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June 27, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and its 26,000 commercial construction company members, I urge you to reform the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA has failed to create a framework to reduce health care costs and has, instead, increased compliance complexity for both employers and covered individuals. The U.S. House of Representatives began the reform process by passing the American Health Care Act; now it is time for the Senate to continue the process and improve health care delivery in this country.

AGC has long supported the employer-provided health care model while, at the same time, ensuring that it is easy and affordable for employers to provide coverage to their employees. The Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 improves upon the ACA by keeping important insurance reforms, effectively eliminating mandates on employers and individuals, and lowering health insurance premiums by permanently repealing the ACA's taxes.

While the Better Care Reconciliation Act delays the imposition of the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-value health plans until 2026, AGC urges Congress to go a step further and fully repeal the 40 percent excise tax on health benefits before sending the bill to the president. Additionally, AGC opposes any future new taxes on health benefits of hard working taxpayers which could reduce the benefits of the bill.

AGC looks forward to working with Congress as it moves forward with health care reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Shoaf'.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director, Government Affairs