March 2017

The Honorable

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative/Senator :

On behalf of [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] and the of the [INSERT #] patients we serve, I am writing to share our opposition to the recently introduced American Health Care Act. Quite simply the Act abandons our most vulnerable communities by rolling back foundational coverage programs like the Medicaid Expansion.

[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) dedicated to [INSERT MISSION]. We serve more than [INSERT #] patients, and deliver more than [INSERT #] visits annually through primary medical care, behavioral health, oral health, pharmacy, vision, health education, care coordination, nutrition and social services.

[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] is part of a community of health centers in California that collectively serve 6.2 million people each year through nearly 20 million visits, and 57% of our patients are enrolled in Medi-Cal. According to a study by the California HealthCare Foundation, safety-net clinics are providing care to 54 percent, or 1.3 million, new patients enrolled in California’s Medicaid managed care plans since the Medicaid expansion was implemented. We are ostensibly the bedrock for Medi-Cal in California.

Because over half of our patients rely on Medi-Cal, changes to the Medicaid expansion and the underlying Medicaid program could have dramatic impact on our ability to provide care to California’s most vulnerable residents. We have made amazing progress in providing access to care for millions of Californians, and we do not want that progress to be reversed. The ACA is working in California, and we encourage you carefully consider the dramatic impact on your constituents before repealing the ACA.

[SHARE YOUR STORY OF ACA SUCCESS HERE]

The American Health Care Act significantly rolls back foundational safety-net programs like the Medicaid Expansion. Further, moving Medicaid from an entitlement program to a per capita cap calculation per beneficiary will inevitably result in a loss of funds for California thereby limiting our ability to comprehensively care for and treat our most vulnerable residents. Furthermore, defunding Planned Parenthood will harm Californians by decreasing access to an essential provider. Overall, this is not a good bill for California and it is definitely not a good bill for our most vulnerable communities.

[SHARE HOW THIS BILL IF ENACTED WOULD IMPACT YOUR HEALTH CENTER]

Thank you in advance for your continued support of health centers and the communities we serve. We encourage you or your staff to visit our health centers to learn more about the services and care that is provided to California’s most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,