MEDICAID CUTS IN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL BILL:
Devastating for People with Disabilities, Older Adults, and Kids in Utah

The Congressional Budget Office estimates $834 billion in cuts to Medicaid from this bill. Some likely consequences of this include:

#1 Proposed federal funding caps to Medicaid would shift huge costs onto states and consumers. Utah likely would not be able to bear additional expenses, and would be forced to either shift cost to Medicaid enrollees, who are often unable to pay, or, even worse, cut services and eligibility.

#2 People with disabilities, older adults, and children in Utah would be at serious risk of losing vital services. Outside of Medicaid expansion, 17% of federal Medicaid spending is for seniors, 40% for people with disabilities, and 25% for children. When faced with the need to control cost, Utah will likely target those populations with higher costs.

#3 Caps would not only lead to immediate cuts, but would make future cuts easier and more likely. Additional cuts have already been suggested in the President’s proposed budget.

#4 Future savings and improved health outcomes would be harder to realize. Under a capped system, Utah would not have the ability to invest upfront in cost-saving innovations, like preventive care and community-based supports.

Medicaid provides a variety of services to its enrollees, without which 10% Utahns could not provide for their families. These services include:

- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment for Children
- Pregnancy-related care (including 31% of births in Utah)
- Family Planning Services
- Prescription Drugs
- Mental Health Care
- Medicare Cost-sharing (i.e., premiums, deductibles, co-payments)
- Long Term Services and Supports

Medicaid is the principle provider of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), one of the most important services for people with disabilities and older Americans. These services are not typically covered by Medicare and private insurance. LTSS provide individuals with personal attendant services, private duty nursing, supported employment, habilitation (i.e., ABA therapy), adult day programs, and home and community based setting care (i.e., DSPD waiver services).

Any attempts to undermine the existing guarantees of Medicaid — guarantees in place for over 50 years — will put the health of many Utahns at risk. Please help us stop the devastating cuts to Medicaid. Call ask Senators Hatch and Lee to oppose cuts, caps and block grants in Medicaid by calling (202) 224-3121.