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January 5, 2017

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Honorable Tom Reed
2437 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reed:

We are writing to you to express our concerns and ask for your careful consideration of the long-term implications regarding legislation before Congress that would repeal much of the Affordable Care Act.

Certainly, since the ACA's enactment physicians across New York State have expressed concerns with many provisions, and that the ACA has encouraged and/or accelerated the proliferation of health insurance plans with huge patient cost-sharing responsibilities, prompted the narrowing of physician networks and elimination of coverage options for small businesses and sole proprietors. On the other hand, the ACA has provided the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers to obtain affordable health insurance coverage that previously was not available to them. Understandably, many are concerned about losing this coverage altogether if these programs were to be eliminated without a suitable replacement. Moreover, elimination of the funding currently provided to New York State through these programs could drive a huge hole in our State Budget, and prompt untenable cuts affecting millions of more New Yorkers.

At this time, it is not clear what legislation will be enacted by Congress to replace the coverage options that will be lost to New Yorkers if there was to be an outright repeal of the ACA, or a repeal of the funding streams contained within the ACA. Therefore, we urge you to assure that any legislation that threatens the availability of affordable health insurance options for our patients simultaneously specifies how these currently available coverage options will be replaced with improved coverage options. Enclosed are health reform objectives that the physician delegates to the American Medical Association have identified as essential in any health care reform proposal.

We look forward to working with you to enhance, not reduce, the availability of affordable and comprehensive health insurance options for our patients.

Sincerely,


MALCOLM REID, MD, MPP