



Proposed changes to Medicaid funding would endanger children, adults and seniors with disabilities.

Press conference will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 9-10am at The Independence Center (729 S. Tejon).

Dr. Patricia Yeager, CEO of The Independence Center, together with Paul Spotts, Assistive Technology Specialist, Marsha Unruh, Independent Living Program Manager, and Charlene Youngblood, Peer Mentor will speak and answer questions regarding the impacts Medicaid cuts would have on people with disabilities and their loved ones. All of our speakers have disabilities and will be impacted by changes in Medicaid.

Colorado is in danger of losing \$14 billion in Medicaid funding, if the American Health Care Act (ACHA) passes. The [Colorado Health Institute](#) estimates that this will likely cause nearly 600,000 Coloradans to lose their eligibility for Medicaid by 2030. These people would be left with little to no health care options. The bill converts federal funding for Medicaid to block grants and per capita caps, which will likely result in cutting funds from critical programs.

Funding cuts could mean the loss of Medicaid services and supports for close to 100,000 people in Colorado who live with disabilities. More than others, people with disabilities are likely to have serious health issues and rely on long-term services in order to work and live in the community.

Yeager says, ““Long term services and supports that assist people with disabilities of all ages to live, go to school, work and participate in community life are far better for individuals, families and the community. As a society we cannot afford to put people in nursing homes; the third alternative will be dramatically shortened lives.”

Without long-term services and support, people with disabilities would have no choice but to move into nursing homes, each person costing the state and federal government \$6,900 per month. Many caregivers would have to choose between going to work and caring for their loved one who has a disability.

Unruh says that respite care is vital for her ability to care for her brother, Marty. “Without it, I would have to care for Marty 24/7. I would not be able to work, and I would have to put Marty’s attendants out of work.”

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