



March 14, 2017

Dear Representative:

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and California School Boards Association (CSBA) strongly oppose the American Health Care Act's (AHCA) proposed changes to Medicaid. On behalf of ACSA's more than 17,000 school leader members and CSBA's 5,000+ locally elected school board members, we are writing to urge you to oppose the bill's passage in the form approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

The AHCA proposes to change federal Medicaid financing by creating a per capita model, which will establish per enrollee limits on federal payments to States. This approach, which experts project will cut program funding by 25% to 35%, will have a devastating impact on the ability of California school districts to serve disabled and low-income students. Absent this essential federal support for our most vulnerable populations, schools will not only struggle to provide high quality services to students with disabilities, but will also have great difficulty in meeting the federal mandates associated with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Additionally, tens of thousands of California kids will lose access to school based Medicaid services that offer vitally important services such as immunizations, asthma and diabetes treatments, and vision and hearing screenings. Losing these and other Medicaid supported services will not only harm children eligible for the program, but also disrupt other students' learning opportunities and create broader public health challenges.

Please vote "no" on the AHCA if it comes to the House floor in its present form and work hard to ensure that any Medicaid or other health reforms enacted by Congress do not negatively impact California's students. If ACSA and CSBA can provide any specific information to help you evaluate this vitally important education and healthcare issue, please let us know.

Sincerely,

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