



March 10, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: the American Health Care Act

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

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to encourage you to maintain key principles as you work to make changes to the Affordable Care Act.

Cancer is the nation's second-leading causes of death (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Each year in the United States, approximately 1.69 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 595,690 die from the disease (National Cancer Institute, 2016), and nearly 15.5 million Americans count themselves among the growing community of cancer survivors (American Cancer Society, 2016). ONS calls on Congress to advance the quality of cancer care by:

- Ensuring access to high quality and low cost insurance options;
- Maintaining protections for pre-existing conditions; and
- Accelerating the development of innovative cancer care delivery and payment models that improve access to and the provision of quality cancer care and treatment.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President, Oncology Nursing Society