



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

It is our understanding that the U.S. House of Representatives may consider a modified version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) (H.R. 1628) this week. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) has reviewed the modifications put forth by the MacArthur Amendment. Based on our analysis, we do not believe the policy recommendations included in the MacArthur Amendment are improvements on the underlying legislation.

The MacArthur Amendment does not stabilize or improve the individual insurance market. The state flexibility promoted by the MacArthur Amendment would result in millions of people with pre-existing conditions facing greater challenges securing health care coverage and, if they were able to secure coverage, they would face significantly higher cost for that coverage. Furthermore, the amendment removes vital consumer protections under current law that prohibits discrimination in insurance underwriting against women and older adults, protects consumers from medical bankruptcy through elimination of caps on annual and lifetime spending, and sets a minimal standard for benefits that must be provided.

H.R. 1628, in its current form, would result in loss of coverage for millions of individuals, including over 7 million with employer-sponsored insurance. In addition, H.R. 1628 would destabilize the individual insurance market and make draconian changes to the Medicaid program and its financing. The AAFP has previously communicated its opposition to this legislation based on these reasons.

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In our opinion the revisions promoted by the MacArthur Amendment do nothing to improve the underlying legislation. We believe the MacArthur Amendment actually makes the underlying bill worse. For these reasons **the AAFP must continue to oppose H.R. 1628 and urge the House of Representatives to not pass this flawed legislation with or without the proposed amendment.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda D. Filer, MD".

Wanda D. Filer, MD, MBA, FAAFP
Board Chair

C: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Steve Scalise
Members, U.S. House of Representatives