



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Ann M. Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kuster:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians, residents, and medical students, I write to share the organization's support for the *Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019* (HR 986).

The *Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019* aligns with AAFP's Health Care for All [principles](#), which promote access to primary medical care and other essential health care services for all. Care should be comprehensive, affordable, and include protections for those with financial hardships. Having both health insurance and a usual source of care (e.g., through an ongoing relationship with a primary care physician) contributes to better outcomes, reduced disparities, and lower health care costs, regardless of socioeconomic or health status.ⁱ

HR 986 would rescind recent guidance on State Relief and Empowerment Waivers from the *Affordable Care Act's* Section 1332. In a 2018 [letter](#), the AAFP expressed concern that the rule would allow plans, such as short-term, limited-duration insurance, to sell low-value policies that could subject patients to catastrophic medical bills and medical bankruptcy.

We are pleased to support the *Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019*. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

Cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives

ⁱ The Robert Graham Center, The Importance of Having Health Insurance and a Usual Source of Care, Am. Fam. Physician (Sept. 15, 2004), available at <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2004/0915/p1035.html>.

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