



**COLORADO
CROSS-DISABILITY
COALITION**

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The U.S. House Votes to Take Away the Health Care of Millions

Colorado Representatives broke promise and voted to take away health care from hundreds of thousands of Coloradans

(Denver, Colorado - May 4, 2017) “Today we saw the U.S. House of Representatives pass a disastrous bill that will end access to health coverage and care for millions of Americans. Representatives voted on the American Health Care Act, a bill with a 17 percent approval rating that guts the Medicaid program, stripping 600,000 Coloradans of their coverage, risking care for over 100,000 people with disabilities who depend on the Medicaid program, and destroys protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

To make matters worse, the House was in such a hurry to pass this bad legislation for political reasons, they didn’t wait for the bill to be properly scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to understand the full extent of the fiscal or human impacts of the bill, impacts that could only be worse than the original estimate for the legislation which failed to come up for a vote in March.

Coloradans can blame this vote for leaving a \$14 billion crater in our state budget over the next 10 years, for increases in premiums going forward – especially for seniors, and people with health problems, for eviscerating insurance benefits, and for bringing back high-risk pools, which Colorado already knows is a failed idea. Despite committing to keep protections for people with pre-existing conditions, U.S. Representatives Buck and Tipton voted for this terrible bill and breaking their promise to constituents. CCDC applauds U.S. Representative Coffman for doing the right thing. Rep. Coffman listed when he heard overwhelmingly from Coloradans who opposed this irresponsible bill.” Josh Winkler, Co-Chair of the CCDC said “Congressman Coffman did what was in the best interest of Colorado, particularly for our rural economy and people with disabilities. We appreciate that Congressman Coffman chose life and liberty by voting no for this bill.” We also appreciate U.S. Representatives DeGette, Polis and Perlmutter for voting no.

The fight is far from over. This irresponsible bill must now go through the Senate. “The disability community is counting on U.S. Senators Bennet and Gardner to prioritize the lives of people with disabilities” says Julie Reiskin, Executive Director of CCDC. Colorado has been a leader in providing home- and community-based services for people with disabilities, and recently enacted a program allowing people with disabilities to work and pay into Medicaid. “These efficient Colorado bipartisan initiatives are at risk if the bill passed by the house becomes law,” explains Winkler. “We believe that the problems with cost and lack of choice with private

insurance can be fixed without hurting both the disability community and the rural economy of Colorado.”

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About CCDC: The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) advocates for social justice for people with all types of disabilities. The CCDC is the premiere organization in Colorado for advocating for disability rights. We work with individuals, service providers, and governmental agencies to ensure that people with disabilities have equal rights and equal access. We ensure physical structures are compliant and that policies and procedures decrease barriers. We seek compliance with the ADA and help others to accomplish the same.