



March 10, 2017

The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Re: Vote "NO" on the American Health Care Act

Dear Representative:

I am writing on behalf of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR), a coalition of 500 organizations working to fight, and ultimately end, the hepatitis B and hepatitis C epidemics. We are deeply concerned about the potential negative effects of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which would repeal many elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As the House prepares to debate the bill, we ask you to consider our concerns outlined below and urge you to vote "NO" on the bill.

The AHCA would burden states and families with new health care costs by capping what the federal government pays states for each person covered by their Medicaid program. Medicaid funding has proven critical to testing and treating low-income people with hepatitis B and/or C. The AHCA's radical restructuring of Medicaid would strip states of their freedom to design their own Medicaid programs and would force them to cut coverage and benefits. The effects would be devastating for people with hepatitis B and/or C, who rely upon the ability of states to cover lifesaving treatment and care. Patients will be forced to go without treatment or go into debt to get the care they need.

The AHCA would also reduce the premium subsidies that help millions afford health insurance through the exchanges (marketplaces). As many as 6.3 million lower-income people would lose the financial assistance that helps them reduce their out-of-pocket costs like deductibles. Many lower-income families could see their deductibles increase by as much as \$5,500. These cost increases would make treatment for chronic hepatitis B and/or C and other chronic illnesses simply unaffordable. People with hepatitis B and/or C depend on consistent access to care and medications and cannot risk losing access to their health coverage or a cut in services.

Please vote "NO" on the AHCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Clary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Clary
Executive Director

1612 K Street NW #1202, Washington, DC 20006