



# **United Way Illinois Meeting**

## Federal Policy Update

# Latest from Washington

- New Congress, New President
- United Way's Advocacy Strategy
- Congress' To-do List:
  - Tax reform
  - ACA Repeal
  - 2018 appropriations



#UWAdvocate



## Health Reform: Where are we now?

### Senate Revised BCRA (ACA Repeal/Replace)

- Senate could proceed to a floor vote by *July 21*
- Revised BCRA *does not change the \$800 billion cuts to Medicaid*
- Provides waivers to eliminate essential health benefits
- Insurers will be *allowed to sell plans that* cover less

# Health Reform: Where are we now?



## CHIP Reauthorization

- Covers *8 million children* from working families
- Program *funding ends 30 September* and will cause millions of children to lose coverage
- *No sense of urgency* in Congress and could be delayed till end of year

# Our Healthcare Issues: What



1. Expand healthcare coverage for children and adults:  
Any changes to our health care laws *improve on existing coverage*: affordable, attainable and adequate
  - ❖ Protecting Essential Health Benefits
  - ❖ Preserving Consumer Protections
  - ❖ Strengthening Private Marketplace
  - ❖ Protecting Medicaid
  - ❖ Reauthorizing CHIP

# Our Healthcare Issues: What



## 2. Expand access to behavioral health services

- ❖ Increase resources for prevention and treatment services as part of comprehensive approach to treating the whole person
- ❖ Increase federal focus and resources on opiate epidemic: *19 opioid deaths at day in US*

# To Know More



UW Online Healthcare Advocacy HUB

<https://online.unitedway.org/healthcare-advocacy-hub>

To Join the Healthcare Advocacy Cohort or for additional information or questions: Contact

Dave Wallace, UWW Health Policy Director

[dave.Wallace@uww.unitedway.org](mailto:dave.Wallace@uww.unitedway.org)

703.836.7112 x504



## Tax Reform: Where are we now?



- Movement on Tax Reform: ~\\_(\ツ)\\_/~
- President's proposal:
  - Doubles standard deduction → fewer people itemize
  - Only 8 million people would claim charitable deduction
  - EITC not in president's plan



# Our Tax Reform Issues: What



1. Expand the **charitable deduction** for all taxpayers, including those who take the standard deduction
2. Provide the **EITC for workers without children**
  - Lower age of eligibility to 21

# Tax Reform: Our Approach

## ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN SUCCESS STRATEGIES



National, State and Local Partnerships



Strategic Engagement of United Ways and Volunteers



Public Awareness Building



Education of Elected Officials

# Tax Reform: Our Approach

**Protect THE EITC & CTC IN TAX REFORM**

**27 Million**  
American Workers Claimed the EITC in 2016<sup>1</sup>

**\$67 Billion**  
EITC dollars back to communities across the USA, spent at local businesses in 2016<sup>2</sup>

**3.2% drop**  
in poverty rate in the United States between 2013 - 2015 due to the EITC & CTC<sup>3</sup>

**American Workers, Businesses, and Families Are Counting on It**

**Tax Reform Should Work for Working Americans**

Millions of Workers are Taxed Into Poverty Every Year, Including

- Parents who don't live with their kids but help pay for child expenses
- Young workers paying for their own higher education
- Veterans who fought for our country and are finding stable ground at home

**The Solution is Simple  
#ExpandEITC**



# To Know More



UW Online Working Tax Credits Campaign HUB

<https://online.unitedway.org/groups/working-tax-credits-advocacy-campaign-0>

To Join the EITC Cohort or for additional information or questions: Contact

Caitlin Carey, UWW Income Director

[Caitlin.Carey@uww.unitedway.org](mailto:Caitlin.Carey@uww.unitedway.org)



# Appropriations: Where are we now?



- ✓ 2017 appropriations
- 2018 appropriations
  - House Labor-H bill cuts \$3 billion in programs
  - Funding restored for VITA in House Financial Svcs subcmte
  - House Homeland Security Subcmte included \$120 million for EFSP

# Our Appropriations Priorities: What

- Largest possible increase for Labor-HHS approps bill
- Protect funding for EFSP and VITA
- Support mandatory programs including food, housing, health care and income security
- Reverse the divestment trends in children's programs

# What You Can Do



- August Recess
  - Organize a site visit
  - Schedule a meeting
  - Attend a Town Hall
- Share the CTAs:
  - <https://online.unitedway.org/groups/public-policy-and-advocacy/amplify-message-home>
- Join a Policy Cohort





# August Recess

UNITED WAY ADVOCACY  
ACTION WEEK  
AUGUST 21 -25





# National Voter Registration Day

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

**SIGN UP:**

<http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/partners/partner-sign-up/?source=0008>



**UNITED WE FIGHT.**

®



**UNITED WAY  
ALTERNATIVE  
SPRING BREAK  
NEW JERSEY  
SPRING 2012**