



## Statement of the Public Sector Health Care Roundtable on Congressional Health Care ‘Repeal and Replace’ Efforts

The Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of public sector purchasers from across the U.S. including states, counties, and municipalities that collectively spend over \$14 billion annually on health care benefits to provide coverage for millions of employees, retirees, and their dependents.

The Public Sector Health Care Roundtable is committed to ensuring that all public sector employees, retirees, and their dependents have access to affordable, quality health care coverage. The members of the Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable have a long-term commitment to maintaining programs that enable public workers, retirees, and their families to obtain high-quality health benefits at a cost that is affordable and sustainable for the workers, their families, and their employers. As such, the Roundtable is committed to the following policy priorities to ensure a more sustainable, rational health care system for all Americans:

- **Health System Innovation and Sustainability:** We support policies that constrain health care cost growth and ensure the sustainability of public programs, including the movement to innovative payment models based on value and quality, rather than volume.
- **Pharmaceutical Cost Containment:** We support congressional and regulatory efforts to establish and sustain greater competition in the pharmaceutical – and especially the biopharmaceutical – marketplace. We also support ongoing efforts that seek to align the pace of approval with the pace of discovery of safe, innovative, and cost-effective pharmaceutical and device products in the U.S.
- **Health Care Quality and Improved Outcomes:** We support the further development and use of quality measures, and particularly those in high-impact areas such as the complex chronically ill, as well as policies that establish and disseminate comparative effectiveness research in order to identify the most appropriate treatments at the lowest cost that will achieve the highest-quality outcomes for patients.
- **Common Sense Health Care Tax Policy:** We strongly oppose approaches such as the so-called “Cadillac tax”, which would impose enormous financial burdens on public workers, retirees, and their families while also creating significant, longer-term disincentives for public sector purchasers to develop and implement innovative benefit designs that encourage the utilization of high-value health care services.

To this end, the Public Sector Health Care Roundtable is deeply concerned about the loss of health care options, the financial harm for public sector employers, and the damage to the long-term stability of plan sponsors that will result from the approach taken by the U.S. House under AHCA and the proposal now being considered in the U.S. Senate via the draft *Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017* (BCRA). Both legislative vehicles work against the policy priorities of the Roundtable outlined above and would

have a severe deleterious impact on public sector workers, retirees, and their dependents, as well as the state and local taxpayers who fund their benefits. For example, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that the AHCA would leave over 20 million individuals uninsured, and preliminary estimates of the BCRA show similar results. Furthermore, CBO has concluded that insurance markets will be destabilized and millions would be left with insurance that does not meet their needs. Given these analyses, the current congressional health care reform proposals will undoubtedly lead to significantly higher health care costs for public employers and employees alike, particularly as a result of the “cost-shifting” effect from the un- and under-insured.

The Roundtable stands committed to working with Congressional leaders, the White House and allied stakeholders on a bipartisan basis to develop and pass legislation that builds on the successes of the ACA and strengthens our health care system by focusing on value, innovative care delivery, and robust access to meaningful insurance options for all Americans. Doing so will ensure the best care possible for millions of public employees, retirees, and their dependents.

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