

Health Care in Motion

Timely, Substantive Updates on Policy Shifts · Actionable Advocacy to Protect Health Care

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Graham-Cassidy and the Song that Never Ends

This week the Senate's latest repeal-and-replace effort, [the Graham-Cassidy Plan](#),¹ has been gaining traction and threatening to undermine our nation's health care system. Introduced by Senators [Lindsey Graham \(R-SC\)](#), [Bill Cassidy \(R-LA\)](#), [Dean Heller \(R-NV\)](#), and [Ron Johnson \(R-WI\)](#), the Plan would undo critical consumer protections put in place by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It would also gut funding for traditional Medicaid and leave states without the means to provide quality health care coverage for low-income residents.

While two Republican Senators² have already come out against the Graham-Cassidy Plan, making the path to passage more difficult, **advocates should continue to make their voices heard to protect the ACA**. This upcoming week will be critical to the fight to protect access to care for vulnerable populations.

Down to the Wire – Procedural Moves and Last Ditch Efforts

As detailed in prior [Health Care in Motion](#) pieces, the Senate has been using the complex process known as reconciliation to advance their repeal-and-replace efforts through the Senate. The Senate parliamentarian has [ruled](#) that the time for that process will expire at the end of this month. As a result, Graham-Cassidy backers must secure a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score and bring the bill up for a vote by September 30th. The CBO has already [indicated](#) that it will only be able to provide a preliminary assessment of whether the Plan would reduce deficits as much as the American Health Care Act (passed by the House in May). While this partial score appears to be sufficient to check the procedural box, it means senators will be voting without an understanding of the full ramifications of the Plan. Independent estimates have concluded that the Graham-Cassidy Plan would reduce federal funding to states by [\\$215 billion](#).

Further, in what many advocates see as an effort [to ostensibly return to regular order](#), the Senate Finance Committee has also scheduled a hearing for Monday, September 25th at 2:00 pm Eastern.³ While this hearing is unlikely to provide a meaningful opportunity for debate, it does offer advocates another opportunity to voice their opinions on the Graham-Cassidy Plan. Advocates and consumers are urged to submit testimonies, including personal stories and comments, to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov.

A vote, if one occurs, would most likely be next [Wednesday](#), September 27th. estimates on how much Medicaid expansion states stand to lose under the Graham-Cassidy bill, click [here](#).)

¹ For an analysis of the Graham-Cassidy Plan, please see our prior Health Care in Motion piece [here](#).

² [Senator Rand Paul](#) (R-Ky) and [Senator John McCain](#) (R-AZ).

³ The hearing will be live streamed [here](#).

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The Time for Action

In light of this timeline, this is a critical period for advocates to speak up. National HIV advocates are gathering together to make their voices heard and let Congress know that they **must vote NO** on any repeal or replacement of the ACA. To join these efforts, advocates should:

**HIV Advocates
Call your Senators!**

1-866-246-9371

Say: "I demand that you VOTE NO on ACA repeal. Repeal will take insurance from as many as 32 million Americans and will dismantle Medicaid as we know it. All Americans deserve better."

1. Call **(866) 246-9371** to tell your senator to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.
2. Organize or [attend a phone bank](#) to mobilize more calls to senators.
3. [Join a rally or die-in](#) outside of your senators' district offices. Or grab a few friends and show up outside their local offices with signs. Tell their staff that you want the Senator to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.
4. Take to social media to tell senators to vote NO. Use the hashtag #KilltheBill and [post/tweet directly](#) to your senators!

Additional resources on how to defeat the Plan can be found at **Positive Women's Network's [#KilltheBill Graham-Cassidy Resource Center](#)**. For more information on the Graham-Cassidy Plan and how advocates can get engaged, listen to our recorded webinar, "Red Alert: ACA Repeal Gaining Traction". To listen to the program, please contact MTomazic@law.harvard.edu.

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