



American College of Preventive Medicine

January 9th, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Minority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, Majority Leader McCarthy, Majority Whip Cornyn, Minority Whip Hoyer, and Minority Whip Durbin:

On behalf of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the medical specialty society representing physicians who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion at the health system level, I write to offer our recommendations on key elements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that must be retained in any legislation aimed at its repeal. In particular, I ask you to preserve and promote utilization of, and access to primary care and clinical preventive services and support the essential public health services that have played such an important role in improving the health of the American people.

Specifically, ACPM supports the following in any legislation to replace the ACA:

- retain health insurance coverage for those currently insured;
- ensure a viable health care safety net that includes continuation of the Medicaid expansion initiative; and,
- ensure patient protections in the insurance marketplace, including prohibitions on benefit caps, prohibitions on discrimination against persons with pre-existing conditions, premium assistance, and reductions in out-of-pocket payments.

We call on Congress to join ACPM as an ardent supporter of the requirement that all insurance products provide first-dollar coverage for clinical preventive services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Women's Preventive Services Initiative, and *Bright Futures*. Furthermore, we ask that you retain the funding provided by the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which supports a broad range of public

health activities including community and clinical prevention initiatives; research, surveillance and tracking; public health infrastructure; immunizations and screenings; tobacco prevention; and public health workforce and training.

As you develop a replacement bill, we urge that you recognize that improvements in population health, as well as control of health care costs, are most readily achieved through public health initiatives and enhanced access to clinical preventive services. Importantly, we must note that the United States currently suffers from a shortage of physicians trained in public health and prevention, a shortage that is largely due to the fact that residency programs in preventive medicine, unlike residencies in other specialties, are not supported by Medicare graduate medical education (GME) payments. Unfortunately, the only source of federal support is through limited grants available through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). We urge you to include adequate funding for preventive medicine residency training programs in any ACA replacement legislation.

We look forward to working with you as you craft an ACA replacement plan that improves the health of the American people and stand ready to serve as a resource as you work to sharpen our health system's focus on disease prevention and health promotion. Please feel free to contact Kate McFadyen at kmcfadyen@acpm.org should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel S. Blumenthal".

Daniel S. Blumenthal, MD, MPH, FACPM President

cc: House Ways & Means Committee
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee