



Achieve with us.

Robert Hage, President
Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director
985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
T 732.246.2525
F 732.214.1834
www.arcnj.org

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The Honorable Cory Booker
One Gateway Center
23rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Senator Booker,

As you know, The Arc of New Jersey represents people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families whose lives are dependent on the Medicaid program. With that in mind, we are very concerned by the American Health Care Act (AHCA) which would cut Medicaid by more than \$830 billion over the next ten years. The long-term supports and services that keep people in the community would not be possible without Medicaid. If the system were to shift to a per capita cap arrangement, individuals would see a reduction or outright elimination of the services they depend on. In addition, it's important to note that Medicaid's home and community based services are "optional" for states and therefore are likely to be the first things that are cut.

The AHCA would not only force states to cut eligibility for state Medicaid programs, but will also diminish the quality and quantity of services that are provided to people who are already enrolled in these programs. For many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Medicaid generally is the only source of funds for them to live and work in the community with friends and families.

These looming cuts, in combination with the proposals outlined in the President's Budget, will destroy the system as we know it and the consequences will be both painful and irreversible. With this in mind, we ask you to please vote against the American Health Care Act when it comes before you in the Senate and to do everything you can to beat back the proposed cuts to Medicaid. Instead of moving the system forward, this legislation and the President's proposed Budget will reverse years of progress and advancements and will reduce the quality of life for individuals with I/DD who already face significant challenges.

We thank you for all of your previous support of those we represent. In these critical times, we ask you to do everything in your power to prevent these proposals from becoming a reality.

Sincerely,

Thomas Baffuto
Executive Director