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Washington, DC

The Senate is Finalizing Its Healthcare Plan – Call Your Senator Now!

This week, the Senate is putting the final touches on its own version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which passed the House in May. As you know from our prior alerts, the House version of the AHCA proposes to cut 25% of Medicaid's budget, eliminates the guarantee that Medicaid will provide the health and supportive services (including mental health and substance use disorder services) that people need, and repeals the Medicaid Expansion. Unfortunately, our best understanding at this moment is that the Senate bill makes an even deeper cut to Medicaid, while maintaining the rest of these harmful provisions.

For more information, watch an update from our Deputy Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy, Bethany Lilly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZsFI7QQc8c>.

We can stop this now! Please contact your senators and governors and tell them to vote **NO** on the American Health Care Act.

We have created state-based fact sheets, available here: <http://www.bazelon.org/our-work/advocacy/>, to help you with your advocacy.

You can find your senators' and governors' numbers there, or you can call the Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121

- 1) "As a constituent and a [person with a disability/parent of a child with a disability/supporter of people with disabilities], I oppose caps and cuts to Medicaid and ask the Senator [or Governor] to do the same."

Talking Points: The AHCA still cuts 25% of Medicaid's budget and changes federal reimbursement rules, which would gut critically needed services for people with mental illness and other disabilities. These services include healthcare services in the community for people with serious mental illness, employment services, services that help people stay housed, and services that help students learn in school. Medicaid is the main funding source for these services.

- 2) "I also oppose any bill that repeals the Medicaid Expansion, even after a delay, and ask the Senator [or Governor] to do the same!"

Talking Points: There are more than 11 million people who rely on the Medicaid Expansion for coverage. Almost one third of them have a mental illness or substance use disorder. And more are people with disabilities, caretakers of people with disabilities, and children. It doesn't matter if the bill "phases" out the Expansion in three years or seven years, people will still lose coverage. Medicaid is the most cost effective way to provide coverage to people who can't afford healthcare—don't kick people off.