

# National Webinar Summary

Find the Webinar recording, slides, summary on our National Webinars page:  
[http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/results\\_national\\_conference\\_calls/](http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/)

## Experts on Poverty Share

Dawn Pierce, Boise, ID

- Letter to the editor (LTE) published in today's paper in Idaho (<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article149358569.html>)
- Never thought my life would be on this path – I have embraced it
- Single mom, needed SNAP
- Now I am an activist – do hunger and anti-poverty advocacy
- Have been on a panel discussion at the White House w/ Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA-4) and write LTEs once a month with RESULTS
  - McGovern is very passionate about everything and caring
- I am terrified after the House health care vote
  - I have diabetes and my husband and I both have asthma
  - Inhalers are \$836 per month
  - Cannot afford sleep apnea care for my husband without ACA
  - \$25,000 for hysterectomy –out of pocket payment was \$2k
- If House passes their version of the bill, they will prove to us that human lives do not matter
- I feel more disheartened than I did after election
- We will have to go back on SNAP if this health care legislation passes
- Power of one voice when House bill was defeated the first time
  - Rep. McGovern gets his buddies in Congress rallied, but we need somebody too
- My healthcare story is just one story – we will be two casualties if the AHCA passes
- We need to write Congress, tweet Congress and email etc. “Just don't stop”
- Midterm elections are coming up and they want to keep their job – make them work for you

## Welcome

Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Organizer (Kittery Point, ME)

- New Webinar Time on Tuesday Nights – Considering this for two reasons:

- Saturday time was a barrier for folks getting involved
- Game plan is to do Tuesdays now, June and July – August will be conjoined w/ Global – we will make permanent switch if people like it in the fall
- Tell us what you think
- We do have these recordings online, but we love being together live
- 100 Days Campaign:
  - Overall, RESULTS volunteers had:
    - 100 face-to-face meetings with members of Congress,
    - 200 meetings with congressional aides
    - 300 media pieces
  - U.S. Poverty volunteers
    - 58 face-to-face meetings with members of Congress,
    - 55 meetings with congressional aides
    - 155 media pieces
- Congratulations! Let's keep the momentum going – we're going to need it!
- Can't wait to see final number after the IC!
- Keep the momentum going
- Time to finish group planning for the year
- Great time to set ambitious goals for yourself and keep that momentum going
- The First 100 Days was a great success but there's lots yet to be done
- **Use your May meeting to finish planning for the rest of 2017**
  - Set ambitious goals for you and your group
    - If you accomplished all your First 100 Days goals, look for ways to deepen your advocacy for the remainder of the year (e.g. more F2F meetings, get to know an aide, engage more advocates locally, do an advocacy presentation, generate more media)
    - If you have goals left to be accomplished, roll them into your new plan
  - Resources
    - 2017 Group Plan Summary:  
[http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017\\_RESULTS\\_Group\\_Plan\\_Summary\\_\(remainder\\_of\\_2017\).pdf](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017_RESULTS_Group_Plan_Summary_(remainder_of_2017).pdf)
    - 2017 Group Planning Guide:  
[http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017\\_Group\\_Planning\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017_Group_Planning_Guide.pdf)
    - Once you've finished your plan, please submit it online at:  
[www.tinyurl.com/RESULTS2017Plans](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTS2017Plans) by May 31

## Brief Overview of Medicaid

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- Largest health program in the U.S. – provided health coverage for 97 million Americans over the course of 2015
- Largest population covered are children
- Covers doctor visits, hospital care, prescription drugs, nursing home costs, and other long-term care
- Medicaid used to be restricted to mandatory populations (low-income kids and pregnant women, certain TANF recipients, seniors/disabled on SSI)
- Medicaid expansion opened program to all low-income adults below 138 percent of poverty (\$33,600 for a family of four)
- Important for kids, people with disabilities, seniors and adults covered under expansion
- Critical program for kids especially
- Source: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/policy-basics-introduction-to-medicaid>

## Guest Speaker – Ellen Nissenbaum

Facilitated by Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

**Bio** (<https://nwlc.org/staff/anna-chu/>)

- Senior Vice President for Government Affairs for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) ([www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org))
- Has directed CBPP's work with federal policymakers and national organizations since 1984
- Works on federal budget and tax issues, Medicaid and health care, nutrition programs, and other critical policies
- Regarded as one of the leading legislative directors among non-profit organizations in Washington
- Assists national and state organizations and coalitions on key policy developments in Congress and the Executive Branch, strategic guidance, and communications planning
- Regularly speaks at conferences, in briefings for policymakers, and with news outlets on federal budget issues.

