



American College of  
Preventive Medicine

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### **American College of Preventive Medicine Opposes Proposed “Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017”**

*June 22, 2017 (Washington, D.C)* - The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is deeply disappointed that the Senate’s draft legislation to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) entitled the “Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017,” aims to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund, rollback Medicaid expansion gains, and allow states to waive coverage of essential health benefits including clinical preventive services. Although the legislation does not allow insurers to charge those with pre-existing conditions more for health insurance, waiving the requirement for essential benefits will weaken coverage for millions with pre-existing conditions.

“We vigorously oppose the Senate’s “Better Care Reconciliation Act,” said ACPM President Robert Carr, MD, MPH, FACPM. He further added that, “ACPM is committed to working with our members, partner organizations in medicine and public health on behalf of the hundreds of millions of patients and citizens we serve, and who will be at risk should this bill pass. If we are serious about reducing health care costs and their growing impact on our nations’ debt along with improving our nation’s abysmal health outcomes this bill will drive us in the opposite direction. The return on investment from preventing conditions such as obesity and diabetes is high. Based on current trends, by 2023, chronic disease cases will increase by 42 percent, to 230 million, costing \$4.2 trillion in treatment and lost economic output. Reducing our ability to prevent and reduce obesity through cutting preventive medicine services and funding within this bill will thus add far more costs to our nations ever growing debt. “

ACPM remains committed to improving our nation’s health, our healthcare system and expanding access to preventive services. The Senate bill is not the answer to the healthcare coverage issues our nation faces. Legislative efforts to improve our healthcare system must include first-dollar coverage of preventive services, essential health benefits, and protections for all patients, including those with preexisting conditions. As Dr. Carr noted today, “we must move the needle in healthcare toward greater coverage and a focus on prevention. Any bill that moves the needle in the opposite direction is detrimental to the American people.”

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About ACPM

[The American College of Preventive Medicine](#) is a professional society providing leadership in research, professional education, development of public policy, and enhancement of standards of preventive medicine for and on behalf of its physician members. Uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health, preventive medicine specialists are equipped to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and population groups.