



PRESS STATEMENT

CLÍNICA MONSEÑOR OSCAR A. ROMERO CALLS ON SENATE TO UPHOLD THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT – A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR AMERICANS

Los Angeles, CA – With the unexpected passage today of the American HealthCare Act (AHCA) by the House of Representatives, Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero calls on the Senate to uphold and strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA), rather than support changes in federal legislation that is careless, cruel, and could drive millions to the brink of poverty or even death.

The American HealthCare Act would affect low-to-middle income individuals and families by eliminating the individual and employer mandate, therefore leaving more than 24 million people across the country without healthcare by the year 2026; this according to an analysis from the nonpartisan, Congressional Budget Office.

MediCaid expansion was adopted by the State of California in 2014 to extend healthcare coverage to 3 million previously uninsured residents. This allowed men and women to seek quality preventative care and support. It also decreased the burden on emergency rooms, which at the time were bursting at the seams. Today, the U. S. House of Representatives has attempted to shift the cost to states and tax-paying residents. This will place great strains on our state budget, and leave patients in the dark about their health and wellbeing.

As a federally qualified community health center (FQHC), under AHCA Clínica Romero is concerned that more than 40% of patients, who are males between the ages of 25-46, would lose coverage with the removal or weakening of MediCaid expansion, and individual and employer mandates. In addition, more than 22% of patients, who are women ages 45-64, also stand to lose coverage and access to life-saving screenings, especially for breast and cervical cancer; and approximately 17% of its over 12,000 patients will lose coverage.

As taxpayers and constituents we have the right to a fundamental and dignified healthcare system that is accessible to all: Clínica firmly believes that MediCaid expansion can help us get there, and it's a step in the right direction. Congress must act to strengthen, not weaken, affordable health care. It's what's right for **all**.

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About Clínica Monseñor Romero

Clínica Romero was founded in 1983 by Salvadoran refugees and their allies. Our mission is to provide quality, affordable and culturally sensitive health care and other services to the uninsured, insured, and underserved communities of greater Los Angeles regardless of their ability to pay by upholding the legacy and tradition of Monseñor Oscar Romero, and educating and empowering Salvadoran and other community members through community organizing, health education, social justice, and exchange programs in El Salvador.



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