



NCAPIP
National Council of Asian
Pacific Islander Physicians

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January 25, 2016

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

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

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

Minority Leader Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington DC 20510

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

As the 115th Congress considers legislative action related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) affirm our strong support for affordable, universal health care coverage for all Americans, and for addressing cultural and linguistic barriers that will improve the quality of health care and health outcomes for all Americans.

NCAPIP is a non-partisan, not-for-profit, national health policy organization that represents physicians committed to the advancement of the health and well-being of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. Among our board members and physician networks are recognized leaders of national, state and local physician organizations and medical groups. NCAPIP's board members and physician networks include both primary care physicians (including general internists, family physicians, and pediatricians) as well as specialty physicians. NCAPIP's board members and physician networks practice in a variety of settings, including solo and small group physician practices, multi-specialty medical groups, community health centers, public health departments, private and public hospitals, integrated health delivery systems, and academic health centers.

NCAPIP believes that access, quality, cost containment, and leadership are critical to the future of health and wellness of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. As physicians, we are dedicated to ensuring that our patients are provided the foremost in medical care, and that they are afforded the full spectrum of prevention and wellness promotion. We are committed to attaining equity and working to remove barriers that result in disparities in health and health outcomes in our communities.

Like most Americans, NCAPIP acknowledges that the ACA and its implementation have not been perfect; we view it as a work in progress. However, it cannot be disputed that the ACA has provided health insurance coverage for 20 million Americans, including millions of Asian Americans, Native

Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The ACA also has supported health care delivery system reforms to improve the quality of health care and reduce the total costs of care.

As the 115th Congress considers changes to the ACA, NCAPIP urges that any changes result in increased access and more choice, better quality, and lower costs for the consumers and the system overall. Any changes must not reduce the number of Americans currently insured, or make health insurance less affordable. Those that have obtained coverage through the health insurance marketplaces and the expansion of Medicaid must be provided specific, affordable options to keep such coverage.

While there may be legitimate policy differences in designing and supporting individual and small group health insurance markets, access and affordability must be the guiding principles. Specifically, lower income Americans, individuals with pre-existing conditions, and individuals who have chronic or multiple health conditions and need more healthcare resources all must continue to have access to affordable health care coverage. A basic set of essential health benefits, including free clinical preventive services, must be included in all health insurance.

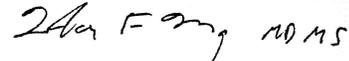
For example, proposals to de-fund federal tax credit subsidies for health insurance premiums, copayments, and deductibles would shift costs of over \$50 billion to lower income Americans and individuals working in small businesses. This is unacceptable. Similarly, "high risk pools" for individuals with pre-existing conditions were tried in 35 states and only resulted in unaffordable insurance options, and almost all those Americans remaining uninsured. We can and must do better.

NCAPIP look forward to participating in productive conversations about how to improve the ACA and health care for all Americans. We urge the 115th Congress to continue to move forward, not backward, towards an advanced health care system that best serves our nation and all its people.

Sincerely,



Ho Luong Tran
President and CEO
NCAPIP



Winston Wong
Chair
NCAPIP

