

Action Alert #25 Update - Continue Contacts with Senators Cassidy & Kennedy

July 12, 2017

Senators Cassidy and Kennedy are back in Washington, D.C. to resume negotiations on the healthcare bill and YOUR MEDICAID SERVICES! 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, **CALL THEM AGAIN!** If you have not yet made contact, **DO SO TODAY.** Time is running out!

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 proposed U. S. Senate healthcare bill (and the one previously passed by the U. S. House) would restructure the way the federal government provides funding to states for Medicaid by applying per capita caps. The bill would **CUT Medicaid funding by almost \$800 Billion.** 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 Consortium for Citizens with 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
- 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.

How To Take Action

Call, email, tweet, or visit one of the LA offices of Senator Bill Cassidy and Senator John Kennedy to leave a message in person. Keep making these contacts until the Senate votes on the bill.

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 bill.

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

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