



CARDIN

September 21, 2017

Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

As you are aware, CASA is the mid-Atlantic region's largest immigrant serving and advocacy organization representing over 94,000 members in the area with a mission to create a more just society by building power and improving the quality of life in low-income immigrant communities. CASA is a national leader in supporting immigrant families and ensuring that all individuals have the core supports necessary for full participation in society while impacting the regional and national debate on immigrants and public policy.

Since 2013, CASA has been a key partner in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Maryland, working with State and County agencies in the promotion, navigation and enrollment of eligible Maryland residents into expanded Medicaid options as well newly created coverage opportunities made possible through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Thanks to Maryland's early embrace of the Affordable Care Act and the generous navigation supports it committed from the onset, CASA has helped enroll over 11,000 Maryland residents into various insurance coverage options, the large majority of whom obtained access to a health insurance plan for the first time in their lives. Stated simply, the ACA provisions for pre-existing conditions, Medicaid expansion, Qualified Health Plan coverage for tax-paying immigrant workers, and minimum essential coverage have made it possible for our community to access affordable, quality healthcare.

The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal will largely dismantle the impressive progress that we have achieved together in Maryland, not only will it deprive over 11,000 members of our community, but 30 million more Americans of quality, affordable healthcare. Specifically, it will bar over 3,000 of CASA's tax-paying members with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from the opportunity to apply for tax credits and make them immediately ineligible for any type of health insurance coverage. It will remove personal privacy protections that are in place to protect all health insurance consumers, including CASA's members. Graham-Cassidy will drive healthcare consumers into the shadows and without access to primary care, our community will have to go to hospitals when health problems become severe,

jeopardizing the sustainability of Maryland's Hospital All-Payer Model. Access to quality, affordable healthcare is a basic human right in a thriving society such as ours, and it is against the very nature of our moral fabric to rip it away from 30 million Americans, including CASA's membership.

Senator Cardin, in closing, we call on you to denounce the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill and to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to end its terrible path. We have much work to still accomplish in our state to ensure health access to all including many in our immigrant communities that remain without coverage options today, a number that will only increase with the Trump administration's continued assault on our communities including the possible termination of TPS for over 22,000 of our State's residents. The Graham-Cassidy bill will only serve to destroy the remarkable progress that we have achieved together. We appeal for your continued work towards a just and affordable healthcare system that will benefit all residents of this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gustavo Torres
Executive Director

MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

September 21, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

We at the Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition, representing over 1200 faith, community, labor, business and health care groups from across Maryland, commend you and Senator Chris Van Hollen for strongly opposing the disastrous new Senate proposal to gut the Affordable Care Act and deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans. We also commend Governor Larry Hogan for describing the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill as "not a solution" for Maryland.

The fact is that the Medicaid program which this proposal would decimate has saved the lives of many Marylanders and helped many others lead better lives. We are holding forums across the state to highlight people who have benefited from Medicaid and their stories are touching and important. See www.healthcareforall.com for more information on these forums. Last evening at our latest forum in Silver Spring, Maryland, with Rep. Jamie Raskin we heard from Alvin Butler who movingly told us how after he lost his job and was on Medicaid, he had a heart attack and is only alive now because of the health care services his Medicaid card enabled him to get. And, we heard from Karen White who told us how her daughter with serious mental health issues is only able to live a full life because of the help which the Medicaid program is providing for her. And, we heard from Mila Johns who told us how her young daughter (also in the audience) is here today because when Ms. Johns was pregnant she had Medicaid coverage to get her the prenatal care she needed. There are countless Marylanders and millions of Americans with similar stories.

In addition, we all benefit from the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion because, as reported by the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, it has resulted in big drop in uncompensated hospital care which has translated into health insurance premiums for most people going up much more slowly than before the Affordable Care Act. From fiscal year 2013 to 2015, hospital uncompensated care costs declined by approximately \$311 million. Also during this time, the average costs for group health insurance costs increased at a slower rate

MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

than before, increasing by 20 percent over the past five years (2011-2016) compared to a 31 percent increase over the prior five year period.

Instead of trying to weaken health care coverage, we should work together to strengthen the Affordable Care Act in order to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you so much for all your critical leadership over the years on health care coverage and public health issues and we look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Vincent DeMarco
President
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative



marylandnonprofits.org

1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

September 21, 2017

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Graham-Cassidy "Repeal and Replace" Proposal

Dear Senator Cardin:

This proposal, to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee on September 25, poses a serious threat to many of the children, families, and seniors that nonprofit organizations in Maryland serve every day, whether their specific programs involve recreation or cultural experiences, education, childcare, job-training, or actual direct health or mental health care.

The Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid services it has allowed, have effectively cut by half the number of Marylanders without health insurance, and the impact in rural areas of the State has been even greater. That reduction has resulted in a significant decline, more than \$300 million, in the cost of uncompensated care required of Maryland hospitals from Fiscal year 2013 to 2015.

The proposal before the Committee on Monday could effectively reverse these benefits for previously uninsured Marylanders, and the savings realized by all other insureds through our all-payer system.

Further, as Fitch Ratings reported last week, the longer-term reductions in Medicaid funds to states across the nation embedded in this proposal pose a budgetary threat to other entities or programs dependent on state funding, including public schools, towns and cities, and higher education. Maryland alone would lose over \$4.8 billion by 2026, while the Kirwan Commission is expected to report later this year that public schools in the state will require an increase in funds of a similar scale over roughly the same period.

The Affordable Care Act needs to be strengthened and improved – not dismantled – to assure that all Marylanders can have affordable access to quality health care. We agree with Governor Hogan that "Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy bill is not a solution that works for Maryland. It will cost our state over \$2 billion annually while directly jeopardizing the health care of our citizens."



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.

We urge you and Senator Van Hollen to continue your efforts to defeat the Graham-Cassidy proposal and to advance bi-partisan attempts to improve on the success that the Affordable Care Act has already achieved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Iliff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Iliff
President and CEO

GARRETT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

A PROUD AFFILIATE OF



September 20, 2017

Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Garrett Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of WVU Medicine, provides care for the people in one of Maryland's most rural and remote communities. As such, many of our patients live in poverty and face severe health issues. After reviewing the latest proposed effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), I am greatly dismayed. The bill crafted by Senators Lindsay Graham and Bill Cassidy would have a calamitous effect on the people we serve, especially as our service area encompasses communities not only in Maryland but in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The bill's move to cap Medicaid spending and reduce federal spending on health through funding block grants to states will exacerbate an already serious problem regarding health care in rural communities. According to iVantage Health Analytics, there are 673 rural hospitals across the United States that are susceptible to closing. This bill would dramatically increase the number of vulnerable rural hospitals while also putting the people in all rural communities who struggle with poverty at risk of losing access to the care they have gained through the ACA.

For rural America, this bill would be disastrous.

Other elements of the bill would compound the problems above, including the ending of subsidies provided through the ACA and ending individual and employer mandates.

The Affordable Care Act is an imperfect law that needs to be reworked to more fully provide for and ensure access to health care for all Americans. However, repealing it and replacing it with a system that will in effect limit the care available and reduce access to care makes no sense. Garrett Regional Medical Center fully supports efforts to defeat this bill and move forward with a sensible, bipartisan effort to address health care in the United States.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Boucot'.

Mark Boucot
President and CEO



Promoting Access to Comprehensive Opioid Treatment in Maryland

The Honorable United States Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) to express the strongest opposition possible to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

MATOD represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for Opioid addiction. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, psychologists, peer recovery specialists and office personnel who dedicate every day to save lives. Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration reported that as of June 2017, over 30,000 Marylanders were enrolled in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) receiving Methadone and Buprenorphine, in conjunction with counseling and other medical services. Unfortunately, we are serving only a fraction of the friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members and others Marylanders who need medication-assisted treatment. The proposed bill creates multiple barriers to life-saving treatments.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson "Health Care" bill is more accurately referred to as a "Don't Care" bill, since its passage would cost thousands of Maryland lives. The bill would remove essential protections for people with behavioral health disorders and pre-existing conditions, while reducing access and availability to substance use disorder treatments during the worst opioid epidemic in our state's and country's history.

The proposed bill would negatively impact over 975,000 Marylanders who rely on Medicaid, including 77,000 seniors; 148,000 individuals with disabilities; and 32,000 veterans. The bill would drastically cut \$6,000 from every Marylander enrolled in Medicaid and Medicaid expansion plans, without the provision of any safety net or alternatives to receive care. The bill will severely jeopardize Maryland's long-successful Hospital All-Payer Model and the financial stability of Maryland's rural hospitals.

Maryland stands to lose over \$2 billion in state and federal funding in FY2020, and almost \$5 billion in federal Medicaid funding by 2026. Thousands of lives will be lost and countless neighborhood communities decimated under the proposed bill. Unlike the ACA, this misguided bill contains no consumer safeguards and will put thousands of Marylanders at risk by:

- Rolling back protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions;
- Ending the Medicaid expansion that helps low-income adults and families;
- Repealing Individual and Employer Mandates;
- Establishing a per-capita cap on Medicaid;
- Eliminating financial assistance that helps low and moderate income families purchase health care coverage;
- Defunding Planned Parenthood;
- Allowing imposition of unreasonable work requirements as a condition of Medicaid coverage;
- Requiring those with a break in coverage to wait six months before getting new coverage

Please feel free to share our concerns with your colleagues and others who you think might benefit from seeing them.

We thank you, Senator Cardin, for your decades of work on behalf of healthcare for all Marylanders, and stand with you in your fight against the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Respectfully,

Howard Ashkin, MMH, PsA

Howard Ashkin, MMH, PsA

President

www.MATOD.site

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Sent via email: Joshua_Izaak@cardin.senate.gov

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am writing to you on behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, to express our concern with the Graham-Cassidy proposal, the latest plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act. MedChi stands with the American Medical Association (AMA) and Maryland's Governor Hogan in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal, as it ends several protections provided by the Affordable Care Act, including coverage for our most vulnerable patients, safeguards for our patients with pre-existing conditions, and protection of patient choice.

If this bill passes, the coverage of almost one million Maryland residents who depend on Medicaid, including 77,000 senior residents, 148,000 individuals with disabilities, and 32,000 veterans, would be affected. Maryland would lose \$2.1 billion dollars in state and federal funding in FY2020, and by FY2026, \$4.8 billion in federal Medicaid funding. Nationally, the Congressional Budget Office estimated 32 million people would lose coverage, including the 12 million newly eligible low-income Medicaid expansion enrollees. 10 million would be at risk for significant increases in out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss once advanced premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions are eliminated. As the AMA previously stated, the proposed per-capita cap on Medicaid "could convert the Medicaid program into a system that limits federal support to care for needy patients [using an] insufficient predetermined formula based on per-capita caps," as per-capita caps "fail to take into account unanticipated costs of new medical innovations or the fiscal impact of public health epidemics, such as [the Opioid Crisis]."

The Graham-Cassidy proposal does not prioritize affordable coverage and access to health care for all Americans. The proposal eliminates the safeguards for patients with pre-existing conditions, and even though insurers are still required to offer coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions, states may apply for waivers to vary premiums based on health status. These waivers would allow insurers to charge increased premiums based on pre-existing conditions. Additionally, states could apply for waivers of essential health benefits, which would mean patients could lose access to necessary treatment and services. The Graham-Cassidy bill also severely jeopardizes Maryland's Hospital All-Payor Model and the financial stability of Maryland's rural hospitals, interfering with Maryland residents' access to health care in remote areas.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal also impedes patient choice by prohibiting Medicaid recipients from using their Medicaid coverage at clinics operated by Planned Parenthood and other similar organizations. This restriction limits the patients' freedom to choose their providers, as well as influences physicians from practicing in a setting of their own choice.

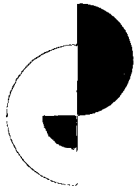
This latest proposal to amend the Affordable Care Act is not the solution to the United States' health care problems. As Governor Hogan said, "We need common sense, bipartisan solutions that will stabilize markets and actually expand affordable coverage."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



Stephen J. Rockower, M.D.
President
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society



primary care coalition

September 21, 2017

making
health care
happen

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

8757 Georgia Ave.
10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD
20910

T: 301.628.3405
F: 301.608.2384

Dear Senator Cardin:

The Senate is once again considering changes to our health care system that will have a profound impact on our state and local budgets and our patients. You have been a steadfast champion for our state, and we thank you for taking a strong stand for the health of all Marylanders and all Americans.

The legislation currently under consideration in the Senate, known as the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill is a deeply concerning and if enacted would be extremely harmful to the health and lives of millions of people.

As the Senate continues to work on health reform in general, we urge you to take these ideas into consideration and ask for your help in communicating them to your colleagues in the Senate. **These core principles are not about party or politics, they are about doing what is right for the health of our nation.**

Principles and Recommendations for Health Reform

The Primary Care Coalition works on the front lines of a changing health care system. A system that can be improved dramatically—specifically by becoming more equitable, accessible, and affordable for all patients in need, while driving efficiency and promoting high-quality, high-value care. To that end, we offer the following principles and recommendations to help guide your work on any effort to reform the health care system moving forward. We believe these principles are shared by many health centers and other safety-net providers across the country.

1. **First, do no harm – do not eliminate coverage for any Marylander or any American.** This should be the guiding principle of efforts to reform the health care system – to sustain the number of people covered by insurance *and* maintain the accessibility, affordability, and quality of that coverage for every American.
2. **Maintain a strong and viable safety net through Medicaid.** Medicaid and community based health safety-net providers work synchronously to ensure patients have access to affordable, high-quality care as well as reliable and predictable coverage. Health reform legislation should build on successes within Medicaid, not simply shift the burden of operating and financing the program to the States. Specifically, we cannot support proposals to place caps on the federal share of Medicaid payments or to institute broad block grants, or attempts to roll back the federal commitment to the Medicaid program.
3. **Strengthen minimum benefits and consumer protections.** It is critical that any final legislation ensure individual market plans and Medicaid cover a minimum set of essential health benefits, and either maintain or strengthen protections afforded to the millions of patients with pre-existing conditions.

Concerns with the Graham- Cassidy -Heller Bill

Over the course of 2017, Congress has debated measures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act; all of which had common features that would be detrimental to patients and to the ability of safety-net providers to deliver care. The Graham-Casidy-Heller Proposal is no different.

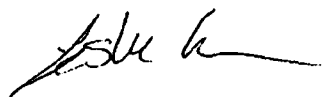
- 1. Rollback of Coverage.** If a core tenant of health care delivery is to first do no harm, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill would have the opposite effect by eliminating the Medicaid expansion, cost-sharing subsidies, tax-credits, and the individual and employer mandates. A portion of the funding for these programs is distributed to the states as block grants. States like Maryland that expanded Medicaid are punished, receiving a smaller block grant as funds are redistributed to states that refused to expand Medicaid. These block grants will grow at a rate set much lower than medical inflation, leaving states with an increasing share of costs each year. The block grants end in 2027 with no plan for ongoing funding. In Maryland, the 240,000 people who gained health insurance between 2013 and 2016 would be forced into much more limited coverage and could find themselves at risk losing their coverage completely; becoming uninsured once again.
- 2. Medicaid Per-Capita Cap.** In Maryland, nearly 1.2 million people are enrolled with a Medicaid Managed Care Organization—just under 20% of the population. The proposed bill would convert Medicaid into a per-capita cap program that increases at a rate much lower than actual Medical inflation. The effect of this would be increasing cuts each year. This change represents an enormous shift of risk to state and local governments, already hamstrung by significant budget challenges. More importantly, because federal Medicaid contributions would grow more slowly than health care costs, states would be forced to either raise taxes or make increasingly dramatic cuts to covered benefits, beneficiary eligibility, and provider payments.

Having a strong Medicaid program in Maryland has allowed providers to bolster our capacity and to offer a more comprehensive range of services such as behavioral health and substance abuse services. Those who lose Medicaid under this legislation will lose access to critical specialty care services, and increasingly will return to seeking care in emergency rooms, ultimately leading to higher costs and poorer health outcomes.

