

House Vote on AHCA is Bad News for Many Americans

We are deeply disappointed and saddened that the American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed the House of Representatives. We hope that the United States Senate will choose public policy over politics and a path that considers the welfare of the many and not cater to the powerful and connected few who will benefit from this legislation.

Though we can certainly agree to disagree over the scope of the negative impact that the AHCA will have on elderly citizens, New Yorkers with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, pre-existing conditions and low-income people, there is no disputing that this bill would create a large hole in New York State's budget with the loss of almost \$7 billion Medicaid dollars each year.

We thank every single one of you who called, emailed, wrote letters, tweeted, and rallied. We stand together with you -- committed to New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and their families and appreciative of the effort you have put into defending our progress.

This is not the end. Today, with Medicaid providing for community integration and lives that most of us take for granted, we cannot rest. With the hard fought increase in this year's state budget for our direct support professionals and other low paid and clinical staff, we cannot allow these accomplishments to be destroyed by a radical restructuring of the Medicaid program.

We ask that you please contact your Congressional Representative. Thank those who voted no on the AHCA and remind those who voted yes just how much their vote will hurt New Yorkers.

Go to the New York Families for Disability Rights (NYFDR) website

<http://www.nyfamilyrights.org/advocate/contact-influencers/> to find out who your Congressional Representative is and to contact them.

We greatly appreciate and would ask you to **thank all the members of the New York Congressional Delegation who voted against the AHCA. In particular, Republican Representatives Donovan (Staten Island) and Katko (Syracuse area) and all of New York's Congressional Democrats.**

Tell Congressman Donovan and Katko and all your Democratic Representatives:

Thank you for voting NO on the AHCA and preserving the rights, supports, services and dignity of New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, their families and staff!

We are committed to working to convince **those who voted to support this legislation just how harmful it is to so many New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and all of those most in need of the access to health and long term care that they would now be denied.**

Please call your Representative who voted yes (Reps. Zeldin, King, Faso, Stefanik, Tenney, Reed and Collins) and tell them:

“Your vote for the AHCA was a vote to eliminate the #bFair2DirectCare wage increase for those who support our most vulnerable New Yorkers and a vote to destroy supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who depend on Medicaid.”

They must hear from the constituents just how much their vote has disappointed New Yorkers.