



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

June 30, 2017

As General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, I write to share our deep concerns with the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 (BCRA).

At the heart of our Christian faith is a call to love and care for our neighbors. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:24-35), Jesus portrayed our duty to provide health care without regard to social status or ability to pay.

Rooted in our biblical call and informed by the relationships we experience in our communities, The United Methodist Church declares, “health care is a basic human right.”¹ and “affirms the duty of government to assure health care for all.”²

We recognize the need to improve our current health care system. It is shameful that in a nation as wealthy as the United States, millions of people still lack access to affordable, quality health care. Reform efforts, however, must always be centered on the goal of providing access to affordable, quality care for everyone. And we believe as a matter of justice that our health care system must prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations including individuals who are struggling in or near poverty, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Fundamentally, BCRA would move our health care system in the opposite direction - decreasing access and increasing costs of health care for millions of men, women and children. Furthermore, the bill would endanger women’s access to existing health care clinics for preventative screenings and services and put at risk essential benefits and protections found in today’s health care plans. Ending the guarantee of care through Medicaid and cutting hundreds of billions of dollars from the system to finance tax cuts for the wealthiest among us is simply *unconscionable*.

Judged against the analysis of the Congressional Budget Office, this health care legislation is **indefensible**. Judged against our faith values of mercy and justice, this legislation is **immoral**.

We therefore urge you to reject the Better Care Reconciliation Act. And we look forward to working together in an open and deliberative process to develop legislation that guarantees affordable, quality care for all.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary

¹ *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church*, 2016 ¶162.V

² *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, 2016, #3201

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