

**Re: Evidence in Support of Retaining and Strengthening the Affordable Care Act:
“Breast cancer care in California and Ontario: Primary care protections greatest among
the most socioeconomically vulnerable women living in the most underserved places,
Journal of Primary Care & Community Health, June, 2017”**

Dear Congressional Representative:

As an epidemiologist, social worker and concerned citizen I write to thank you for your service to all Americans and to provide you with sentinel research findings. Incidentally, though a landed immigrant in Canada I remain a voting citizen of the United States of America.

My research group has compared cancer care in the United States and Canada, emphasizing the care of those living in poverty over the past generation. We have consistently observed Canadian advantages, even observing significantly longer waits for cancer treatments among low-income Americans. This most recent study of ours found that the protective effects of having high quality health insurance and access to high quality primary care are much stronger in Canada. A copy of our published study as well as an accompanying news release are attached.

This was a historical study of breast cancer care prior to enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Our analysis points to two critical and imminently achievable policy goals. First, ACA reforms ought to be implemented across all 50 states in ways that are consistent with their federal legislative intent. Second, America’s system of primary care ought to be strengthened to ensure that the ACA’s full benefits are realized. **If the ACA or Obamacare is repealed and replaced with the American Health Care Act or Trumpcare it will most assuredly be millions of the most vulnerable Americans who suffer: the poor, the near poor, even many middle class Americans, the uninsured and the inadequately insured, including many insured Americans with no hope of being able to pay the often substantial indirect and direct, but uncovered costs of health care in America.**

Surely health care and ultimately the health of all Americans is a quintessential bipartisan issue. Though a Democrat, I lead an interdisciplinary team with members varying along relatively liberal to conservative persuasions and members of all of the major political parties on both sides of the USA-Canada border. Moreover, we have been funded by “the people” of the United States and Canada. So I believe that we owe all congressional representatives; Democrats, Republicans and Independents, as well as all Americans and Canadians our best scientifically bipartisan, estimates of the truth. Similarly, I urge you to continue working with your colleagues on both sides of the congressional aisle toward achievement of what I am sure is our common goal: provision of high quality health care for all.

I am at your service to provide any further background information, scientific evidence or supportive counsel that you may require.

Sincerely,

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