**First Look at the “American Health Care Act”**

On March 6, Congress released the “[American Health Care Act](http://cqrcengage.com/ancor/file/POJT4dS4B72/AmericanHealthCareAct%20March%202017.pdf)” that would restructure Medicaid and reform the Affordable Care Act. We are expecting fast action in Committee to bring a final bill to the floor. Look out for action alerts from ANCOR to send a strong message to Congress that they *must* do better on Medicaid. This document highlights some key provisions for IDD providers.

**Per Capita Caps:**

* Changes the structure of Medicaid from an open-ended entitlement program to one of capped federal contribution.
* Beneficiaries are divided into five categories: 1) elderly, 2) blind and disabled, 3) non-CHIP children, 4) Medicaid expansion adults, and 5) other adults. The beneficiary categories dictate how much money a state will get, but the state is not required to spend money allocated by category on beneficiaries in that category.
* Starting in FY2020, using FY2016 spending as a baseline, states will receive a per beneficiary amount of the baseline inflated by the medical consumer price index (CPI). This will adjust yearly based on the prior year amount. This inflation index does not generally reflect actual cost increases.

**Community First Choice Option:**

* The enhanced (6%) FMAP for Section 1915(k) state plan option is repealed. This is concerning because it may increase the risk of institutionalization for individuals with IDD.

**Medicaid Expansion:**

* Repeals the enhanced match for newly eligible beneficiaries. Those enrolled prior to December 31, 2019 will continue to receive enhanced FMAP. Those who enroll after January 1, 2020 would receive traditional FMAP for that individual. Many direct support professionals, who provide direct services to individuals with IDD, will lose Medicaid coverage that allows them to continue working in this field.

**Essential Health Benefits:**

* Federal EHB standards will sunset on December 31, 2019, with states then determining what minimum requirements will exist for insurance plans in the state. People with disabilities face losing essential benefits currently included as EHBs.

**Tell Congress it MUST do better on Medicaid!**

***Before Congress acts, we need more information!***

**CBO score:** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not yet released an estimate of what the American Health Care Act will cost. It is ill-advised for Congressional committees to move forward with this legislation without a CBO score. That information is necessary to inform Members of Congress of the budgetary and coverage consequences of enacting legislation.

**Per capita cap/expansion calculation:** We need more information regarding the calculation of the per capita cap going forward. The uncertainty behind the payment could lead to states reducing coverage to optional services and populations. We are also concerned over how states will comply with the requirement to re-determine Medicaid eligibility every six months for the expansion population.

***We urge you to reach out to Congress NOW – next week may be too late!***

There are two ways you can share these points with Members of Congress:

1. **Call their offices**! Calling is a more personal effort and thus is taken into greater consideration by Congressional offices. You will find talking points, calling instructions and a tool to call your nearest Congressional office [**here**](http://amplifier.ancor.org/ancor/howtocallin).

2. **Email their offices directly** through our [**newly revised email action tool**](http://amplifier.ancor.org/app/write-a-letter?9&engagementId=173233)**,** whichlays out ways in which Congress can do better. You will be asked to fill out a form so our action tool can identify your Member of Congress and meet requirements for emails sent directly to Congressional offices.

**We cannot stress enough the need to voice our concerns clearly, loudly and often.** Please share this alert with your colleagues, employees, and consumers and their families to maximize our message’s effect.

***You can find all the latest information, action alerts, and resources at*** [***www.disabilitysos.org***](http://www.disabilitysos.org)***!*** *For more information on grassroots actions, contact Doris Parfaite-Claude at* [*dparfaite-claude@ancor.org*](mailto:dparfaite-claude@ancor.org)*.*