

The US Senate majority leadership unveiled the revised Better Care Reconciliation Act (BRCA).

The score on the cost and impact for this bill is likely to be released on July 17 with a vote expected July 20.

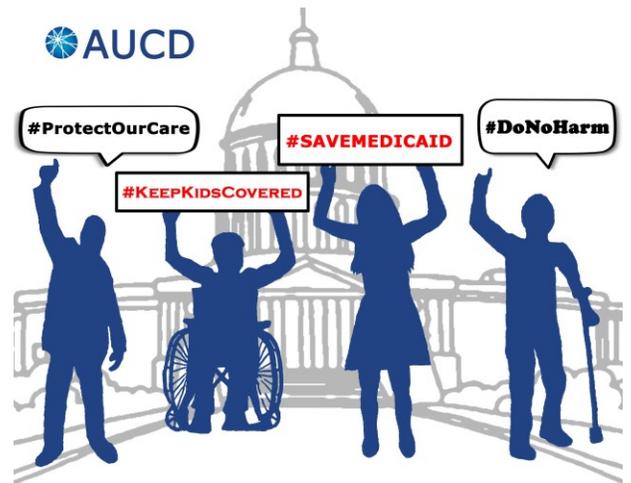
The time to act is now!

The bill still contains provisions to deconstruct, cap, and cut Medicaid by billions; it still allows for waivers to eliminate essential health care benefits and to disregard the prohibition to

discriminate against pre-existing conditions; it still eliminates the incentive to provide HCBS; and it now contains a section that will create two risk pools—one that will segregate high health care need individuals from those with lower needs to fall short of the promise and commitment to community inclusion.

If these cuts are enacted into law, they will be very difficult to undo. The AUCD network has a deep understanding of the importance of Medicaid on the ground in every State, and we need to lift our voices every day between now and the Senate vote on the BCRA.

What we need to do now: call, e-mail, visit your Senators; write short stories about yourself, your child, your parent, your relatives, or your friends who have a disability and need the support of Medicaid and health care—include a picture with your story; video yourself and share your story on social media (make sure you include your Senator); ask friends and family to do the same. **Use this toolkit** for strategies, messages, and tools to educate your Senators about the critical importance of Medicaid-funded services and supports in your State and the need to #DoNoHarm to children, families, and people with disabilities who need health care and Medicaid. **Join us.**



Target Senators

Share your story with **all** Senators directly to their Facebook pages or by calling and visiting their offices. **The most important Senators to target are Senators Heller (NV), Capito (WV), Murkowski (AK), Cassidy (LA), and Portman (OH) – in that order.**

Tier 1 Target Contacts

State	Senator	DC Office #	Local Office #s	Social Media
Nevada	Dean Heller	202-224-6244	Las Vegas: 702-388-6605 Reno: 775-686-5770	TW: @SenDeanHeller FB: @SenDeanHeller
West Virginia	Shelley Capito	202-224-6472	Charleston: 304-347-5372 Martinsburg: 304-262-9285 Morgantown: 304-292-2310 Beckley: 304-347-5372	TW: @CapitoForWV FB: @SenShelley
Alaska	Lisa Murkowski	202-224-6665	Anchorage: 907-271-3735 Fairbanks: 907-456-0233 Juneau: 907-586-7277 Mat-Su Valley: 907-376-7665 Kenai: 907-283-5808 Ketchikan: 907-255-6880	TW: @LisaMurkowski FB: @SenLisaMurkowski
Louisiana	Bill Cassidy	202-224-5824	Alexandria: 318-448-7176 Baton Rouge: 225-929-7711 Lafayette: 337-261-1400 Lake Charles: 337-493-5398 Metairie: 504-838-0130 Monroe: 318-324-2111 Shreveport: 318-798-3215	TW: @BillCassidy FB: @BillCassidy
Ohio	Rob Portman	202-224-3353	Columbus: 614-469-6774 Cincinnati: 513-684-3265 Cleveland: 216-522-7095 Toledo: 419-259-3895	TW: @SenRobPortman FB: @SenRobPortman

Tier 2 Target Contacts

State	Senator	DC Office #	Local Office #s	Facebook
Arizona	Jeff Flake	202-224-4521	Phoenix: 602-840-1891 Tucson: 520-575-8633	@SenatorJeffFlake
Arizona	John McCain	202-224-2235	Phoenix: 602-952-2410 Tucson: 520-670-6334	@JohnMcCain
Texas	Ted Cruz	202-224-5922	Austin: 512-916-5834	@SenatorTedCruz

