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**From:** Arizona Alliance For Retired Americans <azretiredamericans@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** District1; DIST2; District3; District4; District5  
**Cc:** Henry Trejo; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support Resolution 2017-43 today to protect Retirees and Seniors Healthcare

Dear Chairwoman Bronson and Pima County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans and our 44,000 members statewide, **I urge you to support Resolution 2017-43 in opposition to the AHCA**, the disastrous health care plan recklessly passed by the House of Representatives last month and is currently being discussed in secret by the Senate.

Republicans in the U.S. Senate are almost finished writing their version of a new health care system. But right now nobody can tell you what it will mean to you. In fact, only a few senators know what's in it. Reportedly a couple of Republican staffers were asked when the bill would become public. They said it wouldn't because, "we aren't stupid."

We do know this much from leaks. Like the House version over 23 million of us will lose coverage. Those of us with "pre-existing conditions" will be out of luck. Insurance companies will cover us but at sky high, unaffordable rates.

Candidate Donald Trump promised that he would not cut Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. He even pointed out that separated him from the other Republicans in the field. But five months into President Trump held a celebration at the White House when the House version passed the bill. That bill, were it to become law, would be devastating to Medicaid with \$834 billion cut over the next ten years.

When combined with cuts already outlined in the Trump administration proposed budget, Medicaid's funding will be reduced by over \$1.4 trillion in the next ten years.

By changing the Medicaid payment structure to a per-capita cap instead of the unlimited federal match that is currently used, the American Health Care Act (AHCA) would limit the funding that states can use for their Medicaid programs. This means rationing care, tightening restrictions for eligibility, and increasing out-of-pocket costs.

These cuts also include terminating the Medicaid expansion. Under the current law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states can choose to accept increased federal funding to increase their Medicaid enrollment. Arizona has been participating in this expansion since 2013. Since accepting the expansion, the uninsured rate in the state has dropped by 33%. Almost a fifth of Arizona's total Medicaid expenditures come from the federal funds expansion. The expansion rollback alone could lead to loss of coverage for over 57,000 Arizonans. And the Congressional Budget Office predicts that at least 465,200 people in the Arizona could lose coverage if the Republican plan became law.

Thousands of Arizona seniors would suffer under the proposed bill. 128,500 seniors were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014. Costs for health care of those over 65 was \$1.2 billion -- over 13% of the program's total expenditures.

Medicaid supports more than half of national spending on long-term care, such as nursing homes, including \$50 million last year in Arizona . Because long-term care is technically considered an optional service, it is in special danger of being reduced or cut by states that are dealing with decreased Medicaid funding.

With a year of nursing home care costing as much as \$90,000, Medicaid is an essential service for our state's, and our nation's, seniors.

Arizona's seniors use the program for more than long-term care. Medicaid can make Medicare more affordable by funding co-pays and other costs that would fall on the individuals to pay. Eleven percent of Arizona seniors, and one in three nationwide, fall below the poverty line, making Medicaid essential for seniors to pay their monthly Medicare Part B copays.

The bill that passed the House last month and prompted the White House celebration is a complete overhaul of the current health care system signed into law by President Obama's ACA. But it isn't the "repeal and replace" Republicans had promised for years. Were it to become law, essential services for all Americans, especially seniors, would be redistributed to corporations and the wealthiest in our society.

So how bad is this bill really? CNN and other news media reported that at a White House luncheon the President told Republican senators that the House-passed health care bill he celebrated in the Rose Garden just weeks ago was "mean."

With the lives of millions of Americans at stake, this "mean" bill cannot become law. The future of American health care must be one where all people can live safe, healthy lives as they grow older. The AHCA is a step backward from such a world.

And our Senators McCain and Flake must reject it. We must send them a clear message, and by passing Resolution 2017-43 today you will do just that.

Thank you,

Doug Hart

President, Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans

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cc: Henry Trejo, President Southern AZ Chapter of the AZ Alliance for Retired Americans

Kitty Kennedy, National Community Board Member, Alliance for Retired Americans

**From:** Tory Roberg <troberg@azaficio.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** District1; DIST2; District3; District4; District5  
**Cc:** Fred Yamashita  
**Subject:** From the AZ AFL-CIO in Support of Resolution No. 2017-43

Dear Chairwoman Bronson, Supervisor Miller, Supervisor Valadez, Supervisor Christy, and Supervisor Elias,

On behalf of the Arizona AFL-CIO and our 188,000 members statewide, we urge you to support Resolution No. 2017-43 "Opposition of Repeal of Affordable Care Act and Enactment of American Health Care Act" in your meeting this morning.

The new plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act will confiscate health care benefits from millions of people, hand a big tax break to the wealthy few while taxing working people's health benefits.

There is something wrong with our system when working people are forced to forego lifesaving treatments in order to put food on the table. Americans want and need health care that allows children to grow into their potential and grandparents to be an active part of family life.

We have taken important—but imperfect steps—toward providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all. Today, the share of Americans who are uninsured is at a historical low. That's thanks to the combined impact of workers' health plans, strong Medicare and Medicaid programs, and the Affordable Care Act's protections against unaffordable private health insurance.

Still, too many people do not have health insurance. Medical care and prescription drug prices are too high, which drives up the cost of health insurance and sticks working people and retirees with exorbitant deductibles, co-pays and co-insurance.

Now, Washington politicians are trying to ram their ill-conceived plans secretly through the Senate. If they succeed, millions of working people and retirees will be stripped of their health benefits, coverage will be far more expensive, workers' health plans will be taxed and federal health care funding will be raided to give huge tax cuts to the very wealthy and corporations.

The Republican Senate leadership has a problem. They want to follow through on their promise to give big tax cuts to drug and insurance company CEOs, but their plan to pay for those cuts by reducing health care coverage for millions of working and retired Americans is very unpopular.

Their solution? Skip the normal process of committee hearings and open discussion in favor of secret negotiations among a hand picked group of insiders.

The plan is working. **By hiding the bill from the public they've managed to keep discussion off of the front pages and news shows.** Once the details are revealed, there will be no time to react before Majority Leader Mitch McConnell rushes the bill to the floor for a vote before the July 4th recess.

**That's why it's important to act now. Support Resolution No. 2017-43 to show your opposition to the repeal of the ACA and the enactment of the AHCA.**

We must send a clear message to Senators Flake and McCain that Arizonans will not support their vote for the ill-conceived AHCA, that in the House form would eliminate health insurance coverage for millions of Americans to pay for

tax cuts for millionaires. This includes 465,200 Arizonans who will lose their health insurance coverage by 2026 (source).

**Send the message to Senators Flake and McCain – Support Resolution No. 2017-43 today.**

Respectfully,

Tory

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Cc: Fred Yamashita, Pima Area Labor Federation Chair