- 3. Weakening Covered Benefits and Consumer Protections.** We oppose any measure that would allow insurers to once again discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions or weaken the Essential Health Benefits package, allowing insurers to offer plans that don't cover many basic services including maternity care, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. Currently, there are no definitive requirements or strong federal standards for essential benefits or pre-existing coverage in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Proposal.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to offer these recommendations and stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to develop health policy proposals that improve both our overall system and the lives and health of those we serve.

Sincerely,



Leslie Graham
President and CEO
Primary Care Coalition

September 22, 2017

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your leadership on health care and, in particular, your work to preserve the gains we have made under the Affordable Care Act. I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Cassidy-Graham proposal, which would undermine all the progress we've made in expanding health coverage. It would cause tens of millions of people to lose coverage, while costs would go up for millions more.

Thanks to the ACA, the percentage of Marylanders without health coverage dropped from more than 10 percent in 2012 to less than 7 percent in 2015. The Cassidy-Graham proposal would reverse that. Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to more than 290,000 Marylanders and 11 million people nationwide, would be eliminated. The ACA's marketplace subsidies, which help nearly 9 million people nationwide afford coverage – would be gone.

Instead, states would get a much smaller, temporary block grant of money. Because the amount of money would be fixed each year, Maryland would be on the hook for any and all unexpected costs from recessions, natural disasters, public health emergencies, or prescription drug price spikes. And, after 2026, this money would disappear altogether.

The core Medicaid program in all states – not just those like Maryland that expanded Medicaid under the ACA – would be radically restructured and cut, putting at risk care for seniors, people with disabilities and families with children, including services such as home- and community-based care. These cuts also strike at the heart of Maryland's efforts to address our opioid crisis.

The bill would slash federal funding for health coverage for Maryland by nearly \$5 billion in 2027 alone as a result of these changes.

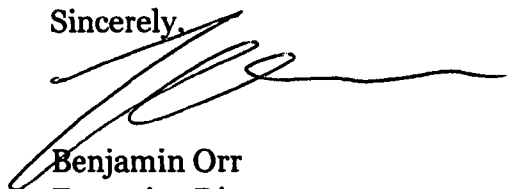
Pre-existing conditions protections would be left to the whims of each state. In fact, a state could let insurers charge people with health conditions exorbitant, unaffordable premiums and sell plans that leave out essential benefits like maternity care and mental

health care. While Maryland has a history of enacting better than average policies, destabilizing the insurance market could pressure the state to loosen protections.

Women's health is also on the line: the bill sneaks in a provision that prohibits states from reimbursing Planned Parenthood for preventive health and family planning services. Maryland has proactively planned to replace these funds with state dollars, but given the cuts in federal support for health care that are also a part of this bill, that may not be financially feasible.

We ask that you continue to do everything you can to prevent this incredibly harmful bill from reaching the Senate floor. Then, Congress can focus on a bipartisan effort to strengthen our insurance marketplace, control costs, and preserve and expand coverage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Orr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Orr
Executive Director



Maryland
Hospital Association

September 22, 2017

Honorable Senator Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Reference: Graham-Cassidy health care proposal

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of our 64 member hospitals and health systems, the Maryland Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. The Maryland Hospital Association urges senators to oppose this proposal.

While the bill has not yet been scored by the Congressional Budget Office, coverage for thousands of Marylanders, especially our most vulnerable citizens, is at risk. The bill would make deep cuts to the Medicaid program, as well as the health care subsidies that help people afford coverage, including more than **\$2 billion** in cuts to Maryland. This is not a partisan matter. Maryland's Republican Governor Larry Hogan said this week that the Graham-Cassidy bill is "not a solution that works for Maryland and directly jeopardizing the health care of our citizens." In other words, the Graham-Cassidy proposal would cause real pain for real people. This proposal seems to be less about helping people and more about attracting votes.

High-quality, efficient health care simply cannot be achieved without broad-based, continuous coverage, which would be drastically reduced under this proposal. Reductions of this magnitude inhibit hospitals from getting people the right care, at the right time, in the right setting, which in turn reduces people's chances to live healthier lives. In Maryland, the 310,000 people who gained coverage through the Affordable Care Act, and another 160,000 who gained Medicaid coverage due to a previous state expansion, are at serious risk.

The loss of broad-based coverage also jeopardizes Maryland's unique hospital payment system, which has benefited the state, insurers, patients and communities by shifting from volume-driven to value-driven care. But without adequate coverage, this system, which contains costs and improves patient outcomes, is unsustainable. With this proposal shifting the entirety of federal costs of health care subsidies to the state and reducing federal Medicaid funding hospitals (collectively our state's largest private sector employer) and the state's entire economy are at risk. We stand firm in our belief that our state, our hospitals, and the people and communities we serve deserve better.

Sincerely,

Carmela Coyle
President & CEO

Dear Senator Cardin:

I am writing on behalf Holy Cross Health (Silver Spring, Md.), a member of Trinity Health (Livonia, Mi.), to encourage your continued opposition to attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care (ACA).

Holy Cross Health employs more than 4,100 people and, in fiscal 2017, served more than 248,000 patients. We are a mission-based organization committed to serving vulnerable populations in our community, and we have with considerable experience as a provider of people-centered care and delivery reform innovator. It is our belief that the health care coverage proposal recently released by Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Johnson (GCHJ) poses a significant threat to our patients' access to the health care coverage and services they need, as well as our ability to continue to fulfill our critically important mission. We do not believe that policies in GCHJ advance affordable, secure, and high-functioning coverage, nor do they advance beneficial delivery system reform.

Holy Cross Health and Trinity Health appreciate the diversity of opinions on the policies needed to best support accessible, affordable health care for all Americans. And while we recognize that there are insurance market issues that need to be addressed under current law, we believe that the coverage expansion and insurance reforms enacted in the ACA is benefitting many patients in our community. As such, we appreciate your efforts to ensure that congressional proposals to significantly restructure our nation's health care system receive meaningful consideration through regular legislative order and, to the greatest extent possible, include solutions that can be supported on a bipartisan basis.

As an important first step in this direction, Congress should take immediate action to provide reliable funding for the cost sharing reductions provided under current law. Regardless of the long-term fate of the ACA, addressing uncertainty around CSRs is essential to ensuring that people currently covered in the exchange do not experience a harmful disruption in their care.

Additionally, we believe there are bipartisan opportunities to address the shortcomings of the current exchange risk pool; enhance competition in states where existing plan choice is limited or non-existent; evaluate plan requirements and market rules to ensure they maintain a balance between consumer protection and affordability; and identify additional options for enhanced state flexibility and innovation. Congress should also continue its work with the Administration to support efficient payment and delivery models and identify regulatory requirements that add cost without improving care.

I appreciate your ongoing support of Holy Cross Health and the communities that we serve. We look forward to working with you to develop an improved plan that will responsibly address the long-term sustainability of our health care system, while ensuring that every American is able to access the high-quality care he or she needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cahile@holycrosshealth.org or 301-754-7841, if I can be of further assistance. If you would like information on how GCHJ would impact other hospitals within the Trinity Health network, please contact Tonya Wells, vice president for public policy & federal advocacy at wellstk@trinity-health.org or 734-343-0824.

Thank you,
Eileen

Eileen Cahill
Chief Advocacy Officer
Holy Cross Health
Silver Spring, MD
301-754-7841
cahile@holycrosshealth.org



GREATER BALTIMORE CHAPTER
of the Oncology Nursing
Society



September 21, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin

United States Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

We at the Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition, representing over 1200 faith, community, labor, business and health care groups from across Maryland, commend you and Senator Chris Van Hollen for strongly opposing the disastrous new Senate proposal to gut the Affordable Care Act and deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans. We also commend Governor Larry Hogan for describing the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill as "not a solution" for Maryland.

The fact is that the Medicaid program which this proposal would decimate has saved the lives of many Marylanders and helped many others lead better lives. We are holding forums across the state to highlight people who have benefited from Medicaid and their stories are touching and important. See www.healthcareforall.com for more information on these forums. Last evening at our latest forum in Silver Spring, Maryland, with Rep. Jamie Raskin we heard from Alvin Butler who movingly told us how after he lost his job and was on Medicaid, he had a heart attack and is only alive now because of the health care services his Medicaid card enabled him to get. And, we heard from Karen White who told us how her daughter with serious mental health issues is only able to live a full life because of the help which the Medicaid program is providing for her. And, we heard from Mila Johns who told us how her young daughter (also in the audience) is here today because when Ms. Johns was pregnant she had Medicaid coverage to get her the prenatal care she needed. There are countless Marylanders and millions of Americans with similar stories.

In addition, we all benefit from the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion because, as reported by the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, it has resulted in big drop in uncompensated hospital care which has translated into health insurance premiums for most people going up much more slowly than before the Affordable Care Act. From fiscal year 2013 to 2015, hospital uncompensated care costs declined by approximately \$311 million. Also during this time, the average costs for group health insurance costs increased at a slower rate than before, increasing by 20 percent over the past five years (2011-2016) compared to a 31 percent increase over the prior five year period.

Instead of trying to weaken health care coverage, we should work together to strengthen the Affordable Care Act in order to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you so much for all your critical leadership over the years on health care coverage and public health issues and we look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Ruth Doerfler Evans RN

Ruth Doerfler Evans

President

Greater Baltimore Chapter Oncology Nursing Society

MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

September 21, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

We at the Hatton Senior Center in Southeast Baltimore know the importance of Medicaid. How can they deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans. We also commend Governor Larry Hogan for describing the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill as "not a solution" for Maryland.

The affordable Care Act has saved the lives and made life better for millions. In addition, we all benefit from the Affordable Care Act's expansion because, as reported by the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, it has resulted in a big drop in uncompensated hospital care. Health insurance premiums for the most part are going up much more slowly than before the Affordable Care Act.

Instead of trying to weaken healthcare coverage, we should work together to strengthen the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you so much for all your critical leadership over the years on health care coverage, Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen., Governor Hogan and Vincent DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative.

Sincerely,

Ottolie McJilton
Program Assistant 1
Hatton Senior Center
2825 Fait Avenue
Baltimore MD 21224



Allison Wohl
Executive Director
National APSE

To: U.S. Senate Finance Committee

From: Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Date: September 25, 2017

On behalf of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities, we are particularly concerned about the potential negative impact that this bill would have on people with disabilities.

The proposed bill will result in **massive cutbacks in Medicaid, resulting in the loss of health coverage and community-based services, and increased risk of institutionalization.** If passed, Cassidy-Graham will fail Medicaid recipients with disabilities, including resulting in the devastation of long-term employment services and supports, which are highly reliant on Medicaid funding. In fact, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), which includes supported employment and other long-term supports and services, are optional services under Medicaid. This means that significant cuts to Medicaid funding will result in the elimination of the systems of HCBS supports in most states, the very system of supports that have been shown to reduce costs associated with institutionalization for people with the most significant disabilities.

- **Cuts to Medicaid will result in people with the most challenging disabilities being forced onto long waiting lists for services and the increased potential of institutional placement to meet their needs.**

APSE has state chapters in 38 states and the District of Columbia, but has membership in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. We are deeply concerned about the cost shift to states, many of which already face significant budget challenges, as a result of the proposed bill. Under the proposed legislation, the Medicaid program would be converted to a per capita cap, whereby the Federal government would cap payments to states for most enrollees. Additionally, the caps are anticipated to grow at a rate that is slower than the projection of actual Medicaid expenditures.

www.apse.org
414 Hungerford Drive, Suite 224
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301.279.0060
Fax: 301.279.0075



Allison Wohl
Executive Director
National APSE

States will be left with insufficient funding to meet their current obligations, and unable to support unexpected future healthcare costs such as those that result from an aging population, innovations in medical care or natural disasters. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$175 billion between 2020 and 2026.

As an organization that cares deeply about the overall health and well-being of people with disabilities, we also write to express our strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill due to the significant impact the proposed legislation will have on the tens of millions of people who rely on Medicaid to meet their basic healthcare needs. It should be noted that Medicaid is already shown to be a highly efficient and flexible system. **Not only is Medicaid less costly than private insurance, but states already have great discretion to determine how they operate their programs, the services they provide and the rates they charge.** The proposed cuts to the Medicaid program, as outlined in the bill, would result in states being forced to turn away individuals in need of services and, instead, focus serves on those that they are absolutely required to provide. The Graham Cassidy bill will:

- Cut billions of dollars out of services and supports people with disabilities rely on for their health and safety
- End coverage for essential health benefits, including needed mental health services
- Eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions, allowing insurers to charge more or deny coverage
- Provide fewer consumer protections on coverage and cost
- Penalize states for spending too much money on disability services

Finally, we urge Congress to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to improve healthcare for all Americans. Moving this bill forward in such an expedited timeframe does not allow for independent analysis and understanding of its potential effects across the nation and on each state.

As Congress continues to work towards a solution to meet the diverse needs of all Americans, including those with the most significant disabilities, APSE stands ready to assist in whatever manner is helpful.

www.apse.org
414 Hungerford Drive, Suite 224
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301.279.0060
Fax: 301.279.0075



Allison Wohl
Executive Director
National APSE

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMS', is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer M Stonemeier
Interim Executive Director
APSE

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414 Hungerford Drive, Suite 224
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301.279.0060
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1199SEIU

United Healthcare Workers East

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Noreen Wray-Roach
Gladys Wrenick
Sui Ling Xu

GENERAL COUNSEL
Daniel J. Ratner

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER &
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**
Michael Cooperman

September 25, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of over 10,000 health care workers represented by 1199SEIU Maryland/DC United Healthcare Workers East, we thank you, and Senator Van Hollen, for your leadership in the fight to ensure everyone receives the healthcare they deserve. We also commend you for opposing the Graham-Cassidy Plan.

1199SEIU, Maryland's largest health care union, represents frontline care givers in almost every stage of the health care delivery process in long-term care facilities, clinics, and hospitals. Over the past nine months, our members and their patients watched in horror as Senate Republicans and President Trump rushed plan after plan to lawmakers without public input. We demand care not chaos.

1199SEIU partnered Maryland Healthcare for All and others to hold forums where people told stories of Medicaid saving their lives and lives of loved ones, nursing home residents, and patients. Please share the following heart wrenching stories of 1199SEIU members with the Senate Finance Committee:

"After the passage of the ACA I treated patients in the ER whose blood work was so poor that I couldn't believe they were still alive. When I asked them when the last time they went to the doctor, they reply years because they have not had coverage. It will be devastating and people will die if they lose coverage again."

- Angela Simpson, Prince George's Hospital Emergency Room Nurse

"I treated several real estate agents who qualified for Medicaid after the 2008 crash. To lawmakers I say: It is not our job is not to decide who lives and who dies. And to everyone else I warn that you should never be too proud or naive to think you will not need a safety net."

- Dr. Andrea Speedie, Chase Brenton Federally Qualified Health Center

We look forward to working with you for quality, affordable, healthcare for all,



Patricia Lippold, Political Director, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

**NEW YORK CITY
PRINCIPAL
HEADQUARTERS**

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New York, NY 10036
(212) 682-1890
www.1199seiu.org

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155 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12210
Tel. (518) 398-2300
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HICKSVILLE
100 Duffy Ave., Suite 3 West
Hicksville, NY 11801
Tel. (516) 542-1115
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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
611 North Eutaw Street
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NEW JERSEY
555 Route 1 South, 3rd Fl, Suite 301A
Iselin, NJ 08830
Tel. (732) 287-8113
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MASSACHUSETTS
108 Myrtle Street, 4th Fl.
Quincy, MA 02171
Tel. (617) 284-1199
Fax (617) 474-7150

ROCHESTER
259 Monroe Ave., Suite 220
Rochester, NY 14607
Tel. (585) 244-0830
Fax (585) 244-0956

BUFFALO
2421 Main Street, Suite 100
Buffalo, NY 14214
Tel. (716) 982-0540
Fax (716) 676-0930

SYRACUSE
250 South Clinton Street, Suite 200
Syracuse, NY 13202
Tel. (315) 424-1743
Fax (315) 478-6716

FLORIDA
2881 Corporate Way
Miramar, FL 33025
Tel. (305) 623-3000
Fax (305) 626-1604

WHITE PLAINS
99 Church St., 4th Fl.
White Plains, NY 10601
Tel. (914) 953-6700
Fax (914) 953-6714

GOVERNEUR
95 E. Main St.
Gouverneur, NY 13642
Tel. (315) 287-9013
Fax (315) 287-7220

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

I oppose the Cassidy-Graham bill. The Affordable Care Act has saved my son's life, and I cannot support any legislation that might cause a different outcome for another family.

