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National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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Statement by Sandy Markwood, CEO

Health Care Reform Efforts Should Begin Again in Bipartisan, Transparent Process and Must Work for Older Adults and Caregivers

Washington, DC— The Senate Republican leadership’s latest efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act came to a dramatic conclusion early this morning when three Republican Senators voted against the “skinny” bill released only hours before.

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)—which represents the nation’s 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that develop and deliver local aging programs and services that support millions of older adults and their caregivers, and advocates in Washington, DC for the more than 250 Title VI Native American aging programs—lauds Republican Senators Susan Collins (ME), Lisa Murkowski (AK) and John McCain (AZ) for opposing the measure.

The skinny bill, which repealed several primary provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), was not intended to become law as-is, but would have provided enough of a Senate win to take the measure to a conference committee with the House. That would have meant that only a select group of conferees would have been charged with crafting the final bill, with little to no chance for amendments before pushing for a swift final passage.

“Thanks to tremendous advocacy work from a wide range of groups and advocates, including our Area Agency on Aging and Title VI Native American aging program members, this morning’s Senate vote prevents, for now, massive Medicaid cuts and increases in the cost of health care for older adults under age 65,” said n4a CEO Sandy Markwood.

“While we are relieved and pleased by this outcome, we remain ready to advocate against any future attempts to cut and cap Medicaid, and will oppose any ACA reform measures that drive up costs for older adults and caregivers. Now, however, we hope that Congress

will fully re-boot its health care reform efforts and work in a bipartisan fashion in regular order to improve the ACA.”

“Our policy brief “[What Would ACA Repeal Mean for Older Adults, Caregivers and the Aging Network?](#)” includes a list of considerations for lawmakers when amending our nation’s health care system, including evaluating how any proposal supports cost-effective home and community-based long-term care, affordable health care coverage for Americans age 50-64 and the long-term solvency of Medicare,” said Markwood.

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.

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