



March 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members,

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice believes that prior to the House Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce committees' markup of a bill attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, committee members should have key principles to guide their deliberations. These principles are more than political rhetoric and partisan bickering. Rather, they are grounded in our Judeo-Christian faith tradition and call for deliberate consideration of the common good. These principles are set forth in NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice's **10 Commandments of Healthcare**.

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice has advocated for healthcare for all in our nation because of our commitment to the dignity of all people. **Our test for any ACA replacement bill is simple: Does the bill protect access to quality, affordable, equitable healthcare for vulnerable communities? After reviewing the House GOP replacement bill, the answer is a resounding no.** Instead of providing greater health security, the bill increases costs for older and sicker patients and drastically cuts the Medicaid program, all while providing huge tax cuts to wealthy corporations and individuals. This is not the faithful way forward and must be rejected.

We urge the House Committees to remember NETWORK's 10 Commandments for Healthcare as you take up this legislation for mark up and make changes that protect the dignity of all. This plan will lead to less coverage, fewer services, and higher costs for working families. The people of the United States need responsible engagement that protects health. If you are interested in learning more, please contact NETWORK's Communications Coordinator, Ashley Wilson at [awilson@networklobby.org](mailto:awilson@networklobby.org) or 202-601-7856.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Simone Campbell, SSS".

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS  
Executive Director  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice



ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE, INSPIRED BY CATHOLIC SISTERS

## The Ten Commandments of Healthcare

*NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice is concerned about healthcare because of our commitment to the dignity of all people. We are called to care for those who suffer, and we are challenged to support all of our neighbors so they can realize their full potential. As part of this mandate, we have an obligation to protect populations who have historically been discriminated against because of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status. To that end, we seek a society where all have access to quality, affordable, equitable healthcare.*

1. Thou shalt provide affordable insurance and the same benefits to all currently covered under the Affordable Care Act.
2. Thou shalt continue to allow children under the age of 26 to be covered by their parents' insurance.
3. Thou shalt ensure that insurance premiums and cost sharing are truly affordable to all.
4. Thou shalt expand Medicaid to better serve vulnerable people in our nation.
5. Thou shalt not undercut the structure or undermine the purpose of Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare funding.
6. Thou shalt create effective mechanisms of accountability for insurance companies and not allow them to have annual or lifetime caps on expenditures.
7. Thou shalt not allow insurance companies to discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions.
8. Thou shalt not allow insurance companies to discriminate against women, the elderly, and people in poverty.
9. Thou shalt provide adequate assistance for people enrolling and using their health coverage.
10. Thou shalt continue to ensure reasonable revenue is in the federal budget to pay for life-sustaining healthcare for all.



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