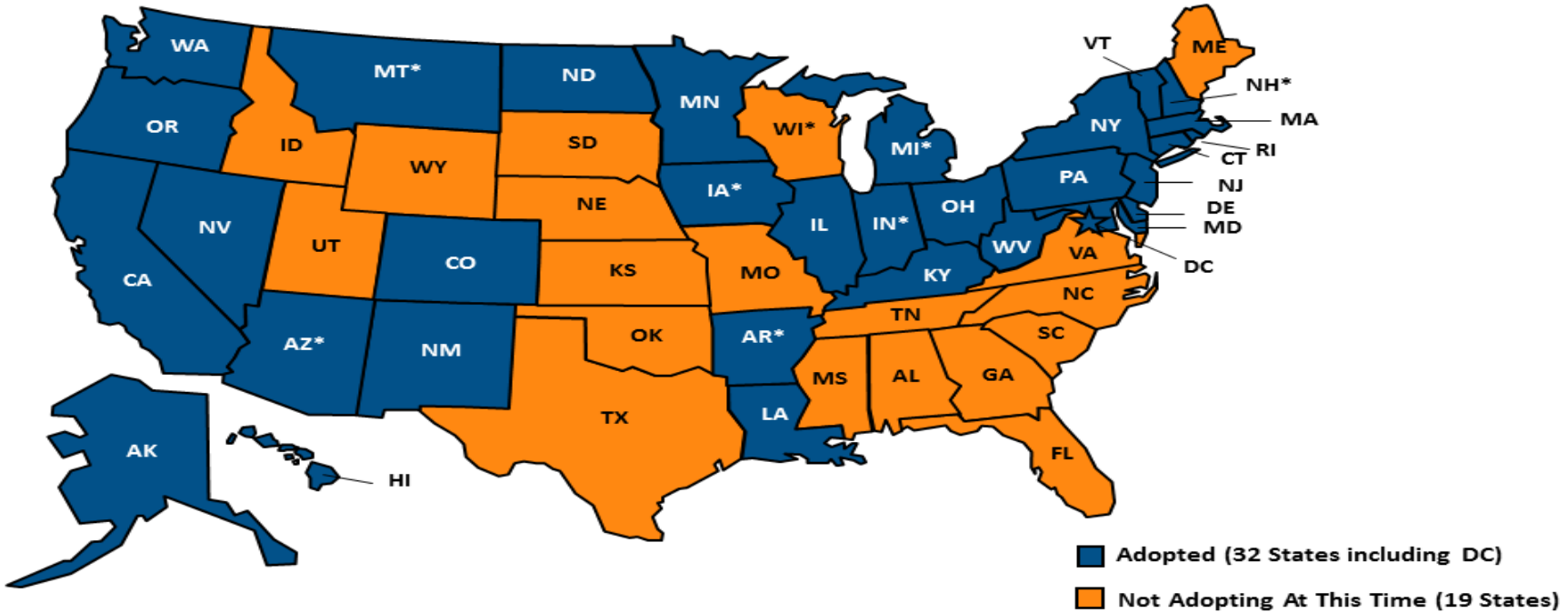
# Key Provisions of Affordable Care Act

- **Protections**: Cover pre-existing conditions at affordable rates
- Young adults remain on parent's plans until 26
- **Mandate** –penalty for not having insurance
- **Expansion of Medicaid** at state levels
- **Subsidies** for care paid for by 3 taxes, including tax on medical equipment, surcharge on high incomes.

