



June 21, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On December 28, 2016, the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) (AAFP) wrote to the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate outlining our principles for health care reform. Those principles were:

- Coverage for All Americans
- Insurance Reforms and Patient Protections
- Protect the Safety-Net
- Invest in Primary Care

In our [letter](#), we called on Congress to pursue a thoughtful and deliberative process that would maintain the numerous accomplishments we have achieved over the past two decades that have resulted in a historically low uninsured rate and focus Congress's attention on policies that would improve our current health care system, stabilize insurance markets, and start to lower the costs of health care. The AAFP proposed numerous policies that were aimed at accomplishing these goals.

For the past six months, the AAFP has continued to advance these same four principles. Unfortunately, the legislative process, to date, has not afforded the AAFP or other organizations real opportunities to engage in the development of legislation aimed at our shared goals of improving access to affordable health care coverage. Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm whether the forthcoming Senate legislation adequately meets these four principles.

It is our understanding that the *American Health Care Act* (HR 1628), which was approved by the House of Representatives on May 4, will be the foundation of the Senate's health care reform bill. The AAFP is deeply disappointed that the Senate is choosing to use this fatally flawed legislation as the basis for its work. The AHCA fails on every level. It results in the loss of coverage for millions of currently insured; it rolls back consumer protections and insurance reforms; it destroys the Medicaid program and it separates those with health insurance from primary care physicians through higher deductibles.

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The United States Senate is on the verge of following the ill-advised actions of the House and is reportedly considering legislation that would cause millions of people to lose their health care coverage. Reports suggest that your proposed bill will repeal the consumer protections currently available to all Americans, making each of us vulnerable to medical underwriting and the restoration of annual and lifetime caps on benefits. Furthermore, the legislation will reportedly reserve its harshest consequences for the most vulnerable among us – children, the elderly, and low-income adults over the age of 50.

If reports are accurate, this legislation would have a profoundly negative impact on all Americans. The AAFP urges the Senate to reject this path and this policy. There are countless improvements that need to be made to our health care system and the AAFP stands ready to work with you on identifying and implementing those improvements. But, we cannot and will not support a process that will cause harm to millions of patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda D. Filer, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

C: United States Senate