URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Urge Your Representative to VOTE NO on the American Health Care Act Today!

March 23, 2017

Today the House of Representatives is planning to vote on a bill that takes the first steps toward repealing the Affordable Care Act and shifting Medicaid to a per-capita cap structure. Last week, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill would cut $880 billion from Medicaid and cause up to 24 million people to lose their health insurance coverage.

NADSA opposes the American Health Care Act (AHCA) as it is written because it does not adequately address the issues we raised in our recent webinar and goes beyond ACA-related provisions to fundamentally undermine federal support for Medicaid, weakening this key health and long-term care safety net for older adults.

If you haven’t done so already (or even if you have!), we encourage all NADSA members and allies to reach out to your Members of Congress immediately to share your concerns with this legislation.

Congress must hear from local ADS/ADHC providers and other stakeholders about the value of the life-saving home and community-based services in Medicaid. They need to hear from aging advocates about how this bill would negatively impact seniors by increasing the cost of health insurance for older adults not yet on Medicare. Members of Congress need to understand the value of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) to older adults who are receiving falls prevention or chronic disease self-management classes that the AHCA would eliminate.

Do No Harm to Medicare

Although AHCA dramatically changes Medicaid, it does not make major changes to Medicare. However, by eliminating a specific ACA tax and thus a source of revenue for Medicare, the bill would hasten insolvency of Medicare by four years (to 2024 instead of 2028), making it more difficult to win support for ADS/ADHC as a Medicare option to nursing home care.

Before the Vote Tonight!

Call Your Congressional Representative!

We expect the House will vote tonight, so we must put pressure on quickly! Call your Representative’s DC and district offices (wherever you can get through!). Phone lines are busy these days, but keep trying—calls get Members’ attention better than an email. The Capitol Switchboard is 202.224.3121 to reach DC offices, or you can find the direct Washington and district office telephone numbers at http://www.house.gov/representatives/.