



ACTION ALERT!

Senate to Vote on Health Care Bill!

Contact Your Senators Now!

Yesterday, the Senate Majority Leader released the draft of the work group's proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), calling it the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 (BCRA) -- decimating the Medicaid program in the process. This bill is not much better than the House version and in some instances, it's worse. This bill is moving very quickly and the only recourse is to tell them to stop.

Both the House and the Senate have proposed over \$800 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next ten years and transferring the program's responsibility to the States, thus ending the program as an entitlement program.

The Senate is offering to "carve out" children with complex needs. But, what does that mean? States will still be able to define and prioritize who they serve, and if children's healthcare services in general are decimated because of overall reduced Medicaid, what difference will that make? And, what happens when these children turn age 19 and no services are available?

Being dramatic? Both the House and Senate propose to eliminate a 50-year old program that is the major payor of long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities and who are older, as well as the majority of births and healthcare for children in this country.

This proposal has significant consequences for people with brain injury who are Medicaid eligible receiving services through HCBS waiver programs or State Plan Services. In addition, Americans will not be guaranteed that rehabilitation and care needed after a brain injury will be covered through their insurance plans.

Other Senate provisions:

1. As with the House bill, the Senate's BCRA eliminates the essential health benefits (EHBs) by allowing States to seek a waiver from the ACA requirement that insurance companies be required to offer plans that cover ten EHBs, which includes rehabilitation.

2. States could waive the prohibition against monetary caps on those benefits that a State no longer considers essential.
3. The Medicaid expansion would remain in effect through 2019, but beginning in 2020, the enhanced federal matching percentage would begin to phase out and the Medicaid program as a whole would transfer to a per capita cap (States would also be given the option to choose a block grant). 31 States have expanded Medicaid to provide health care coverage to low-income childless, working adults.
 - o One of the major differences between the BCRA and the House version is the growth rate for the per capita caps. In this way, the Senate bill is MUCH worse as the growth rate is lower meaning that the Medicaid cuts over time would be much more severe.

How can You Help?

Make a call **today!** Republicans, as well as all Senators, need to keep hearing from people now! You can call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and an operator will directly connect you. *Don't know who your Senators are?* You can find out who and how to contact him or her by clicking [here](#).

Key messages:

- Do NOT support the Senate proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- Do NOT allow Medicaid to be gutted. Caps and block grants will decimate the program on which people with disabilities, including brain injury, and seniors rely for critical healthcare and community services.
- Do NOT allow States to opt out of requiring health plans to cover basic health care and keep it affordable for people with pre-existing conditions, including individuals with brain injury.

Please feel free to forward and share with disability advocates, families and individuals with brain injury in your State.

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