



Senior Advocate FYI

June 26, 2017

Last Thursday, U.S. Senate leadership released the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), a similar version of which was passed by the House in early June. The goal of the Senate's legislation is similar to the House's goal which is to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has analyzed the BCRA and determined roughly 22 million people would become uninsured over the next decade. The language would also cut \$772 million in spending on the Medicaid program over the same 10 year period. You can read the CBO's report on the BCRA [here](#).

The Senate legislation largely tracks with the House-passed AHCA with several key differences relating to the calculation of tax credits for people purchasing coverage in the individual marketplace as well as restrictions to federal funding for both the Medicaid expansion as well as the entire Medicaid program.

After the release of the Senate language, several well-known advocacy entities wrote summaries or have written letters to Senate leadership about the BCRA and its potential impact. You can read the summaries and letters below.

- [Leadership Council of Aging Organizations](#) – simple summary of impacts to older adults
- [National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities](#) – detailed side-by-side chart comparing the House AHCA and the Senate BCRA provisions

Additionally, the [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#) has analyzed the House language and provided some data about its impact to Minnesota. Once the department completes its analysis of the BCRA, it will post the same type of information regarding the Senate's BCRA.

Currently, Senate leadership is planning to hear and vote on the language before its July 4th break. This means a vote on the legislation may occur as early as the Thursday or Friday of this week. To pass, the Senate version will need a simple majority of 51 votes.

If you would like to contact your congressional delegates the easiest way to determine who represents you is to use the Minnesota State Legislature's website, [Who Represents Me?](#) It identifies and provides contact information for both your state and federal level elected officials. Each official's contact information is provided either directly or via a link to their website's contact information.

A subscription to the SA-FYI can be arranged by sending email addresses to Nate Patterson at nathaniel.j.patterson@state.mn.us. You may also contact Nate to be removed from this mailing list. Thank you for your ongoing interest in policy and legislative issues that affect older Minnesotans.

**Senior Advocates FYI is a periodic update from the
Minnesota Board on Aging.**