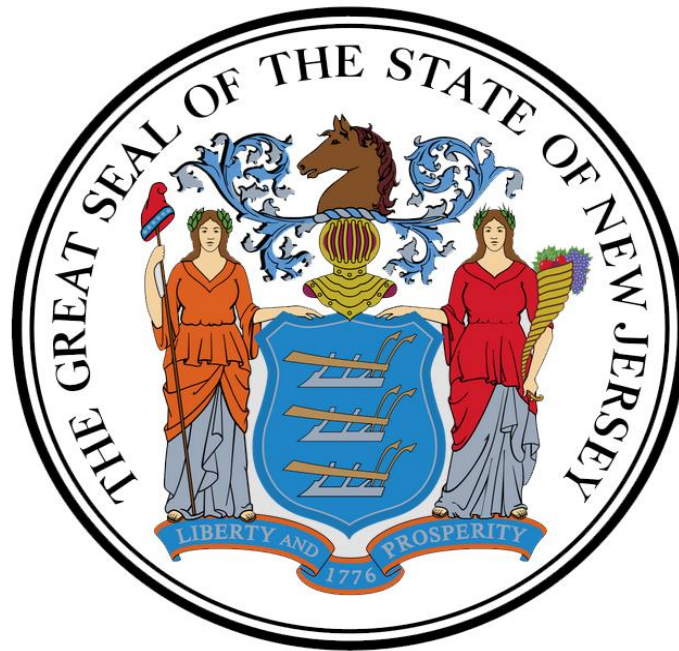


GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AMBASSADORS

LEGISLIATIVE DISTRICT _____

STATE SENATOR _____

STATE ASSEMBLY _____

STATE ASSEMBLY _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

U.S. SENATOR _____

U.S. SENATOR _____

CONGRESSIONAL REP _____

GOVERNOR _____

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR _____

PRESIDENT _____

VICE PRESIDENT _____



THE THREAT TO MEDICAID: TIMELINE

- **NOV 9, 2016:** “Repeal and Replace”: During his first TV interview since election, President Trump announces that the healthcare bill will be repealed and replaced simultaneously.
- **MAR 6, 2017:** House releases a repeal and replace bill called the American Health Care Act, which is quickly dubbed “Obamacare 2.0.”
- **MAR 16, 2017:** House Budget Committee narrowly passes the bill
- **MAR 24, 2017:** Paul Ryan pulls the bill due to lack of votes
- **APR 26-MAY 4, 2017:** A revised version of the bill is endorsed and then narrowly approved by the House, 217 to 213.
- **JUN 22-27, 2017:** GOP releases a draft of their new Better Care Reconciliation Act, which would ensure deep cuts to Medicaid benefits. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell delays vote until after holiday break, knowing votes to pass are not there.
- **JUL 20, 2017:** Clean Repeal v. Repeal and Replace. GOP heads into weekend unsure of which kind of bill they will be voting on.
- **JUL 26-28, 2017:** The Senate rejects a clean repeal bill. They agree to vote on a scaled down version of an ObamaCare repeal bill. The bill does not pass after three republican Senators vote against it, stunning GOP Senators.
- **SEP 13, 2017:** GOP Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy release a new ObamaCare repeal bill. Must be passed by end of September before end of FY2017. The bill dies two weeks later when the same three republican Senators announce they would not vote for the bill.

GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

- Amendment to Affordable Care Act proposed by Republican Senators Lindsey Graham (SC) and Bill Cassidy (LA).
- Brought forward hastily and without proper analysis by Congressional Budget Order.
- Federal government would fund per capita amount to each state beginning in 2020.
- For states that expand Medicaid, federal government would pay a smaller portion of the cost beginning in 2020
- New Jersey would lose an estimated \$3.9 billion in federal Medicaid funding by 2026.
- “Individual mandate” would be eliminated without a federal replacement---health care coverage no longer mandatory!
- Federal block grant would be eliminated beginning in 2027. No federal funding would harm New Jersey’s ability to provide coverage for those who were included in the ACA expansion.
- In short, the bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families, and threaten access to community living.
- Ultimately, this bill was not brought to a floor vote. Republican leadership understood that it would garner enough votes to pass.

OUTLINE FOR CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

1st Paragraph:

- Who are you?
- Which issue are you writing about? One issue per letter.

2nd Paragraph:

- **Why** do you care about this issue? Be as **specific** as possible.
- Include a **personal story, anecdote** or **experience** that illustrates why and how this legislation would affect your daily life and the lives of other people with disabilities statewide.

TIP: Don't be afraid to write from the heart, so long as you remain **polite** and **respectful**.

3rd Paragraph:

- **THANK YOU**, Senator, for taking the time to consider my suggestion.
- I humbly urge you to support/reject (BILL # if possible), as the proposed legislation would be in the best interest/detrimental to all people with disabilities and their families throughout the state. I greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR HOME ADDRESS

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER



SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

