**ACTION ALERT**

**According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report on the impacts of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), this federal legislation will significantly impact the federal Medicaid program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The CBO report indicates:**

* Federal Medicaid funding would decrease by $880 billion over the next decade.
* By 2026, Medicaid funding would be about 25 percent less than what is projected under current law.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**These changes are concerning because:**

* Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an optional Medicaid service and could be reduced or eliminated by Colorado as competition for diminishing federal Medicaid funding increases.
* Colorado had planned to eliminate the more than 2,000 person wait list for HCBS services for people with IDD by 2020.[[2]](#footnote-2) AHCA legislation will make this plan very difficult if not impossible to achieve.
* The Tax-Payers Bill of Rights (TABOR) does not allow for Colorado tax revenue increases to make up the difference of reduced federal funding.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**According to the Arc of the U.S., “The level of cuts over time would decimate the Medicaid program.”**

**The U.S House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on this March 23rd, this Thursday. ACT NOW!!! EVERY SINGLE CALL MATTERS!!!**

**Please call the offices of your two senators and your representative to let them know your concerns. Phone calls are easy and work best!**

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner 303-391-5777

U.S. Senator Michael Bennett 303-455-7600

U.S. Representative Diana DeGette 303-844-4988 (Denver, District 1)

U.S. Representative Jared Polis 303-484-9596 (Boulder, District 2)

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton 970-241-2499 (Grand Junction, District 3)

U.S. Representative Ken Buck 970-702-2136 (Greeley, District 4)

U.S. Representative Doug Lamborn 719-520-0055 (Colorado Springs, District 5)

U.S. Representative Mike Coffman 720-748-7514 (Aurora, District 6)

U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter 303-274-7944 (Lakewood, District 7)

1. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate for the American Health Care Act published March 13, 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Plan for Assuring Timely Access to Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Presented by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: November 1, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. State Spending Limitations: TABOR and Referendum C. Memorandum of the Colorado Legislative Council Staff: July 6, 2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)