



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

July 18, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, **I strongly urge you to start anew in an open dialogue and bipartisan effort to improve health care coverage in our country.** We believe that this moment calls for statesmanship on the part of both political parties to work together to make the improvements in our health care system that will stabilize the individual insurance market, improve affordability, and strengthen and expand the coverage gains already achieved.

We remain opposed to the House passed American Health Care Act's and the Senate discussion draft Better Care Reconciliation Act's complete restructuring and deep funding reductions to the Medicaid program. The proposed cap on federal Medicaid funding and the elimination of the coverage expansion funding, which amount to hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts, will lead to tremendous Medicaid coverage losses—over 14 million according to initial CBO estimates—for our nation's most vulnerable and low-income populations. We also believe a decision to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which includes elimination of the state Medicaid expansion option, before enactment of a permanent replacement would further undermine the insurance markets as well as states' Medicaid programs leading to significant loss of coverage.

While the ACA is not a perfect law and should be improved where necessary, no attempt to do so should leave behind millions of people who have obtained meaningful, affordable insurance that was not possible before the ACA. We stand ready to work with all members of Congress to improve the availability, affordability, coverage and quality of our health care system. But above all, we urge you always to keep in mind the unborn and the many millions of poor individuals and vulnerable families who will be affected by any changes to our health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and CEO