# Forward movement under "Obamacare"

- In 4 years -expanded coverage by additional 17 million people
- 29 million remain uninsured –more underinsured
- Health equity –Beginning to make a difference
- 31 states and District of Columbia adopt ACA Medicaid funds, expanding coverage

# States Adopting ACA Medicare

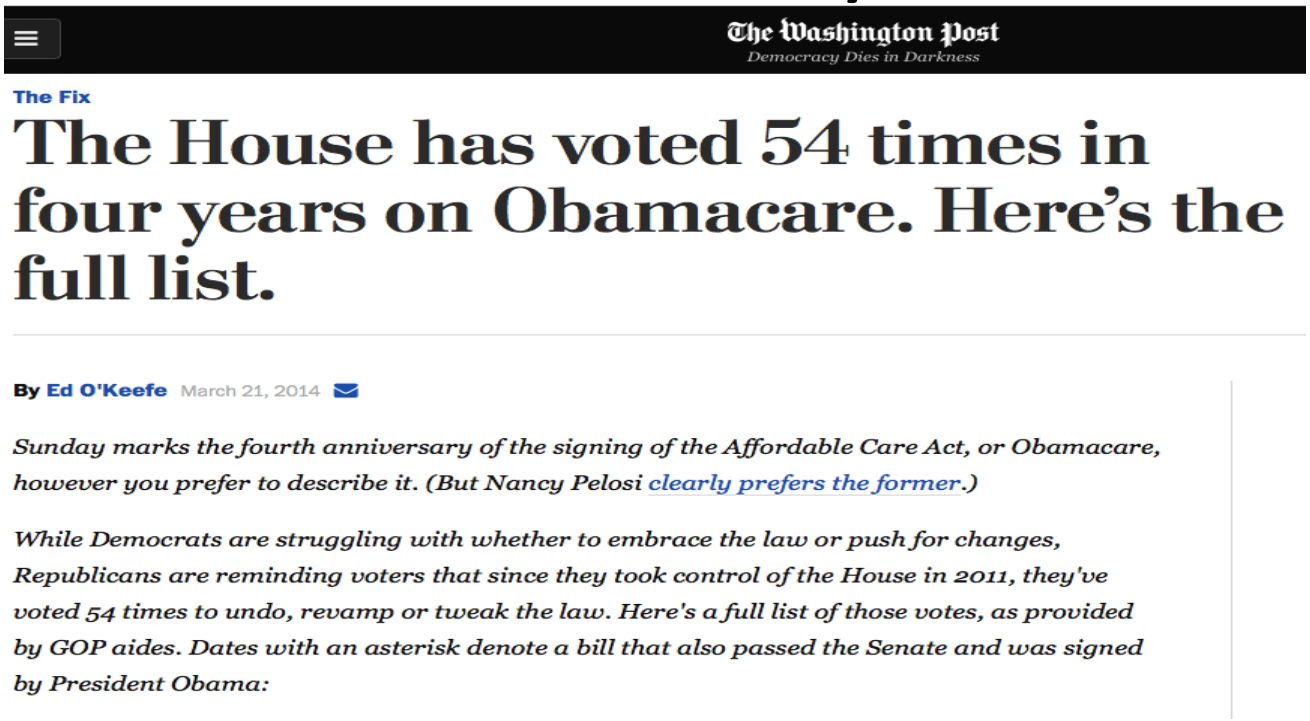


# Health Equity Example: African-American families

- Under ACA, between 2013 and 2016, the uninsured rate for nonelderly African Americans **declined** from 18.9 percent to 11.7 percent.
- White uninsured rate is 7.5 percent
- African Americans make up 13.3 percent of U.S. population but 19 percent of Medicaid enrollees
- Repeal of ACA and cutting Medicaid would risk this progress.

