

From: [info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net](mailto:info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net) <[info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net](mailto:info=justiceinaging.org@mail.salsalabs.net)>

To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)

Date: 5/4/2017 2:28:11 PM

Subject: Today's Yes Vote on AHCA is an Attack on Low-Income Seniors

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Today, the House of Representatives voted to take away healthcare from millions of Americans to give tax cuts to the wealthy, with seniors being hit the hardest. **The American Health Care Act (AHCA) is an all-out assault on the health and long-term care needs of older adults.**

The bill threatens the very heart of the Medicaid program, taking away the guarantee that Medicaid will be there when seniors need it most. By slashing Medicaid funding by over \$800 billion, the AHCA will place tremendous strain on state budgets. **States will be forced to cut services, restrict eligibility, and reduce benefits for seniors, children, people with disabilities, and low-income adults.**

Congress is **forcing families to pay more out-of-pocket** when grandparents and other loved ones need nursing home care or home care. Two-thirds of all Medicaid spending for older adults pays for long-term services and supports. The AHCA puts this vital care for seniors in jeopardy.

Congress also voted to impose what amounts to an age tax on older Americans, **increasing the annual cost of coverage for those 50-64 by as much as \$12,900.** Adults age 50-64 who relied on Medicaid expansion to see their doctor and get their medicines will also be left without care.

By passing the ACHA, the House chose to cut taxes for the wealthy and pharmaceutical companies while harming Medicare beneficiaries by increasing Part B premiums and reducing the life of the Medicare Trust Fund.

The latest changes to the bill made a bad bill worse. It will return the individual market to the pre-ACA days when older adults and those pre-existing conditions could not afford health coverage. Without protections

for people with preexisting conditions, **25 million Americans aged 50-64 may be unable to see doctors** because they won't be able to pay their much higher premiums. The latest changes to the bill meant to bolster high risk pools actually incentivize states to waive the protections provided under the pools.

**This disastrous bill is being rushed through Congress** without regard for the health and safety of older Americans and their families. We call upon the Senate to stop this harmful bill, and start over and work together to improve health care for older Americans and all Americans.

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#### Connect with Us

Justice In Aging  
1444 Eye St., NW Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

1330 Broadway, Suite 525  
Oakland, CA 94612

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 718  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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