STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING TO CONSIDER THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-
JOHNSON PROPOSAL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of
organizations representing health care providers, safety net health plans, counties
and labor – is opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to
restructure the Medicaid program into a block grant or per capita cap model. We
call on the Senate to protect Medicaid and to reject continued efforts that will
roll back coverage for the 70 million people that depend on this vital program.

The Partnership is dedicated to preserving and improving the Medicaid program,
so that it better meets the needs of the beneficiaries it serves. Medicaid delivers
necessary health care services and other related supports to our nation’s most
vulnerable children, pregnant women, parents, individuals with disabilities,
seniors, and other adults. Any legislation that makes fundamental changes to the
Medicaid program must not undermine the quality of services or access to care
for the populations that this safety net program has served for 52 years.

We strongly oppose continued efforts in the Senate to explore devastating cuts
to the Medicaid program. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
maintains near identical Medicaid provisions to those in the failed Better Care
Reconciliation Act that would impose funding caps that threaten the viability of
the Medicaid program. Medicaid beneficiaries rely on Congress to preserve the
program and to make improvements that promote access and quality.

Cuts to Medicaid for budget gains are unacceptable and undermine the long-term
stability of the program. The policies in this proposal are designed to meet fiscal
objectives. They do not strengthen the Medicaid program, nor do they guarantee
access to care. We remain in opposition to efforts that simply shift the cost
burden onto local and state governments, health care providers and individual
beneficiaries.

The Partnership strongly urges the Senate to protect Medicaid and reject efforts
to dismantle the program as called for in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson
proposal.

*While this statement represents the collective views of the Partnership as a coalition, it has not
been officially endorsed by each individual Partnership member organization.