**July 20, 2017 – Update Call**

* Michael Gamel-McCormick (Sr. policy advisor for Sen Casey):
	+ This has been going on for almost a month, been through 3 different bills – 2 different BCRA and now ORRA (Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act)
	+ Everything moving/changing quickly
	+ Next week: McConnell will call for motion to consider/motion to proceed; unsure if it will be on updated BCRA or on ORRA
	+ To be clear: we have two different bills right now
	+ Both bills immediately cut off millions of people from health care in first year and then get worse
	+ BCRA deconstructs Medicaid; ORRA does not have Medicaid caps (it does end the Medicaid expansion) but removes essential health benefits, removes regulation protecting people with pre-existing conditions;
	+ Both bills terrible
	+ Vote will likely be on Tuesday, could slip to Wednesday
	+ CBO score on 2nd version on BCRA – same huge cuts to Medicaid ($756 billion in first 10 years, 35% by 2036), 22 million will lose health care, increase in premiums, and threats to prohibition of discriminating against pre-existing conditions
	+ Unknown if Sen. McCain will be back next week; they still need 50 votes; if McCain is not back, they would not be able to bring in VP Pence because there would be no tie to break (odd number of senators)
	+ Murkowski Capito, Collins clearly said they would not vote on repeal
	+ Portman has also said not happy with vote, but less strong
	+ Heller’s vote is unknown
	+ We need to communicate strongly with these senators – thank you’s to Murkowski, Collins, Capito; pressure on Portman and Heller
	+ Keep chipping away at: Indiana, Louisiana, Colorado, and Pennsylvania
	+ Changes in BCRA:
		- Second version does not include same tax repeals – so tone down a little the messaging that this bill is basically a tax cut for the very rich (they don’t benefit as much now, though still some benefits)
		- Otherwise is basically the same
	+ Most effective advocacy; short, personal stories (photo with 3 paragraphs); these are even better than videos; but 90 second videos are very good too
	+ Republicans feeling real fatigue because of strong advocacy
* Alison Barkoff (Center for Public Representation):
	+ Both bills have CBO scores
	+ BCRA messaging is the same (see talking points at [www.protectourmedicaid.org](http://www.protectourmedicaid.org))
	+ Repeal bill – community based services at risk, expansion ended
	+ Message that both bills are unacceptable
	+ There are still significantly more federal savings under BCRA than the House Bill, so McConnell can use that money to get votes
* Michael G-M
	+ Additional Federal savings under Senate bill
		- Heard potentially McConnell will try giving $200 billion to be split among expansion states; that will not be nearly enough
	+ money will be used essentially as bribes
	+ stories from advocates beat bribes
	+ money for opioids not nearly enough for treatment
	+ tell senators to vote NO on motion to proceed; this would kill it for awhile
* Questions/Comments:
* Why do vote at all?
	+ McConnell wants to do vote to at least try; doesn’t want to be berated; allow senators to say they’re fulfilling the Medicaid campaign promise
* ORRA – how does it impact pre-existing conditions and essential health benefits?
	+ provisions that allow states to waive are still in place
* Opioid epidemic concern forefront for Portman
	+ Need to get Medicaid impact messaging up to opioid level
		- Individuals with disabilities
		- Families with children
		- Schools
* Ohio and Nevada governors most critical; however, getting governors from states mentioned earlier to speak with senators would be good strategy
* Good to go to senators and state representatives as well, particularly those on finance committee
* ORRA doesn’t really mention Medicaid except regarding expansion, but it contains steep cliff (ends expansion by 1-1-20), not workable
* Suggested messaging to senators re promise to repeal: you may have run on promise to repeal ACA, but not on decimating Medicaid (a program that has existed for past 50 years)
* Comment: Andy Slavitt, bipartisan piece on JMMA – very helpful bipartisan piece
* Florida advocate: spoke with Rubio, who is strong yes man; Michael said even with people who are strong yes’s, continue the advocacy so they have from you.
* Can we connect dots with spinal injuries, caps, with opioid treatment?
	+ Struggling with call outs for additional funding for opioids; there is need for community, but want to be careful about saying funding for opioids would be enough to vote yes for bill; that would be bad policy
	+ Opioid treatment isn’t enough
* Budget – could compromise be managed with all the carrots being dangled?
	+ Going forward, if cuts go forward, massive hole: Home and community based services change completely, prenatal care, etc,
	+ Budget had assumed cuts to Medicaid
* Conclusion/Next Steps:
	+ Efforts are making a difference
	+ Get feedback from constituents to representatives
	+ Fill up e-mail inboxes, voicemails,
	+ Thank yous to Senators Capito, Collins, Murkowski
	+ Join in events
		- NCIL event next Tuesday – timing will be important
	+ ARC’s letters will make huge impact
	+ 90 second video tweet hugely impactful
	+ amp up the advocacy on Tuesday – calls/emails
* Alison on upcoming advocacy:
	+ Caveat – this is best information we have at time of call, will keep updated
	+ Time to amp up advocacy again
	+ Like last week, we need to up calls, emails, tweets
	+ If senator is going to be back in hometown, meet with them
	+ Next week:
		- NCIL – disability march and rally on Tuesday, July 25
	+ Right now the offices are too quiet – republicans under a ton of pressure to say yes to bill
	+ Vigil on Monday event
	+ FamilesUSA call-in day tomorrow
	+ Every day has to be a call-in day in practice
* Questions:
	+ Alison to send link to protectourmedicaid website
	+ Talking points are the same; call, tweet, email, attend events, show-up