

Dear Senator/Congressman/Congresswoman _____,

I am writing, as [a disabled American] / [the parent of a disabled American], to ask you to oppose the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA) and all cuts to Medicaid. With millions of Americans struggling to receive the support and care they need to thrive, we should be expanding Medicaid benefits to help more disabled Americans, not fewer.

The AHCA would make cruel and unnecessary cuts to Medicaid. I ask you, as my representative, to oppose **all** cuts to Medicaid, whether termed “block grants” or “per capita caps.” I ask you to oppose **all** attempts to end Medicaid’s entitlement structure, which is vital to the protection of people with disabilities. I pledge to vote against any politician who supports ending Medicaid as we know it.

The recent CBO report notes that the cuts to Medicaid in the AHCA total \$880 BILLION over ten years. Instead of helping disabled or low-income Medicaid enrollees, these funds would be given to taxpayers making more than \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for joint filers), in the form of tax breaks. This is completely unacceptable.

Medicaid is the most important disability benefits program in the country, and it is typically the only or primary health insurance plan for persons with disabilities who have limited income. Medicaid waiver programs have expanded insurance coverage to disabled children with working parents.

Medicaid’s supports are essential for parents preparing their disabled children to be productive members of society. In addition, Medicaid provides essential support to ensure that disabled individuals continue to receive care in the community where they live, rather than in a more restrictive and much more costly institutional setting.

[I am a disabled American. I have autism, a lifelong developmental disorder characterized by challenges with social communication, highly focused interests, and repetitive behaviors, and I rely on Medicaid for my medical care and for essential community-based supports. Because of my Medicaid coverage I receive _____, and _____.]

[My son/daughter is named _____. S/He has autism, a lifelong developmental disorder characterized by challenges with social communication, highly focused interests, and repetitive behaviors. His/Her specific challenges include _____, _____, and _____. [Name] relies/will rely on Medicaid for his/her health care coverage today/as an adult].

Individuals affected by autism need much more support than they currently receive in this country. Millions of my fellow Americans, [including my son/my daughter,] struggle to receive the support they need to remain in the community. We deal with self-injurious behaviors,

aggression, impaired communication, epilepsy, intense sleep disruptions, and co-occurring emotional disabilities such as depression, bipolar disorder, OCD, and ADHD, to name but a few.

We are desperate for **more** support, not less. In countless states across the country, waiting lists for coverage force children to wait years for potentially life-changing interventions and supports. All children deserve access to health care that allows them to treat the problems associated with their disability. Please do not cut Medicaid. It is beyond cruel to deprive [me] / [my son/my daughter] of [my] / [his/her] health care, so that millionaires and billionaires can receive a tax break.

I expect a response by mail. Please tell me what steps you will take to ensure **expanded** Medicaid coverage for individuals with autism and other special needs, nationwide. Please tell me what steps you will take to oppose the AHCA.

Thank you,

FULL NAME

Address Line 1

Address Line 2