

AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

March 8, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

As organizations representing hospitals and health systems from across the country, we are writing to express our significant concerns about legislation pending before the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees - the American Health Care Act - that will "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Absent Congressional Budget Office analysis, our assessment of this legislation as currently drafted is that it is likely to result in a substantial reduction in the number of Americans able to buy affordable health insurance or maintain coverage under the Medicaid program. Currently, 21 million Americans have gained health care through the marketplaces and through expansion of the Medicaid program. As organizations that take care of every individual who walks through our doors, both due to our mission and our obligations under federal law, we are committed to ensuring health care coverage is available and affordable for all.

We are very concerned that the draft legislative proposal being considered by the House committees could lead to tremendous instability for those seeking affordable coverage. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that the proposed Medicaid program restructuring will result in both the loss of coverage for current enrollees as well as cuts to a program that provides health care services for our most vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly and disabled. Additionally, maintaining deep provider reductions while dramatically reducing coverage will reduce our ability to provide essential care to those newly uninsured and those without adequate insurance. As a result, we cannot support the American Health Care Act as currently written.

We look forward to working with you to address the nation's health care challenges so that we can continue to meet our commitment to the patients and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems