



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

3/8/17

CCD Responds To American Health Care Act

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is gravely concerned about the American Health Care Act. This is simply unconscionable to pay for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by cutting services for low income individuals with disabilities, adults, older adults, and children.

Medicaid provides services and supports that maintain the health, function, independence, and well-being of 10 million enrollees living with disabilities. For many people with disabilities, being able to access timely needed care is a life or death matter. The American Health Care Act changes the way that the Federal Government funds Medicaid--rather than paying states based on the actual costs of healthcare for people in Medicaid, it sets a cap on the amount of money that will be paid, a cap that is totally unrelated to what the costs of care will be. This cap is designed to cut costs, and the bill uses those cuts to pay for repeal of the tax cuts and provider taxes that helped pay for the ACA. Slashing federal support for Medicaid, which is already a lean program, will force states to cut services and eligibility that put the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities at significant risk.

The American Health Care Act also fails to address people' most basic concerns about the future of their health insurance coverage. It repeals the Medicaid Expansion, but does not address how the millions of low income individuals, including millions with behavioral health conditions, will otherwise access healthcare coverage. It penalizes people who cannot afford to buy healthcare coverage by charging them more if they try to purchase it later. It does not address the high deductibles and premiums that millions of people currently pay, but reduces the subsidies that are currently available to help low income people pay for healthcare coverage. It allows health insurance companies to charge older adults more. The ACA helped people, including millions of people with disabilities, gain access to affordable and comprehensive health insurance. The American Health Care Act is insufficient to help people with disabilities meet their healthcare needs. 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.