

PRESS STATEMENT

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In Opposing Repeal of Reform, Coalition Calls for Real Bipartisan Effort to Devise System-wide Policy Solutions for Rising Health Costs

The National Coalition on Health Care and NCHC Action Fund expressed profound disappointment in efforts by the House of Representatives to repeal the new federal health reform law. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) already has begun to benefit millions of Americans and simple repeal of the law clearly would do more harm than good.

“The Affordable Care Act is not a perfect law, but it is the best foundation our Nation has yet had for providing all Americans access to quality, affordable health care now and in the future” said CEO and President, Ralph G. Neas. The Affordable Care Act will fundamentally change the American health system for the better. No longer will families be bankrupted by illness. Individuals with a pre-existing condition will not be denied needed health coverage and forced to pay exorbitant sums out-of-pocket while receiving inefficient care. Seniors will not be forced to ration their medications because they cannot afford drugs while in the donut hole.

Rather than pursuing repeal of a law that has done so much good for so many, the Coalition believes that the time has come for all Members of Congress to commit -- in a meaningful, bipartisan way -- to solving the crisis of out of control costs throughout the health system.

Doing so will require debate, an essential part of American democracy, which produces real system-wide solutions, not political rhetoric. Rapidly growing health costs threaten American families, businesses and government and demand serious attention. The ACA was the first step toward taming the cost curve, and repeal would put the American health system back on a crash course with fiscal disaster.

Repeal is not the answer, but there are positive changes that can and must be made to address stability and sustainability. The Coalition looks forward to an ongoing dialogue about how to rein in America’s health costs to ensure that all, including the most vulnerable, have access to quality, affordable health care now and in the future. A high value health system that includes health care coverage for all, cost management, improvement of health care quality and safety, equitable financing, and simplified administration is no less than the Nation deserves.

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The NCHC Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) not for profit organization devoted to public education, and advocacy to secure stable affordable health care for America. The National Coalition on Health Care, the oldest and most diverse alliance of groups committed to securing and sustaining health care system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization. Some members of the National Coalition Health Care (NCHC) do not, or cannot, take positions either on specific legislation, strategies or on any policies outside their respective mission areas. Not every member of NCHC has a position on or supports every position of the NCHC Action Fund. However, all that can, do endorse broad policy positions do support comprehensive health system reform. Both organizations are located at 1120 G Street, NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: (202) 638-7151.