



May 21, 2018

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Florida  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster,

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I am writing in support of H.R. 5856, the *Good Samaritan Charitable Physicians' Services Act of 2018*. This innovative piece of legislation will increase low-income patients' access to healthcare while simultaneously saving Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) billions of dollars in annual spending. AMAC has long-called for legislation like H.R. 5856 to revolutionize the way healthcare is provided to our most needy populations.

Under current law, physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers are barred from taking a charitable deduction for treating patients who are unable to pay for treatment. Additionally, our current healthcare system disincentivizes healthcare providers from treating low-income and under-served populations because of the administrative burden placed on hospitals, clinics, and private practices as they apply for and receive reimbursements from Medicaid and CHIP. With millions of doctors ready and willing to treat patients in return for a charitable deduction, H.R. 5856 unleashes healthcare providers to treat patients in their communities and improve overall health outcomes.

Not only does H.R. 5856 allow doctors to take a deduction for the services they render, this bill will save Medicaid and CHIP billions of dollars every year, without cutting benefits. Community healthcare providers know what the community needs, and what their individual patients need. By allowing doctors to take on patients, *pro bono*, H.R. 5856 will increase access to care to under-served populations and restore power to the sacred doctor-patient relationship. From our initial estimates, upwards of 7 million people will be benefitted from direct access to a primary care physician, and Medicaid is expected to save billions of dollars in annual outlays. Rather than going to an emergency room for something as simple as a headache, patients now have access to a primary care physician—shrinking ER wait times, saving Medicaid and CHIP billions of dollars annually, and increasing health outcomes on a systemic level.

As an organization committed to representing mature Americans and seniors, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring senior citizens' interests are protected. AMAC applauds Congressman Webster, and his attentive staff, for their thoughtful, innovative, and practical solution to



improve healthcare for millions of Americans. With more than 8 million seniors eligible for Medicaid, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring that aging Americans receive the healthcare options they deserve to enjoy their later years. For the foregoing reasons, AMAC is pleased to offer our organization's full support to the *Good Samaritan Charitable Physicians' Services Act of 2018*.

Sincerely,

Dan Weber  
President and Founder of AMAC