

November 14, 2017

Arthritis Foundation Concerned by Individual Mandate Repeal in Tax Reform Package

Congressional leaders are expected to move forward with a repeal of the individual mandate in their tax reform legislation. The individual mandate, established by the Affordable Care Act, requires individuals to have health insurance or face a tax penalty. The Arthritis Foundation released the following statement expressing concern about this development and the impact such a move could have on the stability of the health insurance marketplace.

“We are very concerned about the impact a repeal of the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate to purchase health insurance coverage could have on the stability of the health care system. According to the latest Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, 13 million Americans are at risk of losing coverage if the individual mandate is repealed. A repeal of the individual mandate runs counter to the critical goal of stabilization and should be kept separate from the tax reform debate, given the consequences such a move could have on the health care system.

Any changes Congress makes to our health care system should be focused on expanding access to quality, affordable health coverage for all Americans. We stand ready to work with Congress to advance bipartisan solutions already under consideration, championed by Senators Alexander and Murray, to strengthen the health care system and safeguard important patient protections.”