

# Federal Policy Update

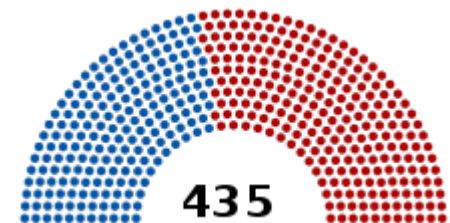
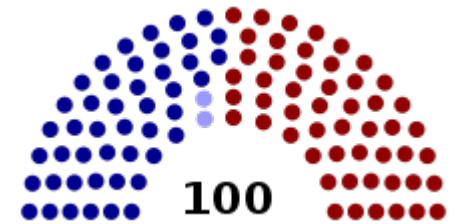


Kim Musheno, Director of Public Policy AUCD  
October 2017



# 115<sup>th</sup> 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





CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

[www.c-c-d.org](http://www.c-c-d.org)



# 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



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# 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<sup>st</sup> 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
- 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



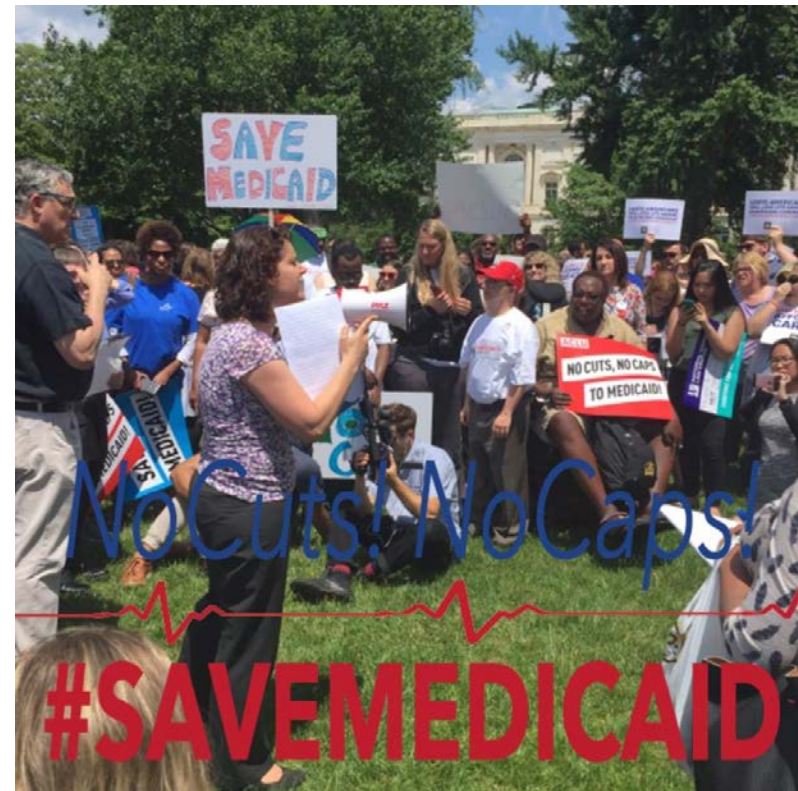
# How Do These Policies Impact families?

- 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



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# Annual Disability Policy Seminar in Washington DC

