











# Banning Junk Health Plans

Short-Term, Limited-Duration (STLD) health plans are a type of insurance intended for individuals who experience a temporary gap in comprehensive coverage. However, they lack meaningful coverage for essential benefits and do not comply with the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) standards. By using deceptive marketing practices, STLDs trap patients in low-coverage plans without informing them of coverage disparities compared to traditional insurance.

## Short-term plans lack essential coverage

STLD plans are intentionally designed with significant limitations, offering coverage that falls well short of what traditional health plans provide. This leaves patients exposed to the risk of accumulating serious medical debt.

Traditional Health Insurance	vs.	Short-Term Limited-Duration Plans
		Must accept every applicant 
		Charges same premiums regardless of gender or health status 
		Covers pre-existing conditions 
		There is a limit to what patients may owe for treatment 
		Covers essential benefits like prescription drugs, hospitalization, mental health, and maternal health 



When I started experiencing back pain, I wanted to upgrade my insurance before seeking treatment. The salesperson said she had the perfect plan for me. I didn't know it, but I had cancer. Months into my chemo they said the cancer was a pre-existing condition and wouldn't pay.

I was left to battle cancer on my own and ended up with \$800,000 in debt.

- Illinois patient on an STLD plan

Junk plans seemingly cost less than traditional health insurance, but they could leave those who become sick or injured with tens of thousands of dollars in medical debt. In 2019, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill limiting these plans to six months. California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Colorado, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Rhode Island have banned STLD plans. Illinois should be the next.

**Short-term plans lead to long-term medical debt.**