



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
713 Hart  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Portman:

On behalf of the physician, resident and medical student members of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), I am writing to you regarding the discussions taking place in Congress to reform the health care system and the possible legislative actions that may be taken on the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The AMCNO believes that health insurance coverage and access to quality healthcare is of utmost importance. To that end, our organization and the physicians we serve recognize the need for health system reform and have long advocated for change in the healthcare delivery system. For years, the AMCNO has voiced its support for the funding of patient-centered medical homes, enhanced access to care for all Americans, changes in health insurance company behavior, and support for prevention and wellness programs, among others. And we remain as committed as ever to improving healthcare access and health insurance coverage for the patients in our community.

The AMCNO is committed to working with Congressional leaders and other stakeholders to work toward health system reform initiatives that will:

- Allow access to affordable healthcare for all Americans and assure that individuals currently covered do not become uninsured;
- Enact meaningful medical liability reforms inclusive of alternative dispute resolution concepts;
- Provide for insurance market reforms that enhance choice of affordable coverage; including coverage for pre-existing conditions and parental coverage for young adults;
- Strengthen the individual insurance market and provide for quality improvement as well as reductions in cost;
- Enhance choice of affordable coverage and ensure that all patients are able to secure adequate coverage;
- Ensure that Medicaid, CHIP, and other safety net programs are adequately funded;
- Support reinstating Medicaid payment parity with Medicare for physician services provided under the Medicaid program;

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- Support reinstating Medicaid payment parity with Medicare for physician services provided under the Medicaid program;
- Support states being given the ability to develop and test different models for covering the uninsured;
- Continue to promote market-based strategies to achieve the affordability of prescription drugs and support initiatives to negotiate drug prices;
- Require healthcare decision making by physicians and their patients, instead of by insurers or government entities;
- Provide for investments and incentives for public health and prevention and wellness initiatives;
- Provide appropriate avenues and funding for the growth of the physician workforce to meet demand.

The AMCNO believes that in order to avoid any disruption in patient care that policymakers should lay out, in detail, what they believe should replace current healthcare policies so that stakeholders can review the new plan before it is implemented to determine if it meets the needs of the American public. As the healthcare debate continues in the future, the AMCNO stands ready to work with you to strive for changes in the healthcare system that will address the points noted above, and establish a more efficient and complete healthcare delivery system while preserving the physician-patient relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R E Hobbs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "E" followed by the name "Hobbs".

Robert E. Hobbs, MD  
President

Cc: Ohio Congressional Representatives