April 23-25, 2018

<http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>

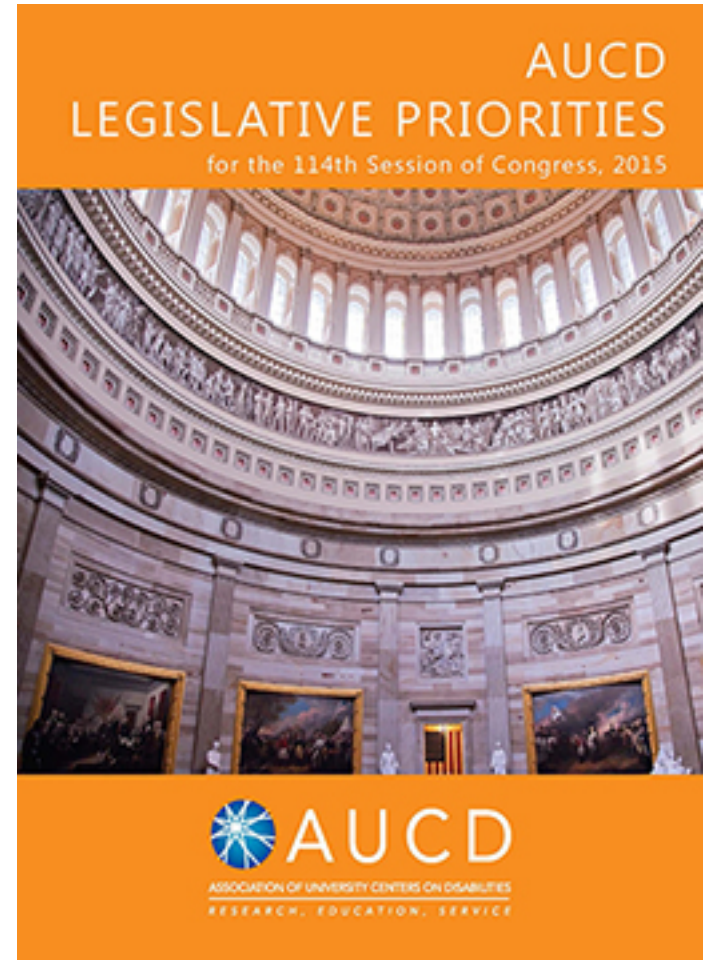


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# AUCD Legislative Priorities

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



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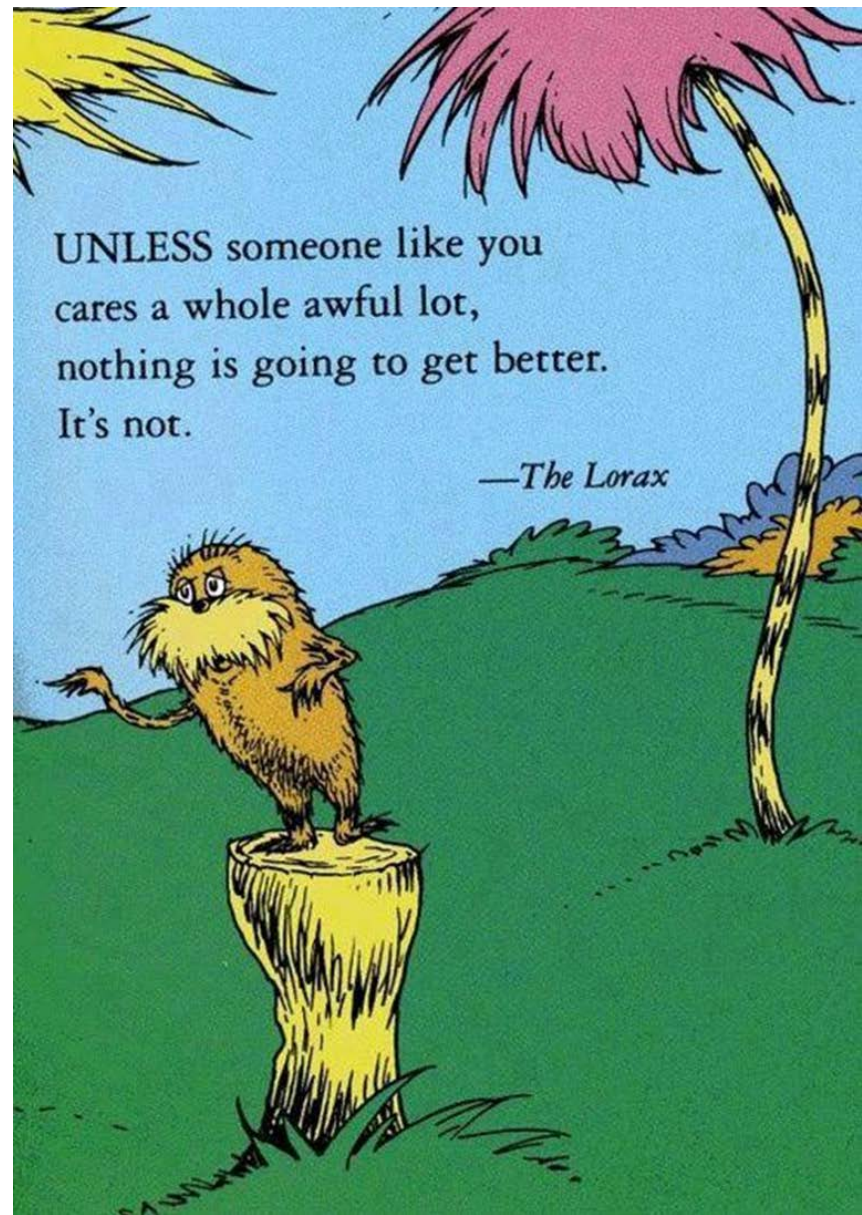
# Resources



- AUCD: <http://www.aucd.org>
  - AUCD Public Policy News *In Brief*
  - Action Center
  - Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All
  - DPS fact sheets:  
<http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2250>
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD):  
<http://www.c-c-d.org>
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights:  
[www.LCCHR.org](http://www.LCCHR.org)
- Coalition for Health Funding:  
[www.publichealthfunding.org/](http://www.publichealthfunding.org/)



## Questions?



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