**Older Americans – Sample LTE**

It is with both shock and dismay that I read in the paper what Congress is up to these days. With the GOP’s American Health Care Act barreling though the House committees last week, I see dark days ahead for older Americans like me.

For those of us hoping to retire with dignity, this proposed legislation has me worried for my future, not just for me, but for my loved ones. Medicare and Medicaid have been critical programs for more than a generation, and yet, the AHCA threatens these lifelines for America’s older adults. The ACA repeal bill would allow insurance companies to charge people over 60 years old as much as five times more than they charge others for the same coverage.

To top it off, it would also reduce tax credits that are available to help people pay for coverage, and no longer accounts for income, meaning that older Americans with lower-incomes would be doubly burdened by this proposed law.

For those not yet old enough to qualify for Medicare, this bill would cause devastating harm. It would result in drastic cuts in Medicaid funding, shifting costs to states and putting our care at risk.

We need our members in Congress to listen to the AARP, AMA and seniors like me who oppose the American Health Care Act. It’s bad for older Americans, and it’s bad for our country.

# # #

**Family Member Perspective**

My parents are hard workers. I’ve seen them quietly and graciously take life as it comes to them – when times were good, and when they overcame setbacks to provide for my kids and me. They’ve paid into a system that promised to take care of them as they aged.

That’s why I find it so painful to see what Congress is proposing with their American Health Care Act, which seeks to roll back so much progress we’ve made over the past few years. What they are proposing seeks to benefit the rich at the expense of people like my parents.

They should be thinking about what they want to do with their grandkids, not worrying about how they’ll pay their medical bills. Higher premiums, cuts to benefits through Medicaid and other programs, will increase stress – not just on them, but also on our entire family.

Our members in Congress must be held accountable for what they’re proposing to do to our nation’s older Americans. They should slow down, listen to their constituents and stop heading down this reckless path with their ACA repeal bill.

# # #

**Opioid Crisis – Sample LTE**

The opioid crisis is tearing our communities apart. [STATE] had [[Insert local impact]](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html) deaths due to opioids as of 2015 – and nationally opioid deaths have surpassed those caused from car accidents and even gun-related homicides. Our families and neighbors cannot afford to lose the protections and security that the ACA provides.

Bipartisan efforts had begun to alleviate some of the strain this crisis has placed on families and communities, but much of that progress is now at stake. Under the current bill racing through Congress, the requirement that Medicaid cover basic mental-health and addiction services would be eliminated, jeopardizing access to treatment for thousands of [STATE]-ians.

Nearly one third of consumers covered under expanded Medicaid have a mental health or substance use disorder, meaning that a roll back in these essential services will cost [STATE-ians] dearly – in local resources and lives. The bill also includes dramatic cuts to Medicaid in the form of per capita caps, which will likely force our state to cut behavioral health services and slash benefits for thousands of people in our state.

Just as we are making strides in combatting the opioid crisis, our leaders in Congress are putting our progress in serious jeopardy. For our community, and our state, we must stand together against these cuts. It’s not just bad policy – it’s wrong. [Representative or Senator XXX] must vote no on this repeal bill.

# # #

**Medicaid Sample LTE – Provider**

As a [PHYSICIAN/NURSE/ETC] in [CITY/TOWN], I have been getting many questions from my patients about the current GOP health care bill moving through Congress. Will I lose my insurance? Will my family members be able to access the mental health services they rely on? From what I can tell, the bill being pushed by Republicans in Washington D.C. provides worrisome and incomplete answers for my patients, especially when it comes to Medicaid.

While Medicaid has faced attacks before, leaders in Congress are proposing huge cuts to the program as part of their plans to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Radical changes to Medicaid funding would put not only the needs of my patients but also the needs of [STATE’s] children, working families, seniors and people with disabilities in jeopardy.

The proposal to cap and slash Medicaid funds would ration care, threaten coverage and benefits for [TENS or HUNDREDS] of thousands of [STATE]-ians and put further strain on our state budget. Medicaid has ensured that [STATE]-ians like my patient [PATIENT NAME] can afford to take care of [HIS/HER] health, offering [HIM/HER] peace of mind that comes from health and financial security.

[INSERT PATIENT STORY where applicable]

Join me in urging [Congressman or Congresswoman LAST NAME] and Senators [LAST NAME and LAST NAME] in protecting Medicaid. Tell them what this program means for you, your family and your community. Together, we can protect health care for [STATE].