# Backlash against Affordable Care Act

# “A government takeover of health care system”



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

The Fix

## The House has voted 54 times in four years on Obamacare. Here’s the full list.

By Ed O'Keefe March 21, 2014

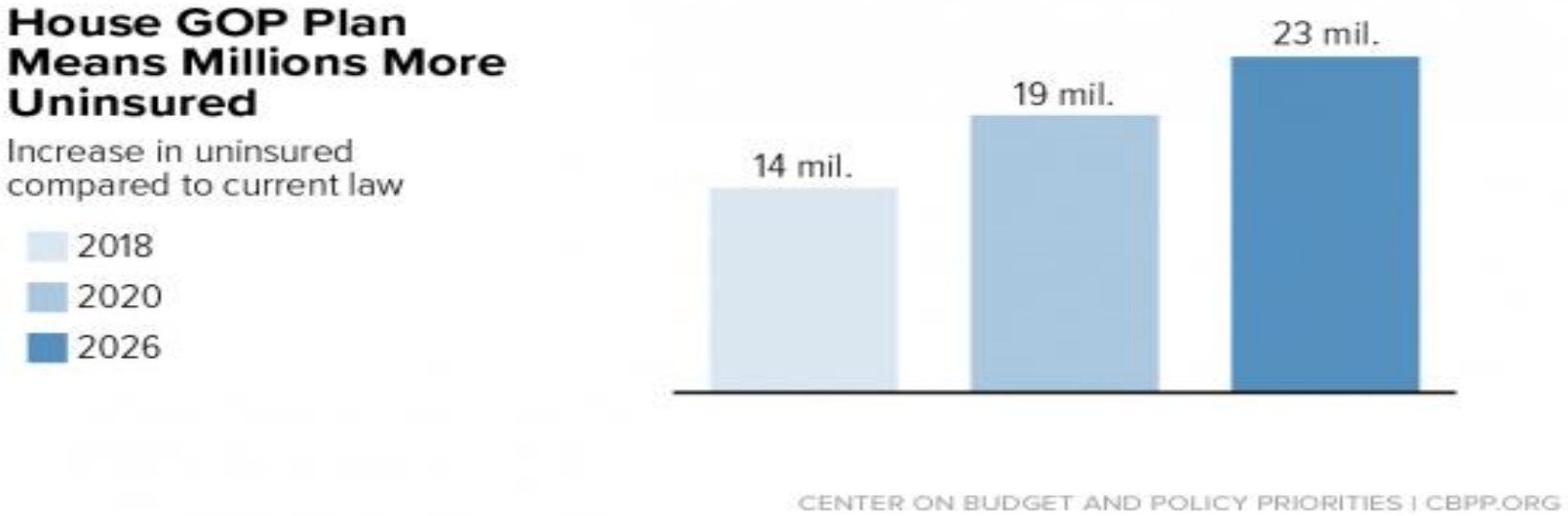
*Sunday marks the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, however you prefer to describe it. (But Nancy Pelosi clearly prefers the former.)*

*While Democrats are struggling with whether to embrace the law or push for changes, Republicans are reminding voters that since they took control of the House in 2011, they've voted 54 times to undo, revamp or tweak the law. Here's a full list of those votes, as provided by GOP aides. Dates with an asterisk denote a bill that also passed the Senate and was signed by President Obama:*

# American Health Care Act
# "Trumpcare"

- Phases Out ACA's Medicaid expansion
- Caps federal payments to states for Medicaid
- Elimination of ACA "mandate penalties" with surcharge on people who fail to maintain coverage.
- Other provisions that shift costs/risks to consumer
- Repeal of taxes to pay for ACA provisions

