Federal Policy Update

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115th Congress – political context

• Republicans lead all three branches of gov’t
  – Republicans hold majority in Senate (52-48) and House (194-241)

• Slim majority and very partisan

• Republican party fractured

• Leads to inaction
Administration and Congress Priorities

• Repeal Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
• Block grant or Cap Medicaid
• Tax cuts
• Increase Defense spending; cut NDD
• Reduce regulations
• Education – focus on vouchers
• Immigration reform
• Protect Social Security and Medicare
Response

- Largest national coalition of disability organizations
- Unify around protecting Medicaid and repeal of ACA and other cuts to supports to community living
- Unite with other health and LTSS coalitions
Health Care

• President Trump and Congress goal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare)
• Congress was not ready to “replace” the ACA
• No regular process
• Tried to push through using reconciliation
• Not expecting our strong opposition!
Repeal bill timeline

• March 24 – 1\textsuperscript{st} House bill pulled due to not enough votes
• May 4 – House passes revised American Health Care Act 217-213
• July 27 – After Senate rejects 2 bills, McConnell introduces scaled back repeal bill but McCain, joins Collins and Murkowski, to it 49-51.
• September – Graham-Cassidy Zombie bill came close but also failed to garner enough votes for consideration
Return to Regular Order?

• July 27 – HELP Committee Chairman Alexander announces bipartisan hearings on stabilization of the ACA marketplaces
  – Committee hearings with governors and insurance commissioners
• CHIP reauthorization passes Senate committees week of Oct. 2
• Attach stabilization bill to moving vehicle?
• RAISE Act passes via Unanimous Consent!
Next threats – budget and tax

- House Budget Resolution passed week of Oct. 5
- **Paves the way for massive tax cuts benefiting the wealthy**
- Non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs that include education, housing, health, employment, and transportation are cut by $1.3 trillion while simultaneously increasing defense spending by $930 billion.
- Medicaid and other health care programs are cut by $1.5 trillion.
- A directive to cut $52 billion in cuts, putting critical programs at risk.
- $4 billion in cuts to Social Security
- Cutting Medicare by $487 billion and converting it to a premium support system
- A policy on unauthorized appropriations that could effectively end numerous federal programs and remove decision making from appropriators.
Tax Plan

• Results in loss of $2.4 trillion in revenue over 10 years.
• Mostly benefits most prosperous; hurts middle and lower income earners
  – top 1 percent (incomes above $730,000) would receive 80% of all the tax cuts after ten years.
• Trillions of unspecified cuts would be needed to balance the budget over 10 years.
• Creates pressure to cut many programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, education and housing.
• Allows for another ACA repeal bill.
How Do These Policies Impact families?

• Cumulative result is far less funding for programs that support families caring for children and adults
  – Expect cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, S.S., SNAP, TANF and other programs over time

• Families will be relied on more than ever to provide all the supports
What to do

• Go to town hall meetings
• Meet with State legislators, Governor, and U.S. Senators
• Ask them to analyze policy proposal impact on supporting families
• Tell them your personal stories about Medicaid, ACA, Lifespan Respite, RAISE and other federal laws that provide support
• Hold Members of Congress accountable!
• VOTE, run for offices, speak up
Annual Disability Policy Seminar in Washington DC

April 23-25, 2018

http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/
AUCD Legislative Priorities

- Employment
- Health Care
- Social Security
- Education
- Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in the Community
Resources

• AUCD: http://www.aucd.org
  – AUCD Public Policy News In Brief
  – Action Center
  – Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All

• Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD): http://www.c-c-d.org

• Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights: www.LCCHR.org

• Coalition for Health Funding: www.publichealthfunding.org/
Questions?

UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

—The Lorax