



June 26, 2017

## **Please Vote “No” on the Better Care Reconciliation Act**

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals respectfully urges you to vote “no” on the Better Care Reconciliation Act when that bill comes before you in the Senate. We ask you to do so for several reasons, including:

- Between scaling back the current Medicaid expansion and reducing financial assistance to working-class families, the Better Care Reconciliation Act would result in too many Americans losing health care coverage – and with it, access to health care: by 2026, 22 million more people would be uninsured under this proposal than would be under current law, according to the Congressional Budget Office.
- The manner in which the Better Health Care Act would fund the federal government’s share of Medicaid spending, through per capita limits and projected reduced enrollment, would reduce the federal commitment to Medicaid by approximately \$772 billion over the next ten years. That \$772 billion is not an abstract number and it is not just dollars: it is \$772 billion worth of medical services that people who need such services would no longer receive.
- The expansion of access to health care coverage of recent years was financed in large part by hospitals through the reduction of some of their Medicare and Medicaid payments, and especially their Medicare and Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments (DSH), and while the Better Care Reconciliation Act would reverse that expansion of access to health care coverage it would not reverse the major cuts in these payments, leaving safety-net hospitals of all kinds with fewer resources with which to serve larger numbers of uninsured and underinsured people.
- At the same time that the Better Care Reconciliation Act would be asking states to assume a greater share of the responsibility for paying for Medicaid by cutting federal matching funds it also would reduce their ability to use one of the most important tools they have for shouldering this additional burden: Medicaid provider taxes.
- In addition, limiting the future growth of per capita payments based on a growth factor that does not reflect the actual growth in health care costs could force states to reduce benefits, reduce payments to providers, and reduce eligibility even more than this bill already does, even further reducing access to care for low-income and especially low-income elderly people.
- While we both understand and share your interest in finding a better approach to health care in our country and are absolutely receptive to new and better ideas, we do not believe the Better Care Reconciliation Act represents a better idea.



21351 Gentry Drive, Suite 210, Sterling, VA 20166

Phone: 703-444-0989, Fax: 703-444-3029

[www.nauh.org](http://www.nauh.org)



- And we believe it would be harmful for the residents of the communities our safety-net hospitals serve and bad for our hospitals, leaving them with more uninsured and underinsured patients to serve and fewer resources with which to serve them.

For these and other reasons, the National Association of Urban Hospitals asks you to vote against the BCRA. We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you have about these or the other reasons that led us to this position.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kugler, Esq.  
Executive Director

