Report: June 21, 2017 Day of Action

Since November, HCAN and HCANEF’s state partners have been conducting public education, organizing public events and generating earned media that urges members of Congress to reject health care proposals that take health care away from millions of families and end Medicaid as we know it. As Senate efforts to advance legislation during June have gained speed and momentum, state grassroots organizations have continued to escalate these activities.

On June 21st, partners across the states organized events for an HCAN National Day of Action. Below are some highlights of HCAN and HCANEF activity.

ARKANSAS:
ACO, HCAN’s Arkansas partner, organized about 50 people for rally in front of Boozman’s and Cotton’s offices including speakers Reverend Howard Gordon, Toney Orr, pastor and union organizer; Blake Ross, President of Arkansas Young Democrats; Camille Richoux, President of Arkansas NOW and public health worker; Lewis Shepherd, Medicaid recipient; Jerome Pitts, Arkansas Works recipient. After chanting "Don’t end it! Mend it! Don’t take away our health care!" speeches and a ceremony to put lipstick on the pig, the group marched to deliver with about 2,000 post cards and the pig to Boozman’s and Cotton’s offices. Press coverage below:

Arkansas Times [Arkansas Blog], June, 20: Resistance Continues In Arkansas
https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2017/06/22/resistance-continues-in-arkansas#more

Arkansas Times [Arkansas Blog], June, 20: Senator Tom Cotton: Don’t Ask Him About Health Care

KUAR Public Radio, June 22: Protesters Call on Boozman & Cotton To Oppose Cutting Medicaid, Reducing Health Care Coverage

Arkansas News Bureau, June 22: At Rally, Arkansans Call on Senate Not to Roll Back Health Care

At rally, Arkansans call on Senate not to roll back health care
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, June 22: Protesters Rally At Senators Little Rock Offices, Urge Rejection of Medicaid Cuts

Protesters call on Boozman & Cotton to Oppose Cutting Medicaid

Health Care On Air Town Hall, Wednesday, June 21, 7-8pm, KABF, 88.3 FM;
Broadcast of the town hall www.kabf.org
Participants: Marquita Little, Health Policy Director, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Dr. Eddie Ochoa, pediatrician, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Elaine Murrow, Medicaid Saves Lives, mother of a disabled child who receives Medicaid, Kaitlin Lott, mother of two disabled children, diabetic who received coverage through the ACA.

FLORIDA
Organize Florida, HCAN’s partner in Orlando organized a “Billionaires for Trump” event last Wednesday. About 35 supporters attended the action at the Orlando office of Senator Marco Rubio. The event started with a satire play to highlight the fact that by repealing the Affordable Care Act, the 400 wealthiest American's will receive millions of dollars in tax breaks. The play was followed by four community members who shared their personal stories about how would be impacted by Congressional efforts to repeal healthcare and cut Medicaid. Press coverage below.

Orlando Activists Plan to Protest Republican Health Care Bill Tomorrow

Protests Ahead of Major Health Care Bill Debut

Activists Protest Senate Health Care Bill in Downtown Orlando
Exigen a senador Marco Rubio que apoye a los floridanos y diga no a la derogación del ‘Obamacare’ (VIDEO)

**ILLINOIS**

HCAN partner **IL Citizen Action** along with allies organized a demonstration outside a $10k plate GOP fundraiser in Chicago that included all the Republican members of the IL Congressional delegation last Monday. In an interesting twist, Governor Rauner, who the activists have been pressuring to take a position against the Republican repeal bill and restructuring of Medicaid that will devastate the state, cancelled his appearance at the event.

**Group protests health care bill proposal in downtown Chicago**

**After Protesters Gather, Rauner Skips Republican Fundraiser**

**Rauner Skips Republican Fundraiser**

**Fundraiser Protest Set for Illinois GOP Representatives**
http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20170619/BLOGS02/170619882/fundraiser-protest-set-for-illinois-gop-representatives

**Rauner Slammed over AHCA Silence**
Capitol Fax blog: https://capitolfax.com/2017/06/19/rauner-slammed-over-ahca-silence/

**Radio:** WBBM-AM (Radio) at June 20th 2017 5:06 AM

**TV Coverage:** CBS 2 News at 10PM

Following the event, Illinois Citizen Action worked on the opinion pieces below that continue to focus on Rauner’s failure to weigh in in defense of Illinois and the impact on GOP federal health care proposals.

