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## We need **YOUR** help to protect children's access to health care!

Over the next two weeks, the United States Senate is preparing to pass health care legislation. We need your help to urge them to preserve Medicaid in any bill they consider by joining **AAP's Days of Action on June 15th & June 22nd**. Here's how:

1. **Call, call, call.** Right now is a critical window to influence the Senate health care proposal and the most effective way to do so at this point in the process is with phone calls. Each call is logged and the net effect is for Senators to get the message that their constituents feel strongly about protecting Medicaid. (more instructions below)
2. **Share your story.** Use social media to share why Medicaid matters to you and your patients. Write a blog or op-ed about your experience and call out your Senators.
3. **Spread the word.** Email your colleagues and urge them to join you in inundating the Senate on the Days of Action, June 15th and June 22nd, with phone calls. There is power in numbers to stop harmful Medicaid proposals from being included in the final bill, but we need every voice chiming in together.

### How to Call Your Senators & What to Say

On these two Days of Action, **June 15th & again on June 22nd**, pick up the phone and call Senators Joe Donnelly and Todd Young to urge them to protect Medicaid from cuts or caps in any bill they consider. Here's how:

#### Senator Joe Donnelly Office Numbers

Washington, DC: (202) 224-4814  
Evansville: (812)425-5813  
Fort Wayne: (260) 420-4955  
Hammond: (219) 852-0089  
Indianapolis: (317) 226-5555  
Jeffersonville: (812) -284-2027  
South Bend: (574) 288-2780

#### Senator Todd Young Office Numbers

Washington, DC: (202) 224-5623  
Indianapolis: (317) 226-6700  
New Albany: (812) 542-4820

- Call your Senators using the numbers above. Start with their DC office and if you

can't get through, try the district office closest to where you live. If you have time, ask for a local meeting in the state. If you don't have time to meet, say the following when you call:

- Hello. I am pediatrician from {your town} and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am calling today to urge {Senator Donnelly/Young} to oppose any funding cuts or caps to Medicaid in your health care bill.
- Medicaid covers children from low-income families and children with special health care needs. It's a lifeline program for 564,000 children in our state.
- I am deeply concerned with any proposal to cut or cap federal funding for Medicaid in any way. Doing so would shift costs to states, likely leading to enrollment and benefit cuts, and leaving children worse off.
- Insert brief anecdote if you have one of a patient on Medicaid who would be impacted
- Through Medicaid, children are guaranteed benefits that cover a comprehensive array of medically necessary services, including developmental, vision and hearing screenings. Pediatricians recommend these services because they help diagnose, treat and prevent complex conditions right away, saving money and lives. Capping Medicaid funding means these services could be rolled back or eliminated altogether.
- In addition, Medicaid expansion allowed many previously uninsured parents to gain coverage, making them better able to care for their children. Any efforts to cap Medicaid funding or phase out Medicaid expansion would be devastating to children and their families.
- Please protect children's health care coverage and oppose any funding cuts or caps to Medicaid in any health care bill you consider.

## **Share Messages on Social Media: #DontCapMyCare & #KeepKidsCovered**

Every day the next two weeks, but especially on Days of Action (**June 15th & June 22nd**), consider sharing messages on social media to urge the Senate to keep Medicaid strong. Below are some sample messages and ways to look up your Senators on Twitter to mention them specifically.

- The main hashtag AAP and our partners are using for this effort is #DontCapMyCare. #KeepKidsCovered is another hashtag you can incorporate into messages.
- Tag the following handles to help spread your message: @Ind\_AAP, @AmerAcadPeds, @AAPPres, @DrRemleyAAP.
- Engage the Senators' offices directly by using the handles @SenToddYoung and @SenDonnelly. Make sure to use .@ if you are beginning your tweet with the Senator's Twitter handle, as indicated below.

## Sample Messages

- .@\_\_\_\_\_ : Medicaid gives IN kids a better chance for a healthy future. #DontCapMyCare
- .@\_\_\_\_\_ : I'm a pediatrician & my patients have one message: #DontCapMyCare. Keep Medicaid strong & #KeepKidsCovered!
- Medicaid matters for children. @\_\_\_\_\_ #DontCapMyCare. Protect Medicaid in your health care bill.

## Write a Blog or Op-ed About Protecting Medicaid from Caps or Cuts

Using the Senate talking points as a guide, consider writing a personal story about how capping Medicaid funding would impact your patients by writing a blog or op-ed in a local or national media outlet. **Aim to publish the piece by June 22nd.** INAAP is here to help if you'd like to bounce ideas off of us or need help polishing the piece.

INAAP Vice President Tony GiaQuinta recently published a blog post on this issue, and you can look at that as an example. His blog post is available [HERE](#).

## Spread the Word: Encourage Other Pediatricians to Join In

Send an email to your networks along the lines of what's below, urging them to join you in these Days of Action. There is power in numbers, and the more touch points senators receive from constituents and child health experts, the more likely the message gets through.

Dear colleagues:

As a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I have been asked to engage in two Days of Action to protect Medicaid on **June 15th and June 22nd.** The Senate is considering a health care bill as we speak that could be introduced any day and passed by the fourth of July recess. Since the process has not been transparent, we don't yet know the final bill they're proposing, but what we do know is that Medicaid is at risk, and now is the time to speak out.

Please join me in these two days of action to call your U.S. senators and urge them to vote "no" on any proposal that cuts or caps Medicaid funding in any way. Doing so would jeopardize the way the program works now to effectively cover 37 million children, and would leave children and families worse off.

Thanks for your help,

{insert name here}

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See what's happening on our social sites

