



GO! BULLETIN

National News ACTION ALERT



ACTION ALERT: CALL NOW TO STOP MEDICAID CUTS AND HEALTH CARE REPEAL!!! Congress is Moving FAST!!!

Congress is on the fast track to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to make drastic cuts to the Medicaid program. The proposed cuts will destroy the Medicaid program over time.

THIS IS HAPPENING NOW. The House of Representatives is moving quickly to push the bill through Committee and vote by the end of this month. The US Senate is planning to vote on the House bill before the mid-April recess. The proposal includes:

1. Taking away the extra 6% federal match for the Community First Choice (K Plan) services. This extra 6% match has brought in \$350 million services to Oregonians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Seniors and People with Physical Disabilities.
2. Putting a per capita cap on Medicaid. Oregon would get an amount of federal dollars for each person covered by Medicaid. The per person amount would go up each year slower than costs go up now. This means the federal dollars would cover less and less.

BOTH OF THESE PROPOSALS WOULD DRAMATICALLY CUT THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL MONEY COMING TO OREGON. Less federal money for Medicaid means less money for Oregon's IDD services. Oregonians' health, services and lives are at stake! You can help:

- Reach out to your US Senators and Representatives today.
- Tell them to stop the repeal of the ACA and cuts to Medicaid.
- Explain why the ACA and Medicaid are essential to people with disabilities and their families.

Message 1: Do NOT cut and cap Medicaid!

Cutting or capping Medicaid means less federal dollars coming to Oregon's

Medicaid system.

With less money, Oregon will have to look at options that will make it harder for people to use Medicaid to be part of their community, like:

- **Starting wait lists for services.** In the past, Oregonians with IDD had to wait years to get services. This made it hard for people to have supports to live and work in community.
- **Reducing provider rates.** These rates are low today. Making them lower could mean providers stop serving people who use Medicaid.
- **Reducing how many people can access services.** This would leave people out who need and use services today.
- **Reducing how many services people can get by putting caps on services.**

Remember that costs of providing health care and long term services and supports will not go away. The cost will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers.

For additional information, see [CCD's fact sheet about Medicaid](#) .

Message 2: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with disabilities!

The ACA is the most significant law for people with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because of the ACA:

- The Community First Choice (K Plan) supports over 25,000 Oregonian children and adults with IDD be healthy and safe in their communities.
- Health insurers can't deny health insurance or charge higher premiums if you have a disability or chronic condition.
- There are not arbitrary financial limits to how much health care you can get in a year or in your lifetime.
- More people with disabilities and chronic health conditions were able to access health care due to the Medicaid expansion.

For additional information, see [CCD's fact sheet about the ACA](#) .

IT IS TIME TO TAKE ACTION!!!



**Call your US Senators & Representatives today
Dial 202-224-3121**

**Now is the time for ACTION
Every call matters!**

Don't let them take away health care and services for millions of people and

replace it with a plan that CUTS Medicaid.

How to start your call or email:

- Start with your name and city.
- I am a person with a disability *or* I am a family member of someone with a disability *or* I am a professional in the disability field.
- Do NOT repeal the ACA without a replacement that maintains or improves coverage and protections for people with disabilities.
- Do NOT allow restructuring and cuts to Medicaid to be part of an ACA replacement.

Explain what Medicaid Services means to you:

- Medicaid Services (such as K Plan services) have helped me live / work as a community member by... (give example). Without these services it would cause (give negative impact example).

Finish with a Value Statement:

- Oregon is strongest when all people are community members. Thousands of Oregonians depend on Medicaid to live and work in their communities.
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What Is The Future of Medicaid and the ACA?



We believe that our nation is strongest when all people have the supports they need to be healthy and safe as members of their communities.

What are the changes to Medicaid and the ACA?

Congress is on a fast track to repeal major portions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to make drastic cuts to the Medicaid program. There are three major changes that will impact Oregonians:



Cut and Cap Medicaid by Per Capita Caps

25,000



Remove the extra 6% federal match for the Community First Choice (K Plan) services.



Repeal the ACA's protections for people with disabilities

adults and children with IDD in Oregon and their families would be impacted by these changes to their Medicaid funded supports

How will Per Capita Caps Affect My Services?

Oregon would get an amount of federal dollars for each person covered by Medicaid. The per person amount would go up each year slower than costs go up now. This means the federal dollars would cover less and less.

What are some of the negative impacts of Per Capita Caps?

Starting wait lists for services. In the past, Oregonians with IDD had to wait years to get services, we don't want to go back!

Cutting provider rates. These rates are low today. Making them lower could mean providers stop serving people who use Medicaid.

Cutting how many people can access services. This would leave people out who need and use services today.

Cutting how many services or the types of services people can use.

“ The intent of the per capita caps is to restructure the program and save the federal government money - putting the burden onto the State of Oregon. ”

How will the changes to the ACA impact Oregonians?

The ACA is the most significant law for people with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act:

Because of the ACA...

Health insurers can't deny health insurance or charge higher premiums if you have a disability or chronic condition



There aren't random financial limits to how much health care you can get in a year or in your lifetime.

More people with disabilities and chronic health conditions are able to access health care due to the Medicaid expansion.



25,000 Oregon children and adults with IDD get services to be healthy and safe as community members. The federal match has brought in over \$350 million in four years in Oregon.

Now is the time for you to
Take Action!

We urgently need advocates to reach out to their Senators and Representatives and tell them to stop the repeal of the ACA and the cuts to Medicaid. Advocates need to explain why the ACA and Medicaid are essential to people with disabilities and their families.



Call your Senators and Representatives today
202-224-3121.



Email your legislator. Find your U.S. Representatives contact info at usa.gov/elected-officials.



Send a Tweet or write on your legislator's Facebook or Twitter page.

SHARE YOUR STORY TODAY!



My name is _____ and I am a constituent. I don't want changes to Medicaid and the ACA because I depend on these services everyday.

Because of Medicaid, I have health care and supports to live and work in my community. For example, I use my services to _____

If I don't have these supports, my life will be harder because _____
Please don't change Medicaid or the ACA.



If Congress moves forward with repealing the Affordable Care Act, disability advocates would like to see a replacement that gives equal or better access to affordable, quality health and long-term care supports.



Sources: GO! Bulletin, CCD Action Alert

Email:

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Website:

www.oregoniddcoalition.org

Facebook:

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

