



July 25, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Medicare Rights Center (Medicare Rights), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Senate leadership's plans to bring one or more of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal bills to a vote. Medicare Rights is a national, nonprofit organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs, and public policy initiatives. We provide services and resources to nearly three million people with Medicare, family caregivers, and health care professionals annually.

The American people deserve to know what health care reform package the Senate will be voting on and how it will impact their ability to afford and access needed health coverage and care. Older adults, people with disabilities, and their families need an open, transparent, bipartisan process where all voices can be heard, where experts are consulted, and where the needs of American families are paramount.

The House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) and the Senate drafts of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) risk access to affordable health care for older Americans, people with disabilities, and their families.<sup>1</sup> We are dismayed that the BCRA bills are not an improvement on the AHCA. Instead, the Senate bills cut more deeply into Medicaid, cutting the program by 35% by the year 2036.<sup>2</sup> The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) finds that at least 22 million Americans will lose health coverage under all versions of the BCRA, and those losses will disproportionately affect people ages 50 to 64.

Alternatively, the Senate may vote to repeal the ACA without a replacement, through the Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act (ORRA). The ORRA would create chaos in the individual market, end the Medicaid expansion, and cause 32 million people to lose health coverage.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Congressional Budget Office, "H.R. 1628, American Health Care Act of 2017 (May 24, 2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52752>; Congressional Budget Office "H.R. 1628, Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017" (June 26, 2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52849>; Congressional Budget Office, "H.R. 1628, the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017: An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute" (July 20, 2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52941>.

<sup>2</sup> Congressional Budget Office, "Longer-Term Effects of the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 on Medicaid Spending" (June 29, 2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52859>.

<sup>3</sup> Congressional Budget Office "H.R. 1628, Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act of 2017" (July 19, 2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52939>.

These are not acceptable options. We call upon all Senators to vote no on any motion to proceed on any or all of these bills. We continue to urge the Senate to engage in a transparent, bipartisan process, involving the Committees of jurisdiction, to craft health care solutions to enhance access and affordability for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families. If you have questions, please contact Stacy Sanders, Federal Policy Director, at [ssanders@medicarerights.org](mailto:ssanders@medicarerights.org) or 202-637-0961. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Joe Baker  
President  
Medicare Rights Center

CC: The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairman, Senate Special Committee on Aging  
The Honorable Bob Casey, Ranking Member, Senate Special Committee on Aging