

YWCA USA Bi-Weekly Policy Update

March 31, 2017

House of Representatives Fails in Effort to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act

On Friday, March 24, Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the American Health Care Act, proposed legislation that would have repealed and replaced major components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also referred to as Obamacare) from floor consideration as it became clear that they did not have the votes to pass the legislation in the House and move it to the Senate. YWCA USA and other state and national organizations around the country worked fervently to oppose the legislation, which would have had a devastating impact on women, families and marginalized communities.

Speaker Ryan, in his speech on Friday, indicated that the House would move on from working to repeal and replace the ACA, for the time being, to consider tax reform, FY17 and FY 18 budget proposals, as well as other key issues on President Trump's agenda. Since then, there have been mixed messages regarding whether another attempt will be made to repeal the ACA, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services has indicated that the Administration will take steps to dismantle parts of the ACA. While we are pleased that the ACA was not repealed last week, it is imperative that we stay prepared to act against any negative health care proposals that may come down the road.

[House Republicans pull health care bill](#) [CNN Politics]

[GOP health-care bill: House Republican leaders abruptly pull their rewrite of the nation's health-care law](#) [The Washington Post]

[Trump administration still plans to undo parts of the ACA, Tom Price testifies](#) [The Washington Post]

Supreme Court Nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch Testifies Before Senate Judiciary Committee, YWCA Announces Opposition

Last week, Judge Neil Gorsuch testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee as he is considered to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Scalia following his death. After four days of testimony, YWCA USA's concerns about Judge Gorsuch's record with respect to women's rights, workplace fairness, and racial justice and civil rights were exacerbated rather than assuaged. Accordingly, following the hearing, YWCA USA released [a statement](#) formally opposing Judge Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has announced that the Senate will vote on Judge Gorsuch's nomination on April 7th.

[Inscrutable Gorsuch raises Democratic ire](#) [CNN Politics]

[Gorsuch's path to 60 votes closing fast](#) [Politico]

Attorney General Sessions Announces Grants will be Withheld from Sanctuary Cities

On March 27, Attorney General Sessions made an appearance in the White House briefing room to reiterate that compliance with federal immigration laws requiring local authorities to share

citizenship and immigration status information with the Immigration and Naturalization Service is a prerequisite for state and local governments who request Justice Department grants. In addition to threatening to withhold as much as \$4.1 billion in federal grants, Sessions indicated that Department of Justice may also “claw back” funds that have already been distributed to sanctuary jurisdictions that refuse to comply. The Department seems to be focused on sanctuary jurisdictions that refuse to honor detainers (requests by federal immigration agencies to hold individuals who are eligible for deportation for up to 48 hours to provide time for immigration officials to pick them up). DOJ reports that 118 jurisdictions recently refused to honor detainer requests. Sessions indicated that the federal immigration compliance requirement would initially apply to funds that support community policing efforts, which are awarded through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Office of Justice Programs, and that the requirements could be expanded to apply to other sources of federal funding as well.

Sanctuary cities are cities that self-identify as jurisdictions that wish to follow certain procedures to protect illegal immigrants, and many already indicate that they will not use federal funding to protect these populations. Additional sanctuary cities have been announced since the election of President Trump and following his Executive Orders geared at the U.S. immigration process. A number of sanctuary jurisdictions are fighting back against these efforts, and some legal scholars have questioned the constitutionality of efforts to withhold federal funding (particularly for programs that are not closely tied to immigration) as a means of coercing state and local compliance with immigration laws.

[Sessions says grants to be withheld from sanctuary cities](#) [The Hill]

[‘Sanctuary Cities’ Promise Legal Fight After Sessions Threatens Funds](#) [NPR]

[Seattle sues Trump administration over sanctuary-city threats](#) [The Christian Science Monitor]

[What Are Sanctuary Cities?](#) [The New York Times] (includes maps)

President Trump Releases “Skinny” Budget Proposal

On March 16th, President Trump released his FY2018 Budget Blueprint – an overview of the budget funding levels the administration will be seeking for FY2018. YWCA USA released [analysis](#) of the blueprint that same day as well as a [statement](#) in opposition to its severe cuts. The Continuing Resolution for FY2017 is set to expire on April 28th, so action to continue government funding through the remainder of FY17 (through September) is expected in the next month, before consideration of President Trump’s FY18 proposal. As budget season picks up, please review our [Federal Budget Advocacy Toolkit](#) to help guide your work around the FY17 and FY18 budget processes.

Stand Against Racism 2017: One Month Away!

Don’t forget to [register](#) your association for Stand Against Racism: Women of Color Leading Change, April 27-30, 2017!



**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**

Sign up to receive YWCA USA Action Alerts

YWCA USA has launched its new action alert tool! [Sign up](#) here to make sure you receive all the latest calls to action on pressing public policy issues.

Don't Forget to Act!

Please see the Action Alerts in YWCA USA's new [Action Center](#) to encourage your legislators on many of our policy priorities! Action alerts are currently posted encouraging legislators to support the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (ERRPA) and the FAMILY Act, and to protect access to quality, affordable health care.

Upcoming Webinars

[Register](#) for our next Webinar on Supporting Immigrant Communities: Protecting Families and Sanctuary Cities on **April 13th at 3PM!**

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