**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