Our son, Elliott, is 18 months old. He was born with a rare birth defect where his esophagus did not form properly, leaving a large gap in the middle. He required surgery on Day 1 of life. On Day 6, his treatment was further complicated by a bowel rupture, resulting in him, thankfully, only losing 2-3 cm of his small intestines. His midline defect, from the esophagus malformation, means that his trachea does not function properly and he cannot recover from lung infections without hospitalization.

He spent 104 days in the NICU, and a further 61 days in the PICU in 5 additional hospitalizations over his first winter (November 2016-April 2017).

If we had paid out of pocket, we would have owed the hospital over \$2 million. Through our employee-sponsored insurance, we have only paid around \$20,000 through deductibles and co-pays, but these unexpected medical costs have greatly impacted our finances.

Here's what I ask of you. First, please do not pass a bill out of this committee or the full Senate that eliminates the restrictions on lifetime caps. If the ACA was not in effect during the past 18 months, my son would have met a likely cap of \$1 million at around 2 months, when he was still very sick and at birth weight. We are still under that insurance plan, and if Graham-Cassidy is passed, either my husband or I would be required to change jobs in order to find a plan that would even consider covering him.

Second, I ask that you not allow insurance companies to charge our family more for my son than for my healthy daughter. Insurance is a shared risk, by definition. When you buy insurance, you take the risk that you may have a catastrophic illness or accident someday, and you deserve to be covered. None of us are invincible, and we all deserve access to medical care.

And third, I ask that you maintain robust coverage for expanded Medicaid. Poor people need insurance, but not only poor people are covered by Medicaid. When my son first came home from the NICU, we desperately needed home nursing. We did not have Medicaid, however, and our private insurance did not cover home nursing. So I spent nearly two months tube feeding my son in sessions that took over 2 hours and needed to be repeated every 3 hours, while trying to keep him from vomiting the formula (to which we later found out he was allergic). These were some of my darkest days, and expert care would have saved us many mistakes from exhaustion and inexperience.

Please hear us.

Please find a bipartisan fix to the ACA. My son deserves to have affordable health care coverage as he grows up. Please don't cut off his opportunities. Please allow him and kids like him to have a fulfilling and productive life.

I respectfully request that you oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Caroline Brouwer
Rockville, MD

[REDACTED]

CC: Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Chappell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass this bill

Gentlemen:

I'm 70. I have COPD, heart trouble, diabetes and a history of breast cancer in my family. I'm on Medicare and Social Security, and if I lose my coverage, I'll probably die. I'm still a productive citizen, still writing books and columns for a local magazine, so I am contributing something to society.

Please do not put party over country and vote for this cruel and senseless bill.

Very Truly Yours,

Helen Chappell
[REDACTED]
Trappe MD 21673

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alyssa Lovegrove [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposition to Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to add my voice to many others who expressed deep concern about the proposed deep and devastating cuts to Medicaid under the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

My daughter is developmentally disabled - and though we are in the fortunate position of being able to afford private insurance, many other families who are affected by developmental disabilities are not; and we know this through our personal support network.

With adequate support, people with developmental and intellectual disabilities can remain healthy, contribute to their communities, and avoid costly stays in expensive institutions. Much of the cost of these long-term supports (about half) comes from Medicaid, and cuts would have a devastating impact - not just on the individuals directly affected, but by all of us in the communities in which they live.

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and to work toward a more equitable, sustainable and humane solution to our nation's healthcare.

Thank you,
Alyssa Lovegrove
[REDACTED]
Bethesda, MD 20817

Alyssa Lovegrove
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisabeth H. Null [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Elisabeth H. Null
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Chemai [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Beverly Chemai

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Germantown, Maryland 20874

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: frank kammel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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All this is about is, Trump needs a victory, so he can revel in it. This as nothing to do with providing better health care for the people He could care less.

frank kammel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SILVER SPRING, Maryland 20904

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Petie Schwarz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Petie Schwarz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cheverly, Maryland 20785

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bowne, Ginny A. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid Program
Attachments: 20161019_134825.jpg

I am asking that you not pass this bill: My son has a TBI and he needs the Medicaid. I cannot afford paying for his insurance, bills, doctors' visits, prescriptions. Please Please keep the ACA the way it is.

My son needs long term service. Vote against passing this bill. Attached is a picture of my son. He gets to go out and have fun and is learning...it's helping him to get involved. He needs that. If he was home he wouldn't get that care. Please help.

Ginny Bowne

Senators Cassidy and Graham introduced a bill last week to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This bill, like previous proposals, would make huge cuts to and place caps on the Medicaid program, end the Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies in the ACA, and allow states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions. This has significant implications for those people who have brain injury and depend on Medicaid, especially if they cannot get back to their previous jobs and then lose their commercial health insurance. This bill has a real chance of being enacted and would threaten the ability of states to continue Medicaid Waivers to provide the Long Term Services and Supports that people with brain injury need.

What the Graham-Cassidy Bill Does:

- It eliminates the Medicaid program as we know it and ends the entitlement by placing a per-capita cap on the traditional Medicaid population and block granting funding for the expansion population until 2026. After 2026 there will be no funding for this population.
- It places the Essential Health Benefits at risk and allows states to remove covered services like rehabilitative care, opioid treatment, and mental health treatment.
- It allows insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, such as brain injury, and all but guaranteeing these individuals will pay higher premiums, and potentially be priced out of the market.

What you can do if you oppose this bill:

- Contact Senator Toomey to let him know why you'd like him to vote against the passage of the bill. He has several local offices as well as his office in Washington. [Click here](#) to for phone numbers. You can also send an email through [Senator Toomey's website](#).

Senator Casey is leading the opposition to this bill, so there is no need to contact his office other than to show appreciation.

- Submit letters, testimony, video links, photos, or stories to the Senate Finance Committee describing how the Graham-Cassidy bill will negatively impact individuals with brain injury. Send your comments to the committee at this email address: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

The deadline for submissions is Monday, September 25, at 1PM. ET as the Senate Finance Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill will be held at 2PM on Monday. The hearing is open to the public. It will be held in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

- There are senators in other states who also need to hear from people concerned about this bill. Top priorities for outreach include:

Maine: Senator Collins [202-224-2523](tel:202-224-2523)

Alaska: Senator Murkowski [202-224-6665](tel:202-224-6665)

West Virginia: Senator Capito [202-224-6472](tel:202-224-6472)

Ohio: Senator Portman [202-224-3353](tel:202-224-3353)

Arizona: Senator McCain [202-224-2235](tel:202-224-2235)

Time is off the essence. Make sure your voice is heard!

Ginny Bowne
Administrative Assistant
Health & Counseling Services
Mount Saint Mary's University
16300 Old Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Office: 301-447-5159
Fax: 301-447-5719

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ljemerick . [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill/Proposal

United States Senate Finance Committee

Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA

Meeting of 2:00 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2017

215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Submitted by Linda J. Emerick, Ph.D.

427 Bentley Road

Parkton, MD 21120

I am writing to comment on the proposed Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCJH) Bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA. I am opposed to the GCJH Bill on the grounds that it causes undue fear, uncertainty, and loss of healthcare coverage and protections for millions of American now covered under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. By their own admission, the framers of the bill are motivated primarily by a desire to get rid of the Affordable Care Act with little or no regard for improving healthcare coverage and services for U.S. citizens. Let me explain, from a personal perspective.

One of my nephews, now a 21-year old, was sexually abused as a young child. The emotional and physical trauma of this experience resulted in him suffering from extended periods severe depression and self-harming behaviors. This was compounded by his exhibiting symptoms of PTSD, including anxiety attacks. At the time these symptoms appeared, his father had employee healthcare insurance but it did not cover mental health issues for what was then considered a "pre-existing" condition. The family incurred huge debts (and poor credit ratings) trying to cover psychiatric and other medical costs for their son. I know this because we tried to help them financially. With the coming of ACA, my nephew received medical coverage and treatment AND is now covered by his father's insurance until he is 26 years of age. I can happily say that he has shown great progress with his mental and physical issues, all incurred through no fault of his own. And this is just one story.

On a more local level, the GCHJ Bill threatens healthcare coverage and services here in my home state of Maryland. When the ACA became the law of the land, our Governor and State Legislature saw the benefits to our citizens and participated in all aspects of the legislation. This included a state healthcare market exchange and Medicaid expansion. With all of this, Maryland added approximately 95,254 high-subsidy enrollees (2016) and 272,157 Medicaid expansion enrollees (2016) as reported by the MD State Health Department. The percentage of Marylanders not receiving healthcare coverage fell from 10% in 2012 to 6.7% in 2015 to 4.9%

this year. This is all thanks to the ACA. Now the GCHJ Bill seeks to punish states that were early adopters of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Here's a breakdown of what this bill will cost Marylanders:

- GCJH Bill Medicaid Cap: Loss to Maryland of \$981 million in funding
- GCJH Bill Block Grants: Loss to Maryland of \$1,603,000,000 in funding
- Total loss of healthcare funding and coverage to Maryland: \$2,584,000,000

How on earth can the writers of this bill have the temerity to call it a healthcare bill? In reality, it eliminates healthcare coverage for over 300,000 Marylanders and cuts existing funding for healthcare in the state by \$2.5 billion. I would argue that the GCHJ Bill is economically unsound in that it debilitates the health, finances, and morale of the American people. Invest in the health of Americans.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hedtler-Gaudette, Dylan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Part 1 of Comments from the National Federation of the Blind RE: Hearing on Graham-Cassady bill
Attachments: 2017 Medicaid Resolution - Final.docx

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, please find a resolution that was adopted at our 2017 National Convention. Resolutions adopted at this yearly convention represent the official policy-setting mechanism of the National Federation of the Blind.

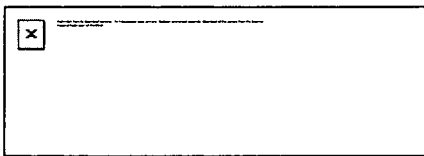
This resolution clearly and strongly condemns the types of cuts to the Medicaid program that would result from the 'Graham-Cassady' healthcare reform bill. Though the resolution makes specific reference to the American Healthcare Act, the core message of support for Medicaid and opposition to its decimation remains relevant in the context of this latest bill, perhaps even more so.

We will be submitting additional comments prior to the close of the comments period on Monday.

Sincerely,

~Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette

Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette
Government Affairs Specialist
200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314, extension 2210 | DHedtler-Gaudette@nfb.org



The National Federation of the Blind is a community of members and friends who believe in the hopes and dreams of the nation's blind. Every day we work together to help blind people live the lives they want.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samantha Merck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposition

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Samantha Merck, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Longbrake [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family found that a plan using the Maryland exchange was significantly better coverage for a smaller monthly amount than the plan my husband's work offers. He works at a non-profit which provides services to homeless in our county. Having better healthcare for less money helped our family be able to continue to support him in his work even though the plans his organization offers were not ideal. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Katherine Longbrake

Beallsville, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Doherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Beth Doherty
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middletown, Maryland 21769

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it May Concern:

It is important that we protect health care and do NOT repeal the Affordable Health Care Act or pass Graham-Cassidy. This bill, just like the previous trump-care bills, destroys Medicaid as we know it by turning Medicaid into a capped system. This severely hurts adults and children with disabilities and their families, seniors and victims of natural disasters like the recent hurricanes. It will especially hurt states that have expanded Medicaid. Thousands of people with developmental disabilities depend on Medicaid--or will need it in the future--to remain healthy, live in the community, and stay out of costly institutions. Graham-Cassidy will also defund Planned Parenthood and critical women's health resources and it will also take away funding to help people afford health insurance through the marketplace. This bill threatens the health coverage of millions of families, is cruel and the most extreme proposal yet. It must **not** pass.

Sincerely,

Linda A, Nelson
Arnold, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dorothy Paugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy and Fix/Save the ACA

Dear Senators,

I beg you not to take affordable health care from tens of millions of Americans including the elderly, veterans, children and those of us with pre-existing conditions. Vote NO on this bill that gives tax cuts to the wealthy who promise huge campaign contributions in exchange for peoples' lives. Don't the rich have enough already? Can't they even allow the rest of us enough to survive on?

Debate and compromise-- based on scoring by CBO so that all the terrible impacts of this bill come to light-- are necessary to produce a bipartisan bill that covers the needs of the American people. Fix the ACA and don't make deals for some states while leaving others who live elsewhere to suffer and die. That is not how to govern a nation.

Do not let billionaires holding out the promise of campaign donations run this country for their benefit, at the cost of thousands of American lives. The people will be heard, if not now, then later and louder.

Thank you.

Dorothy Paugh
Bowie, MD 20715
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosella Stock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Rosella Stock
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shirley Goldberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Shirley Goldberg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Potomac, Maryland 20854

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Dolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. I want same break that corporations get. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

William Dolan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My Airy, Maryland 21771

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryan Bradley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Ryan Bradley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sasha Carrera [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My story is not nearly as dramatic as many you're receiving I'm sure, but I feel you need to hear from all types of Americans, even those who are in much better circumstances than others.

I am a middle-aged woman with degrees from two top tier Universities. I made my living for over a decade running an arts organization in California, the Corita Art Center, a non-profit organization focused on arts education and the integrated use of the arts for all academic learning. I never made more than 60k, but I had health coverage from my job and was able to live a decent working class life in Los Angeles.

I left my job three years ago to become full-time caretaker for my mother, in Frederick, Maryland. My father had an aortic dissection and spent 3 months in the hospital while my mother descended into dementia, she had Alzheimer's, and I ended up moving into their home to take care of them. Thankfully, my father had great health insurance from his 20 years at the State Department and both my parents got wonderful care.

My mother died less than 1 year ago and I have not yet found steady employment. I currently substitute teach at a private school where I make less than \$500/week. I am still living with my father and paying for my own insurance. Thanks to Maryland's generous subsidies, I have been able to pay for insurance from my swiftly vanishing savings account. However, this bill will erase all that and I don't anticipate being able to pay for more than a few months of insurance given the undermining and destabilization of the ACA that's been going on for months now. If I don't find a job that pays my insurance or if for some reason my future employer is able to refuse my coverage, what then?

Moreover, I have suffered from depression and have had one irregular pap smear. I don't know if these are issues that can be cause for coverage denial, but I don't want to take that chance. I have sacrificed my life to take care of my family, something I would do again in a heartbeat. However, looking ahead at what the Graham-Cassidy bill promises, there is simply no way I will ever get the kind of care my parents got, a grim proposition as I anticipate the coming years when I will likely be faced with more health issues than in my youth.

You need to protect our healthcare and put an end to this posturing that's only hurting the American people. Set politics aside and work for all of us. We deserve the same kind of healthcare Senators themselves get, but instead we have to fight to keep the meager coverage that was passed by a bipartisan vote under President Obama. Stop using us as pawns in this political game and protect our healthcare. SAY NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Carrera
Frederick, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rane dae [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy!!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have Hashimotos (an autoimmune disorder that puts me at risk for Lupus, Rheumatoid arthritis and many other autoimmune disorders) depression, anxiety and ADD. Both of my sons have autism and ADHD. All of these conditions are treatable with combinations of therapies and medication. I'm afraid that these vital therapies and medications wouldn't be covered to the extent we receive now, putting our family's well being and financial security at great risk. I need to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I will not rest until this bill is dead and buried

Sincerely,

Rane Lederer
Frederick, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Krizer Daroff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why Maryland Should Care

Why Should We in Maryland Care?

For many adults with developmental disabilities, Medicaid (Maryland Medical Care Program), is their health insurance. It pays for care from doctors, specialists, and hospitals, as well as prescriptions.

Medicaid also helps pay for the cost of long-term supports for people with developmental disabilities. If you or someone you know receives services paid for by DDA, Medicaid most likely pays about half the cost. Thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities depend on Medicaid--or will need it in the future--to remain healthy, live in the community, and stay out of costly institutions.

