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The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law continues to oppose the revised Better Care Reconciliation Act. "The revised discussion draft improves on none of the multitude of problems with the original version," said Jennifer Mathis, Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy. "The bill continues to fundamentally restructure and limit Medicaid, leading to massive funding cuts, and continues to repeal the Medicaid expansion."

The bill also makes substantial changes to the individual and small group private health insurance markets-- allowing health insurance that does not cover essential health benefits, like mental health services, to be purchased with federal tax credits and sold on the exchanges.

"The changes to the Marketplace mean that two distinct risk pools will be created," said Bethany Lilly, Deputy Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy. "People with pre-existing conditions will pay more and people will find themselves stuck with health insurance that costs more and doesn't cover services they need."

"Millions of Americans with mental illnesses rely on Medicaid and Marketplace plans for health insurance and for mental health services," said Mathis. "This bill not only eliminates the progress we made with the Affordable Care Act, but breaks the promise of Medicaid, made over 50 years ago, that people with disabilities will have access to health insurance."

"The fate of people with mental illnesses and other disabilities rests in the hands of a few Senators. We urge them to oppose this bill."