

# DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
United States Capitol S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
United States Capitol S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Serious Concerns about Access to Rehabilitation Care under the Graham-Cassidy Bill**

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

The Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) writes to urge you not to support the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. DRRC is a coalition of national non-profit organizations committed to improving the science of rehabilitation, disability, and independent living. DRRC seeks to maximize the return on the federal investment in this type of research and development with the goal of improving the ability of Americans with disabilities and chronic conditions to live and function as independently as possible and to contribute to the health and economic well-being of our nation. Without access to rehabilitative services and devices, many Americans with injuries, illnesses, and disabilities will not benefit from the progress we make in rehabilitation science.

DRRC is seriously concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill will undermine efforts to prevent or minimize the impact of injuries, illnesses, and disability-related conditions. Access to cutting edge rehabilitation services and devices enables individuals with injuries, illnesses, and disabilities to maximize their quality of life by enhancing their health, function, and independence. Progress and innovation in the science of disability and rehabilitation are meaningless if the individuals in need of these services cannot access them. We believe that any version of health reform legislation that advances in the House and Senate must maintain access to and coverage of rehabilitation services and devices.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would cut or cap Medicaid coverage and undermine patient protections established by the Affordable Care Act, including requirements for insurers to cover a defined package of essential health benefits (EHBs), which include rehabilitative services and devices. We are deeply concerned with the impact of these changes on coverage of and access to rehabilitation services and devices.

DRRC urges the Senate not to support the Graham-Cassidy health care bill and, instead, work in a bipartisan manner to improve access to affordable, comprehensive care for all Americans, including those with disabilities and chronic conditions needing rehabilitation services and devices.

Sincerely,

**The undersigned members of the DRRC:**  
Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals  
American Association on Health and Disability  
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American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Amputee Coalition of America  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Lakeshore Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement Orthotics & Prosthetics  
National Association of Rehabilitation Research Training Centers  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America  
United Spinal Association