

Carolyn Miles, CEO of Save the Children

Mark Masselli: This is Conversation on Healthcare, I am Mark Masselli.

Margaret Flinter: And I am Margaret Flinter.

Mark Masselli: Well, Margaret, the Senate is delaying a vote on its version of the bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. When it became clear that a vote before the July 4th recess would come up short of the necessary votes, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell called for a delay. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a rather scathing score of the Senate Republican Health Bill predicting significant cuts to coverage for millions of Americans. The CBO says that the Senate Health Bill will lead to 22 million Americans losing health coverage.

Margaret Flinter: Well, let's just say that would be a devastating blow to the million of Americans, who receive care through Medicaid, whether it is the disabled, other vulnerable populations including, Mark, and I think people don't realize this, 40% of the nation's children and that could seriously undermine access to quality care for so many people and have a profound influence on health outcomes.

Mark Masselli: Well, the Senate Bill has been described as a shift of wealth from the poor to the rich offering significant tax cuts to the insurance industry, as well as to other stakeholders.

Margaret Flinter: And the nonpartisan CBO scored the House Bill very negatively saying it would lead to the loss of health coverage for at least 23 million Americans and would raise costs significantly for health consumers, but no matter what the score, you just have to see the reality. It is bound to cause harm to many of the nation's most vulnerable residents including children.

Mark Masselli: And that brings us to today's guest, Margaret. Every few years we would like to check in with Carolyn Miles, CEO of Save the Children. They've just released a new report on the status of children worldwide and the conclusion is that a quarter of the world's children are being denied a childhood.

Margaret Flinter: We look forward to catching up with Carolyn Miles and hearing about their important work in this new report.

Mark Masselli: And Lori Robertson stops by. She is the Managing Editor of FactCheck.org, who looks at misstatement about health policy in the public domain, but no matter what the topic, you can hear all of our shows by going to www.chcradio.com.

Margaret Flinter: And as always if you have comments, please email us at www.chcradio@chc1.com or find us on Facebook or Twitter, because we love to hear from you. We'll get you our interview with Carolyn Miles in just a moment.

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Mark Masselli: But first, here is our producer Marianne O'Hare with this week's Headline News.

Marianne O'Hare: I am Marianne O'Hare with these Healthcare Headlines. They are going for the delay. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell had been gunning for an early vote on the GOP controlled Senate's Healthcare Bill and had wanted to vote on that Bill before the start of the July 4th recess, but there a significant opposition, Senate Republicans released their secretly crafted answer to the House's American Healthcare Act and for all intention and purposes, the Senate version is quite similar; elimination of Medicaid expansion, elimination of the individual mandate require Americans to buy insurance and a chance for State's to apply for waivers that would allow them to cover less and charge more for those with preexisting conditions. According to the CBO, 22 million Americans would end coverage or lose it within 10 years. The insurance companies will be allowed to charge older, sicker Americans higher premiums, five times as much. The Senate needs 51 votes to pass the Bill, which could get done with 50 Republican Senators and Vice President Mike Pence lending a deciding vote, but the number of Republican Senators, who they say they won't vote for the measure grew to at least five including Senators like Susan Collins of Maine, who says the Bill would harm the one in five residents of her State who rely on Medicaid and Senators such as Rand Paul, who called the Bill ObamaCare-Lite, saying at least too many restrictions in place. Meanwhile a bipartisan coalition the nation's Governors are expressing extreme displeasure with the Bill, which they say will harm State Government significantly. Ohio Republican Governor John Kasich is leading the coalition, which includes Nevada's Republican Governor Sandoval and Colorado Governor Hickenlooper, a Democrat, all pointing to Medicaid cutbacks, specifically as a threat to not just to health of their residents, but to the stability of the health industry and State budgets as well. Senators are planning on holding town halls at various locations around the country during the July 4th recess including Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy, a Republican and physician, who is uncertain he can support a Bill that harms so many that rely on the safety net. A year after it was first launched, participants of former President Obama's Cancer Moonshot initiative led by former Vice President Joe Biden, met again in Washington to discuss their goals for curing cancer. The Cancer Moonshot one year later summit renewed commitment to collaborating on better data sharing for faster cures, but also committing to keep up pressure on the current powers that begin in Washington in the wake of significant cuts to science and research budgets under President Trump. And wave of the future for infertility, scientists have used a 3D printer to create a mouse ovary capable of producing healthy offspring and in the mice, the result was a structure of about the size of a pea recreating the environment inside natural ovaries. Next, researchers placed real tissue for mouse ovaries known as follicles into the 3D printed ovary scaffolds. The researchers transplanted the devices into sterilized mice, blood vessels attached themselves to partially artificial ovaries, which then began to function. Researchers hope to

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create replacement human ovaries someday in the future. I am Marianne O'Hare with these Healthcare Headlines.

