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Contact: Gary Zuckett, Executive Director – (304) 346-5891 or 437-3701, garyz@wvcag.org

Senator Capito Votes for Senate Budget Resolution That Puts Health Care for West Virginia Families at Risk

Resolution sets up blueprint for tax cuts that mostly benefit wealthy households while cutting health care and education for everyone else

Charleston, WV – The U.S. Senate voted late last evening to approve a Budget Resolution that sets a framework for cuts to federal healthcare and education as well as tax cuts that mainly benefit corporations and the wealthiest. The Resolution includes a \$1.5 trillion tax cut that will increase the deficit and may force cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security education, and other services that families rely on.

Senator Capito voted for the Resolution that could put Medicaid for 438,000 West Virginians at risk as well as Medicare for 416,000 seniors and people with disabilities.

The Senate budget includes \$5.8 trillion in cuts to federal spending, including nearly \$500 billion from Medicare and \$1.3 trillion from Medicaid and other healthcare programs. Another \$650 billion may be cut from income security programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for disabled individuals, and tax credits for working families.

“Time and time again, Senator Capito has shown that, despite what she says, her priorities are taking care of the wealthy and big business, not her constituents. She supported repealing the Affordable Care Act, which would have taken health coverage and Medicaid from hundreds of thousands of people and now she’s supporting a budget plan that would make even more cuts to health care and other programs—all to give tax breaks to the people who need them least,” commented Gary Zuckett, Executive Director, WV Citizen Action.

The Resolution creates instructions to make these cuts and write legislation tax breaks that mainly benefit the wealthiest from a framework laid out by President Trump earlier this year. Under the GOP plan, millionaires in West Virginia would receive about 31% of the tax breaks while the bottom 40% of state taxpayers would receive between 1-4%.

“This Robinhood-in-reverse tax plan that takes away health care and SNAP from the needy to give billions in tax breaks to the rich should be tossed in the trash, not made the law of the land,” added Zuckett, *“We can and should do better than this for our citizens.”*

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