



TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION IN PRIMARY CARE AND GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REFORMS THAT PROTECT PATIENTS

Twenty million Americans have gained health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the percent of uninsured is at a historic low. Any changes to the ACA must preserve access to high-quality, patient-centered health care. SGIM, an organization of three thousand primary care internal medicine physicians, remains committed to continued improvement of health insurance coverage so that every American has access to primary care, prevention, and other essential health care services. Below are principles that we believe should guide any legislation that may affect health insurance coverage:

- **We believe access to healthcare is a fundamental right and that keeping Americans healthy strengthens our economy, families, communities, and security.**
- **Any changes to the ACA should maintain or increase the number of Americans with health insurance.**
- **States that have chosen to expand Medicaid eligibility through the ACA should be able to maintain this expansion. Medicaid provides critical health care services for our most vulnerable patients. We oppose any changes to the Medicaid program that would result in coverage loss for low-income Americans.**
- **Americans must continue to have access to affordable preventive services and immunizations, including preserving no cost sharing for services rated A or B by the USPSTF. These services are the most cost-effective way to keep our communities healthy and prevent the need for more costly care.**
- **Access to mental health and addiction treatment services, afforded by the ACA, must be preserved. These services save lives, improve Americans' ability to work, and are critical to addressing the opioid epidemic.**
- **All Americans should have access to affordable prescription drugs, including seniors and patients in need of medications with limited production. The policy to close the Medicare Part D "donut hole" should be maintained.**
- **Other patient protections in the ACA should be maintained, including ensuring those with pre-existing conditions have access to affordable coverage, prohibiting the retroactive denial of coverage, and eliminating lifetime and annual coverage limits. Insurance plans should continue to be required to provide access to essential benefits, including laboratory services, mental health and addiction treatment, and ambulatory care.**

We look forward to working with members of Congress and the administration to improve our health care system for all Americans.

For further information about SGIM's priorities on ACA reform, please contact Dom Ruscio or Erika Miller of CRD Associates at (202) 484-1100 or at druscio@dc-crd.com or emiller@dc-crd.com.