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June 14, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 16,000 members of the American Thoracic Society (ATS), I ask you to abide by the “do no harm” spirit of the Hippocratic Oath as Congress considers repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 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.

As the Senate considers ACA repeal and replacement, I urge you to ensure that forthcoming legislation includes the following principles. The ATS will not support legislation that does not maintain or ensure these key health protections.

- Maintenance of health insurance coverage for all Americans who received health insurance through the ACA - be it through Medicaid expansion, state or federal health insurance exchanges, or through enrollment on their parents plan
- Low and middle income Americans should continue to receive appropriate assistance to ensure that their health insurance is comprehensive and affordable
- Prohibit pre-existing condition insurance exclusions and maintain community rating rules so that insurance coverage is affordable for these individuals
- Maintain the ACA's bans on annual and life-time benefit caps
- Ensure coverage of the ACA's evidence-based essential health benefits, including chronic disease management, which is vitally important for people with respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD,
- Enable coverage of evidence-based preventative services without copays or deductibles



The ATS looks forward to working with the Senate 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,



Marc Moss, M.D.
President
American Thoracic Society



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