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November 30, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 16,000 members of the American Thoracic Society (ATS), I am writing to urge you to vote “NO” on the current tax reform legislation. The ATS has strong concerns that the Senate bill, as currently written, will increase the number of uninsured Americans, increase health insurance cost for insured Americans and result in spending cuts to the Medicare program.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, elimination of the individual insurance requirement would have significant and destabilizing effects on the health insurance market including: 13 million additional American’s losing health insurance, higher premiums, and cost-sharing for those who remain in the insurance market, and destabilization of the private insurance market through adverse selection.

Further, many of the tax cuts being considered in the bill will be paid for by federal deficit spending – significantly increasing the federal debt. Under current law, the significant increase in the debt expected from this legislation would trigger automatic cuts to other health research and services programs, including a \$25 billion cut to Medicare spending in 2018. Medicare funding cuts coupled with increases in the number of uninsured and higher health costs for all is a bad deal all Americans, including my patients, and we urge the Senate to remove these harmful provisions from tax reform legislation.

As president of the ATS, I ask you to vote “NO” on the current tax reform bill and instead address health care through the bipartisan Alexander-Murray legislation that will stabilize health insurance markets and prevent individuals from losing health coverage.

Sincerely,



Marc Moss, M.D.
President
American Thoracic Society

