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11/17/2016

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National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians Statement on Election and Public Health in America

In the Wake of the 2016 Election, Doctors Are Worried About Healthcare for All Americans, Including Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

Washington, D.C. - The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) is a non-partisan, not for profit organization of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander physicians that advocates for their patients and communities, particularly the low income and vulnerable populations, to achieve better, improved, optimum health and healthcare. Our advocacy extends to other patients and communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, or potentially discriminatory characteristics. NCAPIP is deeply concerned the stated priorities of President-Elect Donald Trump to work for "all Americans," to provide "better healthcare for less money," and to "make people better," will fall short due to the "Repeal and Replace" the Affordable Care Act (ACA). If those ideas, as presented, are carried out, millions of Americans will be unable to afford health care. The ACA is not perfect - we view it as a work in progress - but it has helped providing insurance for virtually all Americans, protections for many underserved populations including Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Any repeal or replacement effort MUST provide a BETTER plan.

NCAPIP supports better quality healthcare, more choice and better access, and lower costs for the consumers and the system overall. Defunding the health insurance marketplace (which 20 million Americans used to purchase health insurance for the first time), defunding federal tax-credit subsidies for low-income Americans and their families, and defunding federal subsidies for copayments and deductibles would shift the cost of over \$50 billion in federal subsidies back onto patients themselves.

NCAPIP looks at the concept of a free market for health plans with skepticism, as government protection is the one thing that can help avoid mega mergers, less choice, and higher premium rates. With no regulatory minimum requirement for services and where plans spend their money, there is no incentive for plans to offer more affordable insurance. The policy of using "high risk pools" was tried in 35 states and has led to unaffordable insurance for individuals with preexisting conditions.

Converting Medicaid to a block grant system would lead to fewer low-income Americans able to qualify for Medicaid, a situation that seems more than likely in many states that recently refused to expand Medicaid with federal money. If the Children's Health Insurance Program is not reauthorized,

over 8 million children would be uninsured or having to qualify for Medicaid that might be undergoing the changes described.

NCAPIP supports keeping Medicaid and a baseline of essential health benefits based on quality and affordability and denounces any repeal of parts of the health care law that protect against discrimination of women, and that have been interpreted by courts to extend those protections to the LGBT community.

As a concrete step moving forward, we urge everyone to enroll for health insurance through the health insurance marketplace, open now through January 31, 2017. Strong public health starts with every American being able to access affordable health insurance.

NCAPIP looks forward to productive conversations about how to improve healthcare and the ACA; we believe "Repeal and Replace" should be "Amend and Improve", and must result in better healthcare access and better outcomes, not less access and poorer outcomes. We need to continue to move forward, not backward, towards an advanced healthcare system reflective of this nation and all its people.

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