



Amalgamated Transit Union

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Office of the International President

March 22, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), the largest union representing public transportation, school bus, and intercity bus workers in the United States, I strongly urge you to reject the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

This immoral legislation – a tax bill benefitting the very wealthy masquerading as a health care measure – is perhaps the most disgraceful proposal put forth by Congress since it was founded in 1789. The bill is the equivalent of a death sentence for thousands of Americans who will be thrown off of health insurance. Millions of others who will not get to a doctor when they must will get extremely sick, losing their jobs, their homes, and their way of life.

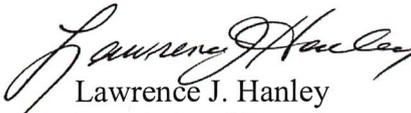
How in the world can any human being -- elected or not -- inflict such cruelty on their fellow man? Surely all of us know of someone that may not be around anymore in a few years because of this purely partisan attack on mostly poor and elderly Americans who are not fortunate enough to have employer-provided health care.

For those of us in organized labor that generally do have negotiated health care, the bill is also a disaster. Incredibly, while the AHCA repeals the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its taxes, it leaves on the books the so-called “Cadillac Tax,” which is set to levy a hefty 40% excise tax on employer health plans that are considered generous. Under the Cadillac Tax, companies will have to pay the levy on the value of policies above a certain cap, threatening to drastically diminish the quality of working families’ health plans.

Clearly, the ACA is not perfect. Like most major legislation, it was the product of intense negotiations involving countless interested parties. But the end result of the ACA is clear: there are now fewer people that need to choose between eating and visiting the doctor than there were eight years ago. While changes are certainly needed – including repealing the Cadillac Tax – any sane person can understand that ripping away a person’s life preserver and tossing them a twig is unconscionable.

Please oppose the AHCA. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,


Lawrence J. Hanley
International President