Mark Masselli: Prior to becoming CEO, Ms. Miles served as Chief Operating Officer at Save the Children. She spent her earlier career working as an entrepreneur, as well as for American Express in Hong Kong, where her attention shifted to improving childhood welfare. Ms. Miles has served on numerous boards including the University of Virginia's Darden's School of Business, where she received her MBA. She was named one of the 50 of the world's greatest leaders by Fortune Magazine; Carolyn, welcome back to Conversations on Healthcare.

Carolyn Miles: Thanks so much Mark and Margaret, it is great to be back with you both.

Mark Masselli: Yeah, and it has been a few years since we caught up on the refugee crisis and at that point, you were telling us about just the incredible dislocation that was happening to millions of children around the world and really it does not seem like it has gotten better in that last check, a record number, more than 65 million people in the world are now living as displaced refugees around the world and half of them are children, but I am wondering if you could bring our listeners up to date on the status of the refugee crisis and its continued impact on children's lives.

Carolyn Miles: I wish I could say that things have gotten a lot better since the last time we spoke, but as you said, they haven't and so there are massive numbers of children that have been affected and Save the Children has been working on this crisis really for six years now, but I also think it is really important to put a face to this crisis and I have been spending much of my time traveling to visit the refugee crisis again and you know, I met a young girl in Lebanon, for example, who was in school for the first time in three years since she had last been in her hometown of Aleppo, so one of the things that we are finding is that the mental trauma is really starting to show up in kids, many more instances of self harm and bedwetting and nightmares and those kinds of things and that's really showing up now in a bigger way and if you think about it, it is understandable because these kids have been under stress for so long, so we continue to try to provide those safe places for children, the outlets for them to have some normalcy that is super important I think for these children.

Margaret Flinter: Well, Carolyn, Save the Children has just released an in depth analysis of the plight of the world's children. The inaugural end of childhood report, that's a chilling title right there. 700 million children, roughly a quarter of the world's child population really being denied the experience of being a child, of childhood; really, these children are found everywhere being impacted by a variety of challenges, from war to displacement, poverty, and lack of access to basic resources. Tell us what some of the most troubling impacts on childhood

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on these children are that you found and their likely long-term effects in terms of stress and really almost a posttraumatic stress syndrome, but please share with us what you found.

Carolyn Miles: I think we can all relate to childhood as a time that should be, you know, a time to learn, to play, but unfortunately, this report showed us that one in four children, for them their childhood is ending too soon and so that's why we launched this report. It was really to raise the fact that this is happening for so many kids around the world. So we looked at actually, eight, what we call childhood enders, things like child mortality, so children being killed before their 18th birthday, malnutrition, which stunts children not just physically, but it stunts their growth mentally, being out of school, so having an end to their education, child labor, really a child going to work at a very young age, child marriage, which we know for girls, particularly is a huge ender of childhood, being a victim of extreme violence and I was in Latin America, where I saw this, earlier this year, and then forced displacement by conflict, so being a refugee or being displaced inside your country. Those are the things that really we believe end childhood and we looked across 172 countries, and we ranked countries in terms of their ranking on those eight indicators, but one of the things that we found is that when we examined these childhood enders, refugees and the inability to live in your home is one of those enders and that really is driving kids out of school, it is causing early marriage actually for a lot of the girls, so you know we are still seeing things like malnutrition being huge problems. So you will see that you know children are physically smaller, shorter, and lighter, but what you don't see from the physical side is what happens to kids' brains and we know that nutrition is so critical, particularly in those early years.

Mark Masselli: You know, Carolyn, I imagine as you start to deal with so many different individuals, and so many different cultures and more ways that they raise all sorts of different problems for youth, child marriage in particular and it still seems to be culturally accepted in many societies and one girl under 15 is forced to marry every 7 seconds around the world, and I am wondering again if you could share with our listeners, the long-term impact on childhood marriage.

Carolyn Miles: And as you said, Mark, there are 40 million girls aged 15 to 19 currently, who are married at those ages, so girls who are married as children, they are much more likely to drop out of school. Most of them will drop out of school. They will then usually have a child within a very short time of being married. When they are marrying at the age of 13 or 14, they will have children and at 15 or 16 and kids having kids is very dangerous, not only for the mother, but it is also quite dangerous for the baby, so you have higher rates of child deaths, prenatal issues for the mother, and then it is more likely for this whole cycle to repeat. Those children don't get an opportunity to go to school, so you know one of the best things to protect children is to really move that age of marriage up for girls. I was just in Greece about two weeks ago and visiting some of our refugee programs there and I met a woman named Rosa, she was

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20 years old. She had four children. She had her first child when she was 12, then she said you know suddenly when she got married, when she was 12, that was really the end and we think not only as that wrong from the standpoint of just the rights of children to a childhood, but it is a not good thing for her children and for future generation.

