COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

January 18, 2017

The Honorable Mark Warner 475 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Wittman 2055 Rayburn House Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott 1201 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Garrett, Jr. 415 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Brat 1628 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith 2202 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerry Connolly 2238 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Taylor 412 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donald McEachin 314 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte 2309 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer 1119 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Comstock 229 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Virginia House of Delegates, we write to urge Congress to delay repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) until it fully understands the implications of such an act, and until it has developed a suitable replacement. In Virginia, we have made significant progress over the last several years to reform and to improve our healthcare system. We are fortunate to have medical providers throughout the Commonwealth who have offered considerable assistance and advice on how we can embrace the primary goals of the ACA – to improve the quality of healthcare, make it as affordable as possible, and expand coverage and accessibility to as

many Americans as possible. We recognize that the ACA is imperfect and there are a number of issues that need to be addressed. But, for many, the Act has been instrumental in insuring more Virginians who might otherwise find insurance to be cost prohibitive.

As elected leaders in the Virginia General Assembly, we are concerned that simply repealing the law without an adequate replacement will deprive large numbers of Virginians of the insurance that they presently have, increase the cost of insurance to those who seek it, and create challenges for our Virginia budget at a time when revenues are not keeping pace with the cost of services that our constituents demand.

We are especially concerned about the impact that repeal without replacement will have on funding for our Medicaid Program. There has been much discussion about transforming Medicaid into a program where the federal financial support will come in the form of "block grants." We believe this could put considerably more stress on our budget and must be very carefully considered before enactment.

We believe that before any action is taken that would potentially alter coverage, policy makers should describe to the American people, in reasonable detail, its replacement. Our constituents would then be in a position to clearly compare current policy with new proposals in order to make an informed decision about whether replacement represents a step forward in the ongoing challenge of ensuring that Americans have access to a high quality, affordable healthcare coverage.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Toscano, 57th District

House Democratic Caucus Leader

Hon. Lashrecse Aird, 63rd District

Hon. Charniele Herring, 46th District House Democratic Caucus Chair

Hon Lamont Bagby, 74th District

Hon. Jennifer Boysko, 86th District

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Hon. David Bullo

Hon. John Bell, 87th District

Bety B. Con Hon. Betsy Carr, 69th District

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Virginia Congressional Delegation

Hon. Roslyn Tyler, 75th District

Hon. Vivian Watts, 39th District

Hon. Jeion Ward, 92nd District