



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and
Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Ways and Means
1139E Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady and Ranking Members Pallone and Neal,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's 2 million members and supporters nationwide I write to express our opposition to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) -- the proposed plan to repeal and revise the Affordable Care Act announced yesterday. As the nation's largest civil rights organization working to promote equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people we are deeply concerned about the negative impact this proposal would have on communities already facing discrimination and healthcare disparities. The announced legislation undermines core provisions of the Affordable Care Act and cuts off tens of millions of Americans from life-saving healthcare coverage. This flawed proposal, drafted behind closed door without public input, turns a blind eye to the essential health benefits that millions of Americans have come to rely upon.

The impact of the AHCA's drastic restructuring of the Medicaid program and roll back of the ACA's Medicaid Expansion on vulnerable Americans, including those who are LGBTQ or living with HIV, will be swift and stark. As a result of the ACA, thousands of low-income people living with HIV were able to obtain health insurance through the Medicaid expansion before becoming disabled by the virus. This critical change ensures that people living with HIV have access to the lifesaving treatments they need to live longer, healthier lives. The AHCA's changes to Medicaid will undoubtedly strip this, and other vulnerable populations, of the essential healthcare coverage they need.

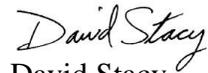
LGBTQ people currently receiving tax credits through the ACA will also face uncertainty as to whether the proposed general age-based tax credit structure will actually meet their needs and keep coverage within their reach. The proposed tax credit structure leaves behind thousands of low-income individuals and families who will be effectively priced out of coverage. As a result

of systemic discrimination LGBTQ Americans have some of the lowest rates of insurance coverage in the nation. Our community has benefitted from the ACA's tax credit structure and the Medicaid Expansion. The rescission of both of these critical components will have devastating consequences for a community already facing significant healthcare disparities.

In addition to repealing these key provisions of the ACA, the AHCA would also cut federal funding for Planned Parenthood, which could jeopardize the ability of clinics to deliver preventive health services, including HIV testing and transition-related care. The ACA's public health and prevention fund, established to expand investments in the nation's public health infrastructure, would also be repealed. Often health centers, like those operated by Planned Parenthood offer the only culturally competent healthcare available, especially in rural and isolated areas. If put into place these cuts would place quality healthcare even further out of reach for some of the most vulnerable members of our community

We oppose the AHCA and urge you to reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Stacy".

David Stacy

Government Affairs Director