The American Health Care Act of 2017:
Senate Must Not Include House Bill Provisions Harming People with Disabilities

The House-passed version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA or HR 1628) failed people with disabilities (IDD) by not giving sufficient consideration to how its provisions would harm them. As the Senate prepares its own version of the AHCA, it cannot neglect the well-being of people with disabilities, their families or the disability service providers that support them. In assessing the current text of the AHCA, the Senate must consider that:

The AHCA would create a system of impoverishment for providers.

- According to MACPAC, the Medicaid growth rate in the AHCA’s per capita caps proposal will continue to be lower than the expected growth rate of costs for services and supports.
- Because Medicaid is the single largest source of funding for disability community supports, this means the AHCA would compel private providers to offer supports below cost. This would harm the quality and stability of services offered to people with disabilities.

The AHCA causes harm to people with disabilities during childhood development when they have one of their greatest opportunities to thrive.

- School districts rely on Medicaid to cover costs from special education programs (e.g. physical therapists, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists and equipment).
- The AHCA as written would allow states to not consider schools as eligible Medicaid providers, which has deep ramifications for schools’ abilities to help children with disabilities reach their full potential.

For solutions, please contact:
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