

## ➤ *Calls Needed by TODAY to Stop AHCA Again*



On Wednesday, April 26, members of the U.S. House Freedom Caucus announced they are now supporting the American Health Care Act (AHCA) because of new provisions added to the bill. Members of this caucus had previously opposed the AHCA because it didn't contain provisions they supported that would repeal the Affordable Care Act. [The added changes](#) would cause even greater harm to people with disabilities, their families, and other Minnesotans who depend on the protections provided by the ACA and the benefits they receive from Medicaid (i.e., Medical

Assistance). The new provisions would let states apply for waivers from ACA requirements that ban insurers from charging sick people higher premiums and mandate minimum insurance coverage requirements (the essential benefits package). States would have to offer high-risk pools as an alternative to these requirements in order to get approval for the waivers. The changes would drive up premiums for people with pre-existing conditions or even make insurance unaffordable for them, and would also take away health care coverage and benefits for disabling or existing medical conditions.

The new version of the AHCA could come to a vote this week - as early as this Friday, April 28th. Calls are needed once again to members of Minnesota's members in the U.S. House, especially to:

- ✓ Rep. Tom Emmer (202-225-2331, D.C.; 763-241-6848, local)
- ✓ Rep. Jason Lewis (202-225-2271, D.C., 651-846-2120, local)
- ✓ Rep. Erik Paulsen (202-225-2871, D.C.; 952-405-8510, local)
- ✓ Rep. Collin Peterson (202-225-2165; 218-847-5056, local)

If you don't know who your U.S. House member is, you can find that [online](#). Thanks for your phone calls; grassroots advocacy helped stop the first AHCA from coming to a vote; let's stop the second bill, too!

## ➤ *Another Opportunity to Explore Employment Possibilities*

After a productive evening at the "Work is Possible" workshop in Blaine on April 24<sup>th</sup>, The Arc Minnesota staff will collaborate again with partners on an all-day event in Greater Minnesota to increase employment possibilities for people with disabilities. Minnesota APSE is the lead organization for the May 9<sup>th</sup> training at Central Lakes College in Brainerd. Providers, employment professionals, families, people with disabilities, and case managers wanting to learn more about employment possibilities for individuals with disabilities will all benefit from one or more of the presentations that day. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information. Contact [Melinda Shamp](#) if you have any questions.

## ➤ *HHS Conference Committee Deliberates, Then Waits*

The health and human services conference (HHS) committee began meeting last week at the State Capitol. Before it completes any essential work, however, it must wait until the Governor and legislative leaders agree on conference committee budget targets. Earlier this week it was announced that budget targets will be announced this Friday, but yesterday we heard that at least the HHS budget target will be delayed until next week. Once the budget target is announced, the HHS conference committee will hold

a series of intense meetings to finalize the HHS bill. If you haven't responded to [our action alert from earlier this week](#), calling on the Governor and legislative leaders to raise the targets for health and human services, please do so.

### ➤ *Legislature Extends, Expands Autism Benefit*



The Minnesota House approved a bill on April 24th to expand benefits to individuals with autism and related conditions. This bill is meant to modify the 2013 law surrounding intensive treatment for children with autism spectrum disorders. Sponsored by Representative Roz Peterson (left) and Senator Jim Abeler (right), this bill will extend Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention (EIDBI) to 21-year-olds as well as children with other qualifying conditions. Other benefits of the bill include: coverage of individualized treatment plans, training for parents and caregivers, monitoring of treatment plans, and evaluations of treatment goals. The bill passed the Senate in March by a 66-0 vote and passed the House this week by a 131-0 vote. The bill now goes to Governor Mark Dayton for his signature.

### ➤ *Come Help Us Honor Sean, Other MDLC Colleagues*



The Minnesota Disability Law Center's (MDLC) benefits to the disability community are many. Sean Burke, an MDLC Fellow (photo), has presented to numerous audiences, including those attending The Arc Minnesota's workshops and state conferences, about the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision and how it has paved the way for policy changes that will increase community inclusion. Sean's colleagues at MDLC help individuals with disabilities with legal issues, provide information to state policymakers on disability-related legislation, and promote voting among adults with disabilities, to name just a few of their activities. You can read more about their work on [the MDLC website](#).

On May 25th, we will honor the Center for its many accomplishments over more than 40 years. Join us for the 2017 Public Policy Recognition Event at the Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville at 6:00 p.m. [Register online](#) to order your tickets.

### ➤ *Volunteering for Tapemark: Fun, Easy, and For a Good Cause*

This year marks the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Tapemark Charity Pro-Am golf tournament. This event has raised millions of dollars for a variety of organizations that support those with disabilities, including The Arc Minnesota and The Arc Greater Twin Cities. We greatly appreciate the Pro-Am's on-going support. This year's event is being held June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, at Southview Country Club in West Saint Paul, just north of I-494 and Robert Street. The tournament is currently looking for volunteers, an experience that is both fun and easy. You will help to make a huge difference in the lives of those with disabilities by supporting organizations that support them. [Sign up to volunteer](#) for a shift, a day, or the entire weekend!