

THE LANTERMAN COALITION

A coalition of statewide associations and organizations representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



April 13, 2017

Dear California Congressional Delegation Member,

The above members of the Lanterman Coalition are very concerned about the potential dire impacts the American Health Care Act will have on vulnerable people in California, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Our broad coalition is opposed to any proposals that conflict with our commitment to build supports and services in the community for people with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy, and all other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Governor Ronald Reagan signed The Lanterman Act into law, calling it a "dynamic framework on which we shall build a comprehensive system". The American Health Care Act threatens to dismantle that system by proposing sweeping changes to Medicaid, which would result in a loss of \$20 billion to California and cause enormous budget pressures on the supports and services people with I/DD and their families rely on. Without these supports and services (e.g. supported employment, supported living, early intervention, respite care, day programs, etc.) people with I/DD will have significantly greater challenges living a fulfilling life in the community, as embodied in the Lanterman Act.

Specifically, the Lanterman Coalition is opposed to:

- Elimination of the Medicaid expansion.
- Per-capita caps or block grant for Medicaid.
- Elimination of the prohibition for health insurers to deny coverage or charge more money to patients based on pre-existing conditions.
- Elimination of annual and lifetime limits on health coverage.

California has always been a leader among other states, and this current national discussion on the future of our health care is no different. We acknowledge that the votes of the California Congressional Delegation will be a critical deciding factor; therefore, the members of the Lanterman Coalition respectfully request that you carefully consider Californians with I/DD and their families in your vote.

Sincerely,

Jordan Lindsey
Chair, Lanterman Coalition
Executive Director, The Arc of California

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Lanterman Coalition consists of the 24 major stakeholders in California's community based developmental services system. Membership in the coalition requires a commitment to (1) the Preservation of the Lanterman Act and the entitlement [A], (2) no categorical elimination of services, (3) no enrollment caps or waiting lists, (4) no reductions to services and supports important to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families and (5) full support of the community imperative [B] and the Olmstead decision.

[A] It is through the IPP procedure that the right the Act grants to each developmentally disabled person and the obligation it imposes on the state are implemented; through it, the developmentally disabled person on an individual basis receives, as an entitlement, services that enable him to live a more independent and productive life in the community. (ARC v DDS). [B] In fulfillment of fundamental human rights and in securing optimum developmental opportunities, all people, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, are entitled to community living.

1. The Arc of California
2. United Cerebral Palsy California
3. Association of Regional Center Agencies
4. California Supported Living Network
5. California Disability Services Association
6. Family Resource Center Network of California
7. People First of California
8. Disability Rights California
9. Service Employees International Union.
10. Easter Seals
11. Cal-TASH
12. CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities
13. The Alliance
14. ResCoalition
15. Infant Development Association
16. California Respite Association
17. EducateAdvocate
18. California Association of Health Facilities
19. California APSE
20. Developmental Services Network
21. Autism Business Association
22. California Sibling Leadership Network
23. California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
24. Society of Care Home Operators