



September 22, 2017

An Urgent Call to Action on New Health Reform Legislation

Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions believe that changes to our nation's health care laws should increase access to high-quality, affordable care and coverage for as many people as possible. The Graham-Cassidy bill now being considered in the United States Senate does not meet any of those tests.

The block grant proposal in the bill would erode coverage of needed medical services and pose major issues for state budgets. Repealing the individual and employer mandates without alternative incentives for enrollment will lead to fewer people enrolled and higher premiums. The other potential outcomes of this bill — allowing reinstatement of dollar caps on coverage, backing away from protections for older patients and those with pre-existing conditions, waiver of essential health benefit coverage, reducing eligibility for Medicaid, to name a few — will weaken coverage and threaten the health of millions.

Instead of passing a bill which takes us backwards, we are urging lawmakers to continue to work to pass bipartisan measures to stabilize the current health coverage marketplaces, to help the millions who rely upon the current markets for their care and coverage. It is an urgent matter for policymakers to address right now, with big implications for families even in the next few months.

In a healthy democracy, it is critical that health care consumers, providers, and employees have an influential voice in shaping the policies that affect health care access, affordability, and quality. We urge all who are concerned about this bill to call their senators and representatives today to encourage them to oppose Graham-Cassidy, and to instead focus on fixing the current markets and helping the 30 million Americans currently without coverage. You can call the main Senate and House switchboard at 202-224-3121. The switchboard operator will connect you directly with the office you request. Please also urge your family and friends to do the same. We also invite you to join [KP Voice](http://kp.org/voice) (kp.org/voice), our grassroots advocacy program, which makes it easy to connect you to your elected representatives.

Helping people who are uninsured to get and afford coverage, and ensuring those who have it can continue to afford it, should be the priority for any proposals around health reform. Policymakers should ensure that any proposals maintain or expand coverage, provide incentives for high quality, and tackle affordability.