



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

January 19, 2017

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative;

Episcopal Liaison
The Most Reverend
David A. Zubik, D.D.
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Chair
Marguerite Harmon

Vice Chair
Gregory Kefferle

Secretary
Charles Cornelio

Treasurer
Michael Connelly

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

On behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), I urge you to preserve and promote access to affordable health care by ensuring that any repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is done concurrently with a plan that protects the millions of Americans who have insurance, or gained access to health care under the Affordable Care Act, and provides access to health care for the millions still living without affordable health care.

The work of CCUSA is rooted in the Church's moral and social teaching that, in accordance with human dignity, health care is a basic human right. The 2,598 local Catholic Charities' agency sites provide care and support to over 8 million people, including health care-related services to 869,634 individuals across the country. Every day these agencies encounter the devastating consequences of inadequate health care. We witness people living on the streets because of untreated mental health problems. We serve those living with physical disabilities and unable to get access to long-term treatment and we experience clients struggling with the decision of either feeding their families or paying their health premium.

CCUSA looks forward to continuing to work with you to find innovative ways to ensure the progress that has been made under the ACA is not lost, particularly for persons who are poor and vulnerable, while at the same time working to provide health care for those still living without health care coverage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna J. Markham, OP, PhD".

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD
President and CEO





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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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