**Senate GOP Health Care Bill Hammers Illinois While Rauner is AWOL**
http://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/senate-gop-health-care-bill-hammers-illinois-while-rauner-is-awol/

**Does Rauner have any guiding principles on health insurance?**

Then, on June 23, IL Citizen Action & Indivisible organized a large health care action that got coverage on the front page of the Chicago Tribune. See image below.
INDIANA
On Monday, June 19th, HCAN partner IndyCAN! worked with AFSCME to organize a tele-press conference featuring experts, impacted people and clergy that focused on how the Trump Administration’s sabotage of the ACA is creating pressure for insurers to hike rates. The press conference got good coverage below.

Health Law’s Future Could Hinge on Subsidy
http://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/indiana/20170620/health-laws-future-could-hinge-on-subsidy

Health Reform Uncertainty May Impact Rates for Hoosiers

IOWA
HCAN’s Iowa partner, the Main Street Alliance, worked with leader Chris Peters to publish this op-ed this past week: http://www.thegazette.com/subject/opinion/guest-columnists/small-businesses-cant-afford-political-games-20170619.

This is a follow up to a great LTE that was published last week: http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2017/05/19/politicians-iowans-not-pawns-and-health-care-not-game/326344001/

MARYLAND
HCAN Partner Progressive Maryland organized an event outside Rep. Harris’ district office in Salisbury this past week. Coverage below.

Activists Gathered in Salisbury Over Concerns of New Health Care Bill
MINNESOTA
HCAN partner Take Action MN organized an event outside the office of Representative Lewis for the national day of action. This event is part of the on-going effort to hold Lewis accountable for supporting the House repeal bill that would put health care at risk for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans. TV coverage of the event below.

KSTP-5 (ABC) TV:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/c8t7efl75kd78yg/2016-06-21%20Lewis%20event%20clip.mov?dl=0

Tweets with photos:
https://twitter.com/TakeActionMN/status/877508375466127360
https://twitter.com/TakeActionMN/status/877509971969282050
https://twitter.com/TakeActionMN/status/877511083510177793
https://twitter.com/TakeActionMN/status/877515921044230144

MISSOURI
HCAN’s partner Jobs With Justice organized a sign on letter from MO doctors that was published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on June 23rd.

Missouri Doctors Denounce American Health Care Act

The letter was a follow up to an earlier piece that appeared on June 17th:

Gutting Crucial Health Care Program Would Hurt Children, Families

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HCAN partner Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) organized a vigil outside the statehouse calling for Governor Sununu to speak out against the proposed healthcare bill that 35 people attended. Holding the vigil by his back door paid off –the Governor both saw the activists and their message and actually spoke with attendees. See the picture below.
NEW YORK
HCAN’s lead partner Citizen Action of New York organized an event in Binghamton in which activists linked hands in front of Lourdes Hospital to send a message about the impact of ACA repeal and changes to Medicaid. Good clip below.

Community Creates Human Chain of Linked Hands for Day of Action

In the week leading up to the action, the story below appeared featuring CANY activist James St. Jacques who got healthcare thanks to Medicaid Expansion. James also spoke at an event in Albany on Thursday, June 22nd in reaction to the release of the Senate draft bill that would end the Medicaid expansion.

Thought of Losing Medicaid Keeps Some Up at Night

The Faces of Medicaid, Who Loses?

Coverage from Health Care Press Conference in Albany on June 22
http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2017/06/rally-against-ahca-planned-for-albany/


OHIO
MVOC, HCAN’s Ohio partner, helped lead the passage of a resolution opposing repeal locally in the Youngstown City Council. Clip here:

Resolution Strongly Opposing Repeal of ACA passes in Youngstown
OREGON
Unite Oregon and allies staged a protest at Walberg’s Medford office that yielded great press below.

Jackson Co. residents speak out on how ACA repeal, replace will affect them
http://ktvl.com/news/local/jackson-co-residents-speak-out-on-how-aca-repeal-replace-will-affect-them

PENNSYLVANIA
HCAN partners led by Pennsylvania Health Access Network, POWER, POWER NE organized great 24-hour events this past week that was bolstered by the participation of Reverend William Barber of the Moral Mondays Movement and Repairers of the Breach. Thanks to Faith in Public Life for help with engaging clergy in this event and to SEIU and CPD partners among others for sending attendees to support the vigil. Hundreds of folks came out across Pennsylvania to participate in 24 hour vigils in 6 out of 7 of Senator Toomey's offices.

For the kickoff with Reverend Barber over 300 people packed the sidewalk outside of Senator Toomey's office. In Pittsburgh over 100 people came to the kickoff. Dozens of impacted consumers spent the night at all of the offices.

