

Medicaid in Schools: Action Week Toolkit

Action Week Alert:

Organizations can load letters/action alerts to their own websites, or they may feel free to use the following organizations sites

NASP: <http://cqrcengage.com/naspweb/home?0> (letter can be edited by the writer)

NSBA/AASA: <http://www.nsba.org/advocacy/take-action>

Draft Talking Points/Email:

We urge all organizations to encourage their members to CALL and WRITE their elected officials.

General Talking Points

Preserve Funding for School Based Medicaid Services

General Talking Points

- Medicaid provides critical health care services to children across the country in a variety of settings, including in schools.
- Medicaid pays for some services in school settings for eligible Medicaid-enrolled students. This is an efficient and impactful delivery system because schools are where children are. Increasing access to health care services through Medicaid improves health care AND educational outcomes.
- Medicaid funding to schools is critical to ensuring access to services for these students. Without Medicaid funding, schools will be unable to meet student need and already strained school budgets will not be able to keep up.
- Proposals to cap federal funds directly shift costs to state budgets—and state budgets are already strained.

Consequences of Block Grants or Per Capita Caps

- Cuts or changes to Medicaid funding could undermine Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). The goal of EPDST is to assure that health problems are diagnosed and treated as early as possible, before the problems become complex and treatment more costly. Changes to the funding structure of Medicaid could limit the availability of critical and cost-saving preventative care.

- Together with CHIP, Medicaid has been enormously successful in providing access to health services to more than 44 percent of our nation’s children. From vaccinations, well-child check-ups, and chronic disease management, to oral health, vision care, and prenatal care for expectant mothers, Medicaid ensures that children get the services they need to grow, develop, and go to school ready to learn.
- Children constitute approximately 44 percent of the Medicaid beneficiaries, but only about 19 percent of the costs for Medicaid. Current proposals to cap or limit state funding are misguided and threaten to disproportionately harm children’s access to care.
- Block granting Medicaid could result in reduced eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP, coverage of fewer services, lower payments to providers, or increased cost-sharing by beneficiaries — all of which would reduce access to care.
- Reduced funding via block grants or per capita caps will disproportionately harm our nation’s children.
- Per capita cap serves only to cut federal costs by setting arbitrary limits on federal Medicaid spending. This would be equally devastating for the vulnerable populations that rely on Medicaid, including primarily, low-income children, and the disabled.

Sample Call Script/Talking Points

Call (202) 224-3121 and ask the switchboard operator to be connected to your Senator’s office. Once connected, be sure to introduce yourself and identify yourself as a constituent.

“I am calling to urge Senator [XXX] to reject any proposal that significantly cuts Medicaid and institutes a block grant or per capita caps. Such a proposal will have devastating effects on children, especially those with disabilities. Due to the underfunding of IDEA, districts rely on Medicaid reimbursements to ensure students with disabilities have access to the supports and services they need to access a free appropriate public education, as required by federal law.

[INSERT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR ORGANIZATION]

Thank you for passing this message along to the Senator.

Sample Letter to Senators

Dear [YOUR SENATOR]

As a [INSERT YOUR PROFESSION/ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION] I wish to express serious concerns that the American Health Care Act (AHCA), as passed by the House of Representatives on May 4th, will jeopardize healthcare for the nation’s most vulnerable children: students with disabilities and students in poverty. [INSERT INFORMATION ABOUT WHY YOU/YOUR ORGANIZATION CARES ABOUT PROTECTING MEDICAID]

I remain concerned that restructuring Medicaid to a per capita cap system will undermine States’ ability to provide America’s neediest children access to vital healthcare necessary to ensure they are able to succeed in school and beyond. Medicaid is a cost-effective and efficient provider of essential health care services for children.

School-based Medicaid programs in particular serve as a lifeline to children who can't access critical healthcare and services outside of their school. Under this bill, the bulk of the costs for health care coverage would be shifted to the States even though health needs and costs of care for children will remain the same or increase. States and local communities will have to compensate for this federal disinvestment in our children's healthcare. If they cannot adequately make up the difference in federal funding, providers will be forced to cut eligibility, services, and benefits for children.

