

**American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network**

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November 15, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Democratic Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Senator Wyden:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. On behalf of more than 15 million cancer patients and survivors, I am writing to share our concern about the provision in the Chairman's mark of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to repeal the mandate that Americans purchase health insurance coverage. We urge you to remove this provision from the legislation.

Repealing the individual mandate would eliminate a key incentive for individuals to enroll in health insurance coverage. According to a recent Congressional Budget Office report, repealing the individual mandate would result in 13 million Americans losing their health insurance coverage. It would also increase premiums by 10 percent in the insurance marketplace.

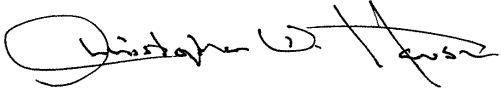
These premium increases will fall disproportionately on patients with pre-existing conditions who have little choice but to remain in a much smaller market, provided they can even afford to do so. Many individuals with healthcare needs, including cancer patients and survivors, who by definition, have a pre-existing condition, may not be able to afford coverage. They may forgo preventive care, or seek care when their condition is more expensive to treat and their chance of survival is lower. For these Americans, access to affordable health insurance can be quite simply a matter of life or death.

The current health care law is not perfect, and we know that it needs to be updated and improved. We urge the Senate to take steps to stabilize the individual market, which will help lower health coverage costs for patients and families. ACS CAN remains committed to ensuring

that the health care system provides comprehensive coverage for the one in two men and one in three women who are diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetimes.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "H" at the end.

Christopher W. Hansen  
President