



## Action Alert #24 - Let U.S. Senators Cassidy and Kennedy Know if You Want Your Healthcare Protected!

June 21, 2017

Medicaid is at risk due to changes proposed in Washington D.C.

As the Louisiana budget crisis calms down (until the next extraordinary session to fix the impending budget \$1B shortfall for FY19) it is time to focus advocacy efforts on Washington D.C.

The U.S. Senate is about to consider changing our nation's health care law. The [American Health Care Act \(AHCA\)](#) passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May.

While the U.S. Senate has not revealed any proposed change to the health care law there is speculation the U.S. Senate may vote on a bill before July 4th.

Under the AHCA, Louisiana is estimated to lose about \$10 billion of federal dollars over a ten-year period. Why would Louisiana lose federal money?

- Change payment to the state from cost sharing to a cap or limit on the amount of federal funds. The federal cap amount would grow slower than the economy, so Louisiana would have to either pay more for services or offer less services with each passing year.
- Reduce who can receive Medicaid by shifting the income level for eligibility causing more Louisianans to not have health care.

These levels of federal reductions would require the state to pay more for the same level of services. Given the lack of interest in the Louisiana Legislature to raise more state revenue, these federal changes could cause the elimination of entire programs people with developmental disabilities depend on.

What could be cut?

Medicaid funding pays for waiver programs (i.e., NOW, Children's Choice, Supports Waiver, Residential Options Waiver), EPSDT, nursing, school and other therapies, doctor visits, surgeries, cancer treatments, transportation, personal care services, and many other supports and services people with disabilities and seniors need.

Additional perspectives on the changes to Medicaid being considered by Congress can be found in the links below:

[LaDDC News: Medicaid is at Risk - Act Now!](#) (6/5/17)

[Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities: Letter on the American Health Care Act \(AHCA\)](#) (5/19/17)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [House ACA Repeal Bill Puts Children with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs at Severe Risk](#) (6/14/17)

## TAKE ACTION:

If any of the programs listed above are important to you or someone you know, **call or email your U.S. Senator** and tell them:

- Save your healthcare
- "No Caps"

Senator [Bill Cassidy](#)

- Read Senator Cassidy's [Patient Freedom Act of 2017](#) introduced on January 23, 2017

Senator [John Kennedy](#)

## 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:

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