



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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July 25, 2017

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TOM COCHRAN

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

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
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

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

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

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

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Mayor of Louisville

cc. Members of the Senate