

Date: March 24, 2017

To: SPTA and Division Federal Advocacy Coordinators, and APAGS Coordinators

From: Doug Walter, J.D., Associate Executive Director for Government Relations,
American Psychological Association Practice Organization

Cc: Katherine Nordal, Ph.D., Executive Director for Professional Practice
SPTA Directors of Professional Affairs
SPTA Executive Directors
CAPP
APAPO Board of Directors

Re: **Victory! House Pulls “American Health Care Act” From Floor**

This afternoon House leaders stopped consideration of the “American Health Care Act,” legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as it did not appear to have enough votes for passage.

APA and the APA Practice Organization opposed the American Health Care Act, as it would have removed coverage from 24 million Americans over the next ten years, radically changed the Medicaid program and reduced its funding by 25%, and increased premiums and out-of-pocket costs for millions of Americans with private insurance. As amended in the hours before the vote, the legislation would also have eliminated the requirement that health plans in the individual and small group market cover a package of essential health benefits, including mental health, substance use, and behavioral health services.

We thank psychologists for their work in advocating against this legislation. Together, we have generated 15,000 messages to Congress this year urging members not to repeal ACA without simultaneously enacting legislation that would provide Americans with equally reliable coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatments. Just in the last week, we’ve generated more than 4,600 contacts to members of Congress urging them to vote against the American Health Care Act.

We would especially like to thank our Federal Advocacy Coordinators for their hard work and leadership in this effort.

Thank you! We will share more information next week.

For more information, contact APA Practice Organization Government Relations Office at Pracgovt@apa.org or (202) 336-5889. Visit APA Practice Organization on-line at APAPracticeCentral.org/Advocacy.