Schools Provide Critical Health Care for Students

A school's primary responsibility is to provide students with a high-quality education. Children cannot learn to their fullest potential with unmet health needs. As such, specialized instructional support personnel regularly provide critical health services to ensure all children are ready to learn and able to thrive alongside their peers. Schools deliver services effectively and efficiently since school is where children spend their days. Increasing access to healthcare services through Medicaid improves health care as well as educational outcomes for students. Providing health and wellness services for students in poverty and services that benefit students with disabilities ultimately enables more children to become employable and attend higher education.

School districts would stand to lose much of their funding for Medicaid under the current proposal. Schools currently receive roughly \$4 billion in Medicaid reimbursements each year. Under the current proposal, States would no longer have to consider schools as eligible Medicaid providers, leaving districts with the same obligation to provide services for students with disabilities under IDEA, but no Medicaid dollars to provide medically-necessary services. Schools would be unable to provide EPSDT to students. Instead, screenings and treatment currently provided in school settings would have to be delivered in physicians' offices, which may be less accessible for families or in hospital emergency rooms where costs are much higher. Basic health screenings for vision, hearing, and mental health problems would no longer be possible, making these problems more difficult to address and more expensive to treat. Moving health screenings out of schools also reduces access to early identification and treatment, resulting in more costly treatment down the road.

[INSERT INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR ORGANIZATION/PROFESSION]

The Consequences of Medicaid Per Capita Caps Will Potentially Be Devastating for Children

Significant reductions to Medicaid spending could have devastating effects on children, especially those with disabilities. Due to the underfunding of IDEA, districts rely on Medicaid reimbursements to ensure students with disabilities have access to the supports and services they need to access a free appropriate public education, as required by federal law. Potential consequences of this critical loss of funds include:

- **Fewer health services:** Providing comprehensive physical and mental health services in schools improves accessibility for many children and youth, particularly in high needs and hard to serve areas such as rural and urban communities. In a 2017 [survey](#) of school district leaders, half indicated they have recently taken steps to increase Medicaid enrollment in their districts. Reduced funding for Medicaid would result in decreased access to critical healthcare for many children and youth.
- **Cuts to general education:** Cuts in Medicaid funding would require districts to divert funds from other educational programs to provide the services as required under IDEA. These funding reductions could result in program eliminations in other areas of the education system.
- **Job loss:** Districts use Medicaid reimbursement to support the salaries and benefits of the staff performing eligible services. Sixty-eight percent of districts use Medicaid funding to pay direct salaries for health professionals who provide services for students. Cuts to Medicaid funding would impact districts' ability to maintain employment for school nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, school social workers, school psychologists, and many other critical school personnel who ensure students with disabilities and other students with a variety of educational needs are able to learn.
- **Fewer critical supplies:** Districts use Medicaid reimbursement for critical supplies such as wheelchairs, therapeutic bicycles, hydraulic changing tables, walkers, lifts, and student-specific items that are

necessary for each child to access curriculum as closely as possible to their non-disabled peers. Replacing this equipment would be difficult if not impossible without Medicaid reimbursement.

- **Fewer mental health supports:** Seven out of ten students receiving mental health services receive these services at school. Cuts to Medicaid would further marginalize these critical services and leave students without access to care.
- **Noncompliance with IDEA:** Given the failure to commit federal resources to fully fund the IDEA, Medicaid reimbursement serves as a critical funding stream to help school provide the specialized instructional supports students with disabilities need to be educated with their peers.

As the Senate begins to consider alternatives to the policies set forth by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, I urge you to carefully consider the important benefits that Medicaid, as it is currently structured, provides to our nation's most vulnerable children. Schools are often the hub of the community, and converting Medicaid to a per capita cap system threatens to significantly reduce access to comprehensive physical, mental and behavioral health care for children with disabilities and those living in poverty.

