



## **Talking Points to Fight the Senate Health Care Repeal Bill and Highlight the Harm for People with Substance Use Disorders**

- Senate Republicans are trying to force through a disastrous health care repeal bill that would make deep cuts to Medicaid, eliminating life-saving drug and alcohol treatment for millions of low-income Americans. The repeal bill would also weaken state initiatives to address addiction and overdose deaths.
- The Senate health care repeal bill would cause millions of people to lose health coverage and disproportionately hurt communities of color, where access to coverage and treatment for substance use disorders is already limited.
- We cannot tolerate the proposed plan to cap states' Medicaid spending. During a public health crisis, such as the current surge in drug overdose deaths, states would be forced to turn people away or make deep cuts to the services covered.
- Federal oversight of Medicaid dollars helps ensure that people with substance use disorders get the care they need. The repeal bill would restrict that oversight, and leave people with substance use disorders more vulnerable.
- The repeal bill would undermine guarantees that private insurance cover treatment for substance use disorders and mental illness. That could cost more people their lives. Tackling addiction requires reliable coverage and access to long-term treatment and recovery supports.
- The proposed work requirements and onerous eligibility process for Medicaid in the Senate bill will keep consumers from accessing life-saving drug and alcohol treatment and will weaken states' efforts to address addiction and overdose deaths.

Don't let your senators be swayed by promises of federal emergency opioid response funding:

- Emergency opioid response funding is no replacement for reliable health care coverage. This proposed "opioid fund" would not make up for deep cuts in Medicaid and a return to private insurance policies that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, including substance use disorders. We can't afford to return to a time when many state Medicaid programs and private insurers covered only short-term, minimal treatment for substance use disorders, if they covered it at all.