January 5, 2016

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the budget reconciliation bill (H.R. 3762). This bill would gut the Affordable Care Act (ACA), jeopardizing the ability of millions of Americans to see a doctor, get medications or go to the hospital when needed. H.R. 3762 would create extensive upheaval in health care coverage for children, working families, retirees and individuals with disabilities.

By 2017 this bill would eliminate the employer and individual responsibility requirements, the Medicaid expansion and tax credits that help low-income families and small businesses obtain coverage. It would cause millions to lose their health care coverage including millions of children, and drive up premiums in the individual market. Rather than helping Americans achieve greater financial security in an unbalanced economy H.R. 3762 would put millions of people at risk of financial hardship and ruin from an unexpected illness.

The bill would also repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund, eliminating the nation’s largest single investment in prevention and undermining efforts to bend the cost curve by preventing chronic diseases. Repealing this fund also puts our nation at risk of being unprepared for emerging epidemics and other public health crises.

We are also opposed to the repeal of the modest excise tax on medical device manufacturers and the annual fee on health insurers, industries which profit substantially from the expansion of health coverage under the ACA. We also oppose the elimination of federal funding for women’s health services provided by Planned Parenthood for one year. This provision will block millions of women from having access to health care services.

The bill also repeals the 40% tax on high cost, employer-sponsored health benefits. We agree that the 40% tax should be repealed in order to keep health care affordable for working families. However, repeal of this tax should not be included in a bill that would eliminate health coverage for millions of families.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
We urge you to oppose H.R. 3762.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs