



ACA #1

Far too many Americans with disabilities are facing a New Year with the prospect of losing access to health care. The Affordable Care Act, which Congress is poised to repeal soon, has been a lifeline for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

People with I/DD can require a comprehensive array of health services, including behavioral health, rehabilitation and habilitation, assistive devices, and long-term supports and services. The ACA, by increasing access to private health insurance, and by allowing states the option to expand their Medicaid program, helped people with I/DD live healthy and independent lives.

Repeal of the ACA jeopardizes this progress and puts consumers' ongoing access to comprehensive, affordable coverage at risk.

Repeal may make a good soundbite - but what Americans with I/DD need now is more than talk - they need action that keeps the promise of the ACA.

ACA #2

Access to comprehensive, affordable health care coverage can make or break the lives of any American, but particularly people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Affordable Care Act, which Congress is threatening to repeal, included an option for states to expand Medicaid, which has helped millions of people, including individuals with I/DD. The key ingredient was the additional federal contribution to expand, which has helped more people access health care without harming the existing programs that provide supports and services to people with I/DD.

If the additional Medicaid expansion funding is repealed, it will destabilize the program in the 32 states that have done so. It will force states to make tough choices about eligibility and access to services and supports. States could be faced with how to finance the cost shift and may look to beneficiaries, family members, providers and others to make up the difference. This could have disastrous consequences for many Americans, including people with I/DD.

The ACA has done a lot of good for people with I/DD and should not be repealed.

Medicaid #1

Medicaid is at risk of being dismantled in Washington, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in **X state** stand to lose access to services and supports that are vital to their lives in the community.

Medicaid is the nation's primary health insurance program for people with disabilities and low-income populations. It is a lifeline for most people with significant disabilities who generally do not have access to employer-based or other private coverage, have greater medical needs, and often require assistance with activities of daily living throughout their lifetimes. For many people with I/DD, Medicaid generally is the only source of funds for them to live and work in the community with friends and families and avoid more costly and segregated nursing homes or institutions.

Congress is talking about two approaches that will fundamentally change and cut Medicaid - a block grant to states or enacting per capita caps. Sometimes with public policy, the devil is in the details. With these proposals, the end result is the same - states will receive less federal support to administer Medicaid. They will likely have to consider reducing eligibility, limiting services and supports, and/or cutting reimbursement to providers to save money when the federal financial share is significantly cut back.

It's a disaster for people with I/DD - one that we can stop if mobilize and tell **Congressman/woman NAME** to oppose these efforts.

Medicaid #2

Medicaid is under major threat in Washington, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) stand to lose access to services and supports that are crucial to their lives in the community.

Under the proposals, states will receive less federal support to administer Medicaid - passing the buck to already cash-strapped states like ours. While there is no way to be certain about what our state would do if faced with this scenario, we know there will be real life consequences for people with I/DD, such as losing home and community-based services and supports. Waiting lists would quickly grow and it could create a crisis for the over 730,000 people with I/DD living with aging caregivers across the country.

People could be forced into unnecessary institutionalization. States could return to the days of "warehousing" people with disabilities in institutions.

We can't afford to go back to the era when people with I/DD didn't have the rights they have today - Medicaid has made life in the community possible for millions of people. It's a lifeline that cannot be cut. We are better than that as a nation and should not permit this critical program to be altered in a way that forces us back into the past.