



June 15, 2017

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

As the Senate considers changes to P.L. 111-148, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the House of Representatives-passed American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628) we write to you on behalf of UR Medicine's patients and providers and the impact these health care policy decisions will have on New York State and the communities you represent.

UR Medicine, its affiliates and collaborators are upstate New York's largest integrated health care system, serving 15 counties with a population of more than 2.6 million people, and directly employ more than 20,000 individuals. We are the leading source of new physicians for the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier region, the largest provider of care to Medicaid, Medicare, and uninsured patients in the region, and the largest employers in our respective communities. We are working to transform care as part of an integrated academic health care system by sharing and maintaining services, improving access, sustaining a physician and health workforce, and providing quality care to our patients where they live, while reducing costs.

We are deeply concerned that AHCA could severely undermine these efforts. According to estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill would leave 23 million more individuals without vital health coverage in 10 years through the elimination of essential protections for older and sicker patients, including those with pre-existing conditions. It also would cut billions from the already underfunded Medicaid program, which provides essential services for many children, the disabled, poor, and elderly. These cuts will place a great strain on providers and hospital systems such as UR Medicine and our ability to care for the most vulnerable members of our communities, and should not be included by the Senate in final legislation.

According to recent estimates by the Hospital Association of New York State (HANYs), 2.7 million New Yorkers would be at risk of losing health care coverage under the AHCA, including nearly 104,000 individuals residing in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Allegany, and Wayne counties who are served by UR Medicine. The elimination of the Medicaid expansion and shifting of costs from the counties to the state would create \$4.7 billion in Medicaid cuts to New York State annually, resulting in more than \$350 million in Medicaid cuts to UR Medicine and its affiliates over the next ten years. These cuts are in addition to the \$155 billion in reductions to Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments established under the ACA that the bill leaves in place. While some of the ACA funding cuts would be partially mitigated by the AHCA, due to a dramatic increase in the number of newly uninsured individuals who would be unable to pay for hospital services they may need, New York State's hospitals and health systems would be subject to \$12.2 billion in cuts

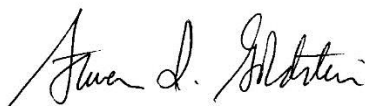
over the next decade. As a result, UR Medicine and its affiliates still face more than \$278 million in federal Medicare and Medicaid cuts over the next ten years.

While we share Congress' goals of improving quality, access, and affordability of health care, it must not come at the expense or detriment of health care providers and the patients and families we serve. We urge the Senate to restart and reset the discussion in a manner that provides continued coverage to those Americans who have benefited from the ACA, and ensures that the most vulnerable are not left behind. In addressing concerns with the ACA that are vital to all stakeholders, maintaining or improving current levels of health care coverage must be paramount to any reform proposal. Efforts should also be made to build upon the ACA's essential consumer protections and delivery system reform, which are embraced by providers to improve health and health care for all Americans. We also must ensure that providers are able to innovate to continue the transformation of the health care system and receive predictable and adequate payments to provide the care our communities deserve.

We applaud you for leading the effort in support of meaningful access to care for all. We hope that you will continue to advocate for high-quality, affordable, comprehensive coverage for all, including maintaining Medicaid expansion and protecting individuals with preexisting conditions, as well as other vulnerable patients who depend on the nation's hospitals for their care. For hospitals that provide significant levels of care to Medicare, Medicaid and uninsured patients, like ours, cuts such as those prescribed in the AHCA will not only adversely impact our ability to provide the highest-quality care to our patients, but will also weaken our local economies. As this process moves forward, we hope to work with you and your colleagues to address the above issues and arrive at a final legislative product that will work to improve the health of Americans and protect the ability of hospitals to continue providing high-quality care to our patients.

We recognize that you share many of these same concerns and deeply appreciate your leadership and continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if we can be of help to you or your staff in this process.

Sincerely,



Steven I. Goldstein
President & Chief Executive Officer
Strong Memorial Hospital
Highland Hospital
Vice President, UR



Cindy Becker, RN, MSN, MBA, FACHE
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Highland Hospital



Eva Benedict, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
Jones Memorial Hospital



Amy Pollard, RN, BSN, MPS
President & Chief Executive Officer
Noyes Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Stapleton'.

Michael F. Stapleton, Jr., FACHE
President & Chief Executive Officer
Thompson Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer L. Sullivan'.

Jennifer Sullivan
President & Chief Executive Officer
St. James Mercy Hospital

cc: Veronica Duron, Chris Zeltmann