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Statement on Congress's Failed Effort to Repeal the Affordable Care Act

MADISON, WI – The following is a response from Ken Taylor, executive director of Kids Forward, on Congress's failed attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act early this morning.

"The outcome of Friday morning's vote means there is a window of opportunity to move forward and strengthen the health care system, rather than moving backwards and causing tens of millions of Americans to become uninsured. The bill's defeat means that legislators of both parties can and should come together to find ways to improve the Affordable Care Act and strengthen access to quality, affordable health care.

We are very happy that the efforts to reverse the Affordable Care Act did not succeed, but we cannot become complacent. Proponents of the failed bill are already working to include in the federal budget bill one of the most dangerous parts of their unsuccessful legislation – deep cuts to Medicaid. In fact, the House and Senate versions of the budget bill would make even deeper cuts to Medicaid than the "repeal and replace" legislation.

Kids Forward is committed to working with legislators in both parties towards policy solutions that promote access to opportunity for every kid, every family, and every community in the state. Access to affordable, comprehensive health care is crucial in ensuring that Wisconsin's children are healthy and thriving at school and into the future.

We are hopeful that our legislators can work together to build upon the successes of the Affordable Care Act and find a path forward towards policies to help build a strong health care system, which includes a robust Medicaid program that can continue to provide children and their families with critically important health care services."

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Kids Forward, formerly the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, advocates for effective, long-lasting solutions that break down barriers to success for children and families in Wisconsin. Using research and a community-informed approach, Kids Forward works to help every kid, every family, and every community thrive.