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**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

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**CONTACT:** Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy & External Affairs n4a  
P 202.872.0888 / [agotwals@n4a.org](mailto:agotwals@n4a.org)

## **Statement by Sandy Markwood, CEO**

*House-Passed Health Care Bill Dangerous for Millions of Older Americans*

**Washington, DC—** The American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed this afternoon by the House of Representatives represents a grave risk to millions of older adults, caregivers and people with disabilities, as this bill would negatively impact their access to the affordable health care and accessible long-term care they need to maintain their health and independence.

As advocates for quality long-term services and supports provided at home and in the community, as well as a range of evidence-based healthy aging programs, n4a is deeply concerned by the passage of AHCA.

The measure cuts \$839 billion from the Medicaid program, would allow insurers to significantly increase premiums based on a consumer's age, shortens the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by four years, and eliminates a key prevention program that funds local falls prevention and chronic disease self-management efforts that are critical to preserving the health of older Americans.

The bill's recent updates to allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits and community rating rules—which put anyone with a pre-existing condition at risk of being unable to secure affordable health care—only add to our long list of concerns about the negative effects this legislation will have on older adults and all Americans.

As the health care action moves to the Senate, there will be much work ahead, but for now, **we urge older adults, caregivers, people with disabilities and other consumers to raise their concerns with their Representatives who voted in favor of this bill, which will have dangerous consequences for millions of Americans.**

## **About n4a**

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America's national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation's capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Learn more about the [Aging Services](#) provided by AAAs and Title VI programs. Find the [AAA and/or Title VI program](#) in your area.

### **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036

[www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)

202.872.0888

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