



Achieve with us.

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The Honorable Cory Booker
One Gateway Center
23rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Senator Booker:

Please Protect the Lifeline

We are writing to you today on behalf of the thousands of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families living in New Jersey. We strongly urge you to oppose any repeal of the ACA without a replacement plan that maintains or improves existing coverage and access. Americans with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities rely on their health coverage to maintain their independence and meet their medical needs.

The ACA allowed states, including New Jersey, to extend their Medicaid programs to low income adults. This change has provided coverage to millions of people, including individuals with I/DD and other disabilities and chronic health conditions who were not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. The ACA also provided federal money to support Medicaid expansion. The additional federal contribution to expanding Medicaid has helped more people access health care without harming the existing programs that provide supports and services to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Finally the ACA included strong nondiscrimination provisions and health insurance reforms such as preventing insurers from charging people with disabilities and health conditions significantly more for health insurance coverage and eliminating annual and lifetime caps on health coverage. Several provisions of the ACA were designed to assist states to rebalance their long term supports systems and invest in the community instead of costly and outdated institutions. These include the Community First Choice Option (CFC) and the State Plan Home and Community-Based Services Option (also known as Sections 1915(k) and 1915(i)).

If you support repeal of the ACA, you support cutting an essential lifeline for people with disabilities in New Jersey. We urge you not to vote to repeal without ensuring that the replacement legislation addresses these vital concerns and maintains or improves access to comprehensive and affordable health care.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Robert Hage
President
and father of a daughter with
developmental disabilities

Thomas Baffuto
Executive Director