

For Immediate Release

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HARI Reacts to House Passage of AHCA

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HARI and its members are disappointed officials in Washington are working to undo improvements that have benefited patients across our state. Passage of the American Health Care Act threatens access to healthcare for 100,000 Rhode Islanders. These individuals, and others, have benefited tremendously from the Affordable Care Act, which expanded health coverage through Medicaid expansion and the health benefits exchange.

Proposed changes to the Medicaid program will limit services to our most vulnerable patients and further reduce provider payments that already fail to cover the cost of care. Most alarming is the legislation repeals much of the funding currently dedicated to providing coverage in the future, yet reductions to payments for hospital services remain. If coverage is not maintained at the current level, those resources need to be returned to hospitals and health systems to provide services to what will likely be an increased number of uninsured patients.

We must protect patients and find ways to maintain coverage for as many Americans as possible. Changes to the Affordable Care Act must be guided by the principles of making continued coverage a priority.

- M. Teresa Paiva Weed, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island

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Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high-quality health care.