

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned organizations representing over 560,000 frontline physicians dedicated to the health and wellbeing of American families in all 50 states, stand together in opposition to any effort to condition payment for health care services on factors other than medical and legal qualifications and standards. Congress should not deny federal funds, including reimbursement for covered services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries, to providers, programs, and health care facilities in cases where a provider is qualified to perform those services.

Attempts, legislative or otherwise, to deny or restrict coverage of care provided by qualified and approved providers jeopardize access to primary and preventive care for millions of Americans who rely on our Nation's already stretched health care safety net. Coverage decisions should be based solely on medical evidence, best practices, and qualifications.

We urge you to prevent politics from interfering in the patient-physician relationship, reject efforts to restrict access to essential primary and preventive health care in the FY 2018 omnibus, and instead work with us to improve our health care system for all Americans.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association