# House Plan: 23 Million Uninsured by 2026



# Repeal of ACA is Driven by Tax Cut Agenda

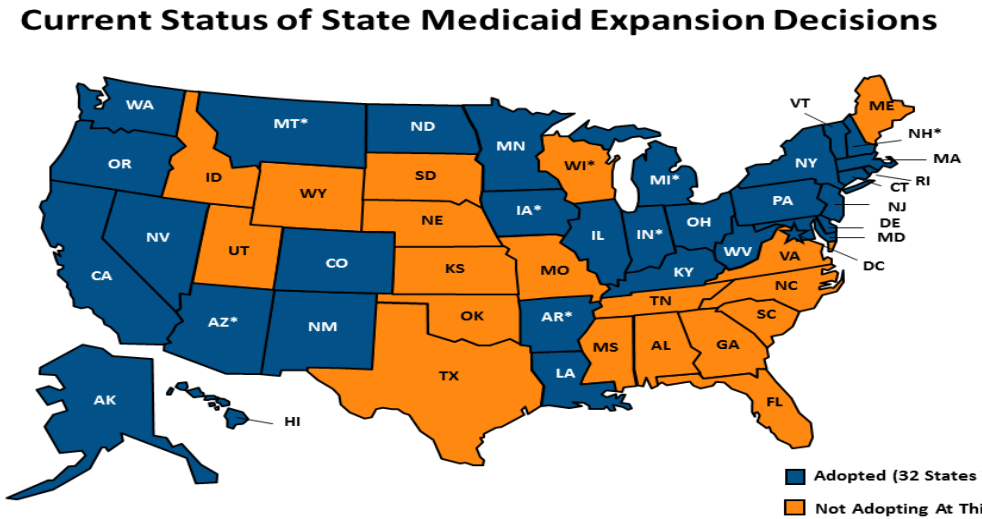
# Scenario A: Political Gridlock

# States won by Donald Trump

# Many Red States with Medicaid Expansion:

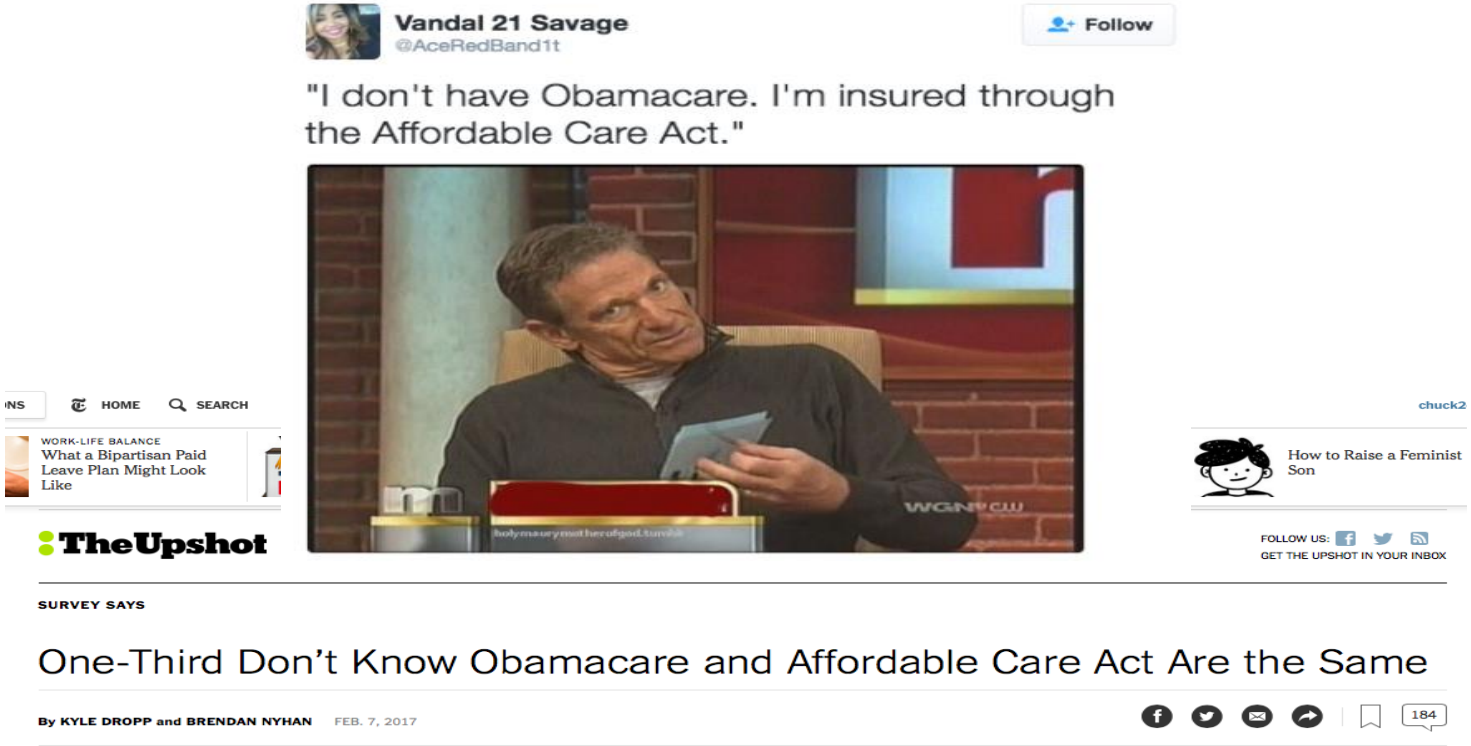
Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Louisiana

