May 22, 2017

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

Dear Leader McConnell,

Under Obamacare, millions of Americans are experiencing higher costs and less access to quality health care, and recent developments indicate that these problems are only going to get worse. Americans are desperate for relief from Obamacare and Senate lawmakers have an opportunity to deliver on the promises they’ve made since 2010 to repeal this failing law.

The American Health Care Act (AHCA), recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, takes some positive steps toward rolling back some of Obamacare’s worst elements, but much more must be done to drive down costs, create more affordable options, and expand access to quality care for everyone – especially those most in need.

Fortunately, the bill’s passage in the House allows the process to continue, and the Senate now has a chance to build on this progress and achieve the aforementioned goals. We want to work together with you to improve health care and, as you consider legislation, we urge you to prioritize the following:

- Repeal as much of Obamacare as possible under budget reconciliation, including the law’s harmful insurance regulations and mandates that drive up health care costs and reduce choices for patients.

- End Medicaid expansion, freeze enrollment in the expanded program, and move funding and control of program design to the states. Medicaid expansion under Obamacare shifted the program’s focus away from those who need it the most. Failing to responsibly end Medicaid expansion and reform the program would continue to saddle future taxpayers with a growing and potentially unsustainable burden. Putting states in control of their Medicaid programs will spur innovative solutions that help those truly in need of assistance.

- Stop subsidizing unaffordable care and instead fix the problems that put quality and affordable care out of reach for so many Americans. Continuing to subsidize Obamacare
with tax credits locks in artificially higher costs, while ignoring the fundamental problems with our health care system.

- Provide state block grants to help people with pre-existing conditions gain and maintain access to coverage. While Obamacare guaranteed coverage for sick Americans, the law’s regulations and mandates made it too expensive for many people to actually use their insurance or access the type of care they need. Allowing states to reinstate or create safety-net programs to help their most vulnerable citizens is the best way to lower prices for everyone while ensuring that those with pre-existing conditions don’t fall through the cracks.

Furthermore, the Senate should avoid creating new regulatory burdens for individuals and families, such as allowing Washington to automatically enroll people into taxpayer-subsidized insurance plans. Enrolling people without their consent is a giveaway to insurers that inflates prices, drives up costs for taxpayers, and keeps Washington at the center of health care.

Keeping in place the worst of Obamacare makes it all but impossible to improve our health care system and fundamentally transform it into one that benefits all Americans and puts patients first. Thankfully, these solutions can help begin creating more options at lower prices, while also ensuring access to quality and affordable coverage for vulnerable patients and those most in need of assistance.

On behalf of Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce members and Americans for Prosperity, we look forward to working with you to help the millions of people who are suffering from higher costs and fewer choices by repealing Obamacare and passing the reforms outlined above.

Sincerely,

Nathan Nascimento
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Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer,
Americans for Prosperity