

Talking Points: Do NOT Support the Graham/Cassidy Bill!

Senators Graham (R-SC), Cassidy (R-LA), Heller (R-NV), and Johnson (R-WI) introduced a bill, referred to as Graham-Cassidy, on Wednesday in a final attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This legislation carries virtually the same language as the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) and the American Health Care Act (AHCA). It includes transforming Medicaid programs covering disability services to a per capita cap structure and converting Medicaid expansion and cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments into block grants to states. Although there are only days left before September 30th, the day in which the ability to use reconciliation as a vehicle for repeal and replace expires, it is still important to send the message that we will not support this legislation.

Problems with the Graham/Cassidy Bill

- **Earlier CBO estimates suggest that Cassidy-Graham would cut Medicaid (outside the expansion) by \$175 billion between 2020 and 2026, with the cuts reaching \$39 billion by 2026**
- This bill includes the same provisions as the BCRA and the AHCA including applying a per capita cap on Medicaid and ending the Medicaid expansion.
 - The per capita cap formula proposed is CPI-M plus 1% until 2025 THEN goes down to CPI-M – national data (MACPAC) concurs that this is not sufficient funding growth for disability services
- This bill penalizes states for spending too much money on disability services
- This bill would expect states to now take up greater costs for disability services, but states are already challenged with their own state budgets to pick up the added costs
- Bills like this do not work for Medicaid HCBS/ICF-IID services. Without adequate funding for services in place, waiting lists will grow, and eventually institutional placement would have to increase in order to manage the need for these services
- Advancing this bill forward in only two weeks, without independent analysis and understanding of its effects across the nation and on each state, is unacceptable.

Meeting Tips

- **Thank them** for their leadership, and for their ongoing commitment to ensuring that disability services will not be harmed by this or any future version of the bill.
- **Share examples** of the services you provide and the people you support (residential, employment, etc.), and explain that they are optional under the Medicaid program.
- **Help them understand that the bill does not include protections for people with disabilities** – that states will receive less funding and will be forced to cut optional services like HCBS that you provide. Share some of the talking points from above to prove your point.
- **Ask them to confirm they are a NO on the Graham/Cassidy Bill!**