

The Senate is set to repeal of the Affordable Care Act before Sept. 30. Call and email today about the impact of Medicaid cuts and other key healthcare provisions have on people with brain injury.



ACTION ALERT!

Cassidy-Graham Proposal: The New Bill to Repeal the ACA and Cut Medicaid!

Before the partisan reconciliation rules expire Sept. 30th, Republicans are considering one last desperate attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), through legislation proposed by Senators Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, Dean Heller, and Ron Johnson. In summary, the bill:

1. It **eliminates the Medicaid program as we know it** and ends the entitlement by placing a per-capita cap on the traditional Medicaid population and block granting funding for the expansion population until 2026. *After 2026, there will be no funding for this population.*
2. It **places the Essential Health Benefits at risk** and allows States to remove covered services like rehabilitative care and mental health treatment.
3. It **allows insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions** and all but guaranteeing these individuals will pay higher premiums, and potentially be priced out of the market.

Two hearings have been scheduled on this bill for next Monday and Tuesday:

- Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, 10:00am, Senate Finance Committee hearing entitled, "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal", Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 215.
- Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 10:00am -- The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee - chaired by Sen. Johnson - will hold a hearing titled "Block Grants: How States Can Reduce Health Care Costs", a topic central to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Cassidy-Graham Bill: Additional Information

The Cassidy-Graham bill maintains all the key components of previous legislation, including:

- A per-capita cap on Medicaid.
- Ending the Medicaid expansion as we know it.
- Rolling back protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.
- Allowing States to impose burdensome work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage.
- Tears coverage away from millions of Americans.

On top of these devastating changes, the Cassidy-Graham bill would:

- Repeal the Medicaid expansion, premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reduction payments in favor of an inadequate block grant.
- Establish a slush fund for States without any consumer safeguards.
- Create a funding cliff that eliminates the guarantee of coverage in 2026.

Here's what this would mean for Americans:

- Implements an inadequate block grant that would increase costs and offer fewer choices for people who buy health care on their own. The latest proposal would replace the Medicaid expansion, the premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reduction payments with a block grant. The amount of this slush fund is based on a completely arbitrary formula, adjusted based on population density, and the number of low-income individuals in the whole State, under the guise of "increasing equity" in States' access to federal funding. Compared to current law, which ties these programs to the actual cost of care, funding would be capped and slashed, and Americans would be left without options. The block grant will grow below even the rate of inflation, let alone the cost of care, meaning the cuts get deeper and more draconian year after year. [CBPP, 7/27/17 and 9/13/17]

o This arbitrary formula would redistribute federal money from some States to others. Though most States would see a net decrease in federal funding, 20 States would experience severe cuts amounting to 35% to 60% cuts below projected funding under current law by 2026: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, plus the District of Columbia. [CBPP, 9/13/17].

Make a Call or Email Today!

Our friends at the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) are already scheduling Hill visits. If you are interested, please send an email to publicpolicy@nashia.org. To make your concerns know, you can call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and an operator will directly connect you to your

Senator's office. *Don't know who your Senators are?* You can find out who and how to contact him or her by clicking [here](#).

Remember, as an employee, you may contact your Senators *on your own time -- using your own phone and email -- as a constituent*. You may also want to share this message to members of your advisory council/board, families, associations and anyone in your State involved with brain injury.

Key messages:

- **Do NOT** support the Cassidy-Graham bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- **Do NOT** allow the Medicaid program to be gutted. Caps and block grants will decimate the program, which people with disabilities, including individuals with brain injury, and seniors who rely on Medicaid for critical healthcare and long-term services and supports need.
- **Do NOT** allow States to opt out of requiring health plans to cover basic health care, including rehabilitation, and
- **KEEP it AFFORDABLE** for people with pre-existing conditions, including individuals with brain injury.

Script:

My name is [your full name]. I'm a constituent of Senator [Name], and I live in [your town] and my zipcode is [zipcode]. I'm calling to ask the Senator to vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham bill or *any bill* that caps or cuts Medicaid -- as well as to repeal essential health care benefits (rehabilitation) and would allow insurance companies to impose lifetime caps. If any of the bills being discussed as part of the budget process are passed, millions of Americans will lose health insurance.

These bills take away protections that people with brain injury depend on, drastically cut Medicaid, and will return us to the old days when people with disabilities like [me/ my family member/ my friends] were uninsurable. We can't go back. Please vote AGAINST repealing any form of caps or cuts to Medicaid. It's time for Congress to scrap repeal, leave Medicaid alone, and work together to improve the ACA. We're counting on you to do the right thing.

Medicaid cuts and caps hurt US

**1 in 5 Americans relies on Medicaid to stay healthy and independent.
Medicaid cuts and per capita caps mean less care, lost jobs,
and greater hardships for families, especially in rural areas.**



Congress: Don't cut and cap Medicaid

Supporting Organizations

- AARP
- ACCSES
- ADAPT
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- Alliance for Aging Research
- Alliance for Retired Americans
- Allies for Independence/Advance CLASS
- AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- American Association of Service Contractors
- American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American Diabetes Association
- American Foundation for the Blind
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Medical Association
- American Music Therapy Association
- The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
- American Psychological Association
- American Society on Aging
- The Amputee Coalition
- The Arc of the United States
- Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (AGHDHBCU)
- Association of Jewish Aging Services
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCCD)
- Autism Society of America
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- Baystate Health
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- B'nai B'rith International
- Brain Injury Association of America
- CareSouth Carolina, Inc.
- Caring Across Generations
- The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA)
- Center for Elder Care & Advanced Illness
- Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- Center for Medicare Advocacy
- Center for Public Representation
- Center to Advance Palliative Care
- Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
- Christian Reformed Disability Concerns Ministry
- Christiana Care Health System
- Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
- Coastal Medical
- Community Catalyst
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Disability Concerns Ministry (Reformed Church in America)
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
- Disciples Home Missions
- Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
- Easterseals
- Families USA
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- GBMC HealthCare System
- Henry Ford Health System
- Human Impact Partners
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- The Jewish Federation of North America
- Justice in Aging
- LeadingAge
- Lupus Foundation of America
- Lutheran Services in America - Disability Network
- Medicare Rights Center
- MoreAbility.org
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- National Adult Day Services Association
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Alliance for Caregiving
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
- National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)
- National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
- National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Council of Churches
- National Council on Aging
- National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
- National Down Syndrome Congress
- National Health Law Program
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
- Parent to Parent USA
- PHI
- Prevention Institute
- Providence St. Joseph Health
- Rowan-Columbian Community Health Center
- Service Employees International Union
- Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
- Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network
- TASH
- Union for Reform Judaism
- United Cerebral Palsy
- The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
- The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Visiting Nurse Associations of America (VNAA)

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

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National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
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