

Date: May 4, 2017

To: SPTA and Division Federal Advocacy Coordinators, and APAGS Coordinators

From: Doug Walter, J.D., Associate Executive Director for Government Relations,
American Psychological Association Practice Organization

Cc: Katherine Nordal, Ph.D., Executive Director for Professional Practice
SPTA Directors of Professional Affairs
SPTA Executive Directors
CAPP
APAPO Board of Directors

Re: **American Health Care Act Passed in the House of Representatives**

Today the American Health Care Act passed in the House of Representatives with a final vote of 217 to 213, one vote over the 216 threshold needed to pass the bill.

APA and the APA Practice Organization oppose the American Health Care Act, as it would remove coverage for 24 million Americans over the next ten years, greatly reduces Medicaid funding, and increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs for millions of Americans with private insurance. Additionally the legislation would eliminate the requirement that health plans in the individual and small group market cover a package of essential health benefits, including mental health, substance use, and behavioral health services.

Thank you for all of your hard work in opposition to this legislation and especially to our FAC's for their efforts and leadership. The fight is far from over. The bill now moves over to the Senate for consideration. Several Senators have already expressed opposition to many components of the House bill, guaranteeing changes will be made. We will be keeping you up to date on Senate deliberations and sending out calls to action as debate continues.

For more information, contact APA Practice Organization Government Relations Office at Pracgovt@apa.org or (202) 336-5889. Visit APA Practice Organization on-line at APAPracticeCentral.org/Advocacy.