



March 20, 2017

To the New York State Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of our member hospitals and the patients they serve, the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, Rochester Regional Healthcare Advocates, and Western New York Healthcare Association strongly oppose the American Healthcare Act (AHCA).

The AHCA would severely harm insurance coverage, the Medicaid program, state budgets, and hospitals and health systems.

The AHCA would repeal provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provide health insurance coverage to tens of millions of Americans, and its “replacement” provisions cannot maintain the ACA’s substantial coverage gains and will drastically reduce federal support for New York State’s Medicaid program.

If the AHCA comes to the House floor in its current form, we urge the entire New York Congressional delegation to vote against it.

- The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the AHCA could strip health insurance from 24 million Americans, and New York State projects that the AHCA threatens the health insurance of nearly one million New Yorkers.
- The AHCA’s age-based tax credits are woefully inadequate for Americans who depend on ACA subsidies to make insurance affordable, because they are not tied to income or the cost of insurance, nor are they adjusted for the cost of living.
- By rolling back federal funding for the ACA’s Medicaid expansion and reducing the federal government’s commitment to the Medicaid program, the AHCA shifts costs to states and puts extraordinary pressure on state budgets. Combined, these provisions would cost New York State \$4.5 billion over the next four years and put safety net providers at extreme risk. If New York responded to losing billions in federal healthcare funding by keeping individuals covered with state-only funds, it may be forced to also increase taxes or reduce healthcare provider payment rates to pay for it.

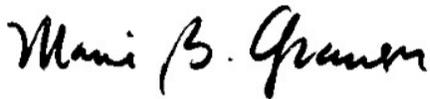
- The AHCA would have a staggering fiscal impact on New York’s hospitals, many which are already teetering on the brink. The bill’s Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cut would strip \$732 million from New York hospitals—21% of the nationwide cut of \$3.4 billion.

The ACA is far from perfect, and few would disagree that long-term improvements should be thoughtfully explored. We encourage the Delegation to embrace a thoughtful approach to healthcare policy that prioritizes:

- uninterrupted healthcare coverage for the 22 million Americans who gained coverage under the ACA;
- does not harm state budgets and Medicaid programs; and
- does not harm financially struggling hospitals.

Thank you. We look forward to working with you in the days and months ahead.

Sincerely,



Marie B. Grause, R.N., J.D.
President
Healthcare Association of New York State



Kenneth E. Raske
President
Greater New York Hospital Association



Kevin W. Dahill
President and Chief Executive Officer
Suburban Hospital Alliance of NYS



Gary Fitzgerald
President
Iroquois Healthcare Alliance



Jim Clancy
Acting Director
Western New York Healthcare Association



Travis R. Heider
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rochester Regional Healthcare Advocates