

February 12, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blunt Rochester:

I am writing to express the American Lung Association's support for your legislation, HR 987, "the MORE Health Education Act." Your legislation will restore funding for outreach and enrollment for annual healthcare open enrollment – ensuring that consumers who need healthcare will hear about the opportunities for open enrollment.

In 2017, the Commonwealth Fund found that 40 percent of uninsured adults were not aware of healthcare.gov or the state marketplaces. Individuals with low incomes and racial and ethnic minorities were even more likely to be aware of their options.¹ These numbers highlight the great need for the outreach and enrollment funding provided in his legislation.

The Lung Association is deeply concerned about the growth of non-ACA compliant health insurance coverage, such as short-term limited-duration insurance plans. These plans are not required to cover the physicians, medications, and services that lung disease patients need. Without robust funding for outreach and educational activities to inform patients about the comprehensive coverage options available, patients with lung disease could mistakenly enroll in coverage that does not meet their medical needs and be left responsible for massive medical bills.

We applaud you for your commitment to ensuring that consumers learn about open enrollment and sign up for quality healthcare through healthcare.gov or a state portal. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,



Deborah P. Brown
Chief Mission Officer

¹ Sara R. Collins, Munira Z. Gunja, and Michelle M. Doty. Following the ACA Repeal-and-Replace Effort, Where Does the U.S. Stand on Insurance Coverage? Findings from the Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–June 2017. The Commonwealth Fund. Accessed at: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2017/sep/following-aca-repeal-and-replace-effort-where-does-us-stand>.

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