

April 27, 2017

## House Considering Vote on Harmful Health Care Bill

### Call Congress Now

A new amendment to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) is winning the support of the House Freedom Caucus making it more likely that a vote by the House of Representatives could happen as early as this weekend. Action is needed immediately to stop the AHCA from being approved by the House of Representatives. This is the bill that proposes to gut the Medicaid program through per capita caps and block grants and repeal many provisions of the Affordable Care Act that are critical to people with disabilities.

The AHCA repeals major provisions of the Affordable Care Act, and many of its critical protections. It cuts \$880 billion out of the Medicaid program and uses it to help pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. The Medicaid changes are particularly devastating to people with disabilities. Under the cap and cut proposal, the federal government would no longer share in the costs of providing health care services and community services beyond the capped amount. It weakens Medicaid by ending the Medicaid expansion earlier, offering Medicaid block grants to states, and promoting work requirements.

The latest proposal makes a bad bill even worse, particularly for people with pre-existing health conditions. The bill would allow states to seek waivers that would allow them to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions, including people with disabilities. The new amendment also would allow states to seek waivers from the Affordable Care Act's requirement to provide essential health benefits, including crucial services for people with disabilities such as mental health and substance use disorder services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, preventative and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services. The combination of these changes would make it nearly impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to find affordable plans that cover basic health care services.

### **We need you to act:**

**Make a call today:** Republicans need to keep hearing from people now to #RejectRepeal. Feel free to use SEIU's call-in numbers with your members to get calls going into the House and Senate: English: 866-426-2631; Spanish: 877-736-7831

### **Key messages:**

- Do NOT support the American Health Care Act.

- Do NOT allow Medicaid to be gutted. Caps and block grants would decimate the program on which people with disabilities and seniors rely for critical healthcare and community services.
- Do NOT allow states to opt out of requiring health plans to cover basic health care and keep it affordable for people with pre-existing conditions, including people with disabilities.