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June 28, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Key Issues for Health-Related Legislation

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

As you work to recraft the "Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017," I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI).

The AAAAI strongly urges our Federal leaders (both the President and Congress) to implement policies to ensure that all Americans have access to health care. The AAAAI believes that protection of Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) are vitally important in that effort, especially for our patients with chronic illnesses such as asthma, allergies, and primary immunodeficiency diseases. In particular, AAAAI urges Congress to ensure that children on Medicaid have access to care by an allergy/immunology specialist for such serious conditions as asthma, food allergy and primary immunodeficiency in an effort to forestall frightening and expensive Emergency Department visits, chronic poor health, and avoidable death.

Established in 1943, AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada, and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

Thank you for your leadership in working to protect Federal health care programs and ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to the research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases arise, and would encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David B. Peden, MD, MS, FAAAAI
AAAAI President