

# Graham-Cassidy Legislation Would Negatively Impact Cancer Patients & Survivors in Alaska



## Alaska Cancer Statistics

- Number of New Cancer Cases for 2017<sup>1</sup>: 3,600 individuals
- Number of Cancer Survivors<sup>2</sup>: 33,340 individuals
- Childhood (Ages < 15, All Sites) Incidence Rates<sup>3</sup>: 15.4
- Childhood (Ages < 20, All Sites) Incidence Rates<sup>4</sup>: 17.1

## Graham-Cassidy Impact on Alaska

- The proposed Graham-Cassidy block grant (which includes the advance premium tax credits, cost sharing reduction subsidies, and Medicaid expansion funding) and the Medicaid per capita cap (which would affect the traditional Medicaid population) would cut federal funding to Alaska by approximately **\$255 million in 2026**.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2027, Alaska is estimated to lose **\$844 million** in federal funding, because funding for the block grant would be eliminated and states would be left with only inadequate per capita cap funding for their traditional Medicaid enrollees.<sup>6</sup>

## Graham-Cassidy Impact on Alaska's Insurance Marketplace

- The Graham-Cassidy legislation would eliminate existing premium tax credits that Alaskans use to buy insurance **in the private market**.
- As of January 31, 2017, **19,145 Alaskans** enrolled in a Marketplace insurance plan – 32.8 percent of these were new enrollees.
  - 16,937 (88.5 percent) qualified for tax credits;
  - The average monthly tax credit was \$958;
  - 7,805 (40.8 percent) qualified for plans with reduced cost-sharing.<sup>7</sup>
- Under the bill, cancer patients and survivors could lose federal protections against discrimination and higher insurance costs.
- The bill could cause cancer patients to lose access to guaranteed essential health benefits, such as cancer screenings.

## Graham-Cassidy Impact on Medicaid in Alaska

- Medicaid is the critical health insurance safety-net that provided health care coverage to **155,700** Alaskans in 2016,<sup>8</sup> including children, pregnant women, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.
  - Out of that number, **22,900** Alaskans gained lifesaving health care coverage because Alaska expanded its Medicaid program.<sup>9</sup>
- Currently, **3,040** Alaskans (infants to age 64) with a history of cancer rely on Medicaid for their health coverage.<sup>10</sup>
- **100** children (infant to age 19) with a history of cancer are currently covered by Medicaid in the state of Alaska.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2017. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2017. Note: Estimated number of new cancer cases for 2017, excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers and in situ carcinomas except urinary bladder. State estimated are offered as a rough guide and should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Treatment & Survivorship: Facts & Figures. 2016-2017. Note: Estimated number of cancer survivors by state as of January 1, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Incidence rates (cases per 100,000 population year) are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Rates are for invasive cancer only (except for bladder cancer which is invasive and in situ) or unless otherwise specified. Rates calculated using SEER\*Stat. Population counts for denominators are based on Census populations as modified by the National Cancer Institute.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Like other ACA repeal bills, Cassidy-Graham plan would add millions to uninsured, destabilize individual market. Published September 13, 2017. Accessed September 18, 2017.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/like-other-aca-repeal-bills-cassidy-graham-plan-would-add-millions-to-uninsured>.

<sup>6</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Cassidy-Graham plan's damaging cuts to health care funding would grow dramatically in 2027. Published September 16, 2017. Accessed September 18, 2017. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/cassidy-graham-plans-damaging-cuts-to-health-care-funding-would-grow-dramatically-in>.

<sup>7</sup> Source for all data in preceding paragraph: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *2017 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Public Use Files*. Published March 15, 2017. Accessed March 29, 2017. [https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Marketplace-Products/Plan\\_Selection\\_ZIP.html](https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Marketplace-Products/Plan_Selection_ZIP.html)

<sup>8</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Medicaid expansion enrollment. Updated June 2017. Accessed September 18, 2017. <http://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-expansion-enrollment/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Analysis provided to ACS CAN by Avalere Health. *Funding for Medicaid patients with cancer under BCRA Discussion Draft*. Analysis performed June 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.