May 4, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

A year ago today, Congressional Republicans voted to make health care less affordable and less accessible for the American people. May the 4th marked a low point in our nation's decades-long history of improving Americans' access to health care.

In fact, since President Trump took office, his administration and a Republican Congress have unwaveringly pursued their goal of tearing down our health care system. This sabotage has come overtly through legislation, and through regulations and Executive Orders. The tides have turned, however, and Americans have begun to speak out against this sabotage.

In fact, medical associations, hospital associations, patient and consumer groups, and even insurance companies have expressed serious concerns that President Trump's and Congressional Republicans' actions will have serious consequences for the health care of millions of Americans. The administration's actions, coupled with Republican-led legislation, have destabilized the health care markets, resulting in skyrocketing premiums and a significant increase in the number of uninsured Americans.
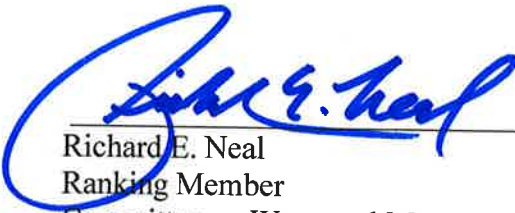
Just this week, the Commonwealth Fund found that an estimated 4 million people have lost coverage since 2016. These coverage declines are the result of the administration's actions to weaken and undermine the ACA, as well as the lack of federal legislative actions to stabilize the Marketplaces. As former Trump administration Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price acknowledged, we can expect further premiums increases as result of the repeal of the individual mandate. Next year is looking to be a year of further instability, erosion of insurance coverage, and increased costs for consumers and federal taxpayers.

This is not what we want for our constituents and the millions of Americans who benefit from having access to quality health insurance. We believe we should be working across the aisle to strengthen health insurance and consumer affordability and access. Even congressional Republicans have expressed support for measures to stabilize the market to help it weather the blows from recent actions. As we have said on numerous occasions, we are ready to work with Republicans once ACA repeal is off the table. We hope that now, a year after the House vote to repeal the ACA, the time has come for us to work together.

The *Undoing Sabotage and Expanding Affordability of Health Insurance Act* of 2018, H.R. 5155, strengthens the ACA, makes coverage more affordable, and undoes harmful policies that have undermined our health care system.

Our constituents depend on us to keep health care affordable and accessible. This legislation would be a major step in the right direction, and we hope that you will work with us to embrace it. We ask that you work with us to bring this bill to the floor during the next work period.
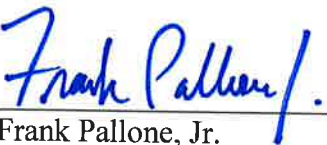
Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and
the Workforce

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce