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ADAPT on Capitol Hill promoting Disability Integration Act and defending Medicaid which underpins Life and Liberty for disabled Americans

For the third day of our 2017 Spring Action, ADAPT took to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to support disabled people's Constitutional rights to life and liberty. The Declaration of Independence promises, and the Constitution guarantees, that all Americans have a right to life and liberty free from undue interference by the Government. For disabled Americans, however, these rights are undermined by a Medicaid system that forces us into institutions to receive the long term services and supports (LTSS) that we rely on to live. ADAPT has been working for decades to secure these rights, which are promised to all Americans in the Constitution, including disabled Americans.

At the top of ADAPT's agenda this year is the Disability Integration Act (DIA), bold legislation which requires Medicaid and insurers who provide LTSS to ensure that disabled people have the choice to receive those services in the community. The DIA spells out in Federal statute that disabled citizens have the same liberty that all Americans enjoy—the liberty to choose how and where we will live and work, raise our families and direct our affairs.

Next on our agenda are the cuts to Medicaid in the House version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA). We know that the Senate is drafting its own version, in secret and without input from the disability community, but the version that the House passed two weeks ago presents us with some serious problems. Specifically, the House has sunsetted funding for the Community First Choice option, a funding incentive that encourages states to provide LTSS in the community. The AHCA provides the states "flexibility" to decide whether they will protect people with preexisting conditions, and allows insurers to impose lifetime limits again – two policies which make AHCA a disaster for the disability community.

We are on the Hill today fighting for your rights! We are urging Congress to sign on as cosponsors to the DIA in the House and Senate, and we are also urging Congress to turn back from the disastrous changes to Medicaid which will harm our community! Our Constitutional rights to life and liberty must be protected! FREE OUR PEOPLE!

We urge all citizens to join with us in contacting their senators and representatives in opposition to the AHCA and block granting Medicaid and in support of the Disability Integration Act.

ADAPT's history, the issues we are fighting for and our activities can be followed on our web site at www.adapt.org, our ADAPT Facebook page and on Twitter – look for #ADAPTandRESIST

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