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December 15, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 16,000 members of the American Thoracic Society (ATS), I am writing to urge you to vote "NO" on the final House-Senate conference tax reform legislation. The ATS is alarmed that the 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.

Elimination of the individual insurance requirement will damage the US health system and obstruct health care access for millions of Americans. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the enactment of the legislation will cause a loss of health insurance for 13 million additional Americans, higher insurance premiums for those who remain in the market, and destabilization of the private insurance market through adverse selection.

Many of the tax cuts being considered in the bill will be paid for by federal deficit spending. 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 an estimated \$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 for all Americans, including my patients, and we urge Congress to reject the tax bill.

As president of the ATS, I urge you to vote "NO" on the House-Senate conference tax reform legislation 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

