

American Association  
of Colleges of Nursing



September 22, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I write to express our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. AACN represents over 800 schools of nursing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Our membership, comprising of deans, faculty, students, clinicians, and researchers, remains firm in our commitment that any healthcare reform proposal should put patients first.

AACN holds strong to three main principles in evaluating health reform proposals: patients have access to quality health care with affordable coverage options and that coverage of pre-existing conditions is not weakened through any policy; essential health benefits are not diminished or eliminated; and Medicaid policy should be preserved to maintain its ability to protect our nation's most vulnerable populations. Based on these principles, AACN believes that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal would place individuals, families, and communities at risk of not receiving timely, accessible, affordable, and high-quality health care.

This proposal, like the House and Senate bills before it, must include a full evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office to understand the impact of the legislation. AACN supports thoughtful deliberation of all health reform measures and thanks the Senate Finance Committee for holding a hearing on this legislation on Monday, September 25. At the same time, we believe that more dialogue is needed on health reform in Congress.

AACN stands ready to continue the conversation and find a measured solution that will put patients first. If our organization can be of any assistance, please contact AACN's Chief Policy Officer, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto at [smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org](mailto:smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org), or AACN's Director of Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye at [linouye@aacnnursing.org](mailto:linouye@aacnnursing.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah E. Trautman".

Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President and Chief Executive Officer

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC NURSING

655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 · Washington, DC 20001 · 202-463-6930 *tel* · 202-785-8320 *fax* ·

[www.aacnnursing.org](http://www.aacnnursing.org)

CC:

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Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Pat Roberts  
Senator Michael B. Enzi  
Senator John Cornyn  
Senator John Thune  
Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Johnny Isakson  
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