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Subject: Justice in Aging Statement on CBO score of GOP Health plan

CBO Report confirms low-income older adults will suffer greatly under the GOP's healthcare plan and lasting damage to Medicaid and Medicare will impact future generations

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) today. Here is a statement by Kevin Prindiville, executive director of Justice in Aging.

"Yesterday's CBO report on the American Health Care Act confirms that lower income older adults will suffer the most if this bill becomes law."

"According to the report, by 2026 24 million Americans who would have had coverage under the Affordable Care Act will be uninsured. A disproportionately large number of the newly uninsured will be people between 50 and 64 who will not be able to afford the much higher premiums in this bill. For example, a single 64-year old with an income of \$26,500 would have to pay a staggering \$14,600 a year in premiums, more than half of what he has available to live on. That, compared to \$1,700 a year under the Affordable Care Act, is an increase of more than 750%."

"In addition to raising premiums and cutting subsidy levels for lower income people, the CBO report finds that the AHCA cuts Medicaid spending by \$880 billion over 10 years. These draconian cuts will necessarily force states to cut enrollment, deny services that are critical to older adults in need of long-term care, and squeeze provider payments, making it harder for older adults to find providers and receive needed services."

"Older adults cannot afford what amounts to a 25% cut in Medicaid spending. Medicaid provides vital health care and long-term services and supports for over six million seniors, and plays a key role to help families afford quality care for their loved ones. Six out of ten nursing home residents rely on Medicaid."

"Further, AHCA tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans will decrease Medicare revenues by \$117 billion, according to the CBO report. This will shorten the life of the Medicare Trust Fund and put health care for older adults in jeopardy."

"The CBO analysis confirms that the AHCA would be a disaster for older adults."

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Justice in Aging is a national non-profit legal advocacy organization that fights senior poverty through law. Formerly the National Senior Citizens Law Center, since 1972 we've worked for access to affordable health care and economic security for older adults with limited resources, focusing especially on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

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