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AAPCHO Calls on Congress to Oppose Repeal of Health Care Law

Urges Continuation of Health Coverage for Millions of Americans

WASHINGTON – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), a national organization of health centers serving Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPIs), today released the following statement calling on Congress to oppose repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without simultaneously replacing it:

"As an organization committed to affordable, accessible and culturally and linguistically appropriate universal health care for all, and improving the health of AA&NHPIs and all Americans—we stand with our members in urging Congress to oppose repealing the ACA if no replacement has been enacted, and to protect millions of Americans from losing their health care coverage.

AAPCHO is a nonpartisan, national not-for-profit organization that represents community health centers serving nearly 500,000 AA&NHPIs and other underserved communities. As health care providers, we work to ensure a system of care that works for everyone and one that takes into account the diverse needs of all communities.

The ACA has provided coverage to 20 million previously uninsured Americans, including millions of AA&NHPIs. Many people in these and other vulnerable populations would otherwise have little or no access to care, due to language, cultural, financial or geographic barriers. Dismantling the ACA without a strong replacement in place would be detrimental to the health of these communities.

Repealing the ACA would make health insurance more expensive for these communities and many Americans who are relying on the ACA's <u>subsidies to afford care</u>. Many AAPCHO member patient communities have relied on the benefits of Medicaid expansion, and concerns run high that the replacement plan will include rescinding on the expansion of Medicaid services within states. Many Americans including AA&NHPIs who struggle with <u>pre-existing conditions and chronic diseases</u> could lose access to guaranteed free preventive care and may be denied health insurance if the ACA is repealed. Repealing the ACA without replacement would also prove <u>harmful to the American economy</u>, leading to millions of jobs lost and trillions of dollars in economic losses.

As changes to the health care law are considered, we urge Congress to oppose repealing the ACA. We hope that any replacement plan leads to increased access, better quality and lower costs for all Americans and the health care system overall. We are committed to working in partnership with state, federal and local governments for meaningful policy change that will ensure access to quality care for all, and will continue to build on our progress towards healthier future generations."

About AAPCHO

AAPCHO is a national association of 35 community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. For more information on AAPCHO, please visit www.aapcho.org.