



May 2, 2017

Vote “No” on the American Health Care Act

Dear Representative Faso:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals respectfully urges you to vote “no” on the American Health Care Act when that bill comes before you in the House. We ask you to do so for several reasons, including:

- The American Health Care Act would result in too many Americans losing health care coverage – and with it, access to health care: 14 million people by 2018 and 24 million by 2026, according to the Congressional Budget Office.
- The expansion of access to health care coverage of recent years was financed in large part by hospitals through the reduction of some of their Medicare payments, and especially their Medicare disproportionate share hospital payments (Medicare DSH), and while the American Health Care Act would reverse that expansion of access to health care coverage it would not reverse the major cuts in these payments at all.
- The manner in which the American Health Care Act would fund the federal government’s share of Medicaid spending, through per capita limits, would reduce the federal commitment to Medicaid by approximately \$840 billion over the next ten years. That \$840 billion is not an abstract number and it is not just dollars: it is \$840 billion worth of medical services that people who need such services would no longer receive.
- When the American Health Care Act slashes the resources the states receive to operate their Medicaid programs, state governments, seeking to reduce their own Medicaid costs, would most likely reduce payments to health care providers – including the private, non-profit urban safety-net hospitals that provide so much of the care to our country’s low-income, low-income elderly, and uninsured citizens. When they do, they will jeopardize access to care, and perhaps even the quality of care, not only for those low-income, low-income elderly, and uninsured people those hospitals serve but also for everyone those hospitals serve, including those with private, commercial insurance and those insured by Medicare. Surely this is not Congress’s intention, but just as surely, this is what will happen if the American Health Care Act passes.

For these and other reasons, the National Association of Urban Hospitals strongly urges you to vote against the American Health Care Act. We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you have about these or the other reasons that led us to this position.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.
Executive Director

