

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Donald J Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are extremely concerned with the impact your budget's \$1.4 trillion cut to Medicaid will have on our nation's veterans. One in ten former service members uses Medicaid as their primary source of health care, meaning approximately 1.75 million Americans who put their lives on the line for our country will be left without crucial medical coverage. Furthermore, those in rural communities who already have reduced access to medical services will be hit hardest. Therefore, we strongly urge you to disown these proposed Medicaid cuts.

Your budget assumes the passage of the *American Health Care Act* (AHCA), which cuts over \$800 billion from Medicaid and repeals the Medicaid expansion implemented in the *Affordable Care Act*. Your budget also slashes an additional \$610 billion from Medicaid. Cutting funding and capping future spending on Medicaid will adversely affect veterans who often require more costly, unique care due to their service – such as treatment for traumatic brain injury. If this plan became law, not only will 1.75 million veterans be kicked off of their health care plan but so will their spouses.

While some will argue that veterans could use the health facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, this is not always a feasible option. For many veterans, especially those living in rural communities, distance and transportation to the nearest VA medical facility can make it impractical or even impossible for veterans to use the VA as a source of care. Not all veterans qualify to receive health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligibility relates to a variety of factors, including minimum service requirements as well as disability and discharge status. For example, only 40 percent of all veterans are enrolled in the VA health care system. Even for those veterans who are enrolled, one-third did not use a VA service at all in 2014. For these former service members, Medicaid is truly their only option.

The passage of the *Affordable Care Act* with its expansion of Medicaid has led to a dramatic decrease in the number of uninsured veterans nationwide. Veterans and their families depend on Medicaid for their health care needs – whether as a supplement to their VA coverage or as their only source of access to health care. Knowing the unique and costly health needs of so many of our war heroes, we strongly urge you to reject the Medicaid cuts proposed by Congressional Republicans and included in your budget. Those who have risked their lives for our freedom deserve better.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



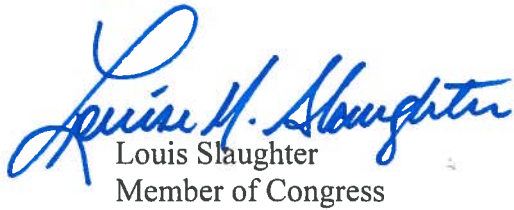
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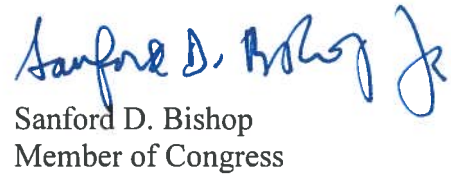
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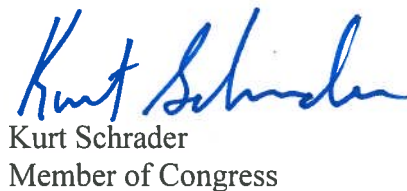
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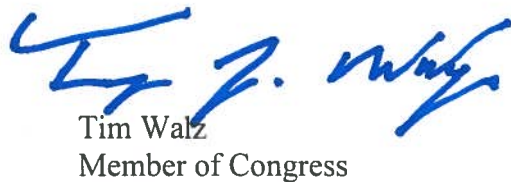
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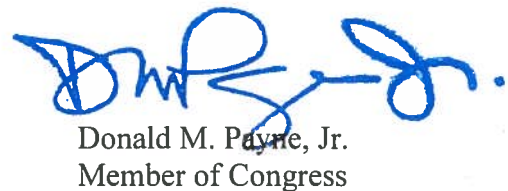
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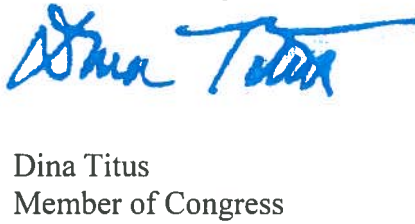
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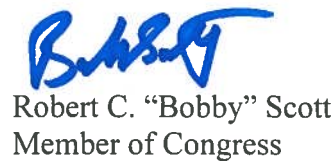
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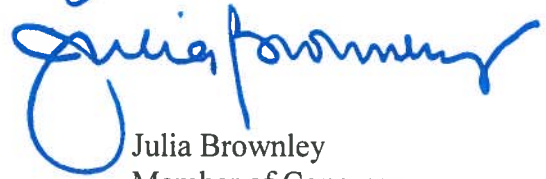
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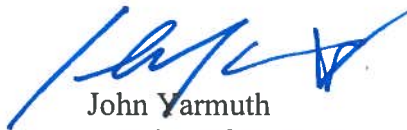
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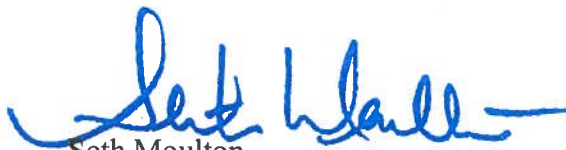
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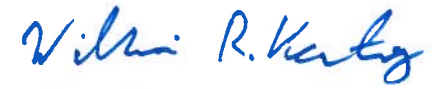

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