Dear colleagues:

As fellow members of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, we are writing to ask you to join us in two Days of Action to protect Medicaid on June 15th and June 22nd. The Senate is considering a health care bill as we speak that could be introduced any day and passed by the Fourth of July recess. Since the process has not been transparent, we don’t yet know the final bill they’re proposing, but what we do know is that Medicaid is at risk, and now is the time to speak out.

Please join us in these two days of action to call your U.S. senators and urge them to vote “no” on any proposal that cuts or caps Medicaid funding in any way. Doing so would jeopardize the way the program works now to effectively cover 37 million children and youth, and would leave families worse off. Young adults living in poverty — a uniquely vulnerable group that has benefited greatly from expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act — are also at risk of losing their coverage.

We are joining our colleagues from the American Academy of Pediatrics in calling for these days of action to protect Medicaid. We thank them for their ongoing advocacy, and ask you to share this call with your pediatric colleagues.

Here is a list of all Senate phone numbers and below is a sample script. Start with their DC office and if you can’t get through, try the district office closest to where you live. If you have time, ask for a local meeting in the state. If you don’t have time to meet, say the following when you call:

- Hello. I am an adolescent health professional from {your state} and a member of the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine {and other relevant organizations}. I am calling today to urge {Senator’s name} to oppose any funding cuts or caps to Medicaid in your health care bill.

- Medicaid covers youth from low-income families, as well as those with special health care needs. It also covers many young adults. It’s a lifeline program for {insert number of youth on Medicaid from the AAP state fact sheet} in our state.
I am deeply concerned with any proposal to cut or cap federal funding for Medicaid in any way. Doing so would shift costs to states, likely leading to enrollment and benefit cuts, and leaving youth worse off.

Insert brief anecdote if you have one of a patient on Medicaid who would be impacted (i.e. young adult over 18 who benefited from Medicaid expansion rules that cover young adults below 133% of the federal poverty line.)

Through Medicaid, youth are guaranteed benefits that cover a comprehensive array of medically necessary services, including developmental, vision and hearing screenings. Pediatricians and adolescent health specialists recommend these services because they help diagnose, treat and prevent complex conditions right away, saving money and lives. Capping Medicaid funding means these services could be rolled back or eliminated altogether.

In addition, Medicaid expansion allowed many previously uninsured parents to gain coverage, making them better able to care for their children and adolescents. Any efforts to cap Medicaid funding or phase out Medicaid expansion would be devastating to youth and their families.

Medicaid expansion also allowed many young adults living in poverty to obtain health insurance, the majority of whom were uninsured. Young adults are more likely to work in jobs that do not offer insurance benefits, and many have parents who cannot afford private insurance—Medicaid is a lifeline for these young people.

Please protect health care coverage for children and youth and oppose any funding cuts or caps to Medicaid in any health care bill you consider.

Thank you for all you do for children and youth.

In addition, here are some sample social media posts for you to consider sending out today, June 15th, and June 22nd using #DontCapMyCare.

Twitter handles for all U.S. Senators: https://twitter.com/cspan/lists/senators/members

Sample messages:

- @SenatorTwitterHandle: Medicaid gives {Your state abbreviation} youth a better chance for a healthy future. #DontCapMyCare
- @SenatorTwitterHandle: I’m an adolescent health professional & my patients have one message: #DontCapMyCare. Keep Medicaid strong & #KeepYouthCovered!
- Medicaid matters for children and youth. @SenatorTwitterHandle #DontCapMyCare. Protect Medicaid in your health care bill.

Sincerely,