September 18, 2017

Please Oppose the
Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Senator Gardner:

The National Association of Urban Hospitals respectfully asks you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal.

We do so for the following reasons:

- While we still await the CBO score, it appears likely that Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson's Medicaid repeal will leave at least the same 14 million Medicaid recipients uninsured as the American Health Care Act and Better Care Reconciliation Act – and millions of additional people as well.

- Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson offers no apparent protection for people with pre-existing medical conditions, leaving that challenge instead to the states.

- The Affordable Care Act brought significant cuts in Medicare and Medicaid payments to hospitals, and especially to safety-net hospitals, to help pay for Medicaid expansion. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson retains those cuts while reversing the Medicaid expansion, leaving urban safety-net hospitals and other safety-net providers with fewer resources with which to serve more uninsured patients.

- Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson would reduce the ability of states to raise their share of their Medicaid costs through provider taxes.

In communities across the country, private, non-profit urban safety-net hospitals are the providers of last resort for many uninsured and the under-insured Americans. We do that work proudly. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson, however, would leave even more people in need of this assistance while at the same time taking away vital resources that make this work possible. NAUH welcomes proposals that would enhance access to care in an affordable and responsible manner but we do not believe this legislation offers such potential. For this reason, we respectfully ask that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome any questions you may have about our position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein
Deputy Executive Director