



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 23, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
H-232 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President and Speaker Ryan:

We share your deep concerns about the Affordable Care Act and healthcare affordability and accessibility throughout our nation. When the Affordable Care Act was pushed through in a Democrat Congress, it was criticized for being rushed without giving all lawmakers time to read or deliberate on the final language. We know that your urgency now is rooted in your concerns that the ACA is failing, and for that we appreciate the need for a solution sooner rather than later. However, we urge all those in Washington to approach the healthcare reform process now underway with transparency, with caution and with great care. Our nation must learn from what happened with Obamacare, and recognize that rushing any repeal may not be in the best interest of our citizens. Therefore, we ask that you work with Congress to give legislators across our nation the time needed to fully understand and vet the proposed policies.

We certainly recognize the need to address health care and insurance challenges faced by people across our nation. Clearly, with this important issue we need to act quickly to resolve the negative consequences of the Affordable Care Act, however we believe it is important to ensure all states know exactly how any proposal could impact its citizens in both the short and long term. Here in Connecticut, the Affordable Care Act is facing major challenges which negatively impact many people. Change is needed, as is a solution that is fully examined by all stakeholders. The current system in Connecticut cannot continue without change. In our state in the last year alone health insurance rates have increased by double digits, exchange enrollment has dropped with thousands choosing to leave the exchange, we are the only state to not include brokers in the state exchange process, hospitals are being taxed more and more each year, and the number of insurance companies on the exchange in our state has dropped from four to two and is likely to be down to one next year given Anthem's recent

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announcement – hurting healthy competition. In addition, recent state budget cuts have hit hospitals, seniors and those on Medicaid extremely hard with the last biennial budget affecting over 18,000 individuals on Medicaid. And Governor Malloy's latest budget proposal would result in 9,200 people in Connecticut on Medicaid losing their health insurance and cause 39,000 very low income elderly individuals in Connecticut to lose funding that helps them with copays and premium assistance. In addition, while we don't fully know what the proposed changes will result in, we do know that under the Affordable Care Act Connecticut will be burdened with approximately \$177 million in additional costs over the next two years.

In light of the concerns here in Connecticut and those expressed by many states, we all need to make sure the impact of this new proposal is fully evaluated and understood by all states so that we can make decisions in the best interest of protecting our constituents and communities.

A well vetted plan, taking into account the shortfalls of the current Affordable Care Act, which can be digested by constituents in the best course of action. Deliberateness in moving forward is the key to success.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano
Senate Republican President Pro Tempore



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House Republican Leader