### Here's what's in the House Health Care Bill – the American Health Care Act

- On Center website, there are two one-pagers on what is in AHCA and Medicaid
- Major provision of bill – cuts Medicaid by more than \$830 billion
  - Ends Medicaid expansion that has provided coverage to 11 million
    - These people did not have healthcare before or couldn't afford it

- 22 million Americans gained coverage under ACA, many of them through Medicaid
- Ends Medicaid program as we know it
  - Medicaid is entitlement right now, which guarantees benefits and allows it to respond to need automatically like in a recession, disease outbreak, natural disaster, etc.
- AHCA shifts Medicaid to per capita cap, causing millions would lose Medicaid
- AHCA also affects those with moderate income households
  - Millions of Americans will pay more in premiums
    - Tax credits to help people pay for premiums would be \$220 less in 2020
  - Older Americans hit hard with premiums and other costs
  - Pre-Existing Conditions protections (took media spotlight)
    - Millions of Americans with preexisting conditions had poor coverage pre-ACA
- Medicaid cuts in the AHCA would pay for \$650 billion in tax cuts for insurance companies and the wealthy
- House Bill went from bad to worse
  - Waiting for Congressional Budget Score (CBO) score next week (likely week of May 22)' this will show the cost and impact of the revised AHCA
  - Medicaid cuts will force cuts to other services
    - Medicaid funds transportation, special education etc.
  - Structural change – Per Capita Cap – is like a Block Grant but there are differences
    - Block granting Medicaid would mean that the federal government sends a check to the states at the beginning of each year to use for Medicaid
    - But if there is a recession and more people become eligible, the states are forced to figure out where to find that extra funding on their own
    - With a Per Capita Cap, the federal government would cover new people who become eligible for Medicaid but at a lower amount than what states normally get
    - Cuts Medicaid expenditures
    - House bill does give states the option to take Medicaid as a block grant
  - Two Ways Per Capita Caps Will Fall Short Over Time:

- Caps on different groups set in such a way that the federal government will not give 100% of costs of Medicaid for that person – over time the cost burden to states gets greater
    - The cuts would grow over time
  - Caps don't keep pace with increasing costs of healthcare or the aging population
- Caps to shift costs and burden to states and to reduce Medicaid costs
- Caps also don't force federal government to decide who gets cut from eligibility
- Cap will be paired with flexibility to governors that guts protections and standards for people on Medicaid, allowing them to institute (at their discretion):
  - Mandatory work requirements
  - Drug testing
  - Lifetime limits of Medicaid

## Timeline

- House has passed bill – Senate will take it up in June
- Next 3 weeks and Memorial Day recess are critical
- By the time Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) puts out a substitute bill on the Senate floor, it will have 51 votes
  - Hopes to put that plan on the floor in June and finish action by July 4 recess
- A CBO score on the bill is needed before they vote
- In House: relatively few people put the bill together – in Senate it is the opposite. McConnell is working with group of Senators (see below)
- Our job is to make sure they go slowly
- Two Groups of Senators:
  - McConnell has working group – all men
    - Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
    - Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
    - Senate HELP Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
    - Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY)
    - Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
    - Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
    - Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)
    - Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

- Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
  - Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)
  - Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
  - Sen. Robert Portman (R-OH)
  - Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- Republican Senators from Medicaid expansion states are also working on what they need for their states
- All senators have influence on McConnell because he needs 51 votes
- If a vote was taken tomorrow, the following would be likely included in bill:
  - Take away pre-existing problem in the House bill
  - Increase / restore tax subsidies for middle income Americans
  - Delay elimination of the Medicaid expansion beyond 2020
  - Senate will drop option for governors to take block grants – minor shift to make Medicaid into a cap

