



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 1, 2017

This is unfortunately not a drill or a bad dream. We have to re-mobilize again regarding the Medicaid block grant. A vote could happen soon.

The good news is we have some new and valuable resources at our disposal to work such as the

- [CD count of every kid covered under Medicaid](#),
- an analysis by CAP on [how specific professionals will be impacted](#), and
- new talking points on the value of [Medicaid in education by CBPP](#).

Use these talking points from Sasha Pudelski, Assistant Director, Policy & Advocacy for AESA and AASA [703-774-6933](tel:703-774-6933) (cell)

- As a constituent and a xxx, I oppose the passage of the American Health Care Act. Rather than close the gap and eliminate the rate of uninsured children in America, the current proposal will ration the health care America's most vulnerable children receive and undermine the ability of districts to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities and students in poverty.
- Children represent 46% of all Medicaid beneficiaries yet represent only 19% of the costs. Currently, 4-5 billion dollars flow to school districts every year, so they can make sure students with disabilities who need the help of therapists can learn and that students who can't get to a doctor regularly can receive the basic medical care they need to learn and thrive. The current proposal will jeopardize student's ability to receive comprehensive care at schools and create barriers to access.
- The American Health Care Act would undermine critical healthcare services my district provides to children. It would also lead to layoffs of school personnel, the potential for new taxes to compensate for the Medicaid shortfall, and shifting general education dollars to special education programs to compensate for these cuts.

SAMPLE LETTER – Medicaid Block Grant

WRITE Your Elected Officials

Calling is much more effective, but if you choose to write your elected officials, use this template.

The Honorable [Name]

U.S. Senator/U.S Representative

[Office Address]

Dear Senator/ Representative:

As a constituent and a xxxx, I strongly oppose The American Health Care Act, which would radically change Medicaid as we know it through block grants, per capita caps, or repealing the Medicaid expansion that has served as a lifeline to millions.

Specifically, a per capita cap system will undermine states' ability to provide America's neediest children access to vital healthcare that ensures they have adequate educational opportunities and can contribute to society. Medicaid is a cost-effective and efficient funder of essential health care services for children. In fact, while children comprise almost half of Medicaid beneficiaries, less than one in five dollars spent by Medicaid is consumed by children. Accordingly, a per capita cap, even one that is based on different groups of beneficiaries, will disproportionately harm children's access to care, including services received at school.

A school's primary responsibility is to provide students with a high-quality education. However, children cannot learn to their fullest potential with unmet health needs. As such, school district personnel regularly provide critical health services to ensure that all children are ready to learn and able to thrive alongside their peers. Schools deliver services effectively and efficiently since school is where children spend their days. Increasing access to health care services through Medicaid improves health care and educational outcomes for students. Providing health and wellness services for students in poverty and services that benefit students with disabilities ultimately enables more children to become employable and attend higher-education.

The current proposal would be devastating to schools and children, particularly those children with disabilities. The American Health Care Act would undermine critical healthcare services my district provides to children. It would also lead to layoffs of school personnel, the potential for new taxes to compensate for the Medicaid shortfall, and shifting general education dollars to special education programs to compensate for these cuts. I urge you to reject the American Health Care Act, and any subsequent effort to significantly change the funding structure of Medicaid.

Sincerely,