

# **REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

**WHY CUTS TO MEDICAID MATTER TO PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS**

**MARCH 15, 2017**

# Why does this matter to schools?

- The ACA repeal bill proposes \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid over 10 years, 25% of the program.
- Medicaid pays for health-care related services for special education students through PA's reimbursement program - ACCESS
- PA schools receive approximately \$145 million in Medicaid funds.

# Introductions

- Today we're going to hear from Sen. Casey's key advisors on education and health care:
  - Jared Solomon -- Gillian Mueller
  - Chris Friese
- They will explain in more detail how PA's schools benefited – via Medicaid -- from the ACA (also known as Obamacare) and how the ACA replacement fails public schools.

# What's Next?

- Stop the American Health Care Act from going to the House floor.
- Ask members of Congress to protect Medicaid.
- Call your U.S. Representative:

<b>Rep. Ryan Costello (R-Chester)</b>	<b>Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Allegheny)</b>
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Bucks)	Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-Lancaster)
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-Centre)	Rep. Pat Meehan (R-Delaware)

# What does Medicaid or School Based ACCESS Mean in PA?

- Reimburses school districts & intermediate units for special education services like:
  - Speech Language Therapy
  - Occupational & Physical Therapy
  - Nursing Services
  - Behavioral & Mental Health Services
  - Specialized Transportation
- Reimburses for health services for eligible students – things like vision screenings and care for diabetes and asthma.
- Covers early intervention preschool services.

# Dollars & Cents

- For school year 2014-2015, the most recent year with complete data, PA districts and intermediate units received **\$145 million in Medicaid funds**.
- Over 500 school districts, intermediate units, and specialized schools in every corner of the state received reimbursements.
- For example:
  - Erie, Shaler Area, Abington, Central Bucks School Districts – \$500,000 each
  - Allentown School District – \$1.2 million      City of Lancaster – \$1 million
  - Pittsburgh Schools – \$3.5 million      Philadelphia Schools – \$9.3 million
  - Allegheny IU – \$1.8 million      Chester County IU – \$2 million



# What will happen under the House Plan?

- According to the Congressional Budget Office, under the House bill over a 10 year period, 24 million people will lose health coverage and nearly \$1 trillion will be cut from Medicaid.
- Under a “per capita cap,” which locks in the amount of money a state will receive per person, budgets will be forced to shrink.
- States will be forced to pick and choose the services they continue to pay for – likely meaning the ACCESS program would be at risk.
- With a shrinking budget, schools would still be required to provide IDEA related services, so they would have to likely cut the budget in other places to maintain existing supports.

# Healthcare Implications

- The American Healthcare Act (AHCA) threatens care, jobs, and funding in Pennsylvania.
- 700,000 Pennsylvanians gained access to healthcare through Medicaid expansion.
- 180,000 Pennsylvanians gained access to critical mental health and substance abuse care through the Affordable Care Act.
- 56,000 Healthcare sector jobs at risk due to declining coverage and hospital reimbursements
- Estimated \$6 billion in hospital reimbursement cuts between 2018-2026

County	Current Medicaid Enrollees	Healthcare Jobs at Risk	Estimated Hospital Reimbursement Losses
Bucks	7,984	1,724	-\$199 million
Fayette	1,857	276	-\$22 million
Indiana	966	245	-\$17.5 million
Somerset	1,147	220	\$8.8 million



# What can you do?

- Fight like hell!
- Tell all your elected representatives – particularly at the federal level – that these cuts cannot go through.
- Be vocal, about what these funds mean to your schools & hospitals, students & patients, and your communities.
- Work with other groups like parents, patient advocates, superintendents, and school boards to highlight the importance of Medicaid.

