**SAMPLE LETTER FOR FEDERATION OR PARTNER AGENCY LETTERHEAD**

**For those interested in having their professional and/or volunteer leaders communicate with their contacts in the United States Senate about Senate Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and cap or block grant Medicaid, please feel free to use or modify the following sample letter for your community:**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

[I/We/Name of State or Local Federation or Agency] has reviewed the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score of the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) of 2017 (H.R. 1628) and find[s] the implications of the score deeply concerning with 23 million people predicted to lose coverage and an $834 billion reduction in federal funding for the Medicaid program. **With these devastating cuts in coverage and funding, the Senate should not move forward with the House bill or similar efforts to cap or block grant Medicaid and end the state Medicaid expansion. Instead, the Senate needs to start again -- working in a bipartisan and open process -- towards reform that maintains coverage standards, and sustains a strong and secure safety net.** [I/We/Name of State or Local Federation or Agency] [is/am] committed to working with you to develop a new framework of policies to improve Medicaid quality, efficiency, and sustainability.

Senate Republican efforts to cap or block grant Medicaid would restructure its long-standing and fundamental federal-state financing partnership of the Medicaid program and, over time, would lead to devastating federal funding cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid is a vital program for Jewish federations in our [city/state], and particularly for our communal health and long-term care partner agencies, such as [insert name(s) of partner agencies]. This critical federal-state safety net program allows our providers to continue caring for the most vulnerable populations in our communities, such as children, pregnant women, low-income older adults, and people with disabilities. Converting Medicaid to a per capita cap or block grant system not only would adversely impact the many people living in our community who depend heavily on Medicaid coverage, but also our providers who serve them.

Medicaid insures over 80 million low-income and medically needy individuals across the country. [Insert local state or local information, such as how many people are covered by the state Medicaid program.] For providers affiliated with our Jewish community, Medicaid is the major source of funding for health care, home and community-based services, and long-term care. If federal Medicaid funding is capped under either a per capita cap or block grant approach as proposed by the AHCA, CBO projects a 25% reduction in the federal Medicaid contribution over time. We also believe that under this proposal Medicaid will not be sufficiently flexible to address key factors affecting Medicaid spending, such as disasters, economic downturns, unexpected health care cost increases, and demographic changes like the rapidly aging baby boomer generation.

Such a drastic reduction in the federal share of Medicaid will shift substantial costs to state and local governments, our providers, and our patients, thus exacerbating the existing strain on the program. We fear that states will be left with no choice but to sharply cut Medicaid enrollment, eligibility for Medicaid, benefits, and payment rates. States will not be able to innovate their way out of cuts of this magnitude, and philanthropies, such as Jewish federations, will not be able to make up the difference. Many people who now qualify for Medicaid could end up uninsured, including children, pregnant women, low-income older adults, and people with disabilities who are in the workforce. [Insert local impact information, e.g., for Jewish communal providers.] Ultimately, we believe these proposals would lead to the denial of critical health care, home and community-based services, and long-term care services for millions of vulnerable Americans.

[I/we] are deeply concerned that some of the AHCA’s unintended consequences will be:

* People in need of Medicaid and who are currently eligible will become uninsured;
* Our state will be forced to cut back on crucial Medicaid services, such as home and community-based services;
* People who are capable of living in our communities with proper home and community-based services will be forced to live in nursing homes, thus undermining the laudable and cost effective trend of moving people with disabilities and older adults out of institutions if they prefer;
* Health care providers and entities that care for the vulnerable populations will suffer significant financial strain, forcing them to cut services, lay off staff or close their doors thereby causing additional job losses and further harming state economies.

**[I/we/name of State or Local Federation] urge you to vote “NO” on the Senate health care bill if it caps or block grants Medicaid.** We stand ready to work with you in tandem with our Jewish communal health and long-term care providers to promote more targeted ways to reduce Medicaid spending and improve the quality of care.

Sincerely,