

December 16, 2016

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

The undersigned organizations provide health services and/or advocate for access to health care for Ohio consumers, particularly those with low incomes and people with disabilities. We are pleased that Congress is asking for input and recommendations from the nation's governors and insurance commissioners, per letter of December 2, 2016 from House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, as it considers health care reform. We believe that it would be irresponsible for Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without including a better plan in the repeal legislation.

We would encourage you to ask Congress to assure that any ACA replacement plan contain protections including, but not limited to:

- No discrimination on coverage or premium cost based on pre-existing condition (regardless of length of uninsured period);
- No gender discrimination on coverage or premium cost;
- An age ratio no higher than the age differentials in the current ACA;
- Financial assistance to make health coverage affordable;
- Protections for young people up to age 26 to remain covered on their parents' health policy;
- Protections against annual and life-time dollar caps;
- Coverage of essential health benefits that are shown to improve health, including mental health and addiction services and services for people with disabilities;
- Protection of prevention services not subject to a deductible or co-pay;
- Ensuring that 80% of premiums are spent on medical claims;
- Ensuring access to integrated services in the community, such as home and community based services waivers, to prevent undue segregation in institutions.

Governor Kasich, we appreciate the strong stand you have taken on the value of expanded Medicaid in Ohio. We also ask that you advocate for the preservation of the Medicaid program that benefits so many individuals and families in our state. Please ask Congress to maintain Medicaid federal financing, so Ohio can preserve the current program's core benefits and eligibility levels, including coverage for families with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty line.

At this critical juncture, we ask you to convey to Congress and the President-elect that repeal should not take place without a clear plan that makes care better for everyone. We also ask

that you speak out about protecting the Medicaid program. No Ohioan should lose coverage and access to care.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Ohio's Future
Center for Closing the Health Gap
Contact Center
Disability Rights Ohio
Doctors for America
Drug Free Action Alliance
Innovation Ohio
Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio)
Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Ohio Association of Food Banks
Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage
Ohio Council of Churches
Ohio Education Association
Ohio Federation of Teachers
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Ohio Psychological Association
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
Policy Matters Ohio
Progress Ohio
The Council On Older Persons (COOP)
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio)
Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Network (UMADAOP) Cincinnati