



The Outcomes  
Service

**TLC**  
The Treatment and Learning Centers

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Welcome to the TLC Outcomes Service news Eblast  
**"Out & About at Outcomes"**

In these short news blasts, we will share information on advocacy, events, and short stories of interest. We hope you find these news blasts useful and provide opportunities to get involved in advocating for adults with special needs.

***Jan Miller-Vogel, M.S.***

*Director, The Outcomes Service*

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## **Cuts in Medicaid will Negatively Impact People with Disabilities - Protect Funding for People with Disabilities**

The President's budget, would cut billions in funding to programs that provide critical supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes \$610 billion in cuts to Medicaid over the next 10 years, as well as billions in cuts to Social Security (SSI and SSDI). The budget also essentially **eliminates funding for the Developmental Disability Councils and IDD advocacy by the P&As**- both critical partners here in MD and nationwide in the efforts to advocate for and protect the rights of people with disabilities. The AHCA, as passed by the House of Representatives, would use per-capita caps to significantly reduce Medicaid funding for IDD supports in every state, having a devastating impact on Marylanders with developmental disabilities. The estimated overall cut in Medicaid funds, just to Maryland, is \$14 billion over 10 years.

It is **essential that we speak out and push back**. During a recent national call, Senator Bob Casey (D) from PA, a leading champion for the disability community, made clear that the rising up of the grassroots disability community is the *only* way to stop this train. Our own Senator Van Hollen (MD) is a strong supporter. On June 6, 2017 more than 30 disability organizations co-sponsored a well-attended rally in D.C. called "Don't Cap My Care - Medicaid Rally with Sens. Casey (D-Pa.), Van Hollen (D-Md.), former U.S. Representative Tony Coelho, and other members of Congress.

Please make your voice heard [contact our congressional delegation](#) about the life-altering impact of the AHCA and the Trump Budget on the lives of people with disabilities- share your messages about the importance of long term supports and services. A sample script for people with disabilities and family members can be found [here](#), and additional information is below. Whether or not you attended the rally June 6, please consider contacting your Representatives.

### **Talking Points:**

#### **Congress MUST act to protect funding for people with disabilities!**

- The AHCA would cut \$834 billion to federal Medicaid funding over the next 10 years-- \$14 billion cut to Maryland.
- *On top of the AHCA*, the Trump budget would *cut another \$610 billion from Medicaid* over the next 10 years.
- This is unacceptable-- Medicaid funding provides *critical* long terms supports and services that permit people with disabilities to live and work in the community.
- Cuts in federal spending will lead to state budget shortfalls, forcing states to cut services, eliminate optional services likes Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), or restrict eligibility.
- The Trump budget would cut \$72 billion from Social Security for people with disabilities (SSI and SSDI).
- The budget also proposes a 20% reduction in funding for HUD's Section 811 program (affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities- could result in the elimination of close to 7000 units that allow people with disabilities to live independently).
- Essentially eliminates the statewide Developmental Disability Councils and funding for IDD advocacy by the P&As- both critical partners here in MD and nationwide in protecting and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

### **Additional Resources: how the proposed Medicaid cuts will hurt the disability community:**

<https://medicaid.publicrep.org/feature/medicaid/>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2017/05/23/432851/trump-budgets-attack-people-disabilities/>

## **Script for Calling your Senators**

**My name is [your full name]. I'm a constituent of Senator [Name], and I live in [your town]. I'm calling to ask the Senator to protect Medicaid. Specifically, I want the Senator to promise to vote against any bill that converts Medicaid into a per capita cap, including the potential ACA repeal bill. Per capita caps mean huge cuts to Medicaid that would cause many of your constituents to lose health care, and eliminate vital services that people with disabilities rely on to live in the community. Capping Medicaid will have a devastating impact on the lives of people with disabilities like [me/ my family member/ my friends]. We're counting on you to do the right thing. Please tell the Senator to stand up for people with disabilities and save Medicaid!**

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