Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition in Opposition to the Current Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA)

June 29, 2017

The Honorable John Cornyn
Representing the State of Texas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

We write to inform you in the strongest possible terms that we oppose any rush to get the Better Care Reconciliation Act to a vote. This cram down is reminiscent of the Democrats' rush to pass ObamaCare. This bill was only made public a week ago, and changes are still being made.

We are incensed that this is what Republican Senate leadership has produced after promising the American people a full repeal of ObamaCare. **We are neither fooled nor impressed.**

Specifically, we oppose the bill because it does not repeal Obamacare, nor does it significantly reform American health care. Instead, the BCRA bails out insurance companies and actually props up the current system through the next election. It leaves in place heavy-handed federal regulations that have driven up family health insurance premiums by 140 percent since Obamacare was implemented.

Even Jonathan Gruber, widely disdained as the principal architect of ObamaCare, praised the legislation because he said it no longer is an Obamacare repeal bill! The Senate bill preserves many of the worst features of ObamaCare, including the insurance regulations that force health insurance companies to provide policies without taking a risk assessment. This guarantees another spike in insurance costs and will do further damage to the health insurance market.

To further shore up our own critique of the BCRA in its current form, we cite the following two assessments from the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Tenth Amendment Action (our emphasis added):

Director Chip Roy writes, "Today, the Senate released its version of the American Health Care Act. Simply put, the bill doubles down on the fundamentally flawed architecture of Obamacare and if implemented, **will neither increase the actual care available to the people nor drive down the cost of care or insurance.** It maintains Obamacare's subsidy regime, retains almost the entirety of the regulatory architecture driving up people's premiums and deductibles**, continues the previous**

Administration's unconstitutional bailouts to insurers, and maintains the Medicaid expansion for five more years before slowly attempting to reform the program."

Senior Federal Policy Analyst Drew White writes, "While many of the Medicaid reforms are welcome, **these reforms occur too many years down the line and are far from guaranteed to be implemented.** If this bill passes, Obamacare will effectively be permanently enshrined as law. **This is not what Congress has promised the American people and will only pave the way for a government-run, single payer system.** The Senate should, simply put, start over."

If Republicans pass just any health care bill for the sake of passing something, and health care costs continue to rise, ***they will have utterly failed the American people.*** If costs continue to rise **after** a GOP bill is passed, guess who will be blamed? ***Not President Obama!*** To continue full-tilt with a "we've got to get this done so we can get on with tax cuts" mindset will put this country under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer. We support tax reform and tax cuts, but health care policy is an emotional, visible issue that should be explained to the American people.

Senator Cornyn, we do not want you and the rest of the Washington Republican Leadership to pass a GOP version of ObamaCare. Slow down and do this right. Listen to people outside the DC beltway **and insist Republicans keep their promises to the American people.**

The GOP said, "Give us the White House, and we will repeal ObamaCare. Help us keep the House and get a majority in the Senate, and we will repeal ObamaCare."

Senator Cornyn, we did our part. Now, it's time for you to do your part as the Senate Majority whip. Lead the Republican Senators in the right and honorable direction. Stop the BCRA cram down. ***You have time – just give up the August recess, and stay in DC to work!***

For Liberty – For Texas,

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Cathie Adams, Board, National Eagle Forum; Past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Sheila Page, D.O., President, Texas Assoc. of American Physicians & Surgeons

Michael J. A. Robb, M.D., President, Assoc. of American Physicians & Surgeons

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant Tea Party

Corpus Christi TEA Party Patriots

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Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Maggie Wright, founding member/past president, Texas Patriots TEA Party

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Organizational names are for identification purposes only.