



The Hospital + Healthsystem
Association of Pennsylvania

Leading for Better Health

Dear Member of the Pennsylvania Delegation:

March 22, 2017

On behalf of The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), which represents nearly 240 member institutions, directly employing nearly 300,000 people, I write to emphasize the Pennsylvania hospital community's critical concerns with the proposed American Health Care Act (AHCA), and urge you to vote against the legislation.

As I know you have heard from the local hospitals serving your communities and constituents, the implications of the policy before you are profound. The combined effect of phasing out Medicaid expansion, significant changes to Medicaid financing, and tax credits that fall short in supporting access to affordable insurance, will jeopardize coverage for more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians.

For those Pennsylvanians, coverage has meant access to care—preventative services, less costly outpatient visits rather than hospitalizations, treatment for behavioral health and substance abuse—and ultimately, better health.

By backtracking on coverage, the AHCA threatens that hard-won progress toward improving health and curbing health care spending, and exacerbates financial stress on Pennsylvania's hospitals.

By law, hospitals must provide services to all, regardless of their ability to pay. Greater numbers of uninsured and underinsured patients will drive up charity care and bad debt. Those dynamics will compound financial stress for Pennsylvania hospitals that already have sustained \$1.6 billion in payment cuts to support expanded coverage, and are facing another \$14.9 billion in cuts through 2026.

The AHCA leaves far too many Pennsylvanians without the means to get affordable health coverage and weakens Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, which serves 2.8 million children, pregnant women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. These reductions in coverage and funding will jeopardize the stability of the hospital safety net at a time when it is needed more than ever.

Pennsylvania hospitals urge you to continue working to produce an adequate replacement plan that preserves coverage and promotes a healthier Pennsylvania.

If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact me](#) or [Laura Stevens Kent](#), vice president, federal advocacy, at (202) 863-9287.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy Carter', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andy Carter
President and Chief Executive Officer