Please protect the needs of the most vulnerable population.

Thank you,
Heidi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Rustad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on affordable, quality healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Without the ACA, my aunt, who lives in Minnesota, would be trapped in her job, which has long, irregular hours. Changing jobs would mean changing her healthcare insurance, and since she has a pre-existing condition, she would no longer be able to access healthcare.

My aunt and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jenny Rustad

Berwyn Heights, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: G Carlisle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pleas From a Lifelong Conservative Republican - Reject Graham Cassidy Heller (GCH) Healthcare Bill

Senators,

While my respect for Senators Graham and Cassidy is very high, I urge this committee to reject the Graham Cassidy Heller (GCH) Health Care Bill.

I am no fan of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Obamacare) and, with all due respect to the former President, as a politician neither am I a fan of Barack Obama himself. But as the father of an Autistic child, I'm even less a fan of a health care reform effort that is unrealistic in its stated desire to repair a broken healthcare system as is GCH. Whether one posits that Medicare should have never been expanded as it was under the ACA; or whether one thinks a more decentralized approach to healthcare reform should have been taken, the GCH is NOT the answer.

Without a CBO review, without debate and scrutiny under 'regular order', without an open and fair debate in the public square of ideas as it were, how can the GCH sponsors, or its supporters honestly state that this bill is anything but a partisan fulfillment of a campaign promise rather than a mature, responsible answer to our nation's healthcare concerns?

Please reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Gayland Carlisle
[REDACTED]
Greensboro MD 21639

Sent from Outlook

I signed up for health care through the Marketplace, and this time, thanks to Maryland's Medicaid expansion, I qualified. I cried tears of joy when my new health insurance information came in the mail. I gratefully chose a plan that worked for me, and within a few months, I had a primary care physician, a psychologist, and a therapist. I finally (finally!) treated conditions I'd neglected. I started taking anti-depressants, which kept the panic attacks at bay, allowing me to work.

My panic attacks came back as Republicans began their repeal and replace efforts. I almost lost my new job after panic attacks kept me home for an entire week. I've given up so much in order to get health care and now it's being ripped away from me. I left Louisiana because of their horrible health care policies; now they are trying to subject the *entire country* to this same, terrible legislation.


The Graham-Cassidy bill is particularly cruel as it guts the Medicaid expansion which keeps people like me—low-income, single adults—insured, but also supports millions of children, elderly, people with disabilities, and (critical in MD) people struggling with opioid addiction. It ends protections for those (like me) with pre-existing conditions. And it strips health care away from millions (MILLIONS!) of Americans. What is *most* absurd is that, under this bill, states like Maryland that provide me with healthcare would actually pay states like Louisiana that refused to provide me healthcare. The injustice of it all is mind-boggling.

I've lived with insurance and I've lived without. I can tell you without a doubt that I am a MUCH more responsible, active, and productive citizen when I can live every day without fear. I want to do good things for my community and my world, but like most people, I can only do so if I'm healthy.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel. It's reckless. It's costly. And it does **nothing** to benefit the American people. I urge you to stop this horrendous bill. We all know the ACA isn't perfect, but ripping it away is the worst thing you can do. Listen to the American people once and for all: Stop the Graham-Cassidy bill! We need health care for all!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Chestnut


Baltimore, MD 21217

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Davidson Wolf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Affordable Healthcare Act

To whom it may concern,

Two years ago, I was in a very serious car accident on my way home from work. As a result of this accident, for which I was not at fault, my life was destroyed. I lost my job, I underwent 7 surgeries in the course of 2 years, I still have great pain from my injuries that day, and because of the nature of them, I know that I will need more surgeries in the future. I am 25 years old and I have a hip replacement because of this accident. Right now, I am fortunately still on my parents insurance. However, I turn 26 in 3 months, and I am terrified that my future healthcare will not adequately cover my costs and needs. Without quality, affordable healthcare that does not penalize me for having a pre-existing condition, I will not be able to support myself or my medical bills. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Leah Davidson-Wolf
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jana Over [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family's story with pre-existing conditions and disabilities includes inherited illness that can only be treated at a hospital and chronic disabilities requiring physical therapy and potentially surgery.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jana Over

Hyattsville, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Silverman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions and if the Affordable Care Act goes away, I am locked into my job because I will need health insurance through my employer. I am a woman who works in public health and who spends her days contributing to the good of society. Please do not take away the flexibility I have to continue to do this important work.

Sincerely,

Lisa Silverman

Silver Spring, Maryland

--

Lisa Weiss Silverman
Learning and Training Professional

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Schultz Pearson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to Graham-Cassidy

I am a physician, and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill for the sake of my patients- and all the rest of us.

This bill would be destructive to America for decades.

Amy Pearson, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCHJ healthcare bill

I am a physician. MD from St Louis University School of Medicine class of 1995. This health plan will hurt our most vulnerable. It will take care away from millions including children, the poor, the elderly and women. Women will try to give birth at home, and innocent women and children will die needlessly. Are you pro life? Whose lives are you for?

We need a single payer system. We need to join EVERY OTHER DEVELOPED NATION ON EARTH and provide basic health care. You should all be ashamed that you would even consider such a bill.

Kay Vandenberg MD, FACOG

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Dulaski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a practicing physician in Massachusetts. This bill will take away access to health care for many in our society including women, children and those with preexisting conditions. It is important to work together across party lines to find a health care system that is for the good of ALL citizens.

Kristine Dulaski, MD
Mansfield, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tali Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Support for ACA

Hi,

Many members of my community rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACS, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Tali Cohen

Berwyn Heighs, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: stephenschad [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid cuts- my disabled child

My 14 year old son receives therapy through the Maryland Autism Waiver. He is non verbal and this therapy helps with the activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, toileting and other life skills. Our dream is that he will be able to do these functions on his own and one day he will be able to live independently and maybe hold down a job such as grocery bagger in our community.

I am afraid these services will go away if the Graham Cassidy bill becomes law. This is because there is no protection that benefits will go away with the per capita caps.

We didn't choose to have a disabled childit just happened. We are doing our best to raise this child and really need this therapy that we could otherwise not afford.

Thanks

Stephen Schad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Henck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When I experienced a prolonged period of unemployment after completing my PhD, Medicaid was essential to keeping me going. Today I work full-time for a wonderful non-profit organization that develops programs to improve the quality of education for children in the United States and around the world. I would not be able to make such positive contributions to society without affordable healthcare.

Please, let's work together, not against each other, as if our lives depend on it. Because they do.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Henck
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Audrey Gaquin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:25 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

My adult children rely on affordable health care for pre-existing conditions. My story is:
Both of my adult children are in graduate school. One of them has suffered from Crohn's disease, an inflammatory bowel disease whose cause is unknown, since he was 8 years old. He has worked hard to live a normal life, taking good care of his health, participating in marathons and triathlons, but last year he had to have part of his colon removed because of pre-cancerous lesions. My daughter has recently been diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, a related disease. Both of them, as graduate students, face periods where their health insurance may not be provided by their employer during their studies, which are efforts to become productive citizens.
Because of this, I urge you to keep the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Audrey Gaquin
Annapolis, Maryland
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gennifer Geller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am a physician. MD from Duke University School of Medicine class of 1995. This health plan will hurt our most vulnerable. It will take care away from millions including children, the poor, the elderly and women. Women will try to give birth at home, and innocent women and children will die needlessly. Are you pro life? Whose lives are you for?

This plan actually looks like you are trying to ethnically cleanse the nation. It's disgusting.

We need a single payer system. We need to join EVERY OTHER DEVELOPED NATION ON EARTH and provide basic health care. You should all be ashamed that you would even consider such a bill.

Gennifer Geller MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah J. Schumann M.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Opposition

Dear Senators on the Finance Committee:

Graham Cassidy will destroy the progress that has been made in healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act. The proposals are socially irresponsible, short-sighted, and deplorable.

Medicaid expansion has helped pay for 290,000 Marylanders' healthcare coverage. Repeal will lead to a \$4.89 billion cut to healthcare in Maryland. Our uninsurance rate could increase from its current 6% to previous levels of 14%.

The healthcare industry represents over 17% of the economy. Obamacare cost \$110 billion in 2016 accounting for 0.06% of GDP or \$345 per U.S. citizen. The cost of healthcare is \$10,000 per capita per year.

Whether the U.S. views healthcare as a right or as an essential social service, we must find a way to:

- Enroll **everyone**, (preferably automatically)
- Include **everyone** in the risk pool, (no exceptions)
- Control total cost as a % of GDP (will require price controls)
- Control out-of-pocket costs (based on ability to pay)
- Guarantee choice of providers (no networks)
- Reduce administrative costs (similar to Medicare or the V.A.)

Someday, each one of us will need healthcare.

Sincerely yours,
Deborah Schumann, M.D.
Bethesda, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen McGarr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: what happened to 'primum non nocere'?

Dear all,

Please STOP calling this a health care bill. In 1983 when I began my medical training, we swore the Hippocratic oath which begins with the concept of first do no harm. Senator Cassidy should recall this well. I fear political gain has warped the thinking on Capitol hill.

As a nation we need to stop the childishness of trying to undo the accomplishments of the prior president out of spite and begin to make investments in universal coverage-healthcare for all. No you won't see a quick win on the balance sheet-you will need to look harder to see young people age 19 and up with the opportunity to go to college part time and still be insured.

You will see workers who can move to a new job or start their own business without fear of being slapped with pre existing condition exclusions.

You will see growth in the creative economy and innovations as more people will dare start their own business without being crushed by high individual premiums in their start up years.

You will see better control of chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and depression resulting in shorter hospital stays and stable balance sheets.

You will see fewer premature infants born and smaller special education budgets for school.

In short, you will improve lives and offer stability and prosperity.

primum non nocere.

Words to live by,

Kathleen A McGarr, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirsten Sitnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senator Blumenthal and the Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is being rushed to a vote without being properly debated and vetted. Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill and commit to working with all members of Congress for meaningful amendments to the Affordable Care Act.

It's a horrible bill that will harm many Americans. We have a responsibility to take care of the sick among us.

Kirsten Sitnick
[REDACTED]
Catonsville, MD 21228

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: joanne kaplan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators,

I am a family physician who is fearful for the future of my patients. While the ACA is not a perfect bill, it is far better for the health of millions of citizens of our country than the coverage that they had prior to its enactment. Allowing states to decide on how to spend their ever decreasing pool of money is too great a gamble for the health of our citizens. Health care and how to provide it to such a large population is a complex issue. It is one that I believe we can continue to improve upon if you who represent us, were willing to sit down and discuss with only the interest of my patients, our citizens in mind. Lets you leave politics aside as I am required to do in caring for my patients and work together to find something better than the ACA. This is not something to be done in a week. As we were taught in medicine, and the standard I hold our congress to -"Above all, do no harm" Hopefully you can do better than that.

Thank you,
Joanne Kaplan MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Childress [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Deborah Childress
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Garman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Heathcare bill

Hello

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have celiac disease and I do not want to be denied coverage in the future.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Kindly,

Lisa M Pittman
Baltimore MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: GAIL Jensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will harm millions of Americans, hurt children and families, and damage the health care system. Please vote NO.

Gail Jensen
Takoma Park, Maryland

U.S. citizen and Taxpayer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brandi Ring [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you!

Brandi Ring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: michael goldstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov
Subject: Vote

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Michael Goldstein MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

I am a primary care physician in Millbury MA . I am opposed to repealing the ACA. We need universal coverage not a hodgepodge of benefits that leave the working poor without adequate coverage. Improve the ACA. Do not repeal it.
R. Kevin Ferguson MD
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Quimby, Laurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

*Sincerely,
Laura Quimby, MD
Medical Director
Essex County Correctional Facility*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jay Glaser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy will severely hurt my patients

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Jay Glaser, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jesse Reilly [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to Graham-Cassidy bill

I work with the nursing department in a community hospital in Baltimore City. Every day we do our best to provide exceptional care to the underserved of our area. A massive percentage of our patients rely on Medicare and Medicaid, and do not have the means to visit a primary care physician regularly. We have been working with clinics in our city to help our patients get the preventative care they need before it reaches crisis and they need to be admitted. Because of what we see every day, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Already there is an issue with vulnerable populations having access to quality, affordable healthcare, and this blow would be devastating. I know there is work to do with the affordable healthcare act, but we need a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it, not repeal it.

Access to affordable and knowledgeable doctors saves money for the public in the long run - routine checks and preventative care is easier and safer than the emergency interventions performed on patients with chronic kidney disease or complications due to longterm mismanagement of diabetes. The people of Baltimore are willing to do the work to protect and help one another, please don't give us another obstacle. We all have the right to dignity, safety, and health.

Sincerely,

Jesse Reilly
Baltimore, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Zeiler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Criticism of Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with that my daughter was born with sepsis and required round the clock care in the NICU when she was born. Thankfully our insurance covered almost everything. But it's a sad example of how she could have blown through her life time cap in just a few weeks as a two week old newborn had she not been born in the era of ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jessica
Silver Spring, MD

--

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them."

-- Mark Twain

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the Death Squad. Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

S Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Silver Spring, Maryland 20906-5622

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abigail Pulcinella [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA

To Whom It May Concern,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When my daughter was born, she had to stay in the neonatal intensive care unit for a week and if we didn't have affordable insurance, we would be in significant debt. I know my story is just a drop in the bucket to what Americans have to deal with every day.

I would like to see a true bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Abigail Pulcinella
Baltimore, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Neher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO, please!

A vote in favor of the Graham-Cassidy Bill would be devastating to so many individuals in this Country. Those with pre-existing conditions would be handed a death sentence.

I personally know of several people currently afraid to use the health care they have because they might be diagnosed with something that will later be used to deny coverage. Under Graham-Cassidy, people with health issues will have to decide between food and medicine. My family is currently healthy and enjoys a decent middle class existence, but bad news at the doctor (which happens daily around the country) would bankrupt us. Every time one of us goes to a checkup and comes home healthy, I thank God that things are still ok and we have health insurance to protect us. Please don't take away that safety net from so many.

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill, and PLEASE give up the assault on health care.

Very truly yours,

Amy Neher
Rockville, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KC Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions that would make healthcare devastatingly unaffordable for us if this bill passes. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kristen Alexander
Middle River MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Iva Rauh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Iva Rauh
[REDACTED]
Princess Anne, MD 21853
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Iva Rauh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

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I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Iva Rauh

[REDACTED]
Princess Anne, MD 21853
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: eric s [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the Record: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern please enter this into the record for comments:

Statement for the Record, Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill



My Snatch <mysnatch@sabee.com>
to GCHcomments -

4:17 PM (0 minutes ago)



Dear Senate Finance Committee,

(*_*)
<) This
/ \

\(*_*)
((? Bill
/ \

(*_*)
<) > Sucks
/ \

Love,
Full Frontal with Samantha Bee

Thank you
Albert Simkins
[REDACTED]
Baltimore MD 21230

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Beneckson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Please do not repeal this bill. We need to insure all Americans, not just the middle and upper class. Pat Beneckson Lutherville. MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: E Kato [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Attachments: Testimony for GCH hearing.docx

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

Elisabeth Kato, MD
[REDACTED]

Columbia, MD 21045

Please do not pass this bill, which would strip health care from as many as 32 million Americans and result in thousands of deaths. As a medical doctor, I can tell you that illness does not magically change when you cross a state line. Please explain why a 45 year old woman with Stage 3 ovarian cancer in Alabama needs different medical care from a 45 year old woman with Stage 3 ovarian cancer in New York? Why a 20 week fetus in California deserved prenatal care but a 20 week fetus in South Carolina does not. Some things are best done locally, but all Americans deserve the same standard of care. And by the way, medical care requires money. If you zero out Federal funding in 2027, some people will not get medical care and some of them will die of treatable illness here in the wealthiest nation on earth.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael K. McLaughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: IMG_8257.jpeg

We are registered voters in Maryland with three adult children, also registered, active voters. Our youngest daughter Erin just turned 20 today (photo attached). She has Downs syndrome, hearing loss from early ear tube surgery (and now uses bi-lateral hearing aids), and scoliosis with a leg length difference significant enough to require surgery. All of which are pre-existing conditions.