### **Strategy Going Forward**

- Debate is not just about Americans with pre-existing conditions (that has gotten all the attention lately)
- Next three weeks are critical
  - But this could drag out – the longer, the better
- Delay and Divide Strategy:
  - Slow this down as much as possible
  - Create wedges between senators as much as possible
  - Raise the bar for what members say they must to have to support the legislation
- Memorial Day: Not going to take this bill up until at least early June – so during the Memorial Day recess (May 29-June 2) it will be critical to organize – we should operate as if this is last time Senators will be home before the healthcare vote
  - Plan town halls during this time
- Come back in June – McConnell releases plan – we will do quick analyses
  - We should be ready 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June
- The more different the Senate bill is – the more difficult the conference committee will be – if we force it to be different it will be a hard dynamic between McConnell and the Freedom Caucus

### **Threats**

- must stop saying House bill is dead on arrival; it gives Republican senators a free scapegoat
  - We don't want them to just think they need to fix certain parts of the House bill and call it a day
- We need to engage right now – not just during the recess

### Request

- Oppose Any Bill that:
  1. Ends Medicaid expansion, OR
  2. Ends Medicaid program as we know it (block grants, per capita caps), OR
  3. Reduces coverage for millions of Americans
- We updated our [Action Sheet](#) to mirror this request
- House bill does all three
- Very likely some combination of these things will be in Senate bill

### Question from GR: Will all of this go through budget reconciliation process (where you only need 51 votes to pass)?

- Answer is not exactly. House Bill coming to Senate is thought by budget experts to have certain provisions that violate Senate reconciliation rules (Byrd Rule) – quite possible that provisions of the House bill would be removed.
- But remember, the Senate is not using that House bill.
- The bill Sen. McConnell brings will have 51 votes and will not violate the Byrd Rule

### Question from GR: What do I do with Democratic Senator?

- Democrats in Senate – when we started this debate you could not find a Democrat that would mention Medicaid, but now Medicaid is now suddenly popular
- We need Democrats in the Senate to lay down a firm line on what the House Bill does and how unacceptable it is to eliminate Medicaid expansion
- We need Democrats to be raising the threat to Medicaid and to put pressure on Republicans

## Overview of May Action

Meredith Dodson

### Tell Senators to Protect and Strengthen Medicaid

1. Point persons for each Senator should contact the Senate health aides to **schedule a conference call meeting with the aides and your group**. You can find names and contact information on our Elected Officials page at: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>.

2. On the call, have **each person introduce themselves and what city they are from.**
3. Tell the aide that **you are concerned about the AHCA's \$880 billion in cuts and structural changes to Medicaid**, which is a critical lifeline for millions of kids and families.
4. Remind the aide that **Medicaid provides long-term care to millions of seniors, critical services that help Americans with disabilities live independently, and is a core part of the successful coverage of America's children.** [If you have a personal Medicaid story someone in your group can share, share it here]
5. Also, explain that **Medicaid responds automatically in a weak economy** or in case of natural disasters, helping vulnerable Americans weather tough economic times and creating critical economic activity for local communities.
6. Say that **you strongly oppose efforts to cap Medicaid spending and end the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.** Remind the aide that the CBO estimates that 14 million low-income Americans will lose Medicaid coverage under the AHCA. [discuss impact of AHCA on Medicaid in your state: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/house-republican-health-plan-would-shift-medicaid-costs-to-states>]
7. Ask the aide to **tell Senate leadership that they oppose ANY legislation that cuts or restructures Medicaid, ends the Medicaid expansion, or takes away health coverage for millions of Americans.**
8. Set up a time for a **follow-up call with aide** to find out if his/her boss will stand up to protect Medicaid.

## Resources

- May Action: [http://www.results.org/take\\_action/may\\_2017\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action/](http://www.results.org/take_action/may_2017_u.s._poverty_action/)
- Medicaid Fact Sheets from CBPP: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/house-republican-health-plan-would-shift-medicaid-costs-to-states>
- Face-to-Face Meeting Request: [http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=7268106&MC\\_plugin=2201](http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=7268106&MC_plugin=2201)
- 2017 U.S. Poverty Requests for Congressional Lobby Meetings:
  - [U.S. Poverty Nutrition \(Protect and Strengthen SNAP\) Request Sheet](#)
  - [U.S. Poverty Health \(Protect Medicaid\) Request Sheet](#)
  - [U.S. Poverty Economic Mobility Request Sheet - EITC](#)
  - [U.S. Poverty Economic Mobility -- Wealth Inequality and Racial Wealth Gap Leave Behind](#)
- First 100 Days Meeting Tracker: <http://tinyurl.com/RESULTSLobbyMtgs> (before the meeting)
- RESULTS Lobby Report Form: [www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF) (after the meeting)



