



Media Contact:

Julie Minardi

jminardi@hcpsocal.org

619-929-4102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senate health bill endangers care for millions of Americans

Medicaid cuts will devastate expectant mothers, children, disabled, working poor and seniors who rely on this safety net program.

San Diego, CA – (June 22, 2017) - “We are deeply discouraged by the Senate’s draft health care bill as it takes aim at the nation’s safety net insurance, Medicaid,” said Henry Tuttle president and CEO of Health Center Partners of Southern California. For 60 years, Medicaid has been providing life-giving and life-saving care for our expecting mothers, our children, our families, friends and neighbors living in poverty, our disabled, our developmentally delayed, and our parents and grandparents living in nursing homes.

The Better Care Reconciliation Act (HR1628), proposed today by the U.S. Senate, does not offer solutions that reduce costs. It does not seem to provide meaningful coverage benefits, nor does it model effective programs like the successful Community Health Centers Program that, in California, provides primary care to 20% of the state’s beneficiaries for less than 3% of total expenditures with well documented, high quality health outcomes for the continuum of care.

Without a CBO score, one cannot identify the full financial consequence of this bill, but as it closely mirrors the House bill, one must assume it will devastate coverage. Now more than ever it’s critical for Americans to call their member of Congress and urge a bipartisan solution to ensure quality, affordable health care coverage prior to repealing the Affordable Care Act.

“True access to care for those who are currently uninsured– and the millions more who will become uninsured under this bill – will be diminished or eliminated. This is unacceptable for the greatest nation on earth, ” said Henry N. Tuttle, president and CEO of Health Center Partners of Southern California.

About Health Center Partners of Southern California

Health Center Partners and its subsidiaries serve as the nexus for its members and partners to transform primary care through the power of innovation and collaboration. Our health policy, public affairs and advocacy efforts enhance the development of and recognition for our members who enrich the patient experience and improve the human condition through access to quality health care and related services for their diverse communities, with an emphasis on low-income and uninsured populations. For more information, visit www.hcpsocal.org.

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