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Director

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March 22, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose 900 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which represents over 2,000 Reform rabbis, I strongly urge you to oppose the American Health Care Act (AHCA) when it comes to a vote on the floor. Instead, I urge you to protect access to affordable health care by maintaining and enhancing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). We must ensure that the millions of Americans who have health insurance and who were newly covered under the ACA can continue to receive basic, essential coverage.

The Affordable Care Act changed the lives of tens of millions of Americans for the better by making health care more accessible and affordable. Distressingly, the proposed American Health Care Act would dismantle essential elements of the ACA upon which Americans rely. The AHCA would fundamentally restructure Medicaid and leave low-income Americans and people with disabilities in dangerously precarious circumstances. Furthermore, it would reduce tax credits for your constituents who most need support to afford buying health care coverage in the private marketplace. The Congressional Budget Office estimate that by 2026, 24 million people would lose coverage from the AHCA leaves us deeply fearful for the health—physical, mental, financial, and otherwise—of our fellow Americans. While the ACA could be reformed and expanded to reach many more Americans, it is and must continue to be the baseline for coverage, affordability and quality of care against which any replacement must be judged. The AHCA would roll back the crucial progress that has been made over the past seven years, and would leave the health care system even more perilous than it was in 2010.

We are inspired by the example set over many centuries, during which Jewish law has commanded communities to provide healthcare to their inhabitants (Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De'ot IV: 23). We learn that healthcare is a core element of creating a society of equality and justice. Leaving millions of people without health care would not merely be a policy setback, but a moral failure.

Americans should not have to choose between their health and the financial stability of their families. Nor should health care be a privilege reserved for a lucky few; it must be a right for all people. I urge you to vote against the American Health Care Act and ensure that your constituents and millions of other Americans nationwide do not have their health coverage taken away by this reckless and irresponsible legislation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Weinstein
Director, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism



The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.

