



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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April 21, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President, Leader McConnell, and Speaker Ryan:

The undersigned are Attorneys General from 20 states. We come from all parts of this country. While we have many different concerns with the various proposals to replace the Affordable Care Act, we write together to express our alarm at how such plans will impact funding for drug treatment in our states.

Our nation faces a drug epidemic that grows more difficult and dangerous by the hour. Communities trying to recover from the flood of addictive pain pills now face a surge in heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil. These drugs are causing record numbers of overdoses and are destabilizing whole communities. It is our belief that the reported numbers of overdose deaths are only a fraction of the real toll.

As the chief law enforcement officials in many of our states, we are on the front lines of battling this epidemic. Our investigators and officers work night and day to identify, investigate, and prosecute dangerous drug traffickers and illegal prescribers. But we know that law enforcement alone cannot end this crisis. Our residents also need access to drug treatment.

The Affordable Care Act – and the corresponding expansion of Medicaid in many of our states – provided significant and critical assistance to our states' efforts to provide drug treatment. The Act provided coverage to an additional 2.8 million Americans suffering from addiction. It required both private plans and Medicaid to cover certain drug treatment.

The initial replacement plan would have cut federal funding for drug treatment by an estimated \$5.5 billion. Moving to a "block grant" or any form of "capitated rate" for Medicaid would further imperil \$7.9 billion in treatment funding, which represents 25% of all funding for drug treatment. And the projected loss of coverage for 24 million Americans under the initial proposal would have left many Americans suffering from addiction with no means of securing or paying for treatment.

Our experience combatting this epidemic makes clear the urgent need for increased drug treatment and access to care. In the midst of an ongoing public health crisis, the federal government cannot abandon this commitment to our communities.

We urge you to protect access to substance abuse treatment and maintain our partnership and necessary levels of federal funding as we work to tackle this deadly and destructive epidemic.

Sincerely,



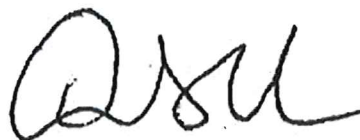
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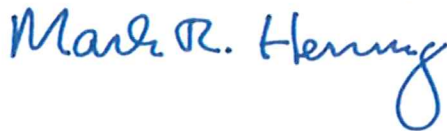
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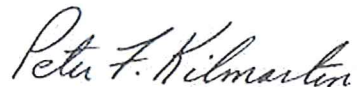
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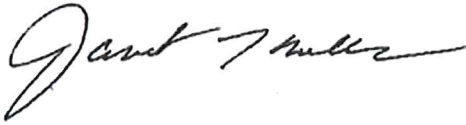
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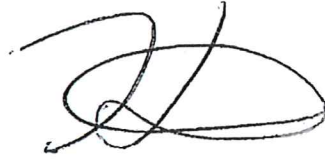
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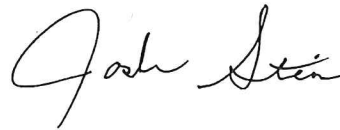
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