



## Advocacy Alert

# Act Now to Protect Medicaid

### March 20, 2017

The US House of Representatives is expected to vote as early as Thursday, March 23, on legislation intended to repeal and begin replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). NDSS has a number of serious concerns with this legislation, known as American Health Care Reform Act (AHCRA). Of particular concern is a provision to establish per capita-based caps on Medicaid payments to the states.

Under the legislation, the federal government would establish, beginning in 2020, a limit on the amount of its Medicaid reimbursements to the states. Enactment of a per capita Medicaid spending cap for people with disabilities threatens to halt the progress that has been made nationally in promoting home and community-based services, improving the coordination of care and services resulting from medical complexities, and facilitating economic independence for people with Down syndrome. That's because the caps are intended to slow the rate of federal health care spending, and will do so at the expense of optional Medicaid services such as employment supports through Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

Medicaid spending is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 4.4 percent over the next 10 years, while the AHCRA is projected to provide an increase of 3.7 percent over the same period. As a result, LTSS and HCBS would likely be the first services to be cut when reimbursement caps do not meet actual costs. This will result in longer waiting lists, and less access to needed care for people with disabilities.

NDSS has been working to educate Members of Congress in both the House and Senate on the need to revise the Medicaid per capita reimbursement language in the AHCRA to mitigate any adverse impact on the Down syndrome community, and ensure that changes in the financing system for Medicaid do, in fact, meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our society.

We encourage you [take action](#) today by contacting your US Representative (phone calls to the Washington, DC, preferred) urging him/her to ensure that Medicaid reimbursement rates to the states are sufficient to meet the health care, employment support and HCBS needs of people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. Your personal stories are very important.

For more information, please visit the NDSS webpages on the [Affordable Care Act](#) and [Medicaid Reform](#).

**TAKE ACTION**

Thank you for your advocacy and support!