Erin is a lovely young lady who graduated from high school and is receiving job training. She hopes to get a job working with children as an assistant to a teacher or daycare provider. She is a self-advocate who has been in the halls and offices of Congress, and has testified before the Maryland state legislature.

The historically in our country, support for people with disabilities was built around institutionalization. My wife and I are old enough to remember when parents receiving the diagnosis of Down syndrome for their newborn were routinely advised to place their child in an institution. Thankfully, for us, our daughter and all people with disabilities, times have changed. Institutions are closing. And society is becoming more enlightened about disability in general, and in particular, how to support people with disabilities in their communities with natural supports and the dignity of independence.

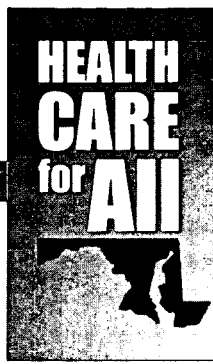
For all of us, with and without disabilities, healthcare is the linchpin to living independently and happily. For now, until universal healthcare becomes a reality, Medicaid is that linchpin for those like our daughter whose job prospects are new or limited and who cannot afford healthcare premiums. When Erin turned 18 we entered the overwhelming world of adult services, of which Medicaid is such a big part. And then to see that, as a part of the healthcare "solution," Congress is considering cuts and caps and allowing states to decide how to cover pre-existing conditions ... well, we cannot understand how people of good conscience can target the most vulnerable with cuts that will so negatively affect their health and wellbeing.

It is time to stop seeing people with disabilities as the "others," people separate from us who need to be segregated and/or pitied. "Disability is a natural part of the human experience," as stated in The U.S. Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act, could be paraphrased simply as "We are them and they are us." Whether caused by genetics, injury, accident, illness, or the natural aging process, people with disabilities are our family, our friends, and if we live long enough, ourselves.

Please share our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
Jackie & Mike McLaughlin

[REDACTED]
Laurel, MD 20707
[REDACTED]



2600 ST. PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21218

P: 4101235-9000

F: 4101235-8963

WWW.HEALTHCAREFORALL.COM

MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

September 21, 2017

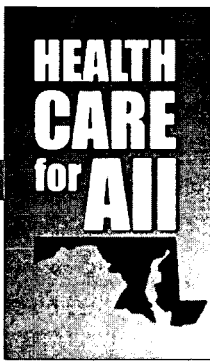
Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin:

We at the Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition, representing over 1200 faith, community, labor, business and health care groups from across Maryland, commend you and Senator Chris Van Hollen for strongly opposing the disastrous new Senate proposal to gut the Affordable Care Act and deny health care to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders and millions of Americans. We also commend Governor Larry Hogan for describing the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill as "not a solution" for Maryland.

The fact is that the Medicaid program which this proposal would decimate has saved the lives of many Marylanders and helped many others lead better lives. We are holding forums across the state to highlight people who have benefited from Medicaid and their stories are touching and important. See www.healthcareforall.com for more information on these forums. Last evening at our latest forum in Silver Spring, Maryland, with Rep. Jamie Raskin we heard from Alvin Butler who movingly told us how after he lost his job and was on Medicaid, he had a heart attack and is only alive now because of the health care services his Medicaid card enabled him to get. And, we heard from Karen White who told us how her daughter with serious mental health issues is only able to live a full life because of the help which the Medicaid program is providing for her. And, we heard from Mila Johns who told us how her young daughter (also in the audience) is here today because when Ms. Johns was pregnant she had Medicaid coverage to get her the prenatal care she needed. There are countless Marylanders and millions of Americans with similar stories.

In addition, we all benefit from the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion because, as reported by the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, it has resulted in big drop in uncompensated hospital care which has translated into health insurance premiums for most people going up much more slowly than before the Affordable Care Act. From fiscal year 2013 to 2015, hospital uncompensated care costs declined by approximately \$311 million. Also during this time, the average costs for group health insurance costs increased at a slower rate



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MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

than before, increasing by 20 percent over the past five years (2011-2016) compared to a 31 percent increase over the prior five year period.

Instead of trying to weaken health care coverage, we should work together to strengthen the Affordable Care Act in order to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you so much for all your critical leadership over the years on health care coverage and public health issues and we look forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent DeMarco". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vincent DeMarco
President
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative



For the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill hearing Sept. 25, 2017

“The Sisters of Mercy, who have been providing healthcare services for people who are poor and vulnerable for nearly 175 years in the U.S., believe that access to health care and adequate health insurance coverage is a fundamental human right. Rather than taking away health care for millions of Americans over the next several years, we should be finding ways to strengthen and expand health coverage and to improve affordability.” -- Sister Patricia McDermott, RSM, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Sisters, lay associates and co-workers have shared some of the positive impacts of Medicaid expansion, essential benefits in insurance plans, and required coverage of persons with pre-existing conditions. These include:

- Residents of a home for women recovering from substance abuse, trauma and mental illness now have access to primary care physicians who are providing consistent care, and their wait times for initial psychiatric appointments have been reduced dramatically.
- Medicaid has allowed participants in a program for adults with mental illness to move into more independent supportive housing and to pursue employment.
- Patients without insurance and financial resources used to wait too long, when their disease trajectory was dangerous, to seek treatment at the emergency department of a big-city hospital. When people are able to enroll in Medicaid, they are able to access a primary care physician and specialists in order to be and remain well.
- A hospital social worker and nurse case manager were able to transfer a formerly uninsured, acutely mentally ill patient to a hospital in his home state, where he has family, and start the Medicaid application process to cover ongoing services.
- A public school nurse several times a month refers families to public health programs for medical care, medications, glasses or dental care that enable children to stay in school and focus on learning without concerns about their own or other family members' health.
- A young adult had a recurrence of leukemia and had to take out a bank loan to pay for testing because of his insurance plan's large deductible and large co-pays. He was able to secure a more affordable plan through the ACA marketplace to cover rounds of testing, medications and hospitalizations.

Sisters of Mercy have been sharing many similar stories as they contact their senators to urge a “no” vote on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Submitted by Marianne Comfort, Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
mcomfort@sistersofmercy.org 301-587-0423, ext. 2243

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Koch <ckoch@naspweb.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns with Proposals in the Graham-Cassidy Proposal



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF School Psychologists

September 21, 2017

Re: Concerns with Proposals in the Graham-Cassidy Proposal

The Honorable Orin Hatch, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, United States Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The National Association of School Psychologists is writing to express serious concerns that the Graham-Cassidy Proposal will jeopardize healthcare for the nation's most vulnerable children: students with disabilities and students in poverty. NASP represents over 24,000 school psychologists who work with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and communities to ensure students have the necessary supports needed to thrive at school, at home, and in life. Our members also provide a variety of school-based mental and physical health services—some of which are funded with Medicaid dollars—including prevention, early identification, and intervention services that remove barriers to learning and assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. We serve all students in both general and special education settings.

We are concerned that restructuring Medicaid to a per capita cap system will undermine States' ability to provide America's neediest children access to vital healthcare necessary to ensure they are able to succeed in school and beyond. Medicaid is a cost-effective and efficient provider of essential health care services for children. School-based Medicaid programs in particular serve as a lifeline to children who can't access critical healthcare and services outside of their school. Under this bill, the bulk of the costs for health care coverage would be shifted to the States even though health needs and costs of care for children will remain the same or increase. States and local communities will have to compensate for this federal disinvestment in our children's healthcare. If they cannot adequately make up the difference in federal funding, providers will be forced to cut eligibility, services, and benefits for children.

The proposals in the American Health Care Act, as passed by the House, will disproportionately harm children's access to care, including services received at school. We urge you to work with your colleagues to ensure our nation's most vulnerable children do not lose access to the vital comprehensive health care services they need in school and in the community. [A recent report](#) from the Center on Budget Policy Priorities outlines how Medicaid benefits children in the short term and helps them make long term economic gains as adults. Protecting this program is critical.

Schools Provide Critical Health Care for Students

A school's primary responsibility is to provide students with a high-quality education. Children cannot learn to their fullest potential with unmet health needs. As such, specialized instructional support personnel regularly provide critical health services to ensure all children are ready to learn and able to thrive alongside their peers. Schools deliver services effectively and efficiently since school is where children spend their days. Increasing access to healthcare services through Medicaid improves health care as well as educational outcomes for

students. Providing health and wellness services for students in poverty and services that benefit students with disabilities ultimately enables more children to become employable and attend higher education.

Since 1988, Medicaid has permitted payment to schools for certain medically necessary services provided to children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) through an individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP). Schools are thus eligible to be reimbursed for direct medical services to Medicaid-eligible students with an IEP or IFSP. In addition, districts can receive Medicaid reimbursements for providing Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefits (EPSDT) for Medicaid-eligible children under age 21. The goal of EPSDT is to assure health problems are diagnosed and treated as early as possible before the problems become complex and treatment is more expensive.

School districts use Medicaid reimbursement funds in a variety of ways to help support the learning and development of the children they serve. In a [2017 survey of school districts](#), district officials reported that two-thirds of Medicaid dollars are used to support the work of school psychologists and other specialized instructional support personnel who provide comprehensive health and mental health services to students. Districts also use these funds to expand the availability of a wide range of health and mental health services to students in poverty, who are more likely to lack consistent access to healthcare professionals. Further, some districts depend on Medicaid reimbursement to purchase and update specialized equipment (e.g., walkers, wheelchairs, exercise equipment, special playground equipment, and equipment to assist with hearing and vision), as well as assistive technology for students with disabilities to assist them in learning.

School districts would stand to lose much of their funding for Medicaid under the current proposal. Schools currently receive roughly \$4 billion in Medicaid reimbursements each year. Under the current proposal, States would no longer have to consider schools as eligible Medicaid providers, leaving districts with the same obligation to provide services for students with disabilities under IDEA, but no Medicaid dollars to provide medically-necessary services. Schools would be unable to provide EPSDT to students. Instead, screenings and treatment currently provided in school settings would have to be delivered in physicians' offices, which may be less accessible for families or in hospital emergency rooms where costs are much higher.

In summary, basic health screenings for vision, hearing, and mental health problems would no longer be possible, making these problems more difficult to address and more expensive to treat. Moving health screenings out of schools also reduces access to early identification and treatment, resulting in more costly treatment down the road.

The Consequences of Medicaid Per Capita Caps Will Potentially Be Devastating for Children

Significant reductions to Medicaid spending could have devastating effects on children, especially those with disabilities. Due to the underfunding of IDEA, districts rely on Medicaid reimbursements to ensure students with disabilities have access to the supports and services they need to access a free appropriate public education, as required by federal law. Potential consequences of this critical loss of funds include:

- **Fewer health services:** Providing comprehensive physical and mental health services in schools improves accessibility for many children and youth, particularly in high needs and hard to serve areas such as rural and urban communities. In a [2017 survey](#) of school district leaders, half indicated they have recently taken steps to increase Medicaid enrollment in their districts. Reduced funding for Medicaid would result in decreased access to critical healthcare for many children and youth.
- **Cuts to general education:** Cuts in Medicaid funding would require districts to divert funds from other educational programs to provide the services as required under IDEA. These funding reductions could result in program eliminations in other areas of the education system.
- **Job loss:** Districts use Medicaid reimbursement to support the salaries and benefits of the staff performing eligible services. Sixty-eight percent of districts use Medicaid funding to pay direct salaries for health professionals who provide services for students. Cuts to Medicaid funding would impact districts' ability to maintain employment for school nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, school social workers, school psychologists, and many other critical school personnel who ensure students with disabilities and other students with a variety of educational needs are able to learn.
- **Fewer critical supplies:** Districts use Medicaid reimbursement for critical supplies such as wheelchairs, therapeutic bicycles, hydraulic changing tables, walkers, lifts, and student-specific items that are necessary for each child to access curriculum as closely as possible to their non-disabled peers. Replacing this equipment would be difficult if not impossible without Medicaid reimbursement.
- **Fewer mental health supports:** Seven out of ten students receiving mental health services receive these services at school. Cuts to Medicaid would further marginalize these critical services and leave students without access to care.
- **Noncompliance with IDEA:** Given the failure to commit federal resources to fully fund the IDEA, Medicaid reimbursement serves as a critical funding stream to help school provide the specialized instructional supports students with disabilities need to be educated with their peers.

As the Senate begins to consider alternatives to the policies set forth by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, we urge you to carefully consider the important benefits that Medicaid, as it is currently structured, provides to our nation's most vulnerable children. Schools are often the hub of the community, and converting Medicaid to a per capita cap system threatens to significantly reduce access to comprehensive physical, mental and behavioral health care for children with disabilities and those living in poverty.

We look forward to working with you to prevent unwarranted changes to this highly effective and beneficial program. Further, we wish to express our opposition to efforts to remove mandatory coverage for the 10 categories of Essential Health Benefits, specifically mental and behavioral health care from public and private health care plans. We have a mental and behavioral health care crisis in this country, with many children and youth lacking adequate access to high quality and affordable care. Allowing states and insurance companies to deny coverage or charge exorbitant co-pays for these services will only increase barriers to care and exacerbate the difficulty in effectively preventing and treating mental and behavioral health among our nation's children and youth. We urge you to reject any proposal that seeks to deny or reduce access to mental and behavioral health care.

If you have questions about this information or wish to meet to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kelly Vaillancourt Strobach, NASP Director of Government Relations (kvaillancourt@naspweb.org). Thank you for all you do for our nation's children and youth.

Sincerely,



Susan Gorin, CAE
Executive Director

Christina Koch, Manager, Professional Relations

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

4340 East West Highway, Suite 402 • Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301-657-0270, ext. 228 • Direct: 301-347-1648 • Fax: 301-657-0275
E-mail: ckoch@naspweb.org • Web: <http://www.nasponline.org>

Helping Children Thrive • In School • At Home • In Life

WHY MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME
Personal Stories from Marylanders with Disabilities

Sent to the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Emails unedited)
In the solicitation, people were told that their stories would be shared with Congress

Why Medicaid matters to me...

Because it supports my son.

Thirteen years ago, he was strangled by his umbilical cord during his delivery. He suffered a brain hemorrhage and was flown to Johns Hopkins Hospital NICU; he coded several times during the flight and his condition was grave. We were told to get in touch with the hospital chaplain and to prepare funeral arrangements.

Medicaid supports my son who is permanently disabled, intellectually disabled, and suffers uncontrolled seizures.

Medicaid supports my son by providing the funding for skilled caregivers to assist with his 24/7 care

Medicaid supports my son who requires \$500.00 of diaper supplies every 30 days
Medicaid supports my son who requires \$1500.00 a month in medications to try to control his seizures


Medicaid supports my son because regular insurance won't

Medicaid supports my son because it allows for him to live with his family, at home with his dog and two cats. It supports him to be a part of a family and a bigger community, to develop supports and a quality of life that otherwise he would not have.

Medicaid supports ME: I am a single parent, trying my best to balance his care and working full time. Without the supports he receives through Medicaid, we would face crippling medical expenses and lack of skilled care; critical needs which I can not financially absorb. Losing Medicaid would bankrupt us, we would have a bigger problem of homelessness, needing welfare and social assistance.

With the push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and cap the spending limit for Medicaid, the short-sighted attempt will result in long-term, far-reaching detrimental consequences.

Thank you for your consideration
Laura Silverman


Finksburg, MD 21048
District 1


Why Medicaid matters to me...

My 34-year year old son, Ray Willse, has autism. He became eligible for Medicaid when he turned 18 and has depended on his team of doctors and professionals who accepted Medicaid. When he turned 21 and left the public school system, the Medicaid Waiver made it possible for him to be placed in a wonderful nonprofit agency that specializes in young adults who have autism. Through this agency, Itineris, Ray has had a number of volunteer and paid positions. He works independently in these positions and is very happy. Itineris not only provides training and job support, but also works on social skills and daily skills of living. An emphasis on healthy activities such as sports, yoga and outdoor activities has built up Ray physically so now he is in great shape.

If Ray were to lose his Medicaid funding and could no longer be served by Itineris, his world would collapse, and ours would too. We are both senior citizens now and need the support that Itineris and Medicaid provides. Medically, Ray is on Medicare and depends on Medicaid as his secondary insurance. He sees specialists regularly about a rare medical condition which could affect his eyesight.

