

Protecting Access to Quality Health Care in our States

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Presentation Outline:

- **Intro**
 - Briefly outline how health care has been under threat consistently since Jan. of last year, including congressional efforts to repeal the ACA and block grant Medicaid
- **Current Threats- Administrative, incremental, death by a thousand cuts**
 - Medicaid
 - Work requirements: mention state waivers as well as a shifting of norms at the federal level that could impact Medicaid (work requirements in housing and SNAP for example)
 - Budget threats: Pay-fors and tax cuts lead to Medicaid cuts down the line
 - Other threats- lock-out periods, increases in cost-sharing, etc.
 - Private Insurance
 - Elimination of individual mandate and efforts to destabilize the market
 - Rule weakening benefits standards, including for people w/ pre-existing conditions
 - Allowing short term plans
- **How do we fight back?**
 - Focus is on the state and local level
 - Involves both offensive and defensive strategies
 - Requires broad coalitions
 - Importance of advocates, real-people's stories, putting a human face on health care threats
- **State Examples**
 - Maryland- private market protections
 - California- focus on health equity and expanding coverage
 - Good Medicaid reforms that also lower costs- OR and NC (possibly Louisiana managed care)

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