



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

Health and Long Term Services are Threatened ACTION NEEDED NOW

June 13, 2017

SUMMARY:

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has announced the Senate will take up the American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628) as soon as June 26 with a vote on June 30. Therefore, the next two weeks are absolutely critical to save Medicaid from being permanently and fundamentally altered. Once Medicaid is changed, there will no longer be any guarantees for eligibility or for certain services. Home and community based services, all types of therapies, early interventions (EPSDT), home health, and respite care are all threatened. This major policy shift and cuts to Medicaid are needed by AHCA supporters to pay for the lost tax revenue that will result from repealing portions of the Affordable Care Act.

BACKGROUND: The American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed the House of Representatives on March 20. The bill then moved to the Senate where it is currently being considered. Advocates are very concerned about the lack of transparency in the process. No one has seen drafts of the Senate bill; there are no hearings or markups scheduled. However, apparently, parts of the bill have been sent to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to be scored and will be ready for debate soon.

The AHCA cuts Medicaid by more than \$800 billion over 10 years. In addition, Medicaid funding would be allocated based on a per capita cap formula or, at state option, block grant. Both scenarios would result in a radically different Medicaid program that would adversely affect the community living options and supports for people with disabilities. Under current law, anyone who meets a state's eligibility requirements is eligible to participate in the Medicaid program. In the future, those who are eligible would only join Medicaid if the state has enough money for them to do so.

TAKE ACTION:

Call your Representative/Senator/Member of Congress:

- Dial 866-426-2631 (toll free) and ask for the office of your Representative/Senators and ask to speak to the person working on health issues.
- Email your members of Congress directly using [AUCD's Action Center](#) that includes a sample letter.
- Visit state offices with family members, self-advocates, and children that will be impacted by these changes. Take pictures, follow up with letters, and post to social media.

Message: “I am calling Senator _____. Please connect me to staff that handles health issues. The American Health Care Act would seriously threaten health and home and community-based services and supports for people with disabilities.

Talking Points:

- It would shift costs onto states and states will be forced to either raise taxes or severely restrict services that help people with disabilities live, work and play in the community.
- I am also very concerned about the lack of public input in this process. I urge the Senate to involve people with disabilities, school personnel, parents, providers and other key stakeholders to review any bills being considered by Congress before the debate and passage.
- Changes to Medicaid should not be made to pay for unrelated health care reform efforts.
- Congress should take steps to improve comprehensive, accessible and affordable health care and long term services and supports for people with disabilities.

Note: These materials were not paid for with Federal dollars