

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE AHCA

WHAT THE HEALTHCARE DEBATE MEANS FOR YOU

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN COLORADO ARE AT SERIOUS RISK—ACT NOW!

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), or “Obamacare,” made many changes to our health care system that help people with disabilities—including millions with behavioral health conditions—get the services they need. The current debate over healthcare reform and the potential repeal of the ACA places people with disabilities living in Arizona at serious risk.

If You or a Loved One Has Medicaid:

More than 203,000 people with disabilities in Colorado have health insurance through Medicaid. An additional 423,500 Coloradans gained Medicaid coverage through the Medicaid Expansion. The American Health Care Act (AHCA) repeal bill that passed the House in May 2017 takes billions of dollars away from Medicaid through a funding cap and repeals the Medicaid Expansion. This will force states to ration funding for health care and cut funding for other vital services like public schools and law enforcement to pay for needed health services.

The AHCA would cut \$15 billion of federal funding for Colorado over the next ten years, shifting those healthcare costs to the state.

Adults and children with mental illnesses and their families rely on Medicaid for personal care services, specialized therapies, intensive mental health services, special education services, and other critical supports. Medicaid ensures that kids receive the services, education, and job training they need to succeed in school and grow up to be healthy adults. In 2015, Colorado schools received \$32.9 million in federal Medicaid funding.

In 2016, 506,771 children in Colorado relied on Medicaid for services and supports.

If You or a Loved One Have Private Insurance:

The AHCA also repeals lifesaving protections for people with disabilities and cuts subsidies and tax credits that help struggling families pay for health insurance. The AHCA allows insurers to cut mental health services from private insurance plans, and to cap the amount of money they will pay per year or over an individual’s lifetime, leaving people with disabilities without insurance when they most need it.

There are 79,977 people in Colorado receiving subsidies and tax credits to help them pay for insurance.

CALL YOUR SENATOR AND YOUR GOVERNOR TODAY!

Your voice and your story matters right now.

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