			Dallas: 214-599-8749 Houston: 713-718-3057 San Antonio: 210-340-2885 Tyler: 903-593-5130 McAllen: 956-686-7339	
Colorado	Cory Gardner	202-224-5941	Pueblo: 719-543-1324 Co. Springs: 719-632-6706 Denver: 303-391-5777 Grand Junctn: 970-245-9553 Greeley: 970-352-5546 Ft. Collins: 970-484-3502 Yuma: 970-848-3095 Durango: 970-259-1231	@SenCoryGardner
Montana	Steve Daines	202-224-2651	Billings: 406-245-6822 Great Falls: 406-453-0148 Helena: 406-443-3189 Bozeman: 406-587-3446 Missoula: 406-549-8198 Kalispell: 406-257-3765 Sidney: 406-482-9010 Hardin: 406-665-4126	@SteveDainesMT
Kansas	Jerry Moran	202-224-6521	Hays: 785-628-6401 Manhattan: 785-539-8973 Pittsburg: 620-232-2286 Wichita: 316-631-1410 Olathe: 913-393-0711	@JerryMoran
Kentucky	Rand Paul	202-224-4343	Bowling Green: 270-782-8303	@SenatorRandPaul
Maine	Susan Collins	202-224-2523	Augusta: 207-622-8414 Bangor: 207-945-0417 Biddeford: 207-283-1101 Caribou: 207-493-7873 Lewiston: 207-784-6969 Portland: 207-780-3575	@SusanCollins
Wisconsin	Ron Johnson	202-224-5323	Milwaukee: 414-276-7252 Oshkosh: 920-230-7250	@Senator-Ron-Johnson
Utah	Mike Lee	202-224-5444	Salt Lake City: 801-524-5933 St. George: 435-628-5514 Ogden: 801-392-9633	@SenatorMikeLee

Action Steps

No matter how much or how little time you have – *you have time to do something!*
Every action counts!

Have only 60 seconds?

- Use social media to contact your Senator
 1. Find your Senator’s twitter handle using <http://www.socialseer.com/resources/us-senator-twitter-accounts/> or <http://cqrcengage.com/aucd/app/lookup?3&m=10782>.
 2. Use the list below to generate tweet ideas
 3. Tag your Senator and @AUCDnews
 4. Tweet it!
 5. Email your Senator using the [AUCD online action center and sample letter](#)
- Use social media to amplify others’ voices
 1. Follow AUCD on Twitter (@AUCDnews) and Facebook (@AUCD Network) to find stories and photos of real people who will be negatively impacted by these major changes. Share these stories and photos with your Senators, local news outlets, and friends. On Twitter, select “retweet” then “quote tweet” where you can type in the twitter handle of people you want to make sure see the story. On Facebook, share it to their timeline.
 2. Search hashtags relevant to the issue: #noBCRA, #DoNoHarm, #AHCA, #Healthcare, #SaveMedicaid, #MedicaidMatters, #KeepKidsCovered. Share messages and stories **broadly yet cautiously**, first ensuring the message is consistent with your position and remaining polite.

Have 5 minutes?

- Call your Senators and Governors

A phone call is a great way to contact your Senator and their office staff. Phones ringing off the hook are nearly impossible for lawmakers to ignore! Here’s a helpful [article from the NY Times on understanding what happens](#) when someone answers the phone at a legislator’s office.

Call your local office or the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request. [Find your Members of Congress here](#), and use the tweets below and/or [this](#) as talking points. Call multiple times throughout the day! Contact your Governor too – caps and cuts shift costs to the states, and your Governor needs to hear from you.



Make an appointment for a visit

Face to face interactions are the BEST way to make your voice heard. Always remember that your legislators and their staff work for you and need to hear your concerns about issues. Every member of Congress has offices in their local districts, and permanent staff members are available year-round. **Visit in-person is best if you can.** Keep the appointment you made last week and tell your story. Not sure what to say? [Here](#) are some ideas for talking points.

- ## Share your story

Personal stories have great power. They help to create a shared understanding of who we are and how we live our lives. They help us celebrate our successes and document our challenges. Stories bring policies to life.

AUCD is collecting stories from you to share with policy makers about the importance of Medicaid and health care for people with disabilities. Help us put a face on the issue and tell lawmakers about the devastating implications if Medicaid funding is cut or capped. [Share your story with AUCD](#), and we'll help make sure Senators, friends, and news outlets see it.

Have 30 minutes?

- ### Visit your local office

Keep the appointment time you made. You didn't make an appointment? That's ok – go anyway! These meetings shouldn't make you nervous. Relax, and remember you're the expert of your own story. Bring your children/parents/friends or their photos, and focus on educating staff and potentially forming a lasting relationship. Here's a helpful how-to guide and [Fact Sheet: In-Person Meetings with Elected Officials](#), from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

- ### Write a letter to the editor

Letters to the editor, published in newspapers and magazines, are excellent forums for getting your message seen by a wide audience, including neighbors, government officials, and community members. Use your expert knowledge, or to tell your personal story of why the Senate should vote to #SaveMedicaid and #KeepKidsCovered. Use data and evidence as well as passion and reason to make your argument. Here's a good set of [tips on writing effective letters to the editor](#) and [another set, too](#).