[Sample Op-Ed/LTE:](#)

Letter-to-the -Editor/OpEd Template

**Title(s): Preserving Medicaid Saves Children's Lives
Cuts to Medicaid Harm Kids**

Brief Tips:

1. The following adaptable templates are around 300 words. Check the word length requirements for OpEds and letter the editors in your news outlet and be sure to submit the proper format and length for your chosen purpose.
2. Letters to the editor are typically around 200-250 words and are written in response something already published in the paper. You should reference the article to which you are responding either in your submission email or in the body of the letter itself.
3. OpEds are original thought pieces that *do not* respond to something already published in the paper. The topic can have been addressed in the paper but this is not a direct response. OpEds are typically 600-800 words, depending on the outlet. Some are shorter. If you need/want to add content to the templates below, consider adding specifics (examples/data) from your district or in your state to bring life to the major points. Examples include the number of students benefiting from Medicaid in your school/district, the number of students who lose services the district/state, a specific program or set of services in your district that would be cut, etc.)

Template for Educators

As a [TEACHER/SCHOOL NURSE/PSYCHOLOGIST/SOCIAL WORKER/ADMINISTRATOR ETC.] in [CITY/TOWN], I am worried about what the American Health Care Act will mean for my students. Many

students in the school/district I serve rely on Medicaid for comprehensive health services that make their participation in the classroom possible. These vital services include mental and behavioral health care, access to a school nurse to help them manage their diabetes or asthma, and access to eyeglasses or hearing aids to ensure they can see materials and hear their teacher, just to name a few critical needs. For children with disabilities and low income students, Medicaid helps provide access to care the supports essential to their learning and engagement. Medicaid plays a vital role in their lives and in my ability to help them succeed. A healthy child is ready and able to learn.

As a part of their effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, President Trump and Republicans [MEMBERS OF CONGRESS] are proposing cuts that would dismantle the Medicaid program. These deep cuts— more than \$800 billion—would put [STATE’S] children’s health and educational success at risk. The fallout would reverberate throughout the state budget, affecting [STATE’S] economy and reducing important investments in our schools, including mine. The financial stability of families with sick children would be undermined as parents are faced with higher bills and are forced to miss work to care for their children.

Medicaid works for my students and their families, ensuring them access to preventive and developmental screening services to support their educational success. Students are learning every day in my school/district thanks to Medicaid.

Cutting Medicaid is not a way to reduce costs or balance budget in the near or long term. It will only do potentially devastating harm to our children and our nation’s future. We need our representatives to preserve Medicaid we can protect our children’s healthcare in [STATE].

General Letter to the Editor Op/Ed Template

To the editor:

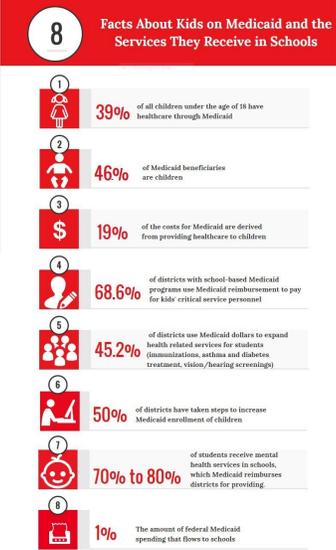
The American Health Care Act, the health care plan passed by the U.S. House of Representatives has been subjected to a widespread storm of criticism. I'd like to increase awareness of changes that would have severe impact on our schools right here in [YOUR CITY/COUNTY/STATE]. Our elected officials are proposing cutting hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid spending. These cuts would devastate our schools, and the students who attend them.

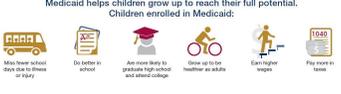
Special education programs receive about \$4 billion from Medicaid every year. A lot of that money goes to support Medicaid-eligible services and support that is provided through schools that by law must provide certain services to special needs students. This new legislation would allow Medicaid-eligible services reimbursement to be stripped from public schools. What would that mean for us in [YOUR CITY/COUNTY/STATE]? Our schools would continue to be required to provide such services and all the costs would be covered by additional local taxes or by cutting jobs or other vital programs that our schools currently offer.

