December 19, 2017

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via Electronic Communication

Dear Representatives and Senators:

On behalf of the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) and the 61 Safety Net Health Plans and the more than 21 million Americans they serve, I am writing to express our opposition to the House/Senate conference agreement on H.R.1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and urge you to vote against this legislation when it comes before you.

In our December 7 communication with members of the House/Senate conference, ACAP identified three specific areas of concern with the legislation. Specifically, ACAP expressed concerned about:

• The repeal of the Affordable Care Act’s Individual Mandate, which the Congressional Budget Office says will cause up to 13 million Americans to become uninsured over the next 10 years and premiums to increase by at least 10 percent. ACAP is concerned that this decision will destroy the health insurance Marketplaces, which when coupled with the Administration’s forthcoming proposal to expand access to short-term limited-duration insurance, will further exacerbate the market, leading to a death spiral.

• The modifications of the deductibility of state and local taxes, which is intended to reduce state tax revenues and will, of necessity, result in cuts to Medicaid, the impacts of which will be borne by enrollees as well as Medicaid health plans and safety net health care providers that serve those individuals. In addition, downward pressure on state revenues may force states and localities to pull back on support for the public health infrastructure that undergirds America’s health care system – notably local hospitals and public health departments. This will have a doubly disastrous impact on these vulnerable populations.

ACAP also expressed concerns regarding the medical expense deduction and we are pleased that the conferees accepted the Senate’s modifications to the issue. However, the repeal of the individual mandate and the modifications to the state and local taxes combined with the stated intent that an additional $1.5 trillion in federal debt created by this legislation will be used to justify dramatic and devastating cuts in federal health care programs like Medicaid, will have disastrous impacts on America’s health care system. Because of that, we urge all members of the House and Senate to vote against this legislation when it comes before you this week. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Margaret A. Murray
Chief Executive Officer