

Last night, the Congressional Budget Office released a score, or financial analysis, of the Senate healthcare bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). The score confirmed our analysis of the bill—that it retains massive cuts to the Medicaid program, specifically \$772 billion in the first 10 years and then even deeper subsequent cuts, and will cause millions of people, 22 million to be specific, to lose healthcare coverage. Despite this score, Republican Leadership in the Senate is still planning to vote on this bill on Thursday. We need your help to make sure this bill does not become law! If you responded to our alert yesterday, then you can skip directly to the scripts at the end of this alert. Otherwise:

- 1) **If you have a Republican Senator or two**, each day until the vote, call your senator/s and ask him/her/them to oppose the bill. We will provide a script each morning, detailing issues with a different part of the bill. We also ask that you report back on Twitter (@Bazelon Center) or via email ([communications@bazelon.org](mailto:communications@bazelon.org)) with what your senator's office said about the Senator's current position on the BCRA.
- 2) **Whether or not you have any Republican Senators**, think about all of your family and friends who live in states with Republican Senators. Call or email anyone you know in those states, and ask them to call their Senators. Share our fact sheets and our scripts. Each day, we'll send a reminder and a new script for you to use to when contacting Friends and Family.
- 3) **In addition to these steps, there is more that you can do:**
  - You can write a letter to your local newspaper, asking your Senators to publicly oppose the bill. There are model letters to the editor available [here](#).
  - You can visit your Senator's office in person, by yourself or with some friends. Ask to meet with the healthcare staff or just drop off a letter including your address and your request that the Senator oppose the BCRA. A model letter is available [here](#).
  - You can tweet at your senator or write on his/her Facebook page. There are sample tweets and posts available [here](#).

Today's Script!

### **For Calling Senators:**

Call the main Capitol line at: (202) 224-3121. You'll be directed to an operator at the Capitol switchboard. This switchboard can direct you to both Senators as well as Representatives. You may be asked to leave a voice mail; you can use the same script to leave a message. This script focuses on the Medicaid Expansion, which has been adopted by: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other states.

Hello, my name is [NAME].

I'm a resident of [TOWN, STATE] and my zip code is [ZIPCODE]. As a constituent and a [person with a disability/parent or family member of a person with a disability/supporter of people with disabilities], I am asking Senator [NAME] to vote against the Senate Healthcare bill. The bill dramatically cuts federal funding for Medicaid expansion, money which cannot easily be replaced by states like [STATE]. Cutting federal funding for the Medicaid expansion would leave millions of Americans with mental health needs – including people like [me/my family member/ my friends] in [STATE] – in serious danger. Nearly 1 in 3 people who receive health insurance coverage through the Medicaid expansion have a mental illness, substance-use disorder, or both. If the expansion is repealed, these vulnerable people in [STATE] will be left without access to life-saving treatment.

[IF YOU LIVE IN ARKANSAS, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW MEXICO, OR WASHINGTON, ADD THE FOLLOWING]: Cutting federal funding for Medicaid expansion will especially affect those of us living in [STATE] because [STATE] has laws that effectively require Medicaid expansion to end entirely if federal support is cut.

Please pass my concerns along to Senator [SENATOR'S NAME]. Thank you for taking my call!

### **For Contacting Friends and Family:**

If you don't have contact information for friends and family in the relevant states, you can use Facebook to find many of them here:

Alaska: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20alaska>

Arizona: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20arizona>

Colorado: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20colorado>

Louisiana: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20louisiana>

Maine: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20maine>

Nevada: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20nevada>

Ohio: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20ohio>

Pennsylvania: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20pennsylvania>

West Virginia: <https://www.facebook.com/search/people/?q=friends%20in%20west%20virginia>

Here is a sample message that you can send to friends or family:

Hi [Family Member/Friend],

I wanted to be sure you saw this [fact sheet/article]. I am really worried that this healthcare bill is going to pass and your state will lose the Medicaid Expansion. That means they wouldn't have the resources to help people with mental health needs or substance use disorders [like me/our friend/our family member]. Have you called Senator

[Senator's name] about this? I have been calling my senators and have some scripts that I've been using that I'd be happy to share.

[Your Name]