For example, [INSERT DATA SPECIFIC TO YOUR DISTRICT/STATE. SEE RESOURCES BELOW FOR POSSIBLE DATA SOURCES] district would have to increase the annual budget to cover the loss of Medicaid reimbursement or offset the loss of this revenue by eliminating non-required classes such as music, art or gym. In FYXXXX, [YOUR DISTRICT/COUNTY/STATE] was reimbursed XXXXX for Medicare eligible services yet we are still struggling to meet the current needs of our most vulnerable special needs and low income students. The AHCA will only make this problem worse and put more children at risk.

We must do everything we can to make sure the Senate does not pass this bill. We must encourage our senators to fight against these devastating and unnecessary cuts to services that our low income and special needs kids rely upon. Our children are depending on us.

[Share on Social Media: #ProtectOurCare](#)

SAMPLE TWEETS - GENERAL EDUCATION	Sample Graphic
Schools rely on Medicaid to comply with #IDEA. The Senate must #ProtectOurCare to support students with disabilities.	
Without Medicaid, schools won't be able to provide students with critical health screenings like diabetes and asthma diagnosis #ProtectOurCare	
Cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA mean schools must compete with hospitals for \$ and students will lose http://to.pbs.org/2qbombV #ProtectOurCare	
Here are 8 ways Medicaid services support kids and schools. http://bit.ly/2r1Qphi #ProtectOurCare	 <p>8 Facts About Kids on Medicaid and the Services They Receive in Schools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 39% of all children under the age of 18 have healthcare through Medicaid 46% of Medicaid beneficiaries are children 19% of the costs for Medicaid are derived from providing healthcare to children 68.6% of districts with school-based Medicaid programs use Medicaid reimbursement to pay for kids' critical service personnel 45.2% of districts use Medicaid dollars to expand health related services for students (immunizations, asthma and diabetes treatment, vision/hearing screenings) 50% of districts have taken steps to increase Medicaid enrollment of children 70% to 80% of students receive mental health services in schools, which Medicaid reimburses districts for providing. 1% The amount of federal Medicaid spending that flows to schools

<p>#Medicaid helps pay the salaries of nurses, counselors & other health staff, helping all students thrive #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Superintendents, district leaders are “overwhelmingly concerned” and “deeply worried” about cuts to #Medicaid. #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2r0JQJS</p>	
<p>Nearly 1/3 of children, and nearly 2/3 of children with disabilities, rely on #Medicaid for healthcare. http://bit.ly/2s01Kvs #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Cutting #Medicaid will impact all children, not just low-income students and students with disabilities. http://bit.ly/2s01NYa #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>#Medicaid gives kids a better chance for a healthy future. Schools are trusted, easily accessible places, able to identify children in need. #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>#Medicaid cuts may force schools to use general ed \$ to fund special ed, resulting in fewer teachers & ↑ class sizes #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Medicaid cuts in #AHCA could mean 12,539 school nurses lose their job, says @EdProgress http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2 #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Medicaid cuts in #AHCA could mean 9,877 school social workers lose their job, says @EdProgress http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2 #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Medicaid cuts in #AHCA could mean 8,094 school counselors lose their job, says @EdProgress http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2 #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Medicaid cuts in #AHCA could mean 9,500 school physical therapists lose their job, says @EdProgress http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2 #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Medicaid cuts in AHCA could mean 10,000 speech-language professionals lose their job, says @EdProgress http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2 #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>The #AHCA’s cuts to Medicaid puts kids w/ disabilities and their families at risk #ProtectOurCare #SavetheACA http://ampr.gs/2p5A6vm</p>	
<p>Over half of all kids w/ disabilities rely on Medicaid – the #AHCA puts their health & development at risk http://ampr.gs/2p5A6vm #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Kids w/ disabilities need Medicaid for early intervention & other services. The #AHCA threatens their care. http://ampr.gs/2p5A6vm #ProtectOurCare</p>	

