July 25, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

On behalf of United States Conference of Mayors, we are writing to strongly urge the Senate to vote “No” on the ‘motion to proceed’ on any healthcare legislation that would take away healthcare coverage from millions of Americans in our cities. We strongly encourage leadership and relevant members to form a bipartisan working group in partnership with the nation’s mayors to craft legislation that will truly fix what ails our healthcare system.

We are Republican and Democratic mayors who represent small and large cities and towns in progressive and conservative states and localities – we are on the ground and closest to the people; and we are ready and willing to partner with you. We are united and confident that, working with you, we will find actionable solutions to strengthen healthcare delivery.

Cities and their metro regions are home to 86% of the nation’s population, 88% of the nation’s jobs, and 91% of the country’s GDP. Any proposal that strips away coverage, hurts seniors, or hampers efforts to combat the opioid epidemic is a non-starter for cities.

During our annual meeting earlier this summer, the nation’s mayors released the Mayors’ Agenda for the Future that affirms our position as the public officials closest to the people, and that quality health care in this country should be viewed by all as a human right, not a privilege for those who can afford access to it.

A bipartisan working group that includes Mayors, Governors and Senators and that is inclusive of cities’ voices regardless of their relative size, demographic makeup, or political persuasion – will provide a venue for vibrant, productive policy conversations
that will deliver real, measurable results. It will serve the best interests of all our shared constituencies, who are best served by action, not partisanship.

Sincerely,

Mitch Landrieu
Mayor of New Orleans
USCM President

Stephen Benjamin
Mayor of Columbia (SC)
USCM Vice President

Madeline Anne Rogero
Mayor of Knoxville

Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton

Frank C. Ortis
Mayor of Pembroke Pines

Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor of Burnsville

Paul A. Dyster
Mayor of Niagara Falls

John Heilman
Mayor of West Hollywood

John Giles
Mayor of Mesa

Kim McMillan
Mayor of Clarksville

Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor of Schenectady
Paul R. Soglin
Mayor of Madison

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor of Rochester

Alan L. Nagy
Mayor of Newark

Mike Rawlings
Mayor of Dallas

John A. McNally
Mayor of Youngstown

William 'Bill' V. Bell
Mayor of Durham

Patrick J. Furey
Mayor of Torrance

David J. Berger
Mayor of Lima

Denny Doyle
Mayor of Beaverton

Javier Gonzales
Mayor of Santa Fe

Steve Adler
Mayor of Austin

Hillary Schieve
Mayor of Reno

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor of Denver

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
Lyda Krewson
Mayor of St. Louis

Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor of Tempe

Adrian O. Mapp
Mayor of Plainfield

Greg Stanton
Mayor of Phoenix

Joseph T. McElveen Jr.
Mayor of Sumter

Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City

Sue Higgins
Mayor of Oakley

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor of Baltimore

Stephanie A. Miner
Mayor of Syracuse

John P. Marchand
Mayor of Livermore

Jim Kenney
Mayor of Philadelphia

Nancy Rodkin Rotering
Mayor of Highland Park

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston
Jon Mitchell
Mayor of New Bedford

Helene Schneider
Mayor of Santa Barbara

Marni L. Sawicki
Mayor of Cape Coral

Levar Stoney
Mayor of Richmond

Jonathan Rothschild
Mayor of Tucson

Paula Hicks-Hudson
Mayor of Toledo

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of Chicago

David H. Bieter
Mayor of Boise

Donald Terry
Mayor of Rancho Cordova

Pauline Russo Cutter
Mayor of San Leandro

Marilyn Strickland
Mayor of Tacoma

Geraldine 'Jeri' Muoio Ph.D.
Mayor of West Palm Beach

Sylvester 'Sly' James Jr.
Mayor of Kansas City

Buddy Dyer
Mayor of Orlando
William Peduto  
Mayor of Pittsburgh

William A. Bell Sr.  
Mayor of Birmingham

Ken S. Rosenberg  
Mayor of Mountain View

Karen M. Freeman-Wilson  
Mayor of Gary

Joe Baldacci  
Mayor of Bangor

Luke Bronin  
Mayor of Hartford

Kathy M. Sheehan  
Mayor of Albany

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of Washington, DC

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor of San Francisco

Wayne M. Messam  
Mayor of Miramar

Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville

cc. Members of the Senate