RED: Trump States

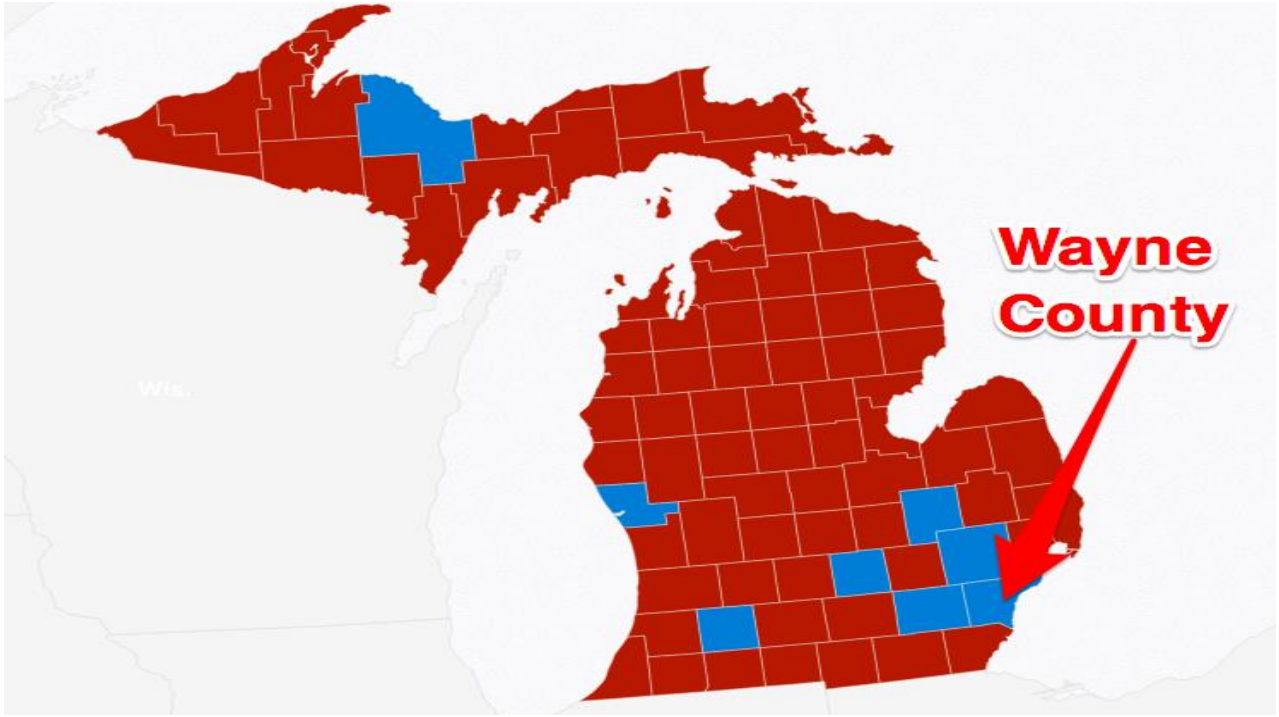



NOTES: Current status for each state is based on KCMU tracking and analysis of state executive activity. *AR, AZ, IA, IN, MI, MT, and NH h
approved Section 1115 waivers. WI covers adults up to 100% FPL in Medicaid, but did not adopt the ACA expansion.
SOURCE: "Status of State Action on the Medicaid Expansion Decision," KFF State Health Facts, updated January 1, 2017.
http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/

