



June 19, 2017

Friends,

The Senate is planning to vote on the Affordable Care Act before leaving for the 4th of July and that there are proposed changes to the House's new American Health Care Act (AHCA). While these changes are not certain, some believe the changes might be minor and the AHCA and the Senate's plans could share far more in common than not. The Senate is still on track to cut over \$800 billion from Medicaid including Medicaid Waiver programs that allow people with disabilities to live in the community. Loss of these funds means that people may need to enter nursing homes. The outcome of this vote will likely come down to one or two key Senators, including our own Colorado Senator Cory Gardner.

**TAKE ACTION!**

We need YOU to contact Senator Gardner and tell him how cutting \$800 billion from Medicaid would impact you. Congress members are impacted by stories of their constituents and sharing **how Medicaid and Home and Community Based Services allow you to live independently in your community is crucial. Converting Medicaid to a per capita cap system would be extremely detrimental to people with disabilities in Colorado.**

You can contact Senator Gardner's Colorado Springs office by phone at (719) 632-6706, fax at (202) 228-7176, or online at <https://www.gardner.senate.gov/contact-cory/email-cory>. It's important you do this **before June 27.**

If you'd like a sample script, please use the one below or there are links at the bottom of this email to other scripts you could use.



*Script: "My name is (your full name). I'm a constituent of Senator Gardner. I'm a person with a disability and rely on Medicaid to live independently in my community. Medicaid is important for me to keep because (tell your story and how life would be different if you didn't have Medicaid). This is an extremely important issue to the disability community, and we are following the Senator's actions closely. I hope we can count on the Senator to do what's right for people with disabilities in Colorado and around the country! Thank you."*

### **MORE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION!**

Below are some events where you can get involved to share your story of how Medicaid cuts would impact you.

- *Tuesday, June 20th* – BYOP (Bring Your Own Phone) - Tim Gill Center at 315 E. Costilla Street from Noon – 5 p.m.  
A few phones will be available, or bring your own. We'll also be signing postcards at this event and have supplies available for making signs for the June 22<sup>nd</sup> event.
- *Wednesday, June 21st* – #SaveMedicaid with Lemonade - Postcard Signing - The Arc Pikes Peak Region's Office at 12. N. Meade from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Stop by and get out of the heat while enjoying refreshing lemonade. Sign your postcard to be mailed in bulk to Senators Gardner's and Bennett's offices.
- *Thursday, June 22nd* – 4-Corners #SAVEMEDICAID RALLY – Outside Senator Gardner's Colorado Springs office at 102 S. Tejon Street, Suite 930  
Bring your signs! Signup at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4baba62ca3f94-gardner2> for a specific time to walk into Gardner's office, see staff and give them your story in writing.
- *Friday, June 23rd* – #SaveMedicaid with Lemonade - Postcard Signing - The Arc Pikes Peak Region's Office at 12. N. Meade from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Stop by and get out of the heat while enjoying refreshing lemonade. Sign your postcard to be mailed in bulk to Senators Gardner's and Bennett's offices.

**At a minimum, please call Senator Gardner's local office before June 28 and let him know the impacts on you if Medicaid is cut and/or capped.**

Thanks for your efforts,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Yeager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Yeager  
CEO, The Independence Center

P.S. – There are more resources for you if you want to learn more!

- See The Independence Center’s issue brief on Medicaid cuts at <https://www.theindependencecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Medicaid-cuts-talking-points.pdf>
- [www.medicaidhelpscolorado.org](http://www.medicaidhelpscolorado.org) has a variety of resources that have been developed by a broad coalition of organizations. All are welcome to use these resources to advocate for the value of Colorado’s Medicaid program.
- Another script for calling Senator Gardner’s office, and a list of links to more resources, is at <https://medicaid.publicrep.org/feature/colorado/>
- And yet another script with more general information is at <http://www.advocacymonitor.com/urgent-act-now-to-protect-healthcare/>