



May 26, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Health Care Reform

Enclosed are the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) *Principles for Health Care Reform*, which cover the areas ASPS feels are most critical for any health reform effort. ASPS – the world's largest association of plastic surgeons, with over 7,000 members representing 94 percent of Board-Certified Plastic Surgeons in the United States – believes that the American health system remains beset by a number of problems that must be addressed.

ASPS is encouraged that the Senate is undertaking its own policy development process to address shortcomings in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Putting aside the opaque and rushed process behind its passage, the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) is problematic policy. In some areas, it directly violates our society's principles. In others, it fails to take action needed to repair our health care system.

As the Senate evaluates the AHCA and determines what policies should be retained in, removed from, or added to a Senate package, please do so in light of the enclosed principles. ASPS believes they will encourage development of better and more affordable health plans; ensure that consumers are protected from insurance company abuses; re-prioritize patient care over compliance with burdensome federal reporting programs; and move away from cost control measures that disproportionately harm physicians.

The work you are conducting to repeal and replace parts of the ACA will have a seismic impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Please prioritize the development of a health care system that works for patients and providers, and please do so in a thorough, transparent, and deliberative process. Should you have any questions or wish to work together in advancing these priorities, please contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, at phermes@plasticsurgery.org.

Sincerely,

Debra Johnson, MD
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Enclosure