SAVE MEDICAID UTAH ACTION ALERT

It’s back! Congress is once again moving fast to cut $880 Billion from Medicaid. The latest amendment does not stop drastic cuts to Medicaid. These cuts will decimate the Medicaid program.

The latest amendments to the bill make it even worse, especially for those with pre-existing conditions.

The House of Representatives is voting on the bill as early as next week.

People’s health and lives are at stake! We need advocates to contact their Senators and Representatives to tell them to stop the cuts to Medicaid. Advocates need to explain why Medicaid is essential to people with disabilities, older adults, and children.

Message 1 to Congress: Do NOT cut, cap or block grant Medicaid!

Medicaid is a jointly funded program. In Utah, about 70% is paid by the federal government. Under the proposed per capita cap, the federal government would set a limit based on enrollment in the Medicaid program. Under the proposed block grant, states would be given a set amount of money not based on the number of enrollees or how much states spend. Under current law, funding is based on the actual cost of services. Per capita caps and block grants will inevitably force states to cut funding or pass along cost to consumers. Additionally, the proposed cuts to Medicaid will likely force the State to cut services. Negative impacts to Medicaid recipients include:

- Losing DSPD services, forcing waiting lists to quickly grow.
- The loss of other critical services, such as pregnancy services, ABA therapy, mental health services, and prescription drug services.
- Being forced into unnecessary institutionalization, going back to the days of “warehousing” people with disabilities.

Message 2 to Congress: Do NOT allow states to opt out of requiring health plans to cover basic health care, AND keep it affordable for those with pre-existing conditions, including people with disabilities.

Under current law, coverage cannot be denied for pre-existing conditions, and health plans must cover essential health benefits. Essential health benefits cover crucial services for people with disabilities, like mental health and substance abuse disorder services, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services, chronic disease management, and pediatric services. States could waive these requirements under the latest proposal. People with pre-existing conditions would find it nearly impossible to find affordable health plans that meet even the most basic of their health care needs.
Take Action! Call your Senators and Representatives today at (202) 224-3121. Now is the time to take action. Every call matters! Don’t let Congress take away necessary health care and services for millions.

What to Say:

- I am your constituent.
- Do NOT allow restructuring and cuts to Medicaid to be part of any ACA repeal or replacement efforts.
- Do NOT allow states to waive key requirements of the ACA that enable people with pre-existing conditions to receive affordable coverage of basic health care needs.
- I will be impacted by these cuts to Medicaid (explain how, i.e., I am a person with a disability, I have a family member who will be impacted, etc.). Or I am a person with a pre-existing condition.