We are hopeful that Ray will eventually have a paid position that would allow him to be a contributing member of our state and national economy. All of this job training, social skills training and experience is provided to him through Medicaid.

Pat Mochel (Ray's Mother)


Towson, MD 21204
District 3

Why Medicaid matters to me and my son...

My 29-year-old son gets Medicaid as a benefit with his SSI. He has Asperger's Syndrome and also suffers from depression, to the point where he won't leave the house for any reason except his doctor appointments, and sometimes to the point where he won't leave the house for months on end.

Without Medicaid, he would be unable to afford to visit the psychiatrist and therapist, and he would be unable to afford his five prescription medications that cost hundreds of dollars each month, all of which currently keep him stable. He would be back in a mental health hospital (he's been in Sheppard Pratt, GBMC psych holding unit, St. Joseph's Hospital in-patient psych unit, and Midtown Hospital's in-patient psych unit), which would cost astronomically more than his Medicaid (a year ago, it was a minimum of \$1000 per day JUST for the hospital, plus medications, the doctor and therapist sessions, and fortunately was covered by his Medicaid).

Please don't take away or change any Medicaid benefits. Right now, I have an adult son who is a somewhat competent and happy person. Without Medicaid, he would be relegated to a mental health hospital, or possibly homeless.

Thank you for listening.

Becky Gutin
3210 Timberfield Lane
Pikesville MD 21208-4422
District 3

Why Medicaid matters to me...

My daughter, Callie was diagnosed with Autism/PDD at age 5. We waited six years to receive Autism Waiver services. And I must say that if she had not received those services, we would have probably been homeless. I worked three part time jobs so that I could be with her when she was not at school. Care givers were too expensive and very hard to find. After the waiver services were approved we had staff that could work about 20 hours per week.

This enabled me to keep my job in the county schools and provide us with health insurance. This was her primary insurance and the medicaid health was and still is secondary. The in-home supports were what kept our small family off of any other state assistance. She is now 24. She receives day services with a local agency and is transported to and from. She is also receiving DDA CSLA (in home supports) since she is over 21. The staff helps her with life skills, behavior issues and takes her into the community at least a few times per week. She now is ready for more independence and wants to live in a group home. I have been looking, but it's pretty clear to me that it won't be happening anytime soon. They are all full and I've been told that openings, pretty much, don't happen until someone dies or moves out of the area.

Being her sole caregiver has taken a toll on my health at this time and the services she receives gives me some space and a chance to have a few hours to take care of other responsibilities and our home.

These services are crucial to help keep individuals, families and care givers from financial ruin and from becoming ill or so burnt out that they can't function. Most of the time I don't even know how I'm doing it, but I am, have been and will continue to.

My most fearful thought is what her life will be like down the road. I am only trying to give her experiences, support and love for now and the services she receives through the DDA are the only thing that has helped make life a litter better for her and for me as her caregiver.

Please do not reduce or stop these services for the individuals that are not able to fend for themselves. I feel sure that without help I would not be able to care for her and survive.

We are just trying to make it by the skin of our teeth and I don't want to think about what would happen without DDA services.

Thank you for reading and may this help someone to make the right decision. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Callie Seidl

[REDACTED]
Ellicott City, MD 21043
[REDACTED]

District 7

Why Medicaid matters to us...

We have two adult children with disabilities that are very dependent on Medicaid Funds in several different ways.

Matthew, our oldest at 26, who has Cerebral Palsy, has medical assistance for his insurance, but also has self-directed services under the Medicaid Community Pathways Waiver. Matthew has numerous medical needs and without Medical Assistance (Medicaid), his needs would never be met. We actually do have private insurance through my husband's employer as well, but our deductible is large, as are our copays. Since Matthew has had expensive surgeries, has many doctor appointments and many specialized equipment needs, it would be very difficult for us to make all the copays and meet the deductible and out of pocket expenses. They also deny many things, such as specific prescription medications and durable medical equipment. Medical assistance has enabled us to provide the medical care Matthew needs to stay healthy and have a longer life expectancy.

Matthew also receives supports through self-directed services under the Community Pathways waiver. These supports include staff that teach Matthew skills, keep Matthew safe, take Matthew out into the community, and respite care that allows my husband and I to have some time alone and Matthew to have some time away from his parents (after all, he is 26!!). Without these services, Matthew would waste away without the interaction with others that he loves. I would not be able to work since I would have to be available 24 hours, 7 days per week to take care Matthew. I'm not sure how long we would have been able to keep Matthew home since I have had back and other health problems from lifting and caring for Matthew all these years.

Our youngest son is Carson. He is turning 21 in May and he has Autism. Carson currently receives services under the Autism Waiver. He has staff that work with him after school each day, teaching him how to communicate, how to control his temper, and how to manage activities of daily life. Under the Autism Waiver, we have also been able to put a fence out back and special locks on our doors so Carson would not elope. During the summer, while school was out, we used respite under the Waiver so that I could still work each day. When Carson turns 21, his Autism Waiver services will end. He will then, hopefully, start a day program under the Community Pathways Waiver. Unfortunately, he will lose the respite and some other services. But we are fortunate to have had the services we have had. Carson controls his temper better than before, he can cook some meals on his own, he can tell us he has a headache, and can even carry on a brief conversation with others. And, again, I have been able to keep my job.

We had always planned to retire and move to Florida or somewhere down south, where it would be less expensive to live. When we started planning, we realized that every state but 2 has a waiting list for services for people with disabilities. Maryland's waiting lists is over 8,000 people. Calling

many of the states to verify, we were told that waiting list were generally at least 10 years long. There was no way that I could care for my two adult children without services. So, we have decided (there really wasn't a choice) to stay in MD. We fear what will happen to our boys when we die, so we decided we had to buy something that they could live in now and after we are gone. We are trying to downsize our house and then hope to buy a condo for our boys to share and a small house for us nearby. But the only way the boys will ever live on their own is with staff. Buying a condo will already stretch our finances in our retirement years, we certainly can't afford staff as well. We were counting on Waiver funding for services if we were providing the housing. If that funding is not available, they will live with us until we die. When we do die, they won't be able to afford the house we lived in and won't be able to manage without supports. And without funding, where would they live -in a nursing home, an institution? Then, not only will they have to deal with our deaths, they will be uprooted and moved somewhere else, into a scary environment. How traumatic.

Without federal Medicaid funding and mandates, or decreases in Medicaid funding and mandates, the present and the future for our children looks bleak and scary. These are not people that can always speak up or cause a stink like other groups that are affected by these changes can. This is not "fixing" anything. Please don't do this to our children.

Robert and Susan Bosworth - For Matthew Dotson and Carson Bosworth

██████████
Walkersville, MD 21793

District 8

Why Medicaid matters to me...

I am the father of a special needs teenager on the Autistic Spectrum. We are extremely concerned about the current debates regarding cuts to Medicaid. Our son Michael is critically reliant upon Medicaid to help him manage even the most basic aspects in his daily life. My wife and I are post-graduate educated professionals working in speech therapy and a technology related field respectively. We are productive, tax paying members of society who recognize our responsibility in caring for our son, but with the egregious expenses associated with dealing with this very difficult medical condition (which recently included a \$2,400 annual deductible for just one of his multiple medications) we physically do not have the financial ability to meet all of Michael's medical needs without the crucial assistance Medicaid provides. My son requires Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy as well as highly specialized education services (he attends the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Fairmount School in Baltimore as there is no appropriate public school setting for his profound disabilities). Due to significant speech disabilities, he has had to rely on augmentative speech devices (that are not covered by insurance) his entire life. We annually spend many tens of thousands of dollars on providing the most basic of medical and therapeutic supports for Michael, but the great majority of these necessities are not sufficiently covered (if they are covered at all) by traditional insurance (which we already have and employ whenever expenses are allowed by our insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield). The loss of Medicaid support will very likely impact our ability to continue to have both of us working, and will ironically lead to us providing less taxes to the government and even less to support our son.

As a concerned two concerned parents who have literally dedicated our lives and all of our family resources to caring for our Autistic son, we implore you in the strongest terms possible to not allow the currently debated Medicaid cuts to be enacted. In a multi trillion dollar budget, it is illogical as it is cruel to not see the impacts these cuts will have on the most vulnerable members of our society.

I am more than willing to meet and discuss our plea here enclosed at any time. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Russell Meade

[REDACTED]
Columbia, MD 21044
District 3

Why Medicaid matters to me...

My son's chance at a normal life was destroyed by a massive seizure disorder when he was 5 months old. He is now 38 years old, and he lives with us. He still has occasional seizures, and he cannot be left alone. It has been 38 years since I have been able to leave my home for any purpose, work or leisure, without making childcare arrangements.

When my son aged out of the school system at 21, he began attending a day program that offers him the opportunity to do simple work and socialize with others. Medicaid pays half of the cost of that program. It covers the cost of the 6 medications my son takes daily to prevent seizures. In addition, it funds group homes for people with disabilities who no longer have families.

I am 70 years old; my husband is 75. We are one of about 4000 families in my state hoping to get a group home placement for our son before we die. The massive cut in Medicaid proposed by the Trump administration will only add thousands more families to that endless waiting list. We have no assurance from anyone that someone will take care of our son when we are gone. Millions of other people with disabilities and their families face the same challenges. We literally do not dare die. I hope that wiser, more compassionate people will prevail and defeat the inhumane and cruel AHCA and devise a budget that takes into account the legitimate needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Please help us.

Linda Cades

[REDACTED]
Kennedyville, MD 21645



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

217 E. Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 410-767-3670

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Nicholls [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy HealthCare Bill

Dear Senators Graham, Cassidy, and other Senators voting on this bill,

My name is Kimberly Nicholls. Almost nine years ago I gave birth to my darling daughter, Kailyn Gibson after a 25 week pregnancy. She weighed 1 pound, 14 ounces or 870 grams and was given a 50% chance of survival. She could not breathe on her own and needed immediate intubation. She could not even produce her own red blood cells and needed more transfusions than I could number. I was told that private insurance would not cover the cost of her medical needs, and that I needed to give up my job and go on Medicaid. It was an agonizing decision, but I did it. My daughter had a four month NICU stay with the best of care. When she was discharged, we had in home therapists through the Infants and Toddlers program and a Medical Team at Georgetown University hospital that oversaw my child's needs. She did Outpatient Therapy in multiple disciplines at the Kennedy Krieger Institute for three years. She did inpatient eating disorders clinic at Mount Washington Pediatric hospital. My eight and a half year old daughter has a medical record that is over 235 pages long. You could say, she is a shining example of why insurance companies cannot take the risk and burden of insuring people with pre existing medical conditions. You could say the medical costs of her first few years of life are more than three healthy adults. You could say the costs of providing for disabled children like her are draining the State resources unnecessarily. But this is not where my daughter's story ends.

She is diagnosed with Celiac Disease, Anaphylactic allergies, Dyspraxia, Dysarthria, Dyslexia/Dysgraphia, Sensory Disorder, Hypotonia, and Hyperactivity, but she is also a straight A student at Divine Peace Lutheran School in Upper Marlboro, MD. She only returns to Kennedy Krieger for yearly re-evaluations. She takes gymnastics at the Wayne Curry Sports and Learning Complex, originally as a way to support physical therapy through Inclusion Services. She studies ballet, tap, hip-hop, and jazz at Marcellus Dance School. She plays piano at Bach 2 Rock Music Academy in Bethesda, MD and Music Theater Courses at Imagination Stage, Bethesda. This year she received a scholarship to participate in the Miss United States Pageant. She'll be competing for Little Miss Maryland this March. My daughter thrives and has goals of being a paralympian. She is so proud to wear her Country's colors. When she grows up, my daughter wants to be a Broadway Star. It will be amazing for a child with a neuromuscular disorder, physical disability, and speech disorder to grace the Great White Way. But should she be denied the right to become a productive citizen of the Country she loves because her birth weight is automatically considered a life long impairment? Should her ability to gain employment be determined by her diagnoses?

Passage of the Graham-Cassidy act would do something seven medical conditions and a fifty fifty chance of survival could not; kill my daughter's chance at a bright future. If medical insurance companies are allowed to price my daughter out of services, she will not be able to manage her conditions and would be left with only Medicaid as an option for affordable, accessible health coverage. But Medicaid has severe income limits; it would doom her to poverty and leave her unable to achieve her dreams. The Graham-Cassidy act also seeks to defund Medicaid, shrinking access to Medical care for those who need it after denying them the ability to seek private insurance to cover their costs. It is unfair for children like my daughter who battle and overcome their disabilities everyday to be told by Congress they don't deserve the right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness because the cost of their health is too great.

Senators, I implore you to strike down the Graham-Cassidy act and any health care act that seeks to take access to medical coverage away from Americans. Any citizen wishing to gain the unalienable rights put forth in Our Constitution must first be healthy and ensured that the cost of keeping them healthy will not bankrupt their efforts. Access to healthcare is the catalyst for success and it should be available to all if we are to hold ourselves to the principles of democracy and banish elitism. On behalf of my daughter, and all kids with disabilities please vote no on this bill today.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Nicholls
Mother of a Special Needs Child



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lifes Journeys [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to you at this time to share 2 stories about how the ACA has helped my son and myself. I am also writing to let you know as a constituent I am AGAINST this bill.

My son Donnie was born with Autism Spectrum Disorder and has secondaries of Tactile Defenses, Sensory Integration Disorder, Petite Mal Seizures, Sensory Processing Disorder, Hypersensitive Hearing Disorder, Scoliosis and receives weekly Immunotherapy for his many many allergies. He will have lifelong expenses medically that he relies on his Medicaid to cover. Without this coverage he won't be able to afford his medications, he won't be able to afford to see his team of physicians and this will be an extreme hardship on not only him but myself if this bill passes.


As for myself I have all of these DX's: Learning Disabled, Dyslexic, Grand Mal Seizure Disorder, Sleep Disorder Non Specified Not Sleep Apnea, Fibromyagia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Diverticulosis, Lumbar Spondylosis with Radiculopathy, Bilateral Sacroiliac Joint Dysfunction, Osteoarthritis of the Spine, Neuropathy, Pre-Diabetic, I receive weekly Immunotherapy for all of my many allergies, am preparing to start Physical Therapy again soon and have to be tested for a rare disease called Hereditary ATTR Amyloidosis (Formerly Called Familial Amyloidosis, Harne's Disease, Pryor's Disease, etc....) that runs in my family and can be traced back to the 1800's. I too do receive Medicaid through the ACA and without this in place I won't be able to see my physicians, afford my medications and I won't be able to function properly. I will be one of the many that applies for Disability if this bill goes into place. I haven't filed for Disability yet for myself because I want to get better, I do not wish to get worse to the point where I cannot function. I am also tiring of these hateful posts from persons I see on facebook that want to lump all of the Medicaid people together as being lazy, milking the system, etc....

My son is by no means lazy, he is out with his Supported Employment staff looking for work ever since he was laid off over 1 year ago. I by no means am not lazy, our PCP actually doesn't even want for me to work because of how much care 24/7 my son requires BUT I actually do work part time for a small family owned local business....BUT I work from home that way I can be available for my son at the drop of a hat. I set my own hours around my son's needs, when I have to go to the actual Office Location I am permitted to bring my son with me if need be. I also volunteer year round for Special Olympics of Maryland/Washington County as an Assistant Bocce Coach, Assistant Duckpin Bowling Coach, Duckpin Bowling Holiday Party Committee, Duckpin Bowling Awards Banquet Committee, Have to take various online/in person classes to keep up my certifications to be a part of the Special Olympics of Maryland/Washington County Community, Chaperone 3 to 4 Clients every Saturday during Duckpin Season for 2 to 3 hours, Chaperone Bocce Athletes during Season Practices/Qualifiers/Summer Games in Towson MD, Participate each year with my son in these sports through Special Olympics of Maryland/Washington County: Bocce, Duckpin Bowling, Snowshoeing, Annual Torch Run and we attempt to add a different sport every few years. I am also on the Management Team for Special Olympics of Maryland/Washington County. Moving on to other items I am involved with and they are as follows: I take online courses for college credit through Association of Educational Therapists, online Webinars through Developmental Disabilities Administration so I can continue to effectively advocate for my son and all others out there with Disabilities. I volunteer (do not get paid) to advocate for others with Disabilities when the need arises, I also volunteer my time to advocate for those individuals who have been abused as I am a Domestic Abuse Survivor. I am also currently assisting my parents when the need arises by helping with yard

work, cleaning their home, helping them shop if need be etc....My dad is a Stroke Survivor and My mom has all sorts of health issues and can barely walk at times. I am also assisting my mother with finding classes she can take on how to deal with an immediate family member who is in an assisted living facility on Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease as my mother is Medical Power of Attorney over this individual and I have been taking the time out of my days/nights to assist her in educating her on how this all works plus I provide administrative duties so my immediate family member can have the best care possible. So as you can see I am by no means Lazy. I contribute to my community, my State, my County and My Country whenever and however I am able to.

