

National Disability Call-In Day #TaxOnDisability

Yesterday, the Senate Budget Committee marked up H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We expect to see the bill on the Senate floor this week. Today, Wednesday, November 29, we are proud to join the National Disability Call-In Day to oppose the bill.

The tax bill hurts people with disabilities. Senators need to hear from you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

CALL YOUR SENATORS

The Capitol Switch Board will direct your call to the right offices: 202-224-3121.

Not sure what to say? You can make your own script before you call or use this one:

My name is [your name], and I live in [your town, state, and zip code]. I'm calling to ask Senator [Name] to vote NO on the tax bill. The bill disproportionately increases taxes on people with disabilities, eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and leaves millions without health insurance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

HASHTAGS: #TaxOnDisability #ProtectOurCare #ProtectADA

Here are some sample tweets:

We're running out of time. The tax bill has already passed the House. The Senate votes THIS WEEK! Call your Senators NOW—VOTE NO on the Tax Bill!

The Senate tax bill eliminates the Individual Mandate, repeals #ACA protections for people w/ #PREX and eliminates healthcare for 13 million Americans. Call your Senators NOW—VOTE NO on the Tax Bill!

The Senate tax bill is another attack on healthcare for #PWD and people with pre-existing conditions! Call your Senator NOW! 202-224-3121 Say NO to the #TaxOnDisability #ProtectOurCare

Having a hard time keeping up with the #taxbill? Version 1 passed the House, Senate will vote on Version 2 THIS WEEK! Call your Senators and tell them to VOTE NO on #TCJA 202-224-3121

The Individual Mandate protects people with pre-existing conditions. Tell your member of Congress to vote NO on the #TaxOnDisability

ABOUT THE TAX BILL:

The Senate bill repeals the Affordable Care Act's Individual Mandate, which requires everyone to have health coverage. This bill will leave 13 million without health insurance and make health insurance less affordable for millions of people, particularly people with disabilities and older adults.

- The Individual Mandate ensures that people with pre-existing conditions have access to affordable coverage by spreading risk across a very large group of insured people, lowering costs for everyone.
- Repealing the Individual Mandate will send premiums in the individual health insurance market sky-high and leave people with disabilities and healthcare needs stuck in expensive “high-risk pools.”
- NOTE: You may be told or hear that passing the bipartisan Alexander-Murray bill will fix the problems created by repealing the individual mandate. It will not! Alexander-Murray was designed to fix the market as it is now—not one that is changed so dramatically – and it will not fix the problems created by repealing the mandate.

The Senate bill also adds over a trillion dollars to the federal deficit, without attention to how this massive reduction in federal funding will impact Medicaid, Medicare, and other programs people with disabilities rely on to live independently in the community.

- These devastating funding losses will lead to calls to cut Medicaid, Medicare, and other supports for people with disabilities because of the unnecessary budget pressures created by the tax cuts.
- Increasing the deficit this way will trigger automatic cuts to many disability programs, including Medicare, Vocational Rehabilitation, and social services and affordable housing programs.

In addition, the tax changes being proposed are heavily skewed toward corporations and individuals with incomes over a million dollars and will harm lower-income tax payers, including the disproportionate number of low-income people with disabilities.

- The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation analysis shows taxes on American families earning less than \$75,000 would increase by 2027.
- Americans with disabilities and their families have a major stake in conversations about how low-income individuals are taxed. People with disabilities are twice as likely to experience poverty, and if you live in poverty, you are more likely to experience a disability of your own or in your family. Certain groups – including African Americans, Native Americans, women, seniors, and veterans – are more likely to experience both disability and poverty. Any tax increases on low-income Americans will disproportionately impact people with disabilities.
- These cuts are designed to pay for tax cuts for high income individuals and corporations. This is an unacceptable trade-off.