



Action Alert #26 - Vote Delayed One Week- Contact Senators Cassidy & Kennedy NOW

July 17, 2017

The vote on the Healthcare Bill has been delayed a week. This gives you a little more time to tell Senators Cassidy and Kennedy how this bill would effect you and your family. If this bill passes, the impact to people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in Louisiana will be DEVASTATING!

If you have already contacted Senators Cassidy and Kennedy, **CONTACT THEM AGAIN** using some of our suggested methods below! If you have not yet made contact, **DO SO TODAY**. Time is running out! **Contacts must be made Friday, July 21st.**

Suggested Ways To Take Action

- Send emails through their websites
- Call and leave a message at their D.C. or LA offices
- Briefly post why Medicaid is important to you on their Facebook pages - include a picture of yourself or child if possible
- Shoot a 90 second video stating why Medicaid is important to you/your family and post on their Facebook page or Tweet to them
- Try and get an appointment with their staff to share why Medicaid is important to you/your family at one of their in-state offices. If you can't get an appointment, drop by their office and leave a written note and picture (if possible).
- Write a brief message about how Medicaid impacts your life and send those messages in the body of an email to Nicole Jorwic at The Arc of the United States: jorwic@thearc.org. **PLEASE INCLUDE "LOUISIANA" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.** The Arc will hand deliver all the printed messages to the Senators from LA this week. Emails must be received by **midnight on Wednesday, July 19** to be printed.

Senator Bill Cassidy

Click [here](#) for LA and Washington phone #s and locations (scroll to bottom of page)

You can also send an email directly from his website by clicking [here](#).

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/billcassidy>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BillCassidy>

Senator John Kennedy

Click [here](#) for LA and Washington phone #s and locations (scroll to bottom of page)

You can also send an email directly from his website on that same webpage.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorJohnKennedy/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SenJohnKennedy>

Need help on what to say?

State your name, where you live, and what Medicaid or healthcare services are important to you, or someone you know. Let the Senator or staff person know that the proposed cuts and caps to Medicaid in the Senate healthcare bill will be devastating to people with disabilities in Louisiana. Add any other opinion you have about the other provisions in the bill.

How This Affects You:

ALL of the services below are funded through Medicaid (and many others not listed):

- LA's home and community based waivers (NOW, Children's Choice, Supports Waiver, ROW, Community Choices, ADHC) that enable you to stay at home in your community - or are you on the waiting list for one of these waivers?
- Personal care attendant services
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)
- Speech, physical and/or occupational therapy
- EPSDT (personal care services, nursing, all medically necessary services)
- Healthcare - doctors' visits, hospitalization, medicine, lab work, medical transportation, etc.

The revised U. S. Senate healthcare bill would still restructure the way the federal government provides funding to states for Medicaid by applying per capita caps. The bill would still **CUT Medicaid by BILLIONS**. This will force states to cut services and eligibility for services. Louisiana already doesn't have enough money to fund the services people with disabilities need. (Example: Waiver waiting list of over 15,000 people!) Less money from the federal government would be devastating! For more information read this statement from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities [here](#).

The bill would also:

- Allow states to change what is considered an "essential health benefit" that insurers are currently required to cover
- Allow states to opt out of the requirement that insurers cannot impose annual or lifetime limits on how much they will pay for the health care of the people they insure
- Allow states to disregard the prohibition to discriminate against pre-existing conditions
- Create two risk pools - one that will segregate individuals with high health care needs from those with lower needs
- Require states to pay a larger share of the cost for the Medicaid expansion population

Senators are negotiating to get the votes needed to pass the bill. **Senators Cassidy and Kennedy need to hear why Medicaid is important to you and that NO CUTS and NO CAPS to Medicaid are ACCEPTABLE**. They also need to hear how the other proposed changes to health care would affect you and your family.

Confirm your action by replying to this email or your [LaCAN Leader](#).

Contact Us

LaCAN is an initiative of the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information in this email, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

phone: 1-800-450-8108

email: info@laddc.org

website: www.lacanadvocates.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/lacanadvocates

twitter: www.twitter.com/LaDDCouncil



Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council

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