- ### Convince 5 friends to take action, too!

We need every single voice telling Congress how dangerous this proposal is. Talk to coworkers, trainees, and family members. Tell families who visit your clinics. Email former trainees. Post to social media the story of why you're choosing to speak out. We can't let anyone sit idle and hope for the best. Lives are at stake.

Talking Points

- The AHCA would shift costs onto states - states will be forced to either raise taxes or severely restrict services that help people with disabilities live, work and recreate in the community.
- Changes to Medicaid should *not* be considered in conjunction with health care reform.
- Congress should work in a bipartisan fashion to improve comprehensive, accessible and affordable health care and long term services and supports.
- The lack of transparency in this process is unprecedented and concerning. The Senate should allow people with disabilities, school personnel, parents, providers and other key stakeholders to review any bills being considered by Congress that would directly impact their lives before the debate and passage.
- The block grant option would still result in states having to make difficult decisions about eligibility, services offered, waitlists, and which elements of the program to support (i.e., community-based versus institutional services, or a reduction in 'optional' services, which are critical to facilitating community inclusion).
- A carve-out would cover less than 30 percent, leaving the majority of children with an insufficient amount of money to cover their needs.
- The new temporary proposal – 1915 (I) offers only \$8 billion to replace the current —and permanent —\$19 billion [1915\(k\) Community First Choice \(CFC\)](#) program authorized by the Affordable Care Act.

Shareable Graphics

- Data on Medicaid and Kids with Disabilities
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2ohv58rj7tmq7w/AAAKHmpnJOfdd4HXJiiHR9B6a?dl=0>
- Social media banners, graphics
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/aucd/albums/72157684440463316/with/34669221770/>
- Personal stories published through AUCD, including several from our target states: all are at <http://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=997> and can be shared there and through Twitter.

State Level Events

- A google spreadsheet of state level events across the nation and contact information:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A8AljVzG0RDGd1GSOrbDn0LE5JJeJFuSPIHqIqf6sf/edit#gid=209805958>
- The Town Hall Project: empowering constituents across the country to have face-to-face conversations with their elected representatives. <https://townhallproject.com/>

Articles/Stories To Share

- Senate health bill would effectively end #Medicaid - making it especially hard for children w/ special needs: <http://bit.ly/2tW1bbc>
- #Medicaid provides affordable coverage for 11 million kids w/ special health care needs. Senate bill threatens that: <http://bit.ly/2tW1bbc>
- #Medicaid plays an important role for children w special healthcare needs. Senate bill wld effectively end it: <http://bit.ly/2tW1bbc>
- Both the House & Senate health bills wld threaten #Medicaid for 11M kids w/ special health care needs: <http://bit.ly/2tW1bbc>
- Nearly 75% of children with special health care needs are in low/middle-income families. The Senate bill would hurt them: <http://bit.ly/2tW1bbc>
- Over 112 Organizations banded together to oppose cutting and capping Medicaid: <https://twitter.com/AUCDNews/status/879788783176122368>
- [Analysis](#) showing average cost increases for marketplace enrollees under the Senate Trumpcare bill (National and AK, ME, NV, OH, WV, and WI)
- [State-by-state analysis](#) of how Senate Trumpcare's Medicaid cuts would impact veterans

Sample Tweets

Medicaid

- Over 10million ppl w disabilities rely on #Medicaid for healthcare. Please: #DoNoHarm & #SaveMedicaid @AUCDnews *[insert your Senator's Twitter handle]*
- Don't allow insurers to discriminate against ppl w/ disabilities bc of pre-existing conditions. #ProtectOurCare #DoNoHarm @AUCDnews *[insert your Senator's Twitter handle]*
- The #AHCA would leave ppl w/ disabilities & millions more without healthcare. #ProtectOurCare & #DoNoHarm @AUCDnews *[insert your Senator's Twitter handle]*
- Cutting and capping Medicaid is dangerous for PWD #SaveMedicaid #DoNoHarm @AUCDnews *[insert your Senator's Twitter handle]*
- Innovation needs funding. Cutting Medicaid isn't the answer. #SaveMedicaid #DoNoHarm @AUCDnews *[insert your Senator's Twitter handle]*
- Medicaid helps PWD live lives like everyone else #SaveMedicaid
- We want to live in our homes, not nursing homes! #SaveMedicaid #NoCutsNoCaps
- Federal cuts and caps will shift costs onto PWD & families – People who are already struggling #SaveMedicaid
- Less money means LESS flexibility for states #SaveMedicaid #NoCutsNoCaps
- Less money means fewer disability services for the people who need it most! #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid helps PWD get and keep jobs so they can be taxpaying citizens & full members of their communities #SaveMedicaid

