

July 12, 2017

The Honorable Mike Lee
RSOB- Russell Senate Office Building, Room 361A
2 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington DC 20510-4404

Dear Senator Lee,

We write to you from your home state of Utah. We represent ordinary Utahns—working people, children, people living with disabilities, and seniors—the people who stand to lose critical access to healthcare and whose lives will be most impacted by the decisions you will make in the coming weeks as the Senate concludes its negotiations over their health care bill. We urge you to cast your vote on behalf of your Utah constituents who have the most at stake.

The current version of the Senate health reform bill would leave the health and financial security of many Utahns in question. Under the BCRA, an estimated 166,000 Utah adults would lose their health care coverage by 2022, along with 79,000 children.¹ In addition, 83,000 Utahns would lose their access to employer-based coverage.² As a result, the state's uninsured rate would double to 20 percent in a few years.³ The BCRA would cut Utah's Medicaid funding by \$1.1 billion, blowing a hole in our state budget and forcing our state to ration care and cut essential programs and services.⁴ And it would increase out-of-pocket costs and real premiums for low- and moderate-income families by more than \$400 billion, burdening these Utahns with new costs they can't afford. Under the BCRA, seniors in Utah could see their premiums rise up to \$4,943 a month.⁵ This is not the reform Utahns need.

We ask that by July 17th you publicly commit to rejecting any bill that:

- Causes Utahns to lose coverage,
- Caps and cuts the Medicaid program, or
- Reduces protections for Utahns with pre-existing health conditions.

¹ http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/effects_of_bcra.pdf

² <http://www.urban.org/research/publication/state-state-coverage-and-government-spending-implications-better-care-reconciliation-act>

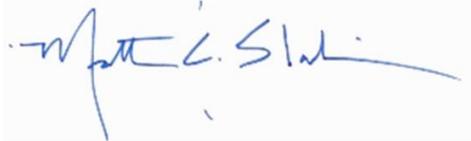
³ Ibid.

⁴ http://www.statenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/BCRA-state-by-state-tables_Final.xlsx

⁵ <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/senate-bill-still-cuts-tax-credits-increases-premiums-and-deductibles-for>

There are many ways for Congress to come together to strengthen our markets, but this bill is not the answer. It's clear that it cannot be "fixed" without addressing its major structural issues and deep cuts to Medicaid. Utah is counting on you to speak up for what is right and ask Republican leadership to start over with a different, bipartisan approach to strengthening our healthcare system that puts ordinary Utahns first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew M. Slonaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew M. Slonaker, J.D.
Executive Director
Utah Health Policy Project