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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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June 30, 2017

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto
Allegheny County Council President John DeFazio
436 Grant St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear County and City Officials:

We are requesting, in the strongest way possible, that you, as the county's elected leaders, take a public stand against repeal of major provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act, by supporting and passing your own strongly worded resolutions to that effect.

We need your help to stop the heartless and fiscally irresponsible abomination that President Trump and like-minded Republicans in the U.S. Senate appear ready to drop on U.S. citizens.

We are referring, of course, to the GOP plan to gut the heart and soul of the ACA, which has provided new and better health insurance for millions of Americans – including 1.1 million Pennsylvanians.

While the ACA is not perfect, it has been the best success to date by any political party to solve the longstanding problem of providing decent insurance coverage to the sick, disabled and unemployed.

We simply cannot turn back the clock on this significant progress; nor should we go quietly into the night when we know that the ramifications of this Republican effort will mean thousands of people dying unnecessarily each year.

Let's make our collective voice heard from the rafters, especially when we know that one of the main motives, if not the main motive, for the attempted repeal is to provide further tax cuts to the super-wealthy.

If the ACA has problems, let's fix them in a fair and bipartisan way, to make the program more efficient and affordable.



The "fix" being promoted by Republicans is anything but one – and instead would be decidedly detrimental to tens of thousands of families in the commonwealth and Allegheny County. Slashing Medicaid funding, as the GOP calls for, would immediately rob seniors, children and youth, and those with special needs of access to desperately needed health care.

The negative ripple effect would filter down and financially impact our hospitals and senior care facilities, affecting the care and staffing levels at these facilities, and leaving our most vulnerable even more endangered.

According to the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, an ACA repeal would cost more than 137,000 jobs, reduce our state's gross domestic product by \$75 billion, cut state and local tax revenue by \$2.6 billion over five years, and add another \$1 billion to the state's structural deficit.

Many of us in the legislature took a very public stand in Harrisburg this week against this Republican U.S. Senate bill and we are asking you, as the most influential elected officials in Allegheny County, to please do the same.

As elected officials, we are in the unique position to protect our constituents from what would clearly be a disaster, even if they may not yet be aware of the dangers lurking within the plans to repeal major portions of the ACA.

Please respond to this threat to the health and well-being of so many of our residents by forcefully and clearly issuing a resolution condemning this nefarious plan to weaken health care for so many.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony DeLuca".

Tony DeLuca
State Representative
Chairman, Insurance Committee

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dom Costa".

Dom Costa
State Representative
Chairman, Allegheny County Delegation

Allegheny County Delegation Members:

Paul Costa
Daniel Deasy
Frank Dermody
Dan Frankel
Ed Gainey
Marc Gergely
Bill Kortz

Joseph Markosek
Robert Matzie
Dan Miller
Adam Ravenstahl
Harry Readshaw
Jake Wheatley