



At this moment in time, congregations and the people they serve are facing an epic pastoral care crisis with the prospect that the US Senate will pass the "Better Care Reconciliation Act". Should the Senate pass the bill, it will head quickly to the House of Representatives for an up or down vote. As of 2:00 on Tuesday, June 27, the Senate leadership has decided to postpone a vote on the Act until after the July 4 recess because of opposition in their own party. Protests are already having their effect.

Regardless of your political leanings or whether you live in a rural, suburban, or urban setting, passage of this bill promises to have a very damaging effect on just about everyone's health care. The primary beneficiary of the proposed law will be the rich and pharmaceutical and medical supply corporations who will receive a large tax cut paid for with cuts in medical care. Here are just a few points to keep in mind:

- * According to the Congressional Budget Office, up to 22 million Medicaid recipients who will lose their coverage. The proposed cut affects the poor but also has a very dramatic impact on seniors and the disabled who rely on nursing homes and long term facilities for their care.
- * Medicaid dollars are a key source of revenue for rural hospitals that may have to close if the bill goes through.
- * Health care premiums for older workers could be raised from three times to five times more for younger workers.
- * States can apply for permission to grant waivers to insurance companies to not cover many essential services including mental health and maternity coverage.
- * Escalating premium costs for small businesses as a result of this bill is a job killer.

For a more detailed analysis of the impacts take a look at the following:

[Congressional Budget Office Summary](#)

[Rising Deaths in GOP Proposal](#): Center for American Progress just released a report showing that coverage losses from the Senate's health care bill would result in a substantial increase in deaths over the next decade. State-level estimates are available in the table. [Comparison of House and Senate bills](#) - Is there a "heart"? This is a great chart that shows key points of comparison from Jeanne Lambrew and colleagues at the Century Foundation

Most denominations have issued statements on the Senate bill. Here are a sampling of [statements from Faith Leaders](#) across the country.

If you wish to clearly voice your opposition you can do the following:

CALL YOUR NEW YORK CONGRESSPERSON - It's important these calls be done now even though the bill is in the Senate because it could arrive back in the House very quickly should it pass.

ATTEND A VIGIL, RALLY OR LEAFLETING EVENT

Wednesday June 28

4 pm “Save our Healthcare Vigil,” Federal building, 15 Henry Street, **Binghamton** - Contact: Mary Clark, cabing@citizenactionny.org

5 pm “Save Our Healthcare” vigil, Federal building, 130 South Elmwood, **Buffalo**

5 pm [“Save Our Healthcare” vigil, Federal building, 1 Clinton Square, Albany](#) - Contact: Gail Cook, gail.cook@1199.org

5 pm “Save Our Healthcare” vigil, Federal building, 300 Quarropas Street, **White Plains**

5:30 pm [“Save Our Healthcare” vigil, Federal building, Foley Square, Manhattan](#) - Contact: Mark Hannay, metrohealth@igc.org

6 pm “Save Our Healthcare” vigil, Federal building, 100 Federal Plaza, **Central Islip** - Contact: Dan Fingas, dfingas@lipc.org

Thursday June 29

10 am, Leafleting, SIUH Health & Information Fair for Seniors, **Midland Beach**, Jefferson Avenue & Father Capodanno Blvd.

12 pm, “Save our Healthcare Vigil,” Federal Building, 10 Broad Street, **Utica**

4 pm. Rally, Rep. Stefanik’s office, 136 Glen Street, **Glens Falls** - Contact: Joe Seeman, joe.seeman@yahoo.com

Friday June 30

12 pm [Rally, Rep. Faso’s office, 721 Broadway, Kingston](#) - Contact: Callie Jayne, cjayne@citizenactionny.org

12 pm “Keep Your Independence” Rally, Rep. Donovan’s office, 7308 13th Avenue, **Brooklyn**

3 pm Rally, Rep. Faso’s office, 2 Hudson Street, **Kinderhook**

CALLING OUT-OF-STATE SENATORS

Another way you can help is to contact voters in states where there are senators who are undecided or supportive of the Better Care Reconciliation Act. There are call centers all over the state which will be manned on June 28, 29 and 30. Click here for locations <http://newyorkersforhealthcare.org>.

Also, if you have relatives and friends in other states encourage them to call their Senator.

URGENT CALL TO PRAYER

Here is a [Prayer](#) written by Father John Anderson as part of Archcare in conjunction with the Continuing Care Leadership Coalition in New York City. The Coalition will issue a [clergy sign on letter](#) (New York State Council of Churches is a signatory) on June 28, to raise grave concerns about the impact of Medicaid cuts on long-term care facilities. To sign on, please contact Diane Barrett at dbarrett@cclcnny.org.

UPDATES - Go to our [web page](#) and our [Facebook page](#) for quick updates and new materials as events unfold.

COORDINATING CALL - If you would like to be part of a statewide coordinating call, they take place on Wednesdays at noon. Please call [641-715-3625](tel:641-715-3625) code 1077773.

Thank you for your concern and acting on your faith.