



STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

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WASHINGTON – May 4, 2017 – The **National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)** is deeply disappointed by the vote in the House of Representatives today on the American Health Care Act (AHCA). This vote, which passed narrowly by 217-213, is a step toward eliminating some of the rights that have been hard won for people who live with developmental and other disabilities and chronic health conditions.

The AHCA will not only make it more difficult for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions to find comprehensive, affordable and quality health care but also will dramatically reduce funding for the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program supports people with disabilities to learn, work, live and play in their communities. Today's vote in the House of Representatives is a step backward in supporting the rights of people with developmental and other disabilities to fully live in their community.

"The Medicaid program is a lifeline for people with developmental disabilities. Medicaid is what helps millions of individuals with disabilities to get supports to be successful students in school, good employees in the workplace and to live independently in the community. Our society is all the richer for having people with disabilities included in all facets of life and this bill will turn such progress back," said Donna Meltzer, Chief Executive Officer of NACDD.

The NACDD and its members, in every state and territory, look forward to working in a bipartisan manner to continue to educate and inform policymakers at all levels about the importance of the Medicaid program and the need for all children and adults with disabilities to have access to comprehensive, quality, affordable, accessible healthcare and supports.

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NACDD is the national association for the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) across the United States and its territories. The DD Councils receive federal funding to support programs that promote self-determination, integration and inclusion for all people in the United States with developmental disabilities.