

May 1, 2017

Representative Will Hurd
U.S. House of Representatives
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hurd:

The 28 undersigned Texas organizations write to express our strong opposition to the revised American Health Care Act (AHCA) and urge you to vote against the bill. Our organizations work on behalf of Texas children, families, patients, and consumers to ensure Texans have access to affordable health care.

As you know, the revised AHCA bill still includes harmful provisions that were in the original legislation introduced in March 2017. Those provisions would:

- Leave 24 million more Americans uninsured;
- Increase the cost of insurance for millions of Americans, particularly those over age 50, in rural areas, and/or on a tight budget; and
- Cut Medicaid funding and protections for Texas children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities.

The new MacArthur amendment would also allow states to:

- Strip protections for pre-existing conditions; and
- Strip requirements for insurance companies to cover essential benefits such as maternity care, prescription drugs, and mental health care.

In your district alone, more than 300,000 people are estimated to have pre-existing conditions that would have resulted in denial had they tried to buy coverage in Texas' pre-ACA individual insurance market. The revised bill would put at risk their access to affordable health care by once again allowing insurers to charge more--possibly much more--to some people with pre-existing conditions. **The bill's provisions for federal or state high-risk pools or reinsurance programs do not guarantee that there will be subsidies to make the higher-priced coverage affordable at all incomes, and the proposed funding falls short of what actuaries say would be needed.**

In addition, an estimated 42,400 constituents in your district would lose their health coverage by 2026 under this bill.

Under this plan, Texas would receive less federal funding for providing health care to the low-income children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities who currently rely on Medicaid. These cuts will threaten already-low provider reimbursement rates and increase barriers to care in rural communities.

We urge you to vote no on this bill because it would leave millions without coverage and would not make coverage more affordable. We ask you to vote no to help those who were previously uninsurable due to pre-existing conditions, and to prevent cuts to health care for Texas children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Kafka
Organizer
[ADAPT of Texas](#)

Dale Eastman
Chair of Advocacy and Government Relations
[Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

C. Tony Dunn, MD, FACOG
Chair
[American Congress of Obstetricians
and Gynecologists-District XI \(Texas\)](#)

Gretchen Walton
Executive Director
[Breast Health Collaborative of Texas](#)

Anne Dunkelberg
Associate Director
[Center for Public Policy Priorities](#)

Patrick Bresette
Executive Director
[Children's Defense Fund-Texas](#)

Stacy E. Wilson, J.D.
President
[Children's Hospital Association of Texas](#)

Fred Hines
President and CEO
[Clarity Child Guidance Center](#)

Dennis Borel
Executive Director
[Coalition of Texans with Disabilities](#)

Christina Buttler
Navigator Project Manager and Grant
Compliance Coordinator
[Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living](#)

Mary Faithfull
Executive Director
[Disability Rights Texas](#)

Celia Cole
CEO
[Feeding Texas](#)

Elaine Wiant
President
[League of Women Voters of Texas](#)

Shannon Lucas
Regional Director of Advocacy & Government
Affairs, South Central Region
[March of Dimes](#)

Greg Hansch
Public Policy Director
[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)
Texas](#)

Miriam Nisenbaum
Executive Director
[National Association of Social Workers/Texas
Chapter](#)

Simone Nichols-Segers
Government Relations Manager
[National MS Society, Texas](#)

Patty Ducayet
State Long-term Care Ombudsman
[Office of the Texas State Long-term Care
Ombudsman](#)

Jackie Pontello, J.D.
Executive Director
[One Voice Texas: A Collaborative for Health
and Human Services](#)

Cathy Cranston
Organizer
[Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas](#)

Kimberly Carter, MD, FACOG
President

[Texas Association of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists](#)

Jaime Estrada
President

[Texas Doctors for Social Responsibility](#)

Bee Moorhead
Executive Director

[Texas Impact](#)

Michelle Tremillo
Executive Director

[Texas Organizing Project](#)

Joyce Elizabeth Mauk, MD
President

[Texas Pediatric Society](#)

Stephanie Rubin
CEO

[Texans Care for Children](#)

Kyle Piccola
Chief Government and Community Relations
Officer

[The Arc of Texas](#)

Maggie Jo Buchanan
Southern Director

[Young Invincibles](#)