

➤ *Attempts to Repeal ACA & Cut Medicaid Fail*

Thanks to your advocacy and the advocacy of millions of other Americans, several measures that would have severely cut funding for Medicaid and taken away benefits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) were defeated last week in the U.S. Senate. Earlier that week, the Better Care Reconciliation Act and a plan to repeal the ACA without an immediate replacement were both voted down. You can read more [here](#) about the harm these bills would have caused.



The final piece of defeated legislation was the “skinny repeal.” Among other provisions, this bill would have eliminated ACA’s requirement that individuals purchase health insurance and its mandate that employers provide health care coverage. The [Congressional Budget Office estimated](#) that this limited repeal of the ACA could still cause as many as 16 million to lose their health insurance. The [CBO analysis](#) also estimated that seven million fewer people would be covered through Medicaid.

Although no health care legislation is currently being debated on the House or Senate floor, the fight to save Medicaid and health care for people with disabilities and their families is far from over. The Arc of the U.S.’ [statement](#) on the defeat of the Senate bills explains why we must stay vigilant.

Indeed, threats to Medicaid and the ACA continue. Through a variety of methods that you can read about [here](#), the Trump Administration could limit enrollment into the ACA and reduce access to Medicaid. In Congress, Senators Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham have proposed a bill that would shift funding for health care to a block grant and give states greater authority on how to spend those funds. This bill has yet to be scored by the Congressional Budget Office. You can read more about it [here](#).

➤ *House Budget Targets Disability Supports for Major Cuts*

Late last month, the U.S. House Budget Committee passed a budget resolution that would make deep cuts to supports that make life in the community possible for people with disabilities and their families. This resolution proposes a total of \$2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and other healthcare programs over the next 10 years. It also calls for hundreds of billions of dollars less for programs that support people with disabilities in their communities, like housing, education, and employment, as well as programs that provide income and food security (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Social Security Disability Insurance).



As with the health care bills that were defeated in the Senate, this budget proposal provides “reconciliation instructions.” Using the process of reconciliation would make it easier to pass this budget through the Senate; it would now require approval by a simple majority in the Senate, instead of 60 votes that are often needed for bills of such consequence. The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities has more information on this proposal available [here](#). The Arc of the U.S. is a member of the consortium, and it strongly opposes the House budget resolution.

➤ Save the Date for 2018 Day at the Capitol

The 2018 Legislative Session is several months away, but it's not too early to start marking your calendar with events where you can meet and speak with your state legislators. Make sure one of the dates you save is February 28, 2018 -- our annual Day at the Capitol. Every legislative session is important; each provides opportunities to share your story and have an impact on our state's laws and policies that affect you and your family members. Plan on joining us that day; more information to come.

➤ Are You #ABLEtoSave?

This week, the ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC) launched #ABLEtoSave, a campaign to raise awareness across the U.S. about accounts that individuals and families can set up through the ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act.



During the month of August, ANRC will provide a variety of ABLE resources, including informational videos, webinars on ABLE-related topics, and personal testimonies from ABLE account owners. Each week this month will have a different focus; this week's theme is Basic Overview of ABLE, with a webinar entitled "Debunking ABLE Myths." Here are the themes for the remaining four weeks:

- Week 2 (August 6-12): Who is Eligible?
- Week 3 (August 13 - 19): What Can Funds Be Used For?
- Week 4 (August 20 - 26): How Do I Manage My Account?
- Week 5 (August 27 - September 2): How Do I Enroll?

Through #ABLEtoSave, ANRC wants to provide potential ABLE account owners and their families with the information and support so they feel comfortable enrolling in an ABLE program of their choice. [Learn more about #ABLEtoSave on the ANRC website.](#)

➤ Openings on State Committees and Task Forces

- The Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) advises the Twin Cities' Metropolitan Council from the perspective of riders with disabilities on the Council's policies for managing public transportation services in the region. The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD) has been allowed two representatives on the TAAC Committee; one of those positions is currently vacant. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the committee or learning more about the role, please [e-mail George Shardlow](#), MNCCD Transportation Working Group Co-Chair.
- The Minnesota Secretary of State has vacancies on several statewide boards and councils. Councils with vacancies that are of particular interest to self-advocates and their family include the [Ombudsman Committee](#) for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, the [Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury](#) Advisory Council, the [Special Education](#) Advisory Panel, and the State Advisory Council on Mental Health (which has openings for a [consumer representative](#) and a [parent representative](#)).

Applicants will need to submit a letter of interest and a resume or biography. They can apply for an opening through the [Secretary of State website](#). Applications can also [be e-mailed](#), or one can send paper applications to:

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155-1299