

May 8, 2017

Ms. Austen Shearer  
Triangle Regional Representative  
US Senator Thom Tillis  
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 122  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Ms. Shearer:

It was good to meet with you this past February to share information about our organization, DFO. Please note that since our meeting, we have changed our name to Durham for Organizing Action (DFO Action). At that time, Faulkner Fox and I mentioned to you some of DFO's priority areas. As shared, one of our areas of focus involved preserving the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

DFO Action is extremely disappointed in the vote taken by the U.S. House of Representatives repealing the ACA. From what we can glean from H.R. 1628, American Health Care Act (AHCA), the legislation takes away pre-existing conditions protections, makes \$900 billion in cuts to Medicaid, which in turn takes valuable resources from public schools, and provides an "opt-out" for states to allow the denial of essential health benefits for things such as cancer, hospitalization, maternity and mental health coverage, to name a few. Additionally, this bill makes it possible for employee-based health insurance plans to put back in place lifetime caps and exclusions. These are just a few items as there are many other bad components of this bill. Unfortunately, this legislation, if it becomes law, will put the health and well-being of many Americans at risk.

As H.R 1628 moves over to the Senate, we ask Senator Tillis to oppose this legislation. Instead, we request Senator Tillis to support efforts (including his continued support for pre-existing conditions protections) to improve the ACA instead of repealing it. We encourage Senator Tillis to hold public meetings so that he can share his thoughts about this important issue and hear constituents' concerns. The invitation is still open if he wants to do so in Durham. DFO Action will be more than happy to host.

We know it is early in the Senate process, and wanted to reach out to you about these concerns. Our healthcare committee will be communicating with our members about this issue in the coming days and we welcome feedback from Senator Tillis to share with the group.

We will be in touch as things progress. In the interim, please let us know if we can provide information or assistance.

Best,



Vickie Miller  
Durham for Organizing Action  
dfoaction.org