



September 20, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 19 million Americans and the communities we serve, I write to express our profound disappointment that bipartisan efforts to stabilize our health care system have been halted. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson legislation being considered by the Senate would jeopardize the health of millions of working Americans and we cannot support the bill.

Over the course of 2017, ACHP and its member plans have worked with both houses of Congress and both sides of the aisle to put forward measured and proven ways to expand coverage, stabilize the market and make our nation's health care system more affordable. ACHP members believe in the importance of preventive and comprehensive care and have consistently offered robust coverage, regardless of geographic location or health status of their members.

This proposal would significantly impact the health of our communities, hurting our neighbors, friends and employees. It puts in jeopardy the coverage gains won over the past few years and the critical consumer safeguards provided by essential health benefits and protections afforded by a ban on pre-existing conditions.

Millions of working Americans, many making an average of just \$18,000 per year, would suffer under this bill from the loss of critical cost-sharing reduction payments. While this debate is going on in Washington, millions of Americans across the country are living month to month wondering if they will have access to coverage this year or next.

We are deeply troubled by the proposed changes to Medicaid. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson fundamentally erodes the Medicaid safety net and significantly alters the gains in eligibility, coverage and benefits achieved in almost every community nationwide, and does little to mitigate the impact on local hospitals and economies.

While we support greater state flexibility, it is imperative that capitation rates be actuarially sound and sufficient to ensure beneficiary access to the full range of health care services and a stable Medicaid market.

MAKING HEALTH CARE BETTER

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Further, it is critical that any health reform effort harness the innovative and competitive market solutions driven by the private sector. We fully support preserving the public-private partnership unique to the American system.

We have supported the Senate HELP Committee as it worked develop a limited bipartisan bill that would stabilize the individual insurance market. The health care needs of Americans were well served by the collaborative and inclusive way the hearings were held and the diverse viewpoints aired during witness testimony. Health care should provide Americans peace of mind. Rather than creating certainty in the lives of the American people, Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson takes us in the opposite direction.

As always, ACHP member plans stand ready to work with you and members of both parties to develop market-tested solutions based on our many years of real-world experience to improve the health of communities across the nation. If you or your staff have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me at cconnolly@achp.org or 202-785-2247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ceci Connolly".

Ceci Connolly
President & CEO

Cc: Honorable Members of the United States Senate