Margaret Flinter: Well, Carolyn, I want to talk about the economics of poverty and just the vital role that education plays in that and your report says that one in six of the world's children are currently not in school. Just another staggering statistic to try and wrap our arms around you know, I assume child labor is playing a role in this, but I wonder if you would speak to some of them, one in six children not in school is just a staggering figure.

Carolyn Miles: It is a staggering figure and I think it was one of the most surprising when we did this research. It was one of the most surprising findings to me. One of the things that is really driving this number is the huge inequalities that we see in many of the countries including our own. These are children from disadvantaged backgrounds or who are in disadvantage groups, so girls is certainly one of those groups, because a lot of times, boy's education is prioritized over girls, but there are also kids who live in conflict affected communities they live in or slums that are not even recognized as being there. In Sub Saharan Africa alone about 9 million girls will never attend school. You know, Save the Children standpoint as a policy is not that children should never work, because frankly, sometimes the child has to work to support the family, but what we say is two things, one it shouldn't be harmful labors for a child and two, that child should have an opportunity to go to school. So, in my recent trip to Lebanon, we were visiting schools that Save the Children was running and we were working with the employers to make sure that those kids, even if they were out early in the morning, picking crops and getting paid for it, that in the afternoon, they could actually come to school.

Mark Masselli: We are speaking today with Carolyn Miles, President and CEO of Save the Children, which serves the health and well being of 143 million children in the U.S. and in the 120 countries around the world. Carolyn, I think it is missed that Save the Children has big presence here in the United States, but you report around the status of kids in 40 industrialized nations and the numbers just did not board well for kids in America, who rank near the bottom of the list in terms of health, well being, and access to basic needs and I am wondering if you could just shine a light on well being of the next generation.

Carolyn Miles: Sure, well, the U.S. ranks 36 out of the 40 industrialized nations that we looked at and so we are between Bosnia and Russia. Again, I think this issue of inequality in the United States is getting worse and worse. One of the things we looked at, for example is teen pregnancy rates. The adolescent birth rate in the U.S. has gone down by more than 60%, but other countries are improving at a much faster rate, so again, when we talk about teen pregnancy,

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we know that this is an ender of childhood and that that mother loses her opportunity to finish school and starts a cycle that for her child is probably also not going to be good. We also see that while again the death rates of babies under 1 have declined about 15% in the last 10 years, we still continue to have one of the highest infant mortality rates in industrialized countries, so that shouldn't be in a country like the United States and we have to look at what other countries are doing and say, let's try to match the progress that they are having.

Margaret Flinter: Well, Carolyn, Save the Children has conducted a State by State analysis to get a better understanding of how children are doing across the country and we see such a range of disparities, you know, within the community, within the State and within the country, so really important to look on all those levels and the report looked at a variety of factors, adolescent birth weights and infant mortality. I know you also looked at child homicide and suicide rates, at the same moment in the country, Congress is looking at and considering making significant changes to healthcare in America and again, I am sure you have a very long list of initiatives and priorities that you think really would make a difference for children's health and I wondered if you'd like to share any of those priority initiatives with us.

Carolyn Miles: You know there were three things that I think at Save the Children, we really want to call on Governments and communities and healthcare professionals to take three actions. The first one is to invest more in children here in the United States and mobilize the resources that we need to address these childhood enders that we talked about, whether it is adolescent birth rates or food security or child homicide or infant mortality. You know, children don't vote and we need policy makers to invest in these issues for children. Secondly, we need to address this issue of inequality, so we have such disparity in the United States and actually in many countries around the world, we see that disparity, so we need to look at making sure that you know we are not preventing some children from accessing services or denying education to children because of what part of the country they live in and then the third step is to make sure that this access happens, so to kind to follow those services and make sure that those kids are actually getting the services that they need, so we also think it is really important that the public get engaged and that they know about these issues, so again I would just drive people to go read the report on endofchildhood.org and really understand and you know this is going to take people working together and saying this is not what we want to have in America, this is not what we want to happen for kids, particularly in the United States because we are looking at significant on things like Medicaid and children's health insurance programs. We need to raise our voices that these are important things for children.

