

ADVOCACY ALERT



House Ready for AHCA Vote THIS WEDNESDAY - Call Congress Now!

Dear St. Louis Arc Families,

Urgent Action Needed Immediately!

The harmful health care bill, called the American Health Care Act (AHCA) is back on the table and potentially moving quickly. House Leadership has almost enough support to proceed for a vote on the AHCA **this Wednesday** - Ask your Member of Congress to vote NO on the American Health Care Act. This is a second vote after House Leadership cancelled the initial vote on March 24 because of lack of support.



The newest version of the bill allows states to waive out of essential health benefits and weaken pre-existing condition requirements.

Please contact your Members of Congress NOW to remind them how important the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid are to people with disabilities and their families. **We know that calls and sharing personal stories work** - we need to make it clear once and for all that the ACA and Medicaid are off limits.

As always, we are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Keeley
President & CEO, St. Louis Arc

THE ISSUE

We need your help, and we need it now.

Members of the House of Representatives have almost enough support to proceed for a vote on Wednesday, May 3.

The AHCA repeals the Affordable Care Act and decimates the Medicaid program. The latest efforts are meant to attract more support for the bill by giving states the option to waive important consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act.

For example, states could choose to ignore the essential health benefits requirement. The essential health benefits were designed to ensure that health plans cover basic needs such as prescription drugs, mental health services, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices that have been critically important to people with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

HOW IT AFFECTS ALL OF US

Without a requirement that basic services be included in the health plans, insurers are likely to drop coverage of therapies or medications that would attract people with more health care needs.

Another dangerous change would allow the insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing conditions whatever they wanted, essentially making the pre-existing condition protections meaningless. 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.

Let us not forget that the bill was already very dangerous to people with disabilities.

It cuts \$880 billion out of the Medicaid program and uses it to help pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, corporations, and providers. The federal government would no longer share in the costs of providing health care services and community living supports beyond the capped amount. It weakens Medicaid by ending the Medicaid expansion earlier, offering Medicaid block grants to states, and promoting work requirements.

CALL TO ACTION

Please take action and call today to protect
the
AHCA for people with disabilities and their
families.

We MUST stop Congress from moving forward with this harmful bill. Call your Senators and Representatives now! Every single call matters! Don't let them take away health care and services for millions of people and reduce federal support. Health care should not be cut to pay for tax cuts.

What to Say:

- I am a member of The St. Louis Arc.
- I am a person with I/DD, or I am a family member of someone with I/DD, or I am a professional in the disability field.
- Do NOT support the American Health Care Act (AHCA), the bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Do NOT allow cuts to critical Medicaid services to pay for tax cuts.
- 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.

Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO)

<https://wagner.house.gov/contact/email-me>

or call

(202)-225-1621

Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO)

<https://lacyclay.house.gov/contact>

or call (202) 225-2406

For more information, contact [Ann Mangelsdorf](#) with any additional questions at 314-817-2275.

STAY CONNECTED:



www.slarc.org