



The Covid-19 pandemic has now killed more than [214,000 Americans](#), with no end in sight. Elected officials should be doing everything they can to preserve health care protections and expand coverage to everyone. Instead, some — like **U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)** — remain focused on destroying health protections provided by the Affordable Care Act.

Recently, Cornyn [claimed](#) that Democratic nominee Joe Biden and others “overstate the problem of pre-existing conditions to justify political control of health care.” He is apparently unconcerned with the millions of Americans who could suffer long-lasting health problems from Covid-19 infection.

Just this week, Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI), during [opening remarks](#) at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, detailing Senator Cornyn’s connections to those within the judicial system trying to rollback the ACA:

“The district judge in Texas who struck down the ACA in the case now headed for the Court is a former aide to the Senator, who has become what the Texas Tribune calls the “favorite” for Texas Republicans seeking big judicial wins – like torpedoing the ACA. The senior Senator from Texas introduced in committee the Circuit Court Judge who wrote the decision on appeal striking down the ACA. Senator Cornyn filed brief after brief arguing for striking down the ACA. He led the failed charge to repeal the ACA in 2017. He’s said, “I have introduced and co-sponsored 27 bills to repeal or defund Obamacare and have voted to do so at every opportunity.”

The fact is, when it comes to health care, new research shows that John Cornyn has only one real concern: lining his family’s pockets.

From 2010 to 2014, Cornyn’s daughter Haley worked as a health care lobbyist for industry giants advocating for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act while her father led the charge against the ACA.

Haley Cornyn’s clients are a who’s who of pharmaceutical giants, including McKesson Corporation, Novartis Pharmaceutical, Astellas Pharma, Bayer Corp., and the industry trade group PhRMA. PhRMA funded a massive effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act through a group called the American Action Network. The network, which “was heavily involved” in repeal efforts, according to the [New York Times](#), “spent an estimated \$10 million on an ad campaign

designed to build voter support for its elimination.” Repealing the ACA was Sen. Cornyn’s legislative priority.

While Sen. Cornyn advanced their policy goals, the organizations that Haley lobbied for contributed over \$130,000 to his campaign operation since 2010.

Sen. Cornyn, meanwhile, repaid the pharmaceutical industry by voting to repeal the ACA at least 20 times; [Politico](#) called him “Obamacare Repeal’s Top Salesman.” As the Senate Majority Whip, he led the failed effort to strip millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions of their health coverage in 2017.

Cornyn used his powerful perch on the Senate Committee on Finance to deliver official favors for his daughter’s clients.

Cornyn introduced a bill to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board established by the ACA, a [major priority](#) of PhRMA — the trade group his daughter lobbied for from 2010 - 2014. The American Medical Association, another of Haley’s clients, sent a [letter](#) to Cornyn urging him to take action. Separately, Cornyn [voted against](#) a bill to allow the import of safe and affordable drugs from Canada, forcing Americans to pay more but protecting the profits of his daughter’s clients. He also co-sponsored [legislation](#) to repeal a tax on medical devices — another boon to the executives who sign his daughter’s paychecks.

Haley Cornyn has turned her proximity to power into a lucrative career.

She is [currently](#) a legislative affairs manager for Greenberg Traurig, LLP, a Texas firm that lobbies on behalf of industries that her father can influence. Their clients include [Attenti](#), a firm that received government contracts to track people in the criminal justice system, and [Facebook](#), which her father has declined to regulate even as it spreads misinformation to hundred of millions of Americans. It appears that Haley can earn a handsome salary by doing nothing but implicitly offering access to her powerful father.

Issues like health care and the integrity of our elections are too important to be held hostage to the financial interests of Sen. Cornyn’s family. Until he can eliminate his financial conflicts of interests, Cornyn should recuse himself from any official proceeding on issues involving his daughter’s clients.