- Medicaid helps support kids with disabilities so they can get the free, appropriate education they deserve #SaveMedicaid
- Unpaid caregivers (like parents) save taxpayers \$450 billion a year. Cutting their support hurts everyone. #SaveMedicaid
- Waiting lists are already years long. Medicaid cuts & caps would make them even longer. #SaveMedicaid #NoCutsNoCaps
- Direct support workers are overworked & underpaid. Cutting & capping Medicaid makes the situation worse. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid expansion has saved thousands of lives. Don't turn back the clock! #SaveMedicaid
- People with less shouldn't have to pay more for basic care. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid expansion funds Community First Choice, which helps PWD live at home instead of nursing homes & institutions #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid pays for necessary #SpecEd services that students with disabilities need to succeed #SaveMedicaid
- Don't be fooled: Caps ARE cuts. #SaveMedicaid #NoCutsNoCaps
- Medicaid caps = Robin Hood in reverse. #SaveMedicaid
- Timely access to care is a life or death matter. #SaveMedicaid
- We need more Medicaid funding, not less, to improve choices and quality of care. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is my lifeline. #SaveMedicaid
- Without federal funding, states will have to choose which people to cover and which to let die. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is the nation's largest health insurer for kids w/ disabilities & special health care needs, covering 43% of them #SaveMedicaid #SaveOurKids
- Slashing funds to state Medicaid prgms puts tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of children and their futures. #SaveMedicaid
- Nearly half of Medicaid beneficiaries are children: 30+million low-income kids rely on benefits to live. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is currently the gold standard for children's health care, including #EPSDT. Don't force states to cut benefits. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid covers foster children and children with disabilities. #SaveMedicaid so these kids stay safe & healthy.
- Kids with disabilities should be in their own homes, not nursing homes. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is the largest source of funding nationwide for maternity care. #SaveMedicaid
- 1in7 seniors rely on Medicaid for care as they age. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid cuts and caps put our seniors in danger. #SaveMedicaid
- "Flexibility" shouldn't mean fewer, lower quality options for people with disabilities and families #SaveMedicaid

Children

- We didn't vote for health care reform at the expense of our children. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is the nation's largest health insurer for kids w/ disabilities & special health care needs, covering 43% of them #SaveMedicaid #SaveOurKids
- Slashing funds to state Medicaid prgms puts tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of children and their futures. #SaveMedicaid
- Nearly half of Medicaid beneficiaries are children: 30+million low-income kids rely on benefits to live. #SaveMedicaid
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- Medicaid covers foster children and children with disabilities. #SaveMedicaid so these kids stay safe & healthy.
- Kids with disabilities should be in their own homes, not nursing homes. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid is the largest source of funding nationwide for maternity care. #SaveMedicaid

People with Disabilities

- We didn't vote for health care reform at the expense of the most vulnerable. #SaveMedicaid
- Some #PWD need help to get up and out to work. #SaveMedicaid to save their independence and jobs.
- What's a "per capita cap" and what would it mean for me? @TuesdayWithLiz #SaveMedicaid <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0IXvND9nNM>

Older Americans

- We didn't vote for health care reform at the expense of the most vulnerable. #SaveMedicaid
- 1in7 seniors rely on Medicaid for care as they age. #SaveMedicaid
- Medicaid cuts and caps put our seniors in danger. #SaveMedicaid
- TrumpCare shreds the Medicaid safety net serving 72+million Americans. @familiesusa #SaveMedicaid

Loss of Services

- We didn't vote for health care reform at the expense of the most vulnerable. #SaveMedicaid
- Before the ACA, people with disabilities were routinely denied care, when they needed it the most. #KeepAmericaCovered #SaveMedicaid
- "Flexibility" shouldn't mean fewer, lower quality options for people with disabilities and families #SaveMedicaid #MedicaidMatters
- The ACA gave millions of disabled Americans and their caregivers access to health insurance. #KeepAmericaCovered #SaveMedicaid
- #SaveMedicaid so people with disabilities & chronic conditions can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives.

- Important services like speech therapy are currently covered. #SaveMedicaid #SaveOurServices
- Millions with mental or behavioral health conditions rely on Medicaid for needed services. #SaveMedicaid #KeepAmericaCovered
- Nobody should be denied access to quality healthcare #SaveMedicaid
- Do NOT allow restructuring and cuts to Medicaid to be part of an ACA replacement #SaveMedicaid

How Many Contacts Can YOU Make Each Day?

We need every voice, every day.

The situation has never been more urgent. Make a phone call on your lunch break and your commute home. Encourage your staff, alumni, families, and trainees to do the same. And let AUCD know how many phone calls, tweets, personal visits, and letters to the editor you and your center have made over this 10-day period. Let's see who can be the most active in telling the Senate to #DoNoHarm to our health care!