

January 4, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer:

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our 35,000 members are looking forward to working with you during the 115th Congress. As you prepare for what is expected to be an extremely busy first 100 days that will likely include efforts to repeal all or portions of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010" (ACA) through the budget reconciliation process, we wanted to provide you with the attached principles we deem indispensable to any replacement plan.

Although the nation's emergency departments continue to focus on our traditional mission of providing urgent and lifesaving care, our role has evolved over the last several decades to also encompass safety-net care for un- and under-insured patients, public health surveillance, disaster preparedness and serving as an adjunct to community physician practices. Furthermore, we are bound by the "Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act" (EMTALA), enacted by Congress in 1986, to care for any patient who seeks care in the emergency department, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

Emergency physicians and other on-call specialists bear the brunt of this unfunded mandate and reimbursement reductions from public and private payers have substantially curtailed hospital capacity. America no longer has the surge capacity to deal with sudden increases in patients needing care, such as from natural disasters, terrorist attacks or infectious outbreaks.

My emergency physician colleagues and I look forward to working with you to cultivate a health care system that expands access for patients, encourages innovation and ensures the continued availability of health care providers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the head of our Washington, D.C. office, Gordon Wheeler ([gwheeler@acep.org](mailto:gwheeler@acep.org)), or any member of our congressional affairs team.

Sincerely,



Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP  
ACEP President

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