

## Protecting Medicaid Talking Points

### BACKGROUND

- The Trump Administration’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget, which was released on February 12, 2018, [proposes to repeal the Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#) and to replace it with the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.
- The [Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill](#) would **end the ACA’s marketplace premium and cost sharing subsidies and Medicaid expansion** and replace them with a Market-based Health Care Block Grant Program for states to determine how to provide health care to its residents.
- The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill would also **end Medicaid-as-we-know it** by removing the federal matching guarantee to states and replacing it with either a **capped federal payment** based on the number of Medicaid enrollees in the state or a set amount through a **block grant option**.
- The [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#) concluded that the **Medicaid per capita cap proposal** endorsed in the President’s FY 2019 budget “**would result in less total reimbursement than would occur under current law.**” To make up for the Medicaid funding shortfall caused by a capped federal payment, CBO said states would have **to commit more state resources or reduce spending** by:
  - **Cutting payments** to health care providers and health plans,
  - **Eliminating [optional services](#)** (such as home and community-based services),
  - **Restricting eligibility** for enrollment through work requirements and other changes, or
  - **Finding more efficient methods** for delivering services.
- Easterseals **does not support** proposals like the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill that would cut and cap funding for essential community services and long-term supports that children and adults with disabilities rely on for their health and independence.
- Based on a 2018 Easterseals network-wide survey, **future Medicaid funding or reimbursement cuts would force Easterseals affiliates to lay off staff, reduce staff hours and compensation, and shut down program locations or entire service lines**—all of which would make it more difficult for children and adults with disabilities to access local services.