SAMPLE TWEETS - GRASSROOTS LOBBYING	
Join the 50 education groups who told Congress: Reject #AHCA and its cuts to #Medicaid! Tell your Senator to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2nJnqOp	
Schools rely on #Medicaid to comply with #IDEA. Tell your Senators to keep their #HandsOff Medicaid by calling 202-224-3121! #ProtectOurCare	
Access to care through #Medicaid leads to better educational outcomes for kids! Call 202-224-3121 and tell your Senator to #ProtectOurCare	
How many kids in your state benefit from #Medicaid? Call your Senators (202-224-3121) & tell them to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2qBcjK	
SAMPLE TWEETS/RESOURCES - TARGETED BY STATE/SENATOR	
Sen. Heller (R-NV) @SenDeanHeller	http://www.healthlaw.org/storage/documents/Nevada_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@SenDeanHeller, 32% of NV kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2qkcbSI #ProtectOurCare	
@SenDeanHeller, 75 public schools in NV could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in NV? Find out here & tell @SenDeanHeller to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2qkcbSI	
@SenDeanHeller the #AHCA will harm NV children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qkcbSI #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) @lisamurkowski	http://www.healthlaw.org/storage/documents/Alaska_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@lisamurkowski, 30% of AK kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj #ProtectOurCare	
@lisamurkowski, 38 public schools in AK could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in AK? Find out here & tell @lisamurkowski to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj	
@lisamurkowski the #AHCA will harm AK children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Sullivan (R-AK) @SenDanSullivan	http://www.healthlaw.org

	/storage/documents/Alaska_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@SenDanSullivan, 30% of AK kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj #ProtectOurCare	
@SenDanSullivan, 38 public schools in AK could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in AK? Find out here & tell @SenDanSullivan to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj	
@SenDanSullivan the #AHCA will harm AK children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2rQbsBj #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Capito (R-WV) @SenCapito	http://www.healthlaw.org/storage/documents/West_Virginia_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@SenCapito, 42% of WV kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rA2hHZ #ProtectOurCare	
@SenCapito, 88 public schools in WV could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in WV? Find out here & tell @SenCapito to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2rA2hHZ	
@SenCapito the #AHCA will harm WV children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2rA2hHZ #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Collins (R-ME) @SenatorCollins	http://www.healthlaw.org/storage/documents/Maine_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@SenatorCollins, 31% of ME kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2qgrh3c #ProtectOurCare	
@SenatorCollins, 63 public schools in ME could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in ME? Find out here & tell @SenatorCollins to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2qgrh3c	
@SenatorCollins the #AHCA will harm ME children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qgrh3c #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Flake (R-AZ) @JeffFlake	http://www.healthlaw.org

	/storage/documents/Arizona_Resources_2-pager.pdf
@JeffFlake, 34% of AZ kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2qW8VrB #ProtectOurCare	
@JeffFlake, 251 public schools in AZ could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in AZ? Find out here & tell @JeffFlake to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2qW8VrB	
@JeffFlake the #AHCA will harm AZ children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qW8VrB #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Fischer (R-NE) @SenatorFischer	
@SenatorFischer, 25% of NE kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rQhZMt #ProtectOurCare	
@SenatorFischer, 50 public schools in NE could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
@SenatorFischer the #AHCA will harm NE children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qW8aOT #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Gardner (R-CO) @CoryGardner	
@CoryGardner, 32% of CO kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rUdlwf #ProtectOurCare	
@CoryGardner, 176 public schools in CO could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
@CoryGardner the #AHCA will harm CO children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qW8aOT #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Graham (R-SC) @LindsayGrahamSC	
@LindsayGrahamSC, 40% of SC kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2qWle4X #ProtectOurCare	
@LindsayGrahamSC, 138 public schools in SC could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2	
@LindsayGrahamSC the #AHCA will harm SC children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qW8aOT #ProtectOurCare	
Sen. Portman (R-OH) @senrobportman	http://www.healthlaw.org

