



# What's Going On?

## ACA Changes and their Potential Implications

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# Learning Objectives

- Describe the current legislation that is likely to repeal and change provisions of the ACA
- Understand the positions of the medical and dental stakeholders to the ACA changes
- Identify the potential implications for dental practitioners



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Learning Objective I

# **The Current ACHA Legislation**





# The American Health Care Act (ACHA)

- ▶ Passed by the House of Representatives May 4, 2017 (H.R. 1628)
- ▶ Repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the Fiscal Year 2017 budget reconciliation process
- ▶ The bill is aimed to garner support from both moderate and conservative Republicans
- ▶ Vote in the Senate remains delayed




# Key Changes in ACHA

- ▶ Allowing states to specify a higher premium payment ratio for older individuals as compared to rates charged younger people. This may impact older individuals' ability to finance other health services, such as dental care.
- ▶ Allowing people with pre-existing conditions to be charged more for their health plans under some conditions if they failed to maintain continuous coverage.



# Impact of the AHCA on Medicaid Population

- ▶ Allows states to opt for a block grant or per-capita cap over a 10-year period for Medicaid, which limits funding to all Medicaid recipients.
- ▶ Lets states waive the Essential Health Benefits package, including pediatric dental benefits, so that they could specify their own versions of Essential Health Benefit requirements.
- ▶ Phases out the previous expansion of Medicaid that occurred with the ACA for low-income adults, including lowering Medicaid eligibility for children from 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to 100 percent beginning in 2020.
- ▶ According to the CBO, Medicaid is expected to lose \$834 billion in funding over the next 10 years and could increase rate of uninsured children by 50%.



Learning Objective II

**How are stakeholder's reacting?**







# American Dental Association Thoughts

“ The legislation contains some provisions the ADA supports such as expanding the use of health savings and flexible spending accounts and extending the “Cadillac Tax,” the insurer surcharge on higher cost plans, to an implementation date of 2026, the Association said in a May 3 email to ADA state executives and volunteer leaders.

The bill also contains provisions that cause the ADA concern, chiefly the provision that changes the Medicaid program to a per capita cap allotment system and not offering the use of tax credits for the purchase of stand-alone dental plans.”



# Children's Dental Health Project

“In short, the AHCA fails to deliver on President Trump’s promise to take care of everyone with better healthcare and lower costs. In fact, the AHCA threatens to pull the rug out from under tens of millions of children, families, and adults. At best, the bill will increase costs and reduce benefits for our most vulnerable populations; at worst, it would leave millions of American families without access to the care they need to learn, work, and thrive.”

- Teeth Matter: The Children's Dental Health Project's Blog; May 4, 2017



# Joint Letter to Senate

Forty-five diverse organizations sent a letter on June 9, 2017 to the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Finance to advocate for oral health coverage as the ACHA is being reviewed and modified. The two-page letter detailed the importance of oral health and upholding long-standing Medicaid programs such as EPSDT.



# American Academy of Pediatrics


“The AHCA passed today by a vote of 217-213 in the U.S. House of Representatives, putting into motion a dangerous policy precedent and clearing the first hurdle to reversing the tremendous progress we’ve made in children’s health care coverage. As the U.S. Senate considers this bill, pediatricians urge legislators to start over and find a new way forward.... The AHCA is bad policy for children and dangerous policy for our country, and the American Academy of Pediatrics will continue to speak out against it.”

- AAP Statement Opposing House Passage of the American Health Care Act; May 4, 2017



# American Hospital Association

“ From the onset of this debate, America’s hospitals and health systems have been guided by a set a key principles that would proect coverage for Americans,” AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said in a statement. “Unfortunately, the draft bill under discussion in the Senate moves in the opposite direction, particularly for our most vulnerable patients... Go back to the drawing board.”



Learning Objective III

**What is the potential impact for private practice?**



# Remember: Impact of the ACA

- ▶ Over the past decade, dental care use among publicly insured children has steadily increased from a 30.6 percent utilization rate in 2000 to a 41 percent rate in 2014, according to the ADA Health Policy Institute.
- ▶ Under the ACA, about 5.4 million adults gained access to dental benefits as a result of the Medicaid expansion. Additionally, dental care use increased between two and five percentage points in the second half of 2014 in Medicaid expansion states with an adult dental benefit



**So What's Next/ What's Going On?**