



## **THE CHILDREN'S CHAMPION**

Over the last few days, the GOP's efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and cut federal Medicaid funding were unsuccessful. This is great news for us, as children's advocates. Thank you to everyone who engaged on this issue.

This isn't the end for health care reform. There are ways Congress can move forward in a bipartisan fashion to stabilize the individual Marketplace, work on lowering health care costs, and cover more people more effectively. We must remain involved to make sure the interests of Tennessee's children are protected.

In this newsletter we will cover: updates on our work, updates on the federal fight, and ways to get involved in improving our health care system.

As always, the goal is to keep sharing information and engaging those that care about children to rally around our common goals - quality, affordable care for every child in Tennessee.

If there is any information you would like us to share on your behalf, including events and resources, please reply to this email.

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## ICYMI (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...)

- Federal updates
  - In the dark of the wee hours of the morning, GOP Senate Leadership and our two Senators tried to pull a "fast one" on America. They unveiled a plan called the [Health Care Freedom Act, also known as "skinny repeal"](#), late last night and, less than 3 hours later, held a vote for passage.
  - **Around 1:30am ET, [this bill failed](#), with Senator McCain casting the crucial vote to kill the "skinny repeal" bill.** He joined the Senate Democrats and GOP Senators Collins and Murkowski to reject the last-ditch effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
  - If the Senate had voted for the Health Care Freedom Act, it would have had future crushing consequences for real Tennesseans. It would have resulted in 16 million people losing coverage and most privately insured people having a 20% increase in premiums. It would have destabilized the insurance market. [Four senators held a press conference yesterday](#) announcing they would vote for the "disaster" skinny repeal bill ***only if they got assurances that it would never, ever become law.*** As they admitted yesterday, the "skinny repeal" bill was really a pathway to destroy Medicaid once it passed and moved to a conference committee with the House.
- We are constantly collecting [the most illuminating and inspiring stories from our clients and community](#). Please read and share. If you know anyone who would like to share their story, please let us know!
  - [Young man able to live more independent life due to TennCare](#)
  - [Mother shares how the ACA helped her son after a terrible car accident](#)
- [Last volume of the Children's Champion](#)
- Children's facts on Facebook - share or repost away!
  - [SNAP kept millions out of poverty](#)
  - [The ACA covered 19,000 TN kids](#)
  - [3/4 of all children with special health care needs live below 400% of the FPL](#)
  - [Children are the largest group of Medicaid enrollees](#)

- [1/4 US children use at least one prescription drug a month](#)

## LOOKING FORWARD

- This weekend (July 30 is when the bill was signed into law) marks the 52nd birthday of Medicaid and Medicare. Seniors at Bordeaux nursing home will be hosting a "birthday" party this Thursday and inviting local Boy Scouts and other children. Think about your own event or posts to celebrate the great impact Medicaid has had on kids.
- Be vigilant about requests to amend Tennessee's Medicaid waiver to add problematic provisions like work requirements and cost sharing.

## JOIN US



Would you like to get the latest news and developments in the healthcare fight? Do you need straightforward analysis of how federal and state legislation impacts your work at the local level? Would your organization benefit from collaborating with other organizations that are working towards similar goals to improve access to healthcare for all Tennesseans, including children?

If so, then the Great State Project is for you! GSP is a collective of organizations that are united to share information and resources and influence sound healthcare policy.

To learn more, please plan to attend the next GSP meeting on **August 7, 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

If you're interested, please email Anna Walton ([awalton@tnjustice.org](mailto:awalton@tnjustice.org)) for details.

**Sincerely,**

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**STAY CONNECTED:**



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