

# Looking Through the Federal Lens (Albeit Foggy!)



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# Revised AHCA Draft

- **UNCHANGED:** Draft maintains key provisions of AHCA:
  - Repeals Medicaid expansion option for new states
  - Repeals enhanced match for Medicaid coverage up to 138% of poverty
  - Converts Medicaid to a per capita capped or block grant system
  - Cuts over \$800 billion from Medicaid over ten years
- **NEW:** States can now determine for themselves:
  - Definition of essential health benefits (2020)
  - Whether to impose increased premiums for uninsured individuals (2019)
  - Coverage rates based on individual's age and health status (2019)



# What does this mean?

- **Waiving essential health benefits**
  - States could *remove or alter required health services from plans in their states*, including mental health and addiction care.
- **Waiving protections based on health and age**
  - States could allow insurers to *charge people w/ pre-existing conditions higher premiums*, pushing some out of affordable coverage.
  - States could allow insurers to *charge older individuals more for coverage* than younger people, again pushing some out of affordable coverage.



# AHCA Timeline

**March 6** – American Health Care Act introduced

**March 8-16** – House committees consider and approve the bill

**March 21** – Manager’s Amendment released

**March 23** – Vote by full chamber postponed; add’l changes proposed overnight

**March 24** – AHCA withdrawn from consideration; “Obamacare is the law of the land”

**April 25** – MacArthur Amendment released

**April 28** – Vote by full chamber postponed



# AHCA's prospects

- Unclear whether House can get to 216 votes
- Major hurdles still exist to pass the Senate.



*"These kinds of estimates are going to cause revisions in the bill, almost certainly."*

**Senator Susan Collins**  
(R-ME) 3/13/17



*"Can't sugarcoat it. Doesn't look good. The CBO score was, shall we say, an eye-popper."* **Senator Bill Cassidy**  
(R-LA) 3/13/17



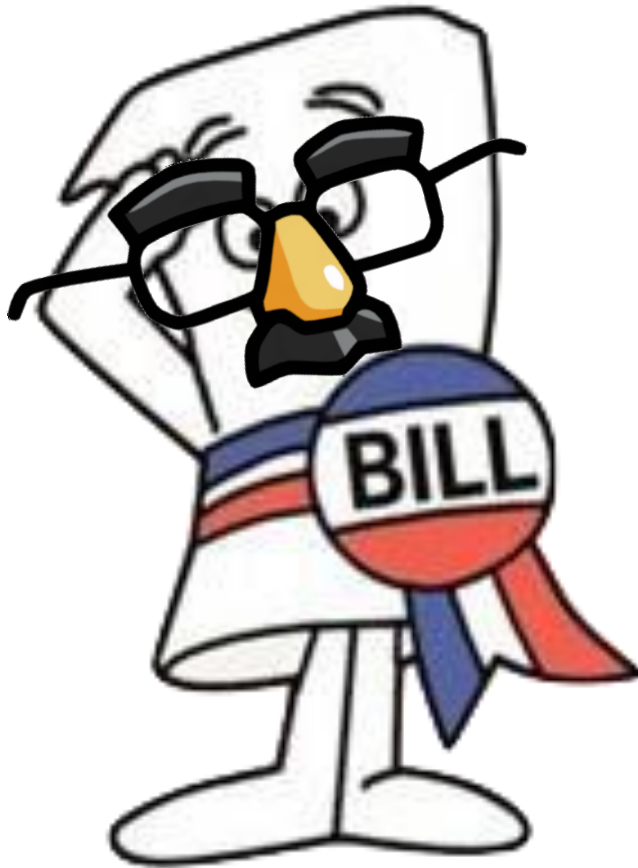
*"We're not going to vote for it."* **Senator Rand Paul**  
(R-KY) 3/12/17

*“After months of partisan bickering, Congress has finally agreed to put a Slinky on an escalator and see if it goes forever.”*





# What's next for AHCA?



# Lessons learned

**Tom Price and Seema Verma are the most important health care people in Washington.**



*Dr. Tom Price  
Secretary of the  
Dept. of Health and  
Human Services*



*Seema Verma,  
Administrator of  
the Centers for  
Medicare and  
Medicaid Services*



# Policymaking through regulations

- Essential Health Benefits
- Commercial market reforms
- Presumptive eligibility
- Preventive services
- Medicaid state “flexibility”



WHAT'S NEXT?

# Medicaid waivers

## Concerning proposals emerging via waivers

- Work requirements
- Lock-out periods
- Increased cost sharing
- Drug testing
- Penalizing enrollees for “inappropriate” use of services
- And more...?



# Medicaid waivers

## Promising approaches

- Increased focus on integrated care
- Expanding service array for first-episode psychosis
- Improving care transitions post-incarceration
- Increased use of medication-assisted treatment
- Permitting residential SUD treatment >16 beds



# Where does that leave states?

- Federal deference to state “flexibility”
  - Potentially paired with decreased federal funding
  - Potentially significant admin costs of new requirements
- Waivers to increase access to MH/SUD care
  - Without addressing rates and capacity → empty promises
- Lessons from MD and MA



# Looking ahead...

**...the uncertainty isn't over.**

- Government funding expires early May
- FY 2018 must be settled by October 1
- Debt ceiling set to expire this year
- CHIP expires Sept. 30
- Other proposals include: tax reform, infrastructure, border wall, national security



# Your advocacy worked!



Chris Murphy   
@ChrisMurphyCT

Following



FYI for all the focus on the Freedom Caucus, what brought down this bill were moderate Rs who bailed bc of grassroots pressure back home.





# Stay engaged



**UNITE4BH**



# As former Senate Majority Leader Everett Dirksen (R-IL) said...



*“When I feel the heat,  
I see the light.”*

# Questions?

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