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February 20, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

There are many issues before Congress, but none as far-reaching and impactful as efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It is for this reason, I write on behalf of the members of the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) and our patients to ask that you proceed with caution.

The ACOI, which represents the nation's osteopathic internists and medical subspecialists, is committed to assisting our members' efforts to provide high-quality care and to ensuring that our patients have access to this care at the time it is needed. The debate to repeal and replace the ACA should be guided by two core principles. First, existing coverage levels must be maintained ensuring uninterrupted continuous access to affordable high-quality care. Second, prior to repealing any part of the ACA, a path forward must be clearly known to protect against adversely impacting patients and their ability to access health care services. Congressional action in alignment with these core principles will protect patients and enhance your efforts to attain long-term meaningful reforms.

Our members are unified in their concern for their patients and their ability to access needed health care services. The ACOI and its members stand ready to assist you in your efforts to improve the health care delivery system in a way that preserves access to affordable high-quality patient-centered care. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. Sutton'.

John R. Sutton, DO, FACOI
President