

## Script for Phone Calls to Your Congressperson on

### ACA and Medicaid

*To call your member of Congress, dial the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (212) 224-3121. An operator will connect you directly to your Congressperson's Washington DC office.*

Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nr. of Congressional District (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

***You will ask to speak to your Congressperson. If he/she is unavailable, ask for someone who knows the representative's position on the Affordable Care Act (also called Obamacare).***

***Take notes on the Rep's position and statements.***

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_, a constituent and a member of NYSUT and the Professional Staff Congress \ PSC, the union that represents 27,000 City University faculty and staff. I would like to speak to Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_ about the Affordable Care Act. ***If he/she is not available, ask for a staff member who knows the Representative's position on the Affordable Care Act.***

#### ***IF SOMEONE IS AVAILABLE:***

Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ from the PSC, the union of CUNY's faculty and staff. I am calling today to express our strong opposition to the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The ACA brought first-time health insurance coverage to over 20 million Americans and expanded coverage for millions under Medicaid. For seniors it improved Medicare prescription drug coverage by shrinking the "donut hole" and improving access to preventive care services. The Professional Staff Congress of CUNY believes that the ACA should be expanded in scope, not repealed. Does Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act?

#### ***A1. IF SHE/HE OPPOSES ACA REPEAL, SAY THANK YOU AND GO ON TO ANOTHER ASPECT OF PROTECTING BENEFITS UNDER ACA.***

Congressional leaders have advanced proposals to modify ACA by eliminating funds for Medicaid expansion. This will force states receiving ACA Medicaid funds to stop covering persons newly eligible for Medicaid or to cut benefits for all Medicaid recipients or to spend billions in state funds to fully cover all who are eligible. Would Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_ oppose this change to the Affordable Care Act? (***TRY TO GET A COMMITMENT***).

**A2.** Congressional leaders have also advanced proposals to convert all Medicaid funds into fixed block grants to the states. We oppose such block grants. Medicaid currently

provides an essential safety net for over 70 million Americans. Block grants will allow already hard-pressed state governments to impose work and other rules that would effectively cut off health care for needy families and those with pre-existing conditions. Would Congressperson \_\_\_\_\_ oppose converting Medicaid to block grants? **(AGAIN, TRY TO GET A COMMITMENT).**

**B. IF THE REP OR STAFF MEMBER IS UNCERTAIN OR EVASIVE, AS SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES MAY BE FLUID, OR STILL BEING DEBATED, ASK –** Will you let (me) us know if a debate on this issue is scheduled?

**C. IF THEY SAY THE REP. SUPPORTS ACA “REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT”, LET THEM KNOW THAT THE UNION BELIEVES THAT ANY REPLACEMENT BILL WOULD DEPRIVE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND DRIVE UP ITS COSTS FOR OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST IN NEED. TELL THEM ALSO THAT THE PSC AND NYSUT WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ANY VOTE TO REPEAL OR RESTRUCTURE ACA WHEN MAKING FUTURE ENDORSEMENTS.**

**D. IF NONCOMMITTAL, OR DOESN'T KNOW, ASK:** When will you or the Congressperson be available to speak to me about the concerns we have about the Affordable Care Act.?

**E. IF NO ONE RESPONSIBLE IS AVAILABLE, THE OFFICE PERSON MAY SAY SOMEONE WILL CALL YOU BACK OR SAY WHEN THAT PERSON IS IN THE OFFICE. IF SO, GET A NAME AND CALL BACK IF NO ONE HAS RETURNED YOUR CALL WITHIN A FEW DAYS OR WHEN THE OFFICE SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT REACH THE STAFF MEMBER. BE PERSISTENT.**

**FOR ALL CALLS:** Thank you for your time.

**NOTE:** Please send us a report of your calls to [psc-cuny.org/SafetyNetCampaign](http://psc-cuny.org/SafetyNetCampaign).