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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors to reiterate their opposition to any changes in Federal law that would reduce or eliminate the County's funding for health care services under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

One of the most important ways of supporting the health of Santa Barbara County residents is to ensure their access to health care coverage and health care services. With the implementation of the ACA, 30,000 county residents are now eligible for Medi-Cal (Medicaid) coverage for the first time. All health care plans now include some essential benefits like maternity, mental health, preventive, and pediatric dental care.

Repeal of the ACA would disrupt health care for thousands of individuals in the County, and millions of Californians, it would send shockwaves across the state's economy. If its underpinnings are ultimately repealed, it is imperative that Congress adopt a concurrent, comprehensive, and sustainable replacement bill that ensures continued access to health care coverage, insurance market and delivery-system stability, and maintenance of the Medicaid expansion provisions implemented by ACA.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg