



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

September 22, 2017

Dear Senator,

As leaders in Catholic health care from across our country and Trustees of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, we are depending on your strength and leadership to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. As you consider and make your final decision about this legislation, we urge you to think long and hard about the true impact this bill will have on our health care system and all those it serves—the frail elderly in nursing homes to the children with critical illnesses to the veteran who has served our country.

We have provided health care in our country for over 100 years focused especially on the most vulnerable—low-income and impoverished elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children, families and individuals—many of whom are covered by the Medicaid program.

Medicaid provides essential care through a wide variety of services, including acute care, long-term care and home health, mental health, and substance abuse services, as well as neo-natal programs and maternity care. The program covers nearly 50 percent of all U.S. births and helps reduce unemployment and homelessness by stabilizing individuals' health.

We have reviewed and analyzed the Graham-Cassidy legislation and concluded that it will decimate the system of care and coverage in our country. Millions of people will lose coverage, causing pregnant women and their unborn children to go without pre-natal care, parents of children with serious illnesses to be unable to afford medical care, and poor elderly to be unable to get nursing home care. Unfortunately, this legislation is driven on campaign promises to repeal the Affordable Care Act and is missing the goal of improving the health of the people in our country. What the campaign pledge did not intend is for the entire Medicaid program and the vulnerable individuals it serves to be put in jeopardy.

We look to you, the leaders of our country, to protect and defend the dignity of all persons and ensure the common good. We urge you to move beyond the heightened campaign rhetoric and understand the true risk you are taking by undermining our system of care. We urge you to put the health of our country first. We urge you to take the time to truly debate and look for real solutions necessary to improve our health care system and vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Hochman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rod Hochman, M.D.  
Chairperson, CHA Board of Trustees