

May 4, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 16,000 members of the American Thoracic Society (ATS), I want to voice my grave concerns with the latest legislative proposal developed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While CBO estimates are not yet available for the most recent legislation proposal being considered in the House, we remain concerned that the bill, if enacted, will result in a loss of health insurance for millions of Americans. We urge you to vote “NO” on the American Health Care Act.

We are concerned that the latest changes to the legislation are not sufficient to ensure insurance coverage for patients with expensive chronic conditions. Reliance on “high risk pools” will not adequately meet the health insurance needs of many Americans with pre-existing conditions. We note that previous attempts at implementing state-based high risk pools have been largely unsuccessful. Members of the ATS serve a large and diverse patient population, including patients with respiratory diseases, critical illnesses and sleep disorders such as asthma, COPD, pneumonia, sepsis and obstructive sleep apnea. Our patients cannot afford to lose affordable health insurance coverage for any period of time.

Finally, we remain concerned that allowing states to waive the ACA’s essential health benefits, which include chronic disease management services that are vital for people with respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD, will lead to reduced coverage for many Americans.

The ATS looks forward to working with Congress to improve our health care system and ensure health insurance coverage for all Americans. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Nuala S. Moore, Associate Director of Government Relations at Nmoore@thoracic.org or (202) 296.9770. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Gozal, MD, MBA
President
American Thoracic Society

