



March 8, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady, Ranking Members Pallone and Neal:

Representing the interests of our nation's more than 3.6 million registered nurses, the American Nurses Association (ANA) respectfully wishes to express its opposition to the recently released American Health Care Act (AHCA) as written.

The American Health Care Act threatens health care affordability, access, and delivery for individuals across the nation. In its current form, the bill changes Medicaid to a per capita cap funding model, eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund, restricts millions of women from access to critical health services, and repeals income based subsidies that millions of people rely on. These changes in no way will improve care for the American people.

ANA also remains troubled by the absence of testimony from non-partisan experts, such as the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) or the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Input from these and other non-partisan experts would shed light on the potential long-term economic and health consequences of the legislation. Any legislation that would fundamentally alter health-care delivery and deeply impact patients and providers deserves thoughtful, deliberate and transparent consideration. ANA strongly urges Congress to allow opportunity for considered public and stakeholder feedback in the face of reforms that would have a far-reaching and personal impact on the lives of millions of people.

Nurses work in virtually every health care setting, providing expert, compassionate care for people throughout all stages of life. As the organization representing the nation's largest group of health care professionals and its most trusted profession, ANA asks Congress to keep our patients' access to affordable, quality care foremost in their discussions over how to improve our nation's health care system. ANA stands ready to work with Congress as a constructive voice and positive force for improving health care delivery, coverage, and affordability for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela F. Cipriano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pamela F. Cipriano, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, American Nurses Association

cc: The Honorable Speaker Paul Ryan
The Honorable Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Minority Leader Charles Schumer
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
 Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray
 Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
 Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden
 Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee