



JFNA RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS

For those interested in having their professional and/or volunteer leaders communicate with their contacts in government regarding the American Health Care Act of 2017 and its proposal to cap or block grant Medicaid, feel free to use or modify the following for a so-called “elevator speech”:

- Medicaid is a vital program for our Jewish federations, and their health and long-term care partner agencies. Medicaid insures over 80 million low-income and medically needy individuals across the country or about one-fifth of the U.S. population.
- Among providers affiliated with the Jewish community, Medicaid is the major source of funding for health care, home and community-based services, group homes, and long-term care services. The program allows our providers to continue caring for the most vulnerable populations in our communities, particularly people with disabilities and low-income older adults.
- The American Health Care Act of 2017 being considered by Congress would fundamentally restructure the Medicaid program by capping federal funds flowing to the states or creating a block grant formula. Over time, either approach would significantly reduce the federal Medicaid contribution to the states by \$839 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Capping federal Medicaid funding would exacerbate the existing strain on the program, and would shift more costs onto state and local governments, providers, and patients.
- If federal Medicaid funding is capped, states would have no choice but to sharply cut enrollment, eligibility and benefits for the populations they currently serve.
- Many people who currently qualify for Medicaid could end up uninsured, including people that states currently are required to cover, such as poor children, pregnant women, low-income seniors, and people with disabilities who are in the workforce. These proposals ultimately would result in the denial of health care, home and community-based services, and long-term care services for millions of vulnerable Americans served on a daily basis by our communities.
- I would like to work with you to promote innovative ways to bend the Medicaid cost curve, such as fostering increased care coordination and prevention, promoting the use of telehealth and health information technology, and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse.
- I welcome the chance to bring stakeholders (such as Jewish federations and our partner agencies) to the table to explore ways to reduce Medicaid spending that will lead to sustainable and productive reform, but will preserve Medicaid’s role as a safety net for vulnerable populations.
- **At the moment, however, I urge you to vote against the American Health Care Act of 2017.**

For further information, please contact:

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