National:
http://www.dailykos.com/blog/DKos%20Southeastern%20Pennsylvania

Philadelphia (Clergy led, headlined by Rev. Barber):
Protesters hold vigil at Sen Toomey's offices over healthcare bill


http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/06/23/health-care-bill-protest/#.WUzw_ZEPLGQ.twitter%


Pittsburgh


Wilkes Barre:  


Allentown:  

Erie:  

Harrisburg:  


In addition to the event, PHAN, **POWER (& POWER NE)** coordinated on a clergy sign-on letter to PA Senators Toomey & Casey signed by 55 Catholic clergy including the Sisters of St. Joseph-Baden, women and religious leaders in Catholic institutions.

**Lancaster Online, June 22; Catholic Sisters and Clergy Object to Medicaid Cuts**  


**TENNESSEE**  
TNCA joined allies for a press conference and action in which they placed tombstones on the lawn of the Senate offices to represent kids, veterans others directly impacted by cuts proposed at the federal level. Picture below.
VERMONT
Rights And Democracy VT (RADVT)
RADVT held a State House rally with over 100 people turning out to hear voices from diverse key constituencies (nursing, faith leadership, patients, unions) calling on our target, Governor Scott to resist the national GOP proposal. Speakers included Mari Cordes, RN and RAD leader speaker (she emceed event), Brenda Patoine a beneficiary of the ACA, and Reverend Earl Kooperkemp all speaking and calling

VIRGINIA
Virginia Organizing (VO), HCAN’s partner in VA held a rally in Charlottesville calling on Senators Warner and Kaine to protect Virginians against repeal and changes to Medicaid.

Charlottesville Protesters Call on Senators Kaine and Warner to stand up for health care

WASHINGTON
HCAN partner WACAN! held a successful action for the day of action outside of the Federal Building to educate the public about the federal attacks on healthcare. Here are some pictures. They delivered 1000 handwritten letters to Senator Cantwell’s and Murray's staff. Coverage here:

In addition, WACAN published this article from Gerald Hankerson, their policy director who is also president of the NAACP:

Being Black is a pre-Existing Condition
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/being-black-is-a-pre-existing-condition_us_59440cc6e4b01eab7a2d566d

After WACAN!’s action on Wednesday, they participated in a press conference with Senator Cantwell at Virginia Mason, a local hospital. WACAN Member George Poston from Auburn shared his story on how Medicaid saved his life after he lost his job as a chef and found out he had life threatening blood clots in his leg shortly thereafter.
Senator Maria Cantwell Vows to Use Every Tool We Have to Stop GOP Health Care Plan

Senator Cantwell’s Plan to Stop Republican Health Care Bill

Washington Democratic Senator to Lobby Colleagues in Opposition of Health Care Bill

In addition, the group generated this Op Ed targeting Rep Reichert:

WEST VIRGINIA
HCAN partner WVCAG continues to work with state allies on pressuring Senator Capito to oppose repeal. The group helped generated the op-ed below:

Betty Rivard: My History with Medicaid

Activists and impacted people also took a bus DC to share health care stories with Senator Capito & Senator Manchin on June 20:
https://twitter.com/PplsAction/status/877197796696313857

Rev. Janice Hill sharing her daughter’s health care story with Sen. Capito:

Earlier in the month, on June 16th, the group held a rally against AHCA in Charleston calling on Senator Capito to oppose the bill.

Protesters Rally against AHCA in Charleston
WISCONSIN
HCAN partner Citizen Action of Wisconsin gathered about 20 people to protest outside the building of a new controversial hospital in Eau Claire Wisconsin against the massive tax giveaways masquerading as a healthcare bill. The group called on Sen. Johnson to oppose cuts to healthcare that will fund tax breaks for the rich and corporations at the federal level as well. See coverage below.

People Protest proposed changes to Affordable Care Act
http://ecweb.libercus.net/News/Daily-Updates/2017/06/21/People-protest-proposed-changes-to-Affordable-Care-Act.html

Eau Clair demonstrators gather to protest health care repeal

State and local Democrats protest Republican health care secrecy

Citizen Action of Wisconsin is also connecting the federal fight to protect healthcare and Medicaid with their state work to advance healthcare and protect Medicaid that focuses on WI Governor Scott Walker:

Just 5 out of more than 1,000 commenters fully back Walker’s drug-test Medicaid plan

NATIONAL:

This link is to a blog that about the impact of the Senate bill on Indian Country. HCAN is working with a number of groups in ND, NE, AK to generate attention to the consequences of repeal for tribal communities.

How bad could it be: don’t get sick if senate or house bill becomes law