	/storage/documents/Ohio_Resources_2-pager.pdf
<p>@senroportman, 32% of OH kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2qkclAb #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>@senroportman, 514 public schools in OH could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2</p>	
<p>How will cuts to Medicaid in #AHCA hurt schools & kids in OH? Find out here & tell @senroportman to #ProtectOurCare http://bit.ly/2qkclAb</p>	
<p>@senroportman the #AHCA will harm OH children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qkclAb #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Sen. Toomey (R-PA) @SenToomey</p>	
<p>@SenToomey, 31% of PA kids receive their healthcare through #Medicaid and CHIP. Say no to #AHCA http://bit.ly/2rQuAiV #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>@SenToomey, 552 public schools in PA could lose their school nurse under #AHCA. It's time to #ProtectOurCare http://ampr.gs/2nwyAW2</p>	
<p>@SenToomey the #AHCA will harm PA children's access to care, esp. services received at school: http://bit.ly/2qW8aOT #ProtectOurCare</p>	
<p>Sample FACEBOOK Posts</p>	
<p>Medicaid covers comprehensive health and developmental services for children with disabilities, and the proposed capping of federal funds directly impacts this unique population. The Center for American Progress reports how families of children with disabilities—who are already economically vulnerable—would be required to pay more for their children’s care. Furthermore, cuts in funding, especially for critical early intervention and special education services, would hinder the growth and well-being of children with disabilities. We cannot let this happen to those who need it the most.</p> <p>Learn more and take action: http://ampr.gs/2rgTStg</p>	

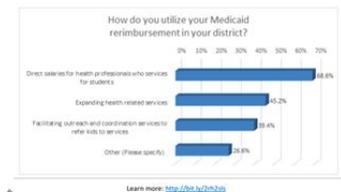
“Nearly 80% of children do not receive critical mental health services or interventions, and of those who do receive mental health services, 70–80% receive services in schools.” Schools are already strapped to provide these critical mental health supports, and a report from the School Superintendents Association notes a concerning increase in both the severity of mental health issues and the frequency of occurrences in this student population. Limiting or even eliminating mental health supports would leave many students untreated and would adversely impact their academic performance and social–emotional growth.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2rh2sls>



Specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) provide services that many children and youth need to be successful in school. This graph illustrates how districts use Medicaid reimbursement to direct salaries for health professionals working with students. The 30% Medicaid reduction would result in lay-offs, which would directly affect the delivery of services to those that need them.

Become informed and act today: <http://bit.ly/2rh2sls>



Learn how many children benefit from Medicaid in your local community. This interactive map, created by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF), visually depicts the percentage of children covered by Medicaid/CHIP from 2011–2015 and further delineates the sources of children’s coverage by county. Search to see how much Medicaid impacts children in your county, and advocate to protect their care!

Explore now: <http://bit.ly/2qPifNt>



Medicaid provides comprehensive coverage to over 30 million children in the United States. Children with disabilities often need medical services as part of the special education plans to stay healthy and succeed academically. Medicaid helps schools to help kids to thrive and be productive members of society. Cutting Medicaid would strain local communities, jeopardize state budgets, and ultimately harm children and youth.

We cannot forget those who need us the most. Learn more and advocate today: <http://bit.ly/2qVUQlz>

Medicaid Has Long-Term Benefits for Kids

Children who are eligible for Medicaid health coverage:

-  do better in school,
-  miss fewer school days due to illness or injury,
-  are more likely to finish high school, attend college, and graduate from college,
-  have fewer emergency-room visits and hospitalizations as adults, and
-  earn more as adults.

Sample Facebook Posts

[Additional Helpful Resources](#)

National Fact Sheet (NHeLP)

http://www.healthlaw.org/storage/documents/National_Resources_2-pager.pdf