In closing, RESIST, NO TO THE BILL.

Thank you for your time in this matter,

Linda Mae Kline
Donald Lee Harmon III

Hagerstown MD 21740

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Art Zoller Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: art@zollerwagner.com
Subject: Cuts to Medicaid affect real people

Honorable Senators:

I provide psychotherapy for a wide variety of Americans. About a third of my clients have Medicaid insurance. Some of them have had severe accidents and had to have public insurance because they cannot work while recovering. Some have been hard working Americans who got caught up in the opioid crisis and need public insurance while they work on their recovery. Some are the working poor who receive no insurance through their employers. Almost all of my clients are working hard at recovering from their mental health challenges. I'm proud of them and honored to work with them.

My own brother had severe developmental disabilities and relied on Medicaid insurance most of his adult life. He was unable to hold a job or earn an income because he was completely disabled by his cerebral palsy, deafness, and intellectual disabilities.

I'm concerned that if the Congress were to cut Medicaid funding, Americans like my clients and my brother will be unable to afford health care and mental health assistance. This would result in overwhelming consequences for us as a nation, in human suffering and in financial costs, both to families and government at all levels. We can't afford to abandon these people. Doing so would be un-American.

Sincerely,
Art

Art Zoller Wagner
[REDACTED] Pasadena MD 21122-4973 USA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Seiple [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senator,

I am writing as a woman and mother to implore you to do everything in your power to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. A few years ago, my daughter was born three months prematurely. She weighed a little over 2 lbs and was in the NICU for nine weeks. The hospital bill was over \$350,000. She has needed numerous follow-up visits with specialists. My daughter was a pre-existing condition at birth. Without protections against lifetime caps on insurance or inflated premiums for pre-existing conditions, she could find insurance unattainable for the rest of her life. She is only three years old now. This is unconscionable for babies like her and the most vulnerable in our society.

Please fight to oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Seiple
[REDACTED]
Catonsville MD, 21228

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: c tg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: cassidy graham bill

I am really disappointed in the continued focus of Republican health plans being focused on politics to repeal the ACA and not focused on making health care more accessible to Americans. As a family physician, I have seen so many people finally able to come in and get their blood pressure controlled, screened for cancer with early treatment saving their lives, getting shots. I have been able to keep people out of the hospital and increased the value of the money spent to get better health results.

Many millions will lose coverage and then where will they go? rely on emergencies for their care? this is expensive and not a substitute for preventive primary care.

people who are sick will lose coverage or be priced out. this will be a death sentence.

you will no longer have guarantees that the coverage you need will be supplied by the insurance you bought. buying insurance is complicated for many but there is a trust that insurance will cover that maternity care or cancer care. Before the ACA even well baby visits were not reliably covered. I don't have to worry that the right care getting covered for my patients.

How can this solve health care needs for our citizens? sacrificing many to be re-elected in 2018 is not right.

Chantal Girod MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Arsenault [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017
2:00 PM
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Comments from:

Joseph Arsenault
[REDACTED]
Parkton, MD 21120

Prior to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, my sister injured her back and was unable to continue to work as an aide in a residential home for disabled adults. She subsequently lost her job and, with it, her health insurance. When she tried to obtain health insurance on her own she found that, not only was it too expensive, but her back injury was considered a pre-existing condition and would not be covered.

When the PPACA was implemented, my sister and I sat down together and navigated our way through the signup process. We found health coverage for her that would meet her needs but, because she was unemployed, it was not affordable. Fortunately for her, she was able to obtain a subsidy that brought the monthly premium down to a level that she could afford. We signed her up, she got the coverage, she went to a doctor, and got physical therapy and other treatment. Within three months she was working again, and even though her new job did not include health benefits, she was able to keep the health coverage she had through the PPACA because the premiums were within her reach.

For the millions of Americans with stories like my sister, I'm asking you to table the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. Work with the full Senate to create legislation to fix the problems with the PPACA or create a replacement that covers more people with the same or greater levels of coverage.

Thank you very much.

Joseph Arsenault

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Chambers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 1:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE DOWN GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Do this for a number of reasons

- 1) Obamacare actually works pretty well, and would work even better if you all quit undermining its implementation;
- 2) Graham-Cassidy will result in a loss of coverage for up to 21 million people according to the Brookings Institution. If you don't like those numbers you could, you know, wait for the freaking CBO to release its score before you vote to change 1/6 of the economy;
- 3) As designed, it steals money from states that implemented medicaid expansion which is cruel, immoral, makes the health care access worse;
- 4) so you can sleep at night.

Thanks,

Dan Chambers
Catonsville MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nina Casalena [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: lauren@healthcareforall.com; demarco@mdinitiative.org
Subject: RE: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: ACA Letter of Support.pdf

Dear Senator Cardin,

Please see attached The Women's Law Center of Maryland's letter in support of the Affordable Care Act. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nina Casalena

Legal Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201
Towson, MD 21204
410-321-8761
ncasalena@wlcmd.org
www.wlcmd.org

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janine Rauscher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my wish that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal be voted down.

This bill will have a serious negative impact on our family. Both of my daughters have pre-existing conditions. Under this proposed bill, they would both be at risk of paying higher premiums. As both are fairly young and still in entry-level, lower wage positions, this has the potential to severely hinder their ability to finish their education, buy a home, and invest for their retirement. My youngest child has also been diagnosed with depression and anxiety and requires ongoing medication and counseling, none of which come inexpensively. Without the guarantee to coverage for mental health benefits, I fear that she would not continue to get the help she needs. Before her treatment stabilized her, she twice attempted suicide. I fear that without treatment, the depression will succeed.

My husband, a veteran of the US Navy, US Air Force Reserves and US Army Reserves, also has ongoing health issues. During his active duty tour immediately following 9/11, he developed a blood clot in his lower leg and was on blood thinners for almost 15 years. The condition left him with permanent blood valve damage in his legs and he now lives daily in pain. Should the blood clot reoccur, I fear that it could be considered a result of pre-existing conditions and then he, too, would no longer have the protections provided under the Affordable Care Act.

My brother-in-law was born legally blind and needs recurring surgeries to maintain the little eyesight that he has. In addition, he was been diagnosed with Type-1 diabetes and lives with an insulin pump. Should the lifetime caps that existed prior to the ACA be restored, he would quickly reach his limits and be unable to continue his medications.

One year ago, my brother needed open heart surgery and continues to need medical care to ensure that he stays healthy. He, too, could easily find himself uninsurable.

I could continue on, but I know that there are many other folks who would be in much worse situations should the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson pass. Please do not send our healthcare backwards.

Regards,
Janine Rauscher
[REDACTED]
North Potomac, MD 20878
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preserve the Affordable Care Act

Dear Senator Cardin,

Please do all you can to help Maryland and the rest of the county keep affordable health care. The Republican proposal, Graham-Cassidy, will rob thousands if not millions of our nation's citizens and residents of the financial support we have fought so hard to win so that these people can afford health care. Access to health care is a human right. I'm counting on you to preserve what we have. Thank you.

Christine Garcia
[REDACTED]
University Park, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marc DelMonico [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill will destory my and millions of others access to health care - DO NOT PASS IT!

As a constituent from the state of Maryland with a great deal riding on the decisions to be made regarding the Graham Cassidy bill, I urge Senators to avoid even bringing this draconian and evil bill up for a vote. If passed it will obliterate affordable health care for me and millions of others. This bill is inhumane bordering on sadistic. I not only urge it not be brought for a vote but that it be resisted with the type of dedication reserved for national states of emergency. This bill is a moral abomination. Please return to regular order and work in a bipartisan fashion to fix and enhance the Affordable Care Act.

Regards,
Marc DelMonico
[REDACTED]
Adephi, MD 20783



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcie Wolf-Hubbard [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: VanHollen, Senator (Van Hollen); Senator Ben Cardin
Subject: Testimony regarding Affordable Care Act and Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments: GrahamCassidyBill_MWHTestimony.docx

My testimony is below, and also attached document attached.
Marcie Wolf-Hubbard
[REDACTED]

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Graham Cassidy Bill
Hearing
Monday September 25, 2017

Submitted by
Marcie Wolf-Hubbard
[REDACTED]
Silver Spring, MD 20910
9/21/2017

My husband endured life saving Whipple surgery 7/2016 to remove a cancerous tumor from his duodenum (small intestine.) He completed chemotherapy in Feb 2017; and fortunately his scans and lab tests look good now. He requires insulin for the rest of his life because 1/3 of his pancreas was removed. He also requires an expensive prescription, Creon, a pancreatic enzyme. He continues to be followed by his surgeon and oncologist which means more doctor visits and CAT scans. What are we to do? We have our health insurance through the Maryland exchange and rely on subsidies to afford it. We are very concerned that we will lose our healthcare due to my husband's pre-existing conditions, or that it will be too expensive and we will not be able to afford the premiums and prescriptions. Millions of Americans have pre-existing conditions. Their lives are in your hands. We need to keep quality healthcare affordable and accessible. I strongly urge you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. The ACA can be improved, it does not need to be replaced. It's working, and my husband along with millions of Americans are alive today because of the care they received under the ACA. The ACA saved my husband's life.

Thank you,
Marcie Wolf-Hubbard

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelley Malone [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill and to ask that you do not pass the bill. I work at a small not-for-profit that provides services for people with developmental disabilities to help them have a quality of life in the community and not be institutionalized or segregated in large group settings. The people I support deserve to live meaningful lives in community and not shut away. Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Sincerely,
Kelley Malone

[REDACTED]
Easton, MD 21601

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Sorkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Peggy Townsend
Cc: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Comments for Graham-Cassidy bill

Thanks, that's why I copied you, Peg. Only one hearing scheduled. Must have header of name of hearing and date (9/25/17) and your name and address. With Michigan having expanded Medicaid we would be especially hard hit.

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 22, 2017, at 12:20 PM, Peggy Townsend [REDACTED] wrote:

Suzanne,
Thanks for sharing. I didn't realize that a way to comment existed because this terrible bill has been moving through at what appears to be warp speed. I will take advantage of the opportunity.
Peg

On Sep 22, 2017 12:06 PM, "Suzanne Sorkin" [REDACTED] wrote:
Hearing for Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill
Date of Hearing: 9/25/17
Individual commenting: Suzanne Sorkin, M.D.
Address of commenter: [REDACTED] Traverse City, MI 49684-2614

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As a retired family physician I remember with horror the days prior to the ACA when disabled people and those with prior conditions would be unable to access health care. This bill would return us to those bad old days. Patients with diabetes, for instance, would go without medication until brought in to the ER in diabetic ketoacidotic coma, a life-threatening condition requiring an expensive ICU admission. After discharge, assuming the patient survived, the cycle would start all over again...

Please do **NOT** pass the Graham-Cassidy bill which would return us to those days.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kenneth Buck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing September 25, 2017

I oppose this bill because I have personally experience a family member who became seriously ill and had no health insurance through no fault of her own. My sister was fired from her job when she went to a company health fair and it was discovered she had cardiomyopathy. She lost her health insurance and could not find a full time job because of her pre-existing condition so she worked full-time as a part-time employee. She could also not afford health insurance because it would have cost more than she earned. She had saved her entire life and with help from her family she existed. Then because she could not secure healthcare she suffered a stroke and became totally disabled. Unable to speak or understand those who spoke to her, paralyzed she still carried on. Her savings was eroded until she was just about ready to go on Medicaid when she died. On her 64th birthday. Her over \$300,000 in savings earned as a secretary over 40 years had dwindled to less than \$6,000 and would have been eliminated if she had lived another three months.

Healthcare is vital for everyone. We must support those less fortunate than we are.

I oppose this bill because it does not provide that support

Respectfully

Kenneth L. Buck

[REDACTED] Woodstock, Maryland
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: meeka caldwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Hi,

I am a constituent in Maryland, PG County District 4 and I oppose the new proposed health care bill. I have a 3 year old with Down Syndrome who needs Medicaid now and in the future. I have family members, including myself, who have preexisting conditions and they need their healthcare to work for them and not go up. Many Americans will suffer if this is passed. Please care about the people this is affecting.

Thank you

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill - oppose

This is express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill that would repeal ACA and harm the Medicaid program.

As a family medicine and public health physician I attest to the benefits of ACA - more insured patients get earlier care, avoiding complications and decreasing costs. Those states that expanded Medicaid have seen even more benefit and better health outcomes.

As a taxpayer I want to see health care access for all - this is a good, sensible use of tax funds - healthier students do better in school, and healthier workers are more productive. And, spending on ACA and Medicaid have good return on investment, yielding better economic growth because parents can stay at work when they and their kids are healthier. and our health system employs people at good wages. Graham-Cassidy would lead to hospital closures and job loss for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers.

As a patient, I want my pre-existing conditions to be covered, which Graham-Cassidy would take away. This elimination of protection for pre-existing condition coverage will lead to premature death and increased numbers of medical bankruptcies. We can avoid all these problems by admitting that ACA needs to be strengthened, not destroyed.

To republicans: since you seem to need to "repeal and replace" for your own selfish and unpatriotic reasons, don't cripple our health system for your political gain. Strengthen ACA - call it "repeal and replace" if you must. Tell the Koch brothers and Mercers that you will do what's right for the nation, and then tax them and other oligarchs adequately. Perhaps you republicans could calculate how many individual citizen contributions you need to equal what they contribute to you, and let all of us know that figure on a state-by-state and district-by-district level.

Graham-Cassidy will hurt most Americans. Vote against it.

Best regards,
Julie Graves, MD, MPH, PhD
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Hewitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Dear All,

I am writing to tell you how upset I am about the latest iteration of a "healthcare bill". Just a brief overview:

- it is not a health care bill when it makes it harder to get insurance especially for women and children.
- it is not a health care bill when it takes away routine medical care from people.
- it is not even a bill that senators believe in. they just believe they need to pass something to "save face". that is the worst reason I have ever heard to take health care away from people with pre-existing conditions.

Please remember that are playing with people's lives, there is no economy if there are no people to work. People cannot work if they are ill and unable to receive healthcare. We need a full and functioning society for America to work--do not think you can take away take away and still have a successful economy.

Please work with what we have and improve on it if you want to solve healthcare in this country.

Thank you.

Susan Kennedy
[REDACTED]
Takoma Park MD 20912

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Lamb [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

We alone in the so-called civilized world do not provide universal health care. What does that tell you?

Barbara Lamb

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lillian Luksenburg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families. Please show true stewardship and think of what's good for the majority, not just the wealthy donors to political campaigns.

Lillian Luksenburg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Silver Spring, Maryland 20902-1566

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Herbert Thomson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Herbert Thomson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jarrettsville, Maryland 21084

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Julia Hart
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

St Michaels, Maryland 21663

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Parr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Sarah Parr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan P. Thomas, Sr. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Nathan P. Thomas, Sr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SILVER SPRING, Maryland 20906

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen R [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My husband and I, like most Americans, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Myself and many members of my family have pre-existing conditions. By turning the decision on how individuals with pre-existing conditions are treated over to a state-by-state decision, this bill opens the door for insurers being able to charge exorbitant fees for people with those pre-existing conditions. If my family were to lose our employer-covered healthcare, and were forced to rely on the individual insurance market, this bill could mean that we would not be able to afford care, and could face caps on coverage. This is a bad bill for Americans that puts the health of all Americans at risk. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I call on Congress to undertake a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ruffner
Greenbelt, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: M Langelan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

M Langelan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miles Calabresi [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Miles Calabresi
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, Maryland 21212

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tim Heintzman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Congress needs to get off its fat butt and start working for the people who voted for them, not the rich and corporations who fuel their campaigns and fill their pockets. I'm sure the health care for members of Congress will not be affected by this ridiculous, lethal dumbass healthcare bill.

