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Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 5:20 PM
To: Clarke Ross
Subject: [AAHDDiscuss] Graham-Cassidy Action Alert

American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) Action Alert – ACA, Medicaid and Graham-Cassidy

AAHD firmly believes that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was an important step forward for people with disabilities in providing greater access to health insurance coverage and we also believe that Medicaid is a vital part of providing health care for people with disabilities. We had previously released a statement calling on Congress and the new administration to responsibly address health care reform and not remove vital protections which the ACA provided for people with disabilities. To read the AAHD full statement, [click here](#). As part of our National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC) project, we also further outlined those eight vital protections provided by the ACA which we believe should be made part of any ACA replacement plan. To read the NDNRC statement, [click here](#).

The Senate is currently considering a new version of ACA repeal in the Graham-Cassidy bill. Graham-Cassidy would essentially take all the money the federal government spends on Medicaid, premium tax credits, etc. and give that money to the states in the form of a block grant which states could then use to design health care plans for each state. To read more about this bill, check out the [NDNRC blog post](#) which includes links to the Senators' section by section analysis and formula description as well as statements from organizations opposing Graham-Cassidy.

As was the case with the prior repeal and replace bills in the [House](#) and [Senate](#), we believe that Graham-Cassidy fails to preserve the protections the ACA provided for people with disabilities. In fact, in many ways Graham-Cassidy is worse than the prior repeal and replace bills were. Presumably, under Graham-Cassidy, a state could receive waivers and enact a system which allows insurance companies to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions, charge more to these individuals or restrict access to many essential health benefits. The block grants would also result in drastic cuts to the Medicaid program upon which many people with disabilities rely for their health coverage. Therefore, AAHD opposes Graham-Cassidy and is urging Congress to reject it.

The Senate is now considering the Graham-Cassidy bill. If you would like to join our efforts in calling on the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy and supporting the important protections provided by the ACA and the vital services provided by Medicaid, here are some recommended activities you can take.

1. **Call or Fax your Senator.** You can use this toll-free number: **866-426-2631**. This number is provided by SEIU. Once you call-in, you will be given a brief overview and then be asked to enter your zip code at which point you will be transferred to your Senator. If you prefer to fax your Senator, faxzero.com has links available to fax [Senators](#). Below are some things you may want to say when you reach your Senator:

- I am your constituent.

- I am a person with a disability/I am a family member of someone with a disability/I am a professional in the disability field.
- Any cuts to Medicaid threaten the lives and independence of people with disabilities. [Feel free to add any details about how cuts to Medicaid would impact your life/your loved ones].
- Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill
- Please oppose any cuts to Medicaid.
- Please oppose any bill that threatens to roll back the consumer protections for people with pre-existing conditions
- Please work in a bipartisan fashion to increase access to affordable, accessible health care and long-term services and supports

2. Use Social Media. Below are some sample tweets that you can use to highlight the important protections provided by the ACA:

- If Congress wants to protect people with disabilities, they should reject Graham-Cassidy #ProtectOurCare
- If Congress wants to protect people with disabilities, they should leave Medicaid and the #ACA alone #MedicaidWorks #ProtectOurCare
- If Congress wants to protect people with disabilities, they should leave #ACA consumer protections alone #ProtectOurCare
- American Journal of Public Health examines effect Medicaid expansion has on people w/ disabilities. #ProtectOurCare <http://buff.ly/2k9iVKm>

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