## May Action Training

Meredith Dodson, Kristy Martino, Ginnie Vogts, Sara Buckingham

[http://www.results.org/take\\_action/2017\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_laser\\_talk\\_talking\\_to\\_a\\_health\\_aide\\_about\\_protecting\\_medi/](http://www.results.org/take_action/2017_u.s._poverty_laser_talk_talking_to_a_health_aide_about_protecting_medi/)

**Volunteer #1:** Thank you Kristy for making this time work. As background, we are a group of everyday people who raise our voices as volunteers to make sure reducing poverty is a top priority, and there are several RESULTS chapters across Ohio. Let's go around and introduce ourselves – as I mentioned, my name is Meredith and I live in Cleveland. I am a teacher and the mother of two children.

**Sara (Volunteer #2):** My name is Sara and I live in Cincinnati, and I am a therapist working with children.

**Ginnie (Volunteer #3):** And I am Ginnie and I am a retired hospital social worker.

**Volunteer #1:** As anti-poverty advocates, we are deeply concerned about proposed changes to Medicaid. I imagine you've been following the proposed changes to Medicaid passed in the House bill?

*Aide: Yes, of course.*

**Volunteer #1:** Then you probably know that Medicaid plays a critical role in providing health coverage for many children in low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others here in Ohio. Block granting or capping Medicaid spending would result in lost coverage, rationed benefits, and end the program as we know it. Capping Medicaid would harm tens of millions of who rely on Medicaid – the House bill cuts \$880 billion from Medicaid over the next ten years.

The House bill also effectively ends the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

Overall, 24 million Americans, including 14 million who participate in Medicaid, lose their health coverage – and no one's health care is safe.

I am sure you've read the analyses but we thought it would be good to share a story about why Medicaid is so critical.

**Volunteer #2:** In my work in the hospital, I saw firsthand that access to preventative health coverage was critical. [plug in a more thorough personal story if possible!]. And, when my son was between jobs, he himself was able to participate in Medicaid because of the expansion under the ACA – that was a critical before he secured health coverage via his new job.

*Aide: We've been hearing a lot about the importance of the Medicaid expansion in our state.*

**Volunteer #3:** And we appreciate the role your office has played with your fellow senators in highlighting the importance of the Medicaid expansion. As a therapist, I know that access to health care is critical for children and some of the other most marginalized people in our community. We want to particularly voice our concern about cuts and changes to core Medicaid program as it existed well before the ACA – this is a lifeline for kids, seniors, and people with disabilities. Our request to your boss is: will you tell Senate leadership that you oppose ANY

legislation that cuts or restructures Medicaid, ends the Medicaid expansion, or takes away health coverage for millions of Americans?

*Aide: Let me talk to him about that. I know he is very concerned about the rising costs of Medicaid*

**Volunteer #2:** Investments in health care, especially preventative care for children or people with disabilities, actually saves us taxpayers money in the long term. Instead of shifting costs to states and therefore rationing care, I think Congress should look at other cost savings in health care overall – by building on the Affordable Care Act.

**Volunteer #1:** And, to be honest, I have a hard time getting my head around over \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid when [the House bill then cuts taxes for millionaires by about \\$1 trillion](#).

So, I want to make sure we reiterate our request: will you tell Senate leadership that you oppose ANY legislation that cuts or restructures Medicaid, ends the Medicaid expansion, or takes away health coverage for millions of Americans?

*Aide: I need to touch base with the senator on this. I will certainly tell him what we've discussed and see what he says. I cannot promise he'll talk to them. He has some serious concerns about Medicaid and the ACA as a whole.*

**Volunteer #2:** That's a start and we appreciate it. May I follow up with you in a few days to see what he says? And if he is still hesitant, would you be willing to share his specific objections so we can better understand his position? Maybe we could discuss this with Senator Portman directly, if that would be possible.

