



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

Action Alert

Open Enrollment Starts Today: Show Your Support for the Affordable Care Act!

SUMMARY:

Open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplaces begins today. The Marketplaces are the new way that people who need affordable health insurance can apply for assistance and purchase private coverage. Plans sold in the Marketplace must meet certain standards and people with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level can receive tax credits to subsidize the cost of private insurance. While there have been many milestones in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, today is the milestone day when families and individuals can begin to shop for and compare affordable, understandable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage.

However, this milestone coincides with the end of the fiscal year and Congress has been unable to reach an agreement to continue funding the federal government, with the strongest disagreement over whether to defund or delay all or part of the ACA. Send a message today to tell your member of Congress that you support the ACA and that they should pass a continuing resolution

TAKE ACTION:

Call your Representative:

- Visit [AUCD's Action Center](#) to find out the name of your Senators or Representative.
- Dial the Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** and ask for the office of your Senator or Representative
- Ask to speak to the person working on Health issues
- Identify yourself as a constituent and the organization that you represent (if any)
- Give them your message, then pass this alert along to other stakeholders!

Message: "I am calling to ask Senator/Representative _____ to **support the Affordable Care Act and pass a continuing resolution that leaves the law intact** "

Talking Points

- The ACA is a major step forward for children and adults with disabilities accessing health care – don't step backward by repealing the law.

- The ACA creates or continued programs that encourage states to provide services in home and community settings rather than in institutions. Repealing the ACA would end these programs, and potentially force many people to return to institutions.
- The ACA insurance reforms mean that people with disabilities can purchase private insurance, some of them for the first time. Repealing the ACA would deny many people with disabilities the opportunity to purchase private insurance.
- The ACA makes sure that health insurance provides key therapies for children with disabilities – called habilitation – that have hardly ever been provided by private health insurance before. Repealing the ACA would limit access to these important early interventions.
- Government shutdowns hurt people with disabilities, delaying already long processing times for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits.

Or, email your members of Congress directly using [AUCD's Action Center](#).