Put on your organization’s letterhead

April \_\_\_, 2017

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House of Representative

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District, California

INSERT DC ADDRESS

**RE: Opposition to the American Health Care Act and Proposed MacArthur Amendments**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Insert name of organization and description, opposes the House Republican “American Health Care Act” (AHCA) with proposed MacArthur amendments, and urges you to oppose this and any repeal measures that would cut coverage and increase the number of uninsured Californians.

The AHCA will not only reverse the progress that California and the rest of the country has made on health care, it will result in higher uninsured rates than even before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted. The Congressional Budget Office’s March 13th analysis confirms that AHCA will result in **14 million** Americans losing coverage in **2018, 21 million by 2021, and 24 million by 2026.** The proposal will also cut overall Medicaid funding by **$880 billion (a 25% reduction)** over the next decade by eliminating the Medicaid expansion and restructuring the Medicaid program. In California alone, AHCA threatens the coverage of **4-5 million Californians,** who directly get coverage and financial assistance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from Medicaid (Medi-Cal) expansion and our state’s exchange, Covered California.

The April 27th MacArthur amendments keep all the program and funding cuts in AHCA in place, while at the same time eviscerating key patient protections that ensure coverage of essential benefits and that prevent insurers from charging higher premiums to those with pre-existing conditions. These amendments make a bad bill worse, as they take away the security and protections for people with pre-existing conditions, undo guaranteed coverage for essential health benefits, repeal community rating, and allow insurers to underwrite and charge us thousands of dollars more due to our health status.

The proposed amendments permit states to opt-in or out of requring health plans to cover essential health benefits through waivers. Currently under the ACA, plans are required to cover 10 essential health benefits and services like doctor visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, maternity care, mental health, substance abuse, and many other vital benefits. With the Medicaid expansion eliminated and the subsidies cut, California would face significant pressure to find other means to bring premiums down, including scaling back benefits and consumer protections. California did not have these protections in place prior to the ACA—they became possible in the context of the funding and the rest of the law.

The “American Health Care Act” would not only take away health care for millions of Californians, but also make it harder for people to get and keep health coverage. Californians will pay more and get less coverage and care as a result of this proposal. On behalf of insert organization name and your constituencies, we urge you to strongly oppose and vote NO on the MacArthur amendments, the “American Health Care Act,” and any proposal that repeals the ACA without a replacement that covers more people without increasing costs or reducing coverage.

Sincerely,

Name

Title