Mark Masselli: Well, that's a clarion call for action and today we have been speaking with Carolyn Miles, President and CEO of Save the Children, which serves the health and well being of 143 million children in the United States and

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in 120 countries around the world. You can learn more about their work by going to SavetheChildren.org or you could follow her on Twitter@Carolynsave or at Savethechildren.org. Also, go and look at the report endofchildhood.org. Carolyn, thank you so much for the incredible work you and your colleagues do and for joining us today on Conversations on Healthcare.

Carolyn Miles: Thanks so much.

Mark Masselli: At Conversations on Healthcare, we want our audience to be truly in the know when it comes to the facts about healthcare reform and policy, Lori Robertson is an award-winning journalist and Managing Editor of FactCheck.org, a non-partisan, nonprofit consumer advocate for voters that aim to reduce the level of deception in U.S. politics. Lori, what have you got for us this week?

Lori Robertson: Senate Republicans have now introduced their version of a replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act. Let's look at some of the ways it compares with the health plan and current law under the ACA. Both GOP Bills would eliminate requirement to have insurance or pay a tax, though there are penalties associated with not having continuous coverage and both phase out the enhanced Federal funding for the Medicaid expansion under the ACA. That allows States to expand Medicaid eligibility to all individuals under age 65, who earn up to a 138% of the Federal poverty level. Under the ACA, the Federal Government now pays 95% of the cost for the expansion population; an amount that will gradually decline to 90% by 2020. Under the Senate Bill, that funding would be reduced starting in 2021 and in 2024, the enhanced Federal funding ends. The House Bill wouldn't allow new enrollment under the expansion with enhanced Federal funding after December 31, 2019. Both Bills would cap the amount of Federal funding that States can receive per Medicaid enrollee, starting in fiscal year 2020. The ACA provides premium tax credits to those who buy their own insurance on the individual market and earn between 100% and 400% of the Federal poverty level. The House Bill would change that to tax credit based on age, not income with older Americans getting more. The Senate Bill would make tax credits available to those earning up to 350% of the poverty level. For those earning above 150%, the Senate Bill would adjust what they pay out of pocket for premium based on age. Insurers can charge older Americans five times more than younger individuals under the GOP plan. That ratio is 3:1 under the ACA. I am Lori Robertson, Managing Editor of FactCheck.org.

Margaret Flinter: FactCheck.org is committed to factual accuracy from the country's major political players and is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. If you have a fact that you would like checked, email us at www.chcradio.com, we will have FactCheck.org's, Lori Robertson, check it out for you, here on Conversations on Healthcare.

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Margaret Flinter: Each week conversations highlights a bright idea about how to make wellness a part of our communities into everyday lives. Vaccinations are considered one of the great public health achievements of the 20th Century, reducing fatalities for most common and failed diseases by up to 99%. As recently as 2009, only 45% of the nation's pre-school age children had received all of their recommended vaccinations and boosters. And researchers at the Children's Outcomes Research Program at Children's Hospital in Colorado decided to take an in-depth look at the problem.

Dr. Allison Kempe: Primary care practitioners so overstretched that it is rather impractical and they also require a level of technical expertise that sometimes they don't have.

Margaret Flinter: Dr. Allison Kempe conducted a study on what would help to generate better compliance with the required vaccinations and she found that when parents receive timely reminders from their State and local health departments, parents were much more likely to get the vaccinations and boosters for their children that they needed.

Dr. Allison Kempe: What our study did was to centralize those efforts. So it didn't take away from the primary care providers, but it helped them to do the reminder recall for their practices centrally using a State Registry.

Margaret Flinter: Dr. Kempe says her research shows that when a reminder message can be generated for an entire population across communities, it takes the onus and the burden off of the primary care in pediatric practices.

Dr. Allison Kempe: In a fairly short six month period about 19% of children, who are not up-to-date became up-to-date versus about 13% in the practice space recalls State, so which on a population level within six months, it's really very powerful.

Margaret Flinter: And the study also suggests that it's a cost savings with the centralized State or County run database reminder system.

Dr. Allison Kempe: I can tell you that there have been some studies in recent years showing outbreaks related to lack of immunization or delayed immunization, particularly pertussis, measles, and even H Influenzae. One case of Influenzae Haemophilus Meningitis can cost tens of thousands of dollars. The costs of not preventing these illnesses are very high.

Margaret Flinter: A State Health Department driven vaccination program that assist private practices in vaccine compliance for their patient population improving vaccination rates of young and vulnerable children. Now, that's a bright idea.

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Margaret Flinter: This is Conversations on Healthcare, I am Margaret Flinter.

Mark Masselli: And I am Mark Masselli, peace and health.

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