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Date: 3/24/2017 4:26:45 PM
Subject: AHCA Pulled From House Floor: Justice in Aging Statement

Today, we won. The American Health Care Act was pulled from the House floor due to overwhelming opposition by advocates, the public, and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

Together we stopped an all-out assault on the health and long-term care needs of older adults.

Thanks for all you did to help get the message out that this bill would be a disaster for older adults.

The AHCA threatened 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 would have placed tremendous strain on state budgets. States would be forced to cut services, restrict eligibility, and reduce benefits for seniors, children, people with disabilities, and low-income older adults.

The AHCA also imposed what amounts to an age tax on older Americans, increasing the 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 would have been left without care. Two-thirds of all Medicaid spending for older adults pays for long-term services and supports. Congress would have forced families to pay more out-of-pocket when grandparents and other loved ones needed nursing home care or home care.

The bill would have cut taxes for the wealthy and pharmaceutical companies while harming seniors who rely on Medicare now and in the future. It would have increased Part B premiums and reduced the life of the Medicare Trust Fund.

This disastrous bill was being rushed through Congress without regard for

the health and safety of older Americans and their families, and it cannot and should not be revived. We must remain vigilant to prevent more assaults on the health care and economic security of older adults.

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