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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS STATEMENT ON
GRAHAM-CASSIDY-HELLER-JOHNSON BILL**

Washington, DC -- The National Alliance to End Homelessness cannot support any legislation that significantly cuts Medicaid funding and phases out Medicaid expansion. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill under consideration in the Senate represents a serious threat to essential funding and coverage for people at risk for or experiencing homelessness.

This bill under consideration makes significant changes to the structure of the 50-year-old “traditional” Medicaid program, converting it to a block grant with per-capita caps, funded at a level well below what current law would pay. In addition, it eliminates Medicaid “expansion,” replacing it with a separate block grant that is then eliminated in 2027. The combination strips away crucial resources that states and localities need to solve homelessness, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Access to Medicaid is a powerful tool for local communities combating chronic homelessness. This work, recently highlighted in the Final Report of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, is a source of bipartisan pride in communities across the country. The service model involved, permanent supportive housing, provides housing assistance matched with health care, behavioral health treatment, and related services. Medicaid is a key source of funding. Severe cuts to Medicaid, regardless of the type, or the time period over which they occur, will greatly reduce crucial resources that fund services for people with disabilities and recovering from substance abuse disorders.

On a broader scale, the bill leaves more people vulnerable to homelessness. Independent experts have estimated that by 2027, as many as 32 million fewer people would have health care coverage under this proposal. Without adequate health coverage, more people will experience housing instability. As a result, health care and homeless systems will face greater demand, and the nation will be left footing the bill.

The Alliance urges the Senate to reject the current proposal, and return to the bipartisan, measured efforts for reform.

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The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. As a leading voice on the issue of homelessness, the Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions; works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity; and provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.