

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

BUILDING TRUST, CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

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July 6, 2017

The Honorable [first & last name]
United States [House of Representatives/or/Senate]
Room [#], [Name of] [House or Senate] Office Building
Washington, DC [House ZIP = 20510; Senate ZIP = 20515]

Subject: H.R. 1628: Better Care Reconciliation Act

Dear Senator/Representative [last name]:

We write to amplify the concerns of Pennsylvania-based charitable nonprofits as the 115th Congress considers the Senate Health Care Bill currently on the floor. While we appreciate the complexities of health care reform, **we need a bill that will expand rather than contract affordable coverage and that will promote affordability for all Americans.**

As a 920 member organization, PANO encourages grassroots advocacy between our members and your district offices. We also seek to inform you when our members collectively come together around a common issue. And this bill is one of those issues. Of the 106 participants responding to last week's survey:

- **87%** oppose the legislation
- **7%** support the legislation
- **7%** are undecided

Impact on Vulnerable Pennsylvanians and Nonprofit Activity

Those opposed to the bill named various groups of vulnerable Pennsylvania citizens who would be negatively impacted by this bill including: those in need of drug and alcohol treatment (e.g. those addicted to heroin and opioids), persons with disabilities (e.g. autism, intellectual disabilities), those seeking education and job placement and senior citizens. Survey participants said the following about their clients:

- *Our consumers, who are individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will suffer greatly, their lifeline will be cut. Many will no longer be able to live independently, and their assimilation and integration into the community will erode, but most important, in almost all cases we have, their LIVES depend on Medicaid.*
- *Most of our clients do NOT have private insurance. This proposed legislation would be devastating in the middle of a heroin epidemic.*
- *Our clients already have enough challenges and barriers to education and employment. If one more is added, some might just give up and not continue the free job training program or not enroll at all.*
- *Those with Alzheimer's disease will definitely feel the Medicaid cuts. It is a disease that wipes out family resources and causes loss of job long before worst of disease kicks in.*
- *Diabetes costs would significantly increase, costing our clients more for medical care they cannot afford.*
- *Veteran Community would be without help for service-connected ailments.*

Themes that ran throughout the survey included the following:

- Client and employee health would deteriorate without access to healthcare.
- Demand for nonprofit services would increase, adding stress to already strapped employees and organizational budgets. At the same time, fewer dollars would flow to organizations due to decreased Medicaid.
- Employees would experience higher healthcare costs, with even less coverage.
- The economy would be impacted as jobs would be lost and some organizations would need to close.

One member stated: *It's unconscionable that how [this bill] could even be considered.*

For full survey results, visit our website at www.pano.org.

PANO's Position

PANO joins with our members providing critical services in Pennsylvania and the National Council of Nonprofits in opposing this bill.

We urge you to expand healthcare access and reject proposals that would cause millions of Americans to lose their coverage or make harmful changes to Medicaid.

1. Healthcare coverage should be affordable, attainable and adequate to meet the health needs of children, families and individuals.
2. Medicaid is critical to families and communities. Currently, Medicaid provides comprehensive and affordable healthcare coverage to over 97 million Americans who would otherwise go uninsured. These include our most vulnerable populations: children, seniors and people with disabilities.
3. Children with Medicaid protects working families from financial hardships and ensures their children have healthcare to remain healthy and have the opportunity to succeed in school.

We ask you to support our communities by opposing this bill and seeking to come to a solution that provides affordable, attainable and adequate healthcare for all children, families and individuals living in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Gingerich
Executive Director
PANO

Don Kramer, Esquire
Public Policy Committee Chair
PANO

About PANO

PANO amplifies the impact of the community benefit sector through advocacy, collaboration, learning and support. PANO, a statewide membership organization serving over 900 nonprofits, walks alongside organizations and individuals working to improve the quality of life in communities throughout Pennsylvania. To learn more about PANO, please visit: www.pano.org.