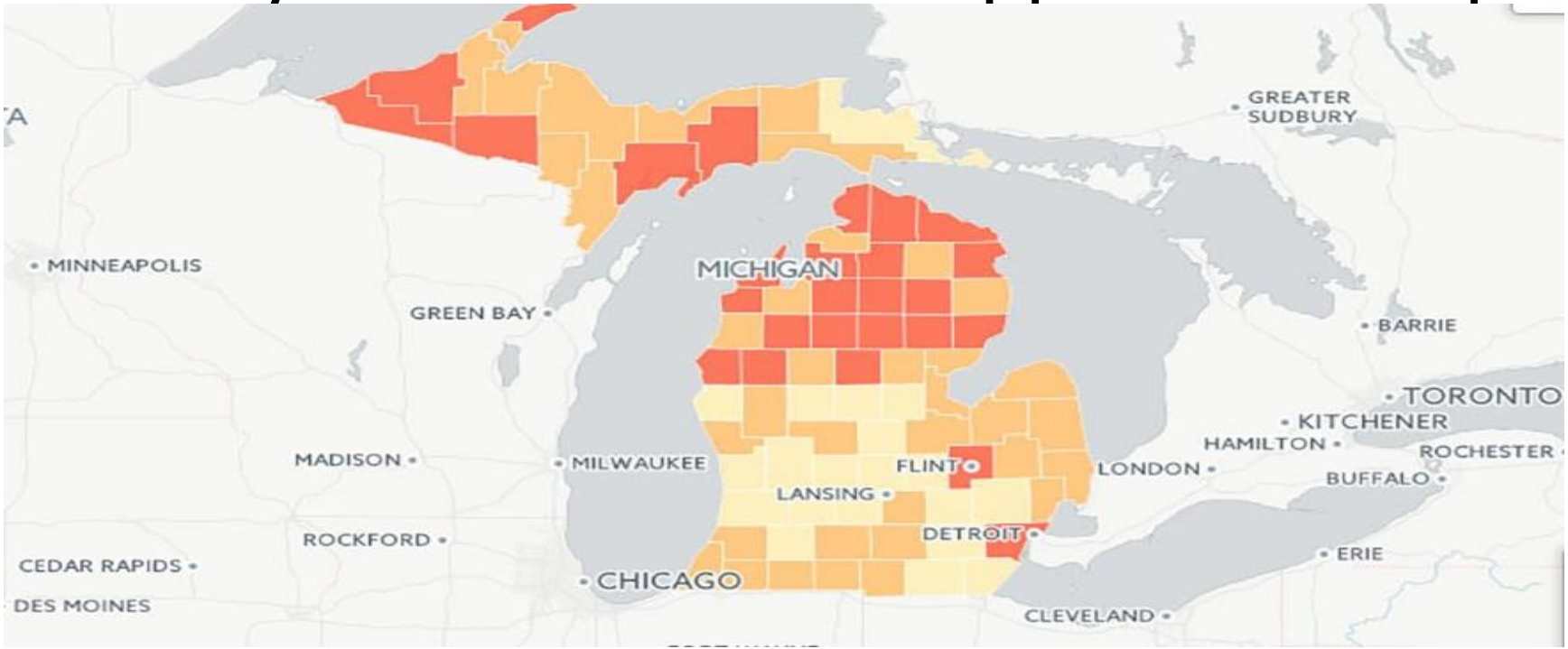
# Confusion over ACA vs. Obamacare



# Trump Vote in Michigan

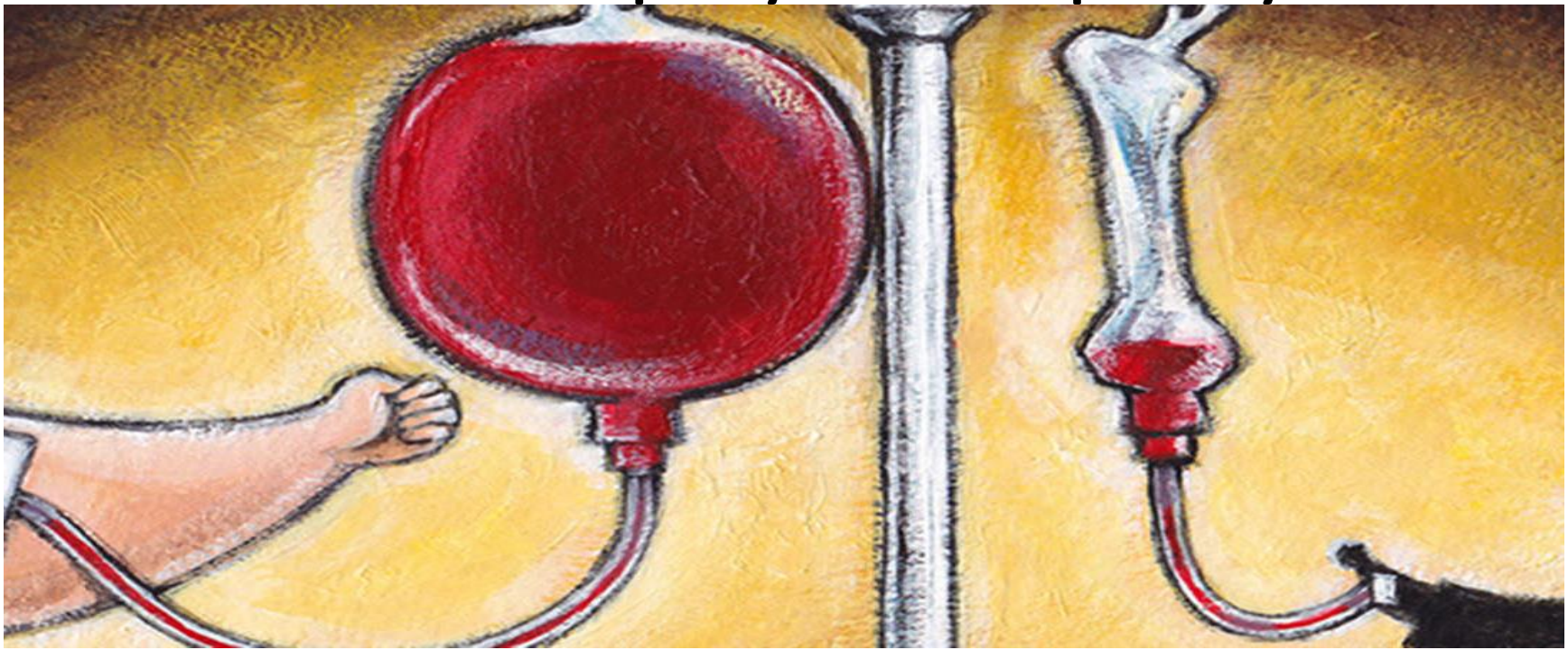


# Michigan: 1 in 10 depend on ACA, Mostly in Counties that Supported Trump



# Scenario B: Reversal-Rise in Health Disparities

# Future Trend: Polarization of States: Health Equity vs. Disparity



# California “Single payer” Proposal passes in May 2017

# Pressure Builds for “Medicare for All”

# Sander's Proposal –Paid for by Progressive Revenue provisions

# Visit the newly rebooted www.inequality.org