



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities responds to CBO score of the *American Health Care Act*

The Congressional Budget Office's score confirms the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities' concern that the American Health Care Act would decimate the Medicaid program and endanger the lives and independence of the more than 10 million people with disabilities who rely on Medicaid. For most people with disabilities, Medicaid is the only source of long-term services and supports. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the American Health Care Act will cut federal Medicaid spending by \$880 billion over ten years, with 14 million Americans losing the care that Medicaid provides them.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities has consistently advocated that Medicaid per capita caps would harm people with disabilities and would force states into budgetary crises. As the Congressional Budget Office recognized, these dramatic cuts to federal Medicaid funding will force states to cut services, putting at risk many of the optional home- and community-based services on which people with disabilities rely to live and work in the community. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed our worst fears:

*“With less federal reimbursement for Medicaid, states would need to decide whether to commit more of their own resources to finance the program at current-law levels or whether to reduce spending by cutting payments to health care providers and health plans, **eliminating optional services**, restricting eligibility for enrollment, or (to the extent feasible) arriving at more efficient methods for delivering services.”*

The Congressional Budget Office's score made even clearer what we already knew - the American Health Care Act hurts people with disabilities by limiting their coverage and access to vital medical services and long-term supports. For more information please contact: Nicole Jorwic, The Arc, Jorwic@thearc.org or Bethany Lilly, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, bethanyl@bazelon.org.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.