

July 20, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

As an osteopathic physician (DO) practicing in your state and as one of the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students nationwide, I write to express my gratitude to your pragmatic approach to health care reform and for your vocal opposition to repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) without a legislative alternative, in order to ensure Alaskans have continued access to health care coverage and services.

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) along with the Alaska Osteopathic Medical Association (AKOMA) unequivocally believes that the primary focus of any health care reform policy should be to expand or at least maintain access to comprehensive, affordable coverage and care.

While PPACA is not perfect, repealing the legislation without a replacement would likely result to a loss of coverage for as many as 32 million Americans and the potential for significant increases in premium costs, as projected by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, moving our health care system in the wrong direction. The outcome of the proposals being considered in the Senate will greatly jeopardize my patients' access to affordable, high-quality care so that they can live longer and healthier lives.

As a physician and a constituent, I support your continued opposition to repeal PPACA without a legislative alternative that will achieve high-quality, patient-centered, and cost-efficient health care system that meets the needs of our patients. Osteopathic physicians stand ready to assist in developing approaches to advance our aforementioned goals toward transforming our health care system.

Sincerely,