September 25, 2017

The Honorable Senator Rob Portman
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

We write on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Franklin County residents for whom healthcare is jeopardized by the Graham-Cassidy bill and the many more who would bear significant financial and health burdens as a result of the bill’s abandonment of critical federal standards for healthcare access. We urge you to oppose Graham-Cassidy and instead work with your colleagues in the Senate to advance legislation that improves, rather than destroys, our current healthcare system.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, not yet evaluated by the CBO, selects winners and losers among states and, even worse, among people.

Senator Portman, Ohioans count on you to protect them and make the best decisions based on the best information available. At this point, even without the CBO weighing in, it is plain to see the damage that this bill would do to tens of thousands of Ohio families, and tens of millions across the nation. That is why, as you know, virtually every leading health organization in the country stands firmly in opposition, including the American Medical Association, AARP, American Hospital Association and the Children’s Hospital Association, just to name a few.

Counties are on the frontlines of ensuring the wellbeing of our residents, and our nation’s healthcare system works best when counties have a strong federal partner in delivering quality, affordable health care. This is not about liberal or conservative policies, and it’s not about political alliances. This is about our nation’s healthcare system and the responsibility of federal, state and local governments to work together to improve it. We stand ready to do so.

Sincerely,

John O'Grady
Board President, Franklin County

Marilyn Brown
Commissioner, Franklin County

Kevin L. Boyce
Commissioner, Franklin County