*Aide: That's fine. I should get to talk to him early next week. If you call me Wednesday morning, I can give you feedback. As for talking to the senator directly, I can mention it to him but he's got a pretty busy schedule.*

**Volunteer #1:** Great. I'll call you at 10 am on Wednesday, if that works for you. Thank you, Kristy.

*Aide: That's fine, Ms. Dodson. I'll talk to you then.*

## **RESULTS International Conference**

Ashley Burnside, RESULTS 2017 Emerson Hunger Fellow

- Discounted Early Bird registration expires next Monday, May 15! (\$150 for RESULTS volunteers)
- Go to [www.resultsconference.org](http://www.resultsconference.org) to register today.
- Make your voice heard this summer at the RESULTS International Conference in Washington, DC!
- Top notch [speakers](#), [briefings](#), and [trainings](#) to help you be the best advocate you can be. Learn more on the [RESULTS Blog](#).
- Post about the conference on your social media using our flyers and social media templates under [Multimedia](#) on our conference website!

- Apply for scholarship assistance at: [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS).

## Fundraising Update: Spring Friends and Family Campaign

Mea Geizhals, Grassroots Development Manager

### Speak Up! Spring Friends and Family Fundraising Campaign

What is it?

- Online, peer-to-peer fundraising campaign.

When?

- May 15 – 26, 2017. *Site is now live – get started today!*

Why fundraise?

- Help raise needed funds for RESULTS so we can take full advantage of this extraordinary organizing moment, while protecting the gains we've made against poverty.
- Spread the word about the great work your RESULTS group is doing
- Grow your network of advocates and supporters

Resources available?

- [Campaign guide with sample talking points, emails to send to your networks, and social media posts](#)
- [Personal fundraising website](#)
- One-on-one support from Mea Geizhals, Grassroots Fundraising Manager, and staff
- Campaign Kick Off Call – **Thursday, May 11 at 8:30 pm Eastern**

Next Steps?

- Discuss with your group – can participate solo or in a team.
  - If this time doesn't work for you, there will be another Friends and Family Campaign in Fall 2017.
- Ready to join or have questions? Contact Mea at [mgeizhals@results.org](mailto:mgeizhals@results.org) or 202783-4800 x131.

## Announcements

Meredith Dodson

- **From Maxine Thomas, RESULTS Grassroots Board Member:**
  - **Please Nominate a Grassroots Volunteer to the RESULTS Board.** We are now accepting nominations for the RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund Grassroots Board. Two seats will be open in July. Nominate someone you think would be a strong voice representing RESULTS volunteers (you can nominate

yourself as well) to Jesse Marsden ([jmarsden@results.org](mailto:jmarsden@results.org)) *no later than Sunday, May 28*. Read more on the [RESULTS Blog](#).

- **Keep Up the Media Success!**
  - 2017: 162 U.S. Poverty media pieces in 42 states! (remaining states we need: DE, HI, NV, NC, ND, RI, VT, WY)
  - Let's hit 250 media pieces – an all-time record – by the RESULTS International Conference (July 22-25)
  - Use the media to tell Senators to protect Medicaid:  
[http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=74463626&MC\\_plugin=2201](http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=74463626&MC_plugin=2201)
- **Please Complete Your Group Planning** for the balance of the year. Look for details and materials in the coming weeks. If you have not sent in your First 100 Days Group Plan, it's not too late. Submit to [www.tinyurl.com/First100Plan](http://www.tinyurl.com/First100Plan).
- Remember to **register for the RESULTS International Conference** at [www.resultsconference.org](http://www.resultsconference.org) BEFORE THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION EXPIRES ON MAY 15. Apply for scholarship assistance at: [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSScholUS).
- **Next RESULTS Introductory Call, Wednesday, May 10 at 9pm ET**. Register for an upcoming Intro Call on the [RESULTS website](#).
- **U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, May 16 at 1pm and 8pm ET**. Login at <http://fuze.me/32256018> or dial in by phone at (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 32256018#. Meredith Dodson will be hosting this month's calls.
- **Please submit your updated 2017 Group Plans** online at: [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTS2017Plans](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTS2017Plans) by May 31
- Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Thank you for being on tonight's webinar!
- Our next National Grassroots Webinar is **Tuesday, June 13 at 8:00pm ET**

## **Final Action: Tell Congress to Protect Medicaid – Urge Others to Act as Well!**

1. Take two minutes to **tell your members of Congress to protect Medicaid** using our online alert: <http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=12788156>. Each person present should do this.
2. Share the Action Alert link with your local Action Network and on social media – tell them Medicaid is under serious threat and we need them to take action now!