January 11, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Price:

Congratulations on being appointed as the nominee to become the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As the primary person charged with overseeing Medicare and Medicaid, emergency preparedness and response, public health and safety, and medical research, among other things, your leadership will be vital to ensuring the wellbeing of millions of Americans. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) looks forward to continuing our work with you to improve patient care across the country and we would like to add our support for your nomination.

According to the CDC and Census data, the 2016 uninsured rate in the United States reached a record low of 8.6 percent. That rate equates to more than 21 million fewer individuals without health insurance than existed in 2010. As emergency physicians, we know better than most that coverage does not equal access, but this improvement should not be dismissed and it is imperative that any discussions to repeal and replace Obamacare include policies that will provide coverage and access to quality health care. No one in this country should ever be without necessary care because of an inability to afford it and no one should be forced into bankruptcy or financial ruin because of necessary medical care.

ACEP is a national emergency medicine specialty society with over 35,000 members. ACEP is committed to improving the quality of emergency care through continuing education, research, and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and a Government Services Chapter representing emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies.

Sincerely,

Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP
ACEP President