



GO! BULLETIN



National News

ACTION ALERT

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT (H.R. 1628)



The American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA) is currently up for vote in Congress. The bill still must pass a series of hurdles and scenarios before it becomes a law. On May 4th, the AHCA passed the House.

AHCA TIMELINE AND PROCESS

BILL IS DRAFTED & INTRODUCED



Republicans introduced the two bills that make up the AHCA to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means. The current AHCA is based on a plan introduced March 6th.

March 20th, 2017

COMMITTEES TAKE ACTION



Both House Committees approved the AHCA. The vote was along party lines. The House Rules Committee passed the AHCA with amendments by a vote of 8-3.

May 3rd, 2017

AHCA PASSES THE HOUSE



By a 217-213 vote, the AHCA has passed in the House of Representatives. As expected, it was a party line vote, with all Democrats voting no and 20 Republicans voting no.

May 4th, 2017

SENATE DISCUSSES THE AHCA



In order for a bill to be sent to the President, both the Senate and House must pass the same version of the bill with the same language.

Happening now

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE AHCA?

SCENARIO ONE

The Senate approves the AHCA, which is very unlikely as many Senators have expressed opposition. President Trump has clearly stated his plan to sign the AHCA.

SCENARIO TWO

The Senate amends the AHCA and returns it to the House. The House can accept the Senate version or accept changes that go back to the Senate for a vote.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



DIAL (202) 224-3121



CALL YOUR SENATORS!

CALL OUR US SENATORS AND ASK THEM TO VOTE "NO" ON THE AHCA

SHARE HOW THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL IMPACT YOU OR YOUR FAMILY

LEARN MORE AT OREGONIDDCOALITION.ORG OR THE FEDERAL GO! BULLETIN

JUST TWO CALLS FROM YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

ASK OUR U.S. SENATORS TO SAVE VITAL HEALTHCARE AND SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Oregon is strongest when all people have support and opportunities to be successful. The American Health Care Act (AHCA) makes it harder for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families to have the health care and disability supports they need to live and

work in their communities. With the changes made by the AHCA, we are extremely concerned that Oregonians with IDD will no longer have the same opportunity that Oregonians without disabilities enjoy.

The AHCA passed the US House of Representatives last week. Now, the Senate is taking up the discussion and will likely create some amendments to the House Bill. For a helpful comparison of the ACA and the AHCA, please visit the Kaiser Family Foundation [here](#).

The IDD Coalition believes that the AHCA that passed the US House of Representatives hurts people with disabilities because it:

- Dramatically cuts \$880 billion from Medicaid services that help people be community members by providing them with the healthcare and disability supports to live and work in their communities.
- Caps Medicaid by giving Oregon a certain amount of money for each person on Medicaid (called a per capita cap). Unlike the current law, the per person amount does not consider changes in people's health care needs, health care costs or new drugs or treatments.
- Allows states to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions (like disabilities) who have let their insurance coverage lapse by making them pay higher health care premiums.
- Creates high risk pools that historically have not worked for people with disabilities. High risk pools are government-operated insurance plans that cover people with higher health care costs. These are different than Medicaid. These plans usually make people pay high premiums for basic coverage. The AHCA inserts some money to help people pay these premiums, however, that amount is not enough to make the premiums affordable and offer a decent benefits package.
- Allows states to ignore and not cover essential health benefits like prescriptions, mental health services, substance abuse services, physical, occupational or speech therapies, preventive services, chronic disease management, and pediatric services (including vision and dental). The AHCA allows states to apply for a waiver from the essential health benefit package.
- Takes away the extra 6% federal match for the Community First Choice (K Plan). This extra 6% match has brought in \$350 million in services to Oregonians with IDD and seniors and people with physical disabilities.

What can you do?

- Call and/or email Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley.
- Tell them how these changes would impact your life.

Here is how to contact our U.S. Senators:

US Senator RON WYDEN

Get contact information online at <http://wyden.senate.gov> | 202-224-5244

US Senator JEFF MERKLEY

Get contact information online at www.merkley.senate.gov | 202-224-3753

Email:

oregoniddcoalition@gmail.com

Website:

www.oregoniddcoalition.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonIDDCoalition/>