March 17, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of NRG Oncology, we are writing regarding our commitment to meaningful reform of the health care system while preserving the ability to conduct clinical research and provide life-saving oncology care to patients diagnosed with cancer.

As Congress considers changes to the health care system, NRG Oncology appreciates the opportunity to provide input based on our experiences improving the lives of cancer patients by conducting groundbreaking clinical research on cancer, which claims the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans each year. As an organization focused on advancing cancer research and improving the lives of patients, NRG Oncology is uniquely positioned to provide substantive insight on the role affordable health insurance coverage plays in the fight against cancer.

In this letter, we urge you to take a thoughtful approach to developing legislation that modifies and/or replaces the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure that cancer patients are not adversely affected by changes in their ability to maintain and afford coverage. We embrace the goals of making affordable high quality health care coverage available to patients and hope that any action taken by Congress will preserve the gains patients have experienced as a result of the ACA.

We are concerned that if the ACA is repealed without a suitable replacement, cancer patients and survivors may be left without adequate coverage, options to obtain treatment, or support for their recovery. At a minimum, we respectfully request that Congress retain the following policies from the ACA:

- Without exception, preserve provisions that prohibit insurers from denying or limiting coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions, or from imposing higher premiums, copayments, or cost-sharing amounts on individuals with pre-existing conditions.
- Maintain coverage for patient participation in crucial clinical trials.
- Permit coverage for dependents up to age 26 on a subscriber’s insurance policy, which is critical for patients who have or have had childhood cancers.
- Prohibit the imposition of lifetime maximum benefits or other caps on coverage.

We stand ready to work with you to continue improving the American health care system and ensuring that cancer patients can access affordable, life-saving coverage.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Curran, Jr., M.D.
NRG Oncology Group Chair

Philip J. DiSaia, M.D.
NRG Oncology Group Chair

Norman Wolmark, M.D.
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