

## ➤ *Senate Leaders Plan Vote on Bill That Cuts Medicaid*



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (photo) released a new version of the “Better Care Reconciliation Act” (BCRA) on Thursday, July 13. The new draft still makes drastic cuts to Medicaid and threatens the health care of people who need it most.

Like the original draft reviewed in our [June 30<sup>th</sup> Public Policy Update](#), the new version still places caps on Medicaid spending, and funding that has been added to address concerns about the Medicaid cuts is, according to The Arc of the U.S. policy staff, insufficient to make up for the level of cuts.

The bill’s supporters claim that children who are “blind and disabled” will be protected from these cuts. However, analysis from The Arc of the U.S. and the non-partisan Kaiser Health News dispute this. A [Kaiser Health News article](#) determined that of the estimated five to six million children with disabilities who currently rely on Medicaid, only about 1.2 million would still be eligible for the program under the Senate’s plan.

The Arc of the U.S. staff say a vote on whether to start debate on the bill could occur on Tuesday, July 18, and debate on the bill could begin as soon as next Thursday, July 20. We will need you to respond to each and every alert shared in response to this harmful bill; we won’t be able to defeat it without YOUR help! Please keep sharing your stories, and urge Congress to protect lifelines for people with disabilities!

## ➤ *Respected Researcher to Discuss Transition to Retirement*



Join Dr. Roger Stancliffe (photo) for “Transitions to Retirement”, a community training event on Monday, August 1, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center in Minneapolis. The training details a pathway to active and inclusive retirement for individuals with disabilities.

Having been a researcher in the disability field for more than three decades, Dr. Stancliffe’s body of work focuses on improving the everyday lives of people with intellectual disabilities, encouraging the families that support them, and improving the services they receive.

Event hosts include Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota, The Arc Minnesota, The Arc Greater Twin Cities, and Living Well Disability Services. You can [register and pay for the event online](#), or contact Julie Kramme at 612-850-0036 or [dahl0488@umn.edu](mailto:dahl0488@umn.edu) with questions or for help registering.

## ➤ *Rally for Disability Rights on ADA Anniversary*

On Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, join Minnesota State Council on Disabilities at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul for a “Disability Rights March & Rally!” to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act and its

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reaffirmation of the rights affirmed in this historic legislation. The event formally begins at 1:00 p.m., with a march to the Capitol beginning at 1:30 p.m. After arriving at the Capitol grounds, advocates are encouraged to gather in the Capitol Rotunda from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. for a Disability Rights Rally. This is a great opportunity to show support for the rights of people with disabilities and the supports that make lives of independence in the community possible. For more information, contact Cindy at ADA Minnesota, 651-603-2015, or [cindy@mncil-mn.org](mailto:cindy@mncil-mn.org).

### ➤ *Partners Training Can Increase Your Advocacy Skills*



Minnesotans with disabilities, self-advocates, and parents of young children with developmental disabilities are encouraged to apply for the [Partners in Policymaking](#) leadership training program, run by the [Minnesota Governor's](#)

[Council on Developmental Disabilities](#). Some of the graduates of the Partners program are now among The Arc's most dedicated and strongest policy advocates.

Partners in Policymaking training sessions cover the history of disability and self-advocacy movements, inclusion in schools and the community, and avenues to influence policymakers. Participants will also receive tips for meeting and building relationships with state legislators. There is no cost to participants, and a number of expenses are covered, including childcare and respite, overnight accommodations for those coming from Greater Minnesota, meals, and mileage reimbursement.

Sessions begin September 15-16, 2017 and continue each month through May 2018. For further information, [visit the Partners website](#), or contact Lu Ann Rice at [luann@togevents.com](mailto:luann@togevents.com) or 320-202-1831. Applications can be completed and submitted [online](#).

### ➤ *Several Services Receive Provider Rate Increase*

The budgets for Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS), Consumer Support Grant (CSG) programs, and personal care assistance services (PCA) received a 1.642% rate increase from the 2017 Minnesota Legislature and will go into effect on August 1, 2017. This change was implemented to meet standards around minimum hourly wage, holiday pay, and paid time off as agreed to by the state of Minnesota and SEIU Healthcare. More information can be found on the [DHS website](#).