Tim Heintzman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, Maryland 21206

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ALICIA CZECHOWSKI [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Tax breaks for billionaires who stash their billions in offshore accounts to avoid paying taxes is the sole reason for Trumpcare. The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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ALICIA CZECHOWSKI

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T JAMEEL MUHAMMAD [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Please show the CBO score of all Health Plans and proposals so the citizens can make an informed decision.....and yes Healthcare is a Civil Right.....amen.

T JAMEEL MUHAMMAD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Germantown, Maryland 20876

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harvey Eisen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Harvey Eisen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2023

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabriel Funes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Gabriel Funes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Seabrook, Maryland 20706

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annette Procter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Annette Procter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Camalier [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Janet Camalier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Accokeek, Maryland 20607

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jess Buckles [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jess Buckles
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jonathan Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joel Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Joel Friedman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rockville , Maryland 20850

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Blanchard Mckethan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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YOU, DEMONIC REPUBLICANS WILL BE JUDGED BY THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR ROBBING THE POOR JUST LIKE SODOM & GOMORRAH DID (NOT ONLY FOR HOMOSEXUALS) BUT FOR STEALING FROM THE POOR IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL. TRUMPCARE IS CURSED AT THE ROOT IN JESUS' NAME. I PLEA THE BLOOD OF JESUS AGAINST YOUR HEALTHCARE JUNK.

Barbara Blanchard Mckethan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Capitol Heights, MD, Maryland 20743

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: james baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

find out biggest complaints about the ACA... and fix those. then.... stop messing with it.

james baker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katrina Foreman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Katrina Foreman and I urge you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal. I am a social worker working in an inner city. I am particularly concerned about the impact the bill will have on people with mental health or substance use disorders. I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

It allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health or substance use care. Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health and substance use benefits at risk.

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

It effectively ends Medicaid expansion. One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health or substance use coverage.

It reduces help to purchase health insurance. Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health or substance use treatment.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill.

Sincerely,

Katrina Foreman
[REDACTED]
Severn, Maryland 21144
[REDACTED]

K. Foreman

"Now the Lord is the Holy Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, freedom is also there." 2 Cor. 3:17 NIRV

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alan Wojtalik [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Alan Wojtalik
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth O'Keefe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why do you hate Americans so much?!?

Especially the poor, the ill, and the defenseless. Weren't you elected to represent these people too? Why can't the USA catch up with every other developed country in the world? Who would ever think healthcare is only for those who can afford it, rather than a *right* everyone who lives in the United States of America is entitled to?

Please, Senate Finance Committee, start taking of *everyone* in America.

--
Ruth Anne O'Keefe, MD
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87112
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Canter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against G-C

I am a registered voter. I have just returned from my 9th assignment under USG funding in AFGHANISTAN. I am a tax payer and a (former) Peabody and EMMY award winning retired network television producer and journalist.

Rushing it through, to make good on a foolish promise based on sheer bias, is stupid and a complete rejection of your oath of office.

Vote it down. Sit with all the Senators. Talk about it. Prove people wrong about your being selfish and self-centered. Work for the Americans who elected you!

Vote against the G-C health (un)care bill.

William M Canter
Chevy Chase, Maryland
(Just back from Kabul - have you ever been there?)

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Summerlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Sarah Summerlin, and my family and our county stand to lose if this bill is passed and we can no longer afford the therapy my eight-year-old daughter with autism.

Public school does not offer the consistency or range of services she needs and so we seek private therapy outside of the multiple therapies public school does provide. The ACA guarantees that our private insurance company must cover her therapies and thereby makes them affordable for our family. Under this misjudged and selfish bill, coverage for her basic needs would become so expensive that we could not longer afford the therapy she needs to meet her basic social and physical needs.

My daughter is kind. She is sweet. We are raising her to consider the needs of others besides herself. Restricting her access to the services she needs now, at age 8, stunts her develop and ultimately costs our country more.

This bill is short-sighted and cruel. Please vote no.

Thank you,

Sarah Summerlin
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Dukhovny [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My patients.

I am a physician who specialty is in High Risk Obstetrics and Genetics. What that means is that once a week all day I meet with families who are carrying pregnancies with babies with significant, often severe, sometimes lethal birth defects. These babies are born critically ill, needing life saving ICU care and surgeries. They have abnormal hearts, brains, kidneys, limbs, faces. Their parents love them, and choose to bring them into this world assuming they will be able to do everything that they can to keep them safe. For other families, this devastating diagnosis means an end to their journey, and they decide to end their pregnancies, often to avoid the pain and suffering likely to occur when a baby is born with a severe birth defect. Either way, these families and children ARE "pre-existing conditions" from literally the moment of birth. Many of them leave the hospital after weeks and months of ICU care with literally MILLIONS of dollars in medical bills. Ironically, often the families who decide to continue pregnancies are the ones who are the least equip to cover extensive medical bills. But, in truth, even the richest families will be devastated by these bills.

Imagine, you, our US senator, is sitting in a consultation room with me. Imagine it's your daughter/ son/ niece/ wife who is sitting across the table from me. Imagine, for those female senators, that this is you. Imagine what it feels like when I lean across the table and explain "hypo plastic left heart is a condition where your son will need at least 3 heart surgeries in his first 5 years of life. 50% of these children won't survive. Most of them will need a heart transplant in their teens." Seriously, close your eyes. Imagine this. Now imagine the panic in your decision. What do you do? Do you continue the pregnancy? Do you terminate? Does your concern about finances factor in? Does the idea "can we afford this" enter your thoughts? Do you wonder if your family will go bankrupt? Is this how you make your decision?

These are people. They are real people. That is not hyperbolic. REAL FAMILIES. Do you want to know their names? Would that be helpful? The names of their babies (dead AND alive?)? I don't know WHAT ELSE I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS. You have NO RIGHT to rip away healthcare. You and I both know what you are doing. Tonight, late, when you brush your teeth and look at yourself in the mirror, I want you to look at yourself in the eyes and JUSTIFY what taking away health care, medicaid, pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps means to you. These children and families should haunt your dreams if you vote for this bill. You want their names? Blake, Parker, Khovny, Alex. You want more? Juliette, Ruby, Conner, Troy. More? I can send photos. WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED. WHAT MORE.

Stephanie Dukhovny, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Davidson Wolf [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For the sake of Americans, DO NOT pass Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter was in a very serious car accident at the age of 23 when she was hit in a high-speed head-on collision by a driver going the wrong way on the highway. Her injuries were severe and although they were not life-threatening, they were life-altering. Thanks to my employer-sponsored health care, she has made a good recovery, but she had to give up her dream job as a dolphin trainer for work that is less physically taxing. She is now in school retraining and getting her teaching certification, but when she turns 26 in January, she will need good health care to support her pre-existing condition, which will be with her for the rest of her life.

Congress, please show leadership by working together on a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Do this for the sake of my children, your children, and all of us.

Sincerely,

Judi L. Davidson Wolf
[REDACTED]
Columbia, MD 21045
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alissa Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C bill

I am writing you today as a pediatric oncologist to say that I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. You cannot put a cap on pre-existing conditions. The children that I am able to get into a long term remission from their cancer, cancer that they had no reason to get nor deserve, have long term health consequences from chemotherapy and radiation, including heart failure, renal failure, infertility, and osteoporosis to name a few. In addition, no physician supports block grants; somehow pretending that medical costs are predictable puts those of us serving our patients on the line. When I took the Hippocratic oath I swore to provide for every patient who comes across my door; block grants mean that once funds run out, you've put physicians in a terrible position to figure out how to still provide for our most vulnerable. Keep in mind that cancer rates are as high as 1 in 2 adults in their lifetime. Please understand that as a physician, I have committed myself to a lifetime of service, just as you have, and I need to be able to do that to the best of my abilities without those with no medical background trying to make a profit from the sidelines.

Please vote NO to the Graham Cassidy Bill and instead improve upon the ACA by incentivizing insurers to stay in the exchanges, mandating standards in the insurance industry as we do in the auto and food and so many other industries. Protect the unborn by demanding that these plans cover prenatal care, postnatal care, pediatric care. Focus on social determinants of health such as access to healthy food, putting an end to food deserts which are directly linked to obesity and diabetes. Enlist the American Public Health Association, and find a way forward that doesn't leave tens of millions of Americans uninsured and even more underinsured. Thank you.

Dr. Alissa Baker
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Johns Hopkins Hospital/National Institutes of Health

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MARILYN Hage [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My adult daughter has a permanent disability and having quality affordable healthcare is a must. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hage

Towson, MD 21286

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harold Whitaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Shameful

This bill is in no way meant to improve the cost of, access to, or quality of healthcare provision in the US - if it was in any single way, at least one group involved in healthcare (hospitals, doctors, nurses, insurance companies, patient groups, and/or disability advocates) would support this thing. Instead, they ALL oppose it.

No. What this is is a naked attempt to snatch Medicaid expansion money from blue states and give it to red states. Even then, some red states (Arizona, for example) still get screwed. This is simply a way to chalk up a political victory point by killing another Obama legacy bill, all the while throwing the sick and poor under the bus. And doing it without a CBO score or truly explaining the bill to anyone.

Shame on each and every one of you.

-Harold Whitaker, College Park, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinne DeFrancisci [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Opposition

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

As I have watched this process unfold, it seems clear that this bill was not created and will not be passed because anyone believes that it is great policy, or even that it will be good for the American people. This bill is clearly a last ditch effort to repeal Obamacare with 51 votes by September 30th. This bill would take money away from states, including my home state of Maryland, who opted into Medicaid expansions under the Affordable Care Act. Estimates have shown that this bill will leave 33 million more Americans uninsured, not that anyone knows for sure because if this bill is voted on, it will be before the CBO is able to score its affects. This is utterly irresponsible.

With that I urge those on the Senate Finance Committee to reject this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Corinne DeFrancisci
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Baltimore, MD 21218

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginger Rosela [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal

Importance: High

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal. I am particularly concerned about the impact the bill will have on people with mental health or substance use disorders. I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

It allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health or substance use care. Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health and substance use benefits at risk.

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

It effectively ends Medicaid expansion. One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health or substance use coverage.

It reduces help to purchase health insurance. Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health or substance use treatment.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill.

Sincerely,

Ginger Rosela
[REDACTED]
Pasadena, MD 21122
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: magnolia laurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Hearing
September 25, 2017

I would like to voice my strong disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy bill. We should not be wasting time and money perpetually trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, leave it alone unless you are going to provide a single payer system that is fair and equal to all. We need to be moving toward being a better society and caring more for one another, rather than less. The Graham-Cassidy bill will only further destabilize our society and but our economy as well, it should not be supported.

Magnolia Laurie
[REDACTED]
Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ElissaBall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do Not pass this. This would be terrible for mental health care. It will only result in more NGRIs and mental illness jail beds and crowding.

Elissa Ball MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy Health care bill. It is time to work together, your constituents would rather you repair and fix rather than repeal and replace. Take a good look at how this bill would hurt those who suffer from a mental health condition or other pre existing conditions. Get together and get things accomplished. Shame on you for trying to get something passed for the sake of saving face with your constituents!

WORK TOGETHER!!!

Terry Bell

[REDACTED]
Berlin, Md. 21811

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Ormond [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The spirit of the bill is un-American.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mara Ormond

Warwick, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Hartman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill Hearing

Regarding the Graham/Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Statement of Stephanie Hartman
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Along with everyone in the field of health care, I strongly oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill. Many people of both parties have poured their knowledge into the design of the ACA, which represents years of hard work, and the rational approach would be to improve it through bipartisan efforts. The ACA would benefit even more people if all states had expanded Medicaid to ensure coverage, as originally planned. Leaving discretion to the states is not a solution: it just creates bigger holes in coverage. Constituents want health insurance expanded, not cut.

Both my husband and my niece have rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic degenerative disease that requires drugs to manage it--drugs which cost nearly as much as my niece's take-home teacher salary. It is hard enough to get laid off without also having to lose your--maybe your entire family's--health insurance. I appreciate politicians' desire to cut health care costs--but to leave people uninsured is not the solution. Whether people live or die or are crippled by pain should not depend upon their state of residence, or whether someone gets laid off. It is time for politicians to work together and put the well being of their constituents first, and nothing is more fundamental to well being than health.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Fleischer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I Oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. We have pre-existing conditions in our family and I would like to see a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not gut it or repeal it.

Sincerely
Karen Fleischer
Rockville, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

I am firmly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill because it will needlessly deprive millions of American citizens of healthcare and lead to unnecessary deaths.

Mary Beth Moore, Frostburg, MD 21532

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Gordon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Suanne Blumberg
Subject: Impact of Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act

I am vice-president of the board of Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services in Elkton, MD. We are the primary provider of mental health services in Cecil County Maryland and a major provider of mental health services in Harford County Maryland. The Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to our ability to provide mental health services in these two counties. Those most effected would be children, seniors, and homeless vets.

Please encourage all senators to vote against this measure.

Sincerely,
Michael Gordon
Board VP
Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am against the Graham Cassidy Bill.

Penney Cabrera

[REDACTED]
Baltimore MD 21217
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margery Swerdlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill
Attachments: image1.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

Dear Senators,

My name is Margery Gruber Swerdlow. I am the sister and guardian of my severely developmentally disabled sister Deborah Gruber. She does not speak, and is also cerebral palsied and autistic-like. We currently live in the state of Maryland but are from Arizona. Our family has been Republican for many years.

Since our mother died suddenly and unexpectedly, my sister's care and well being is my responsibility. She is in a wonderful group home now and receives Medicare and Medicaid for numerous serious medical issues. I am so worried about funding for my sister in the future. For families like ours there are many constant issues. We never know what might occur and when and what the future of a child or adult with multiple concerns will bring. I am so proud of Senators McCain, Collins and Murkowski for standing against the past and current health bills. Please, on behalf of those who can not always speak for themselves, do not vote for Graham-Cassidy. Wonderful Senator McCain has fought for bipartisanship. Please listen to him.

There are so many families like mine with members who have life altering conditions.

We ask for your continued support and help.

With great thanks-
Margery G. Swerdlow

My sister Debbie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Grossman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy health care bill

I have an auto-immune disease and rely on very expensive medicine to help control my symptoms, costing close to \$10,000 per MONTH. My insurance currently covers all but a small co-pay (the ridiculous cost of some medicines is a separate issue).

If I lose coverage due to my pre-existing condition, I will have to stop taking this medication. Without it, I am essentially bed-ridden. I won't be able to work, or to live any sort of normal life.

This is a horrible bill, and needs to be stopped.

Deborah Grossman
Takoma Park, MD 20912
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please do not allow this latest ACA repeal bill to pass

Although there was apparently some effort to improve the Graham-Cassidy bill, it still eliminates critical elements that protect all of us and insure many American citizens. Don't let it pass!

Thank you,
Anne Riley
Registered and active voter in Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Krugman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

For the record, I am a pediatrician who cares for a large number of Medicaid patients in Maryland. These children have access to high quality primary care, specialty care, acute care and preventive services. 96% of children in my state have insurance - many as a result of CHIP and medicaid expansion. This bill not only caps and cuts the Medicaid expansion, but it redirects dollars away from Maryland to the states that sadly didn't choose to expand Medicaid. Why is taking away health care from children acceptable? Can costs be cut from the system? Probably. But not the billions of dollars that are planned in this bill. We know that when children have access to preventive services the overall health care costs go down. If we want to improve health spending in the future, we need to intervene in childhood. So instead of cutting billions of dollars, the senate should invest in children and create a health system that works to maximize wellness and prevent future costs. Additionally, this bill removes the requirement for coverage of essential benefits. Not only will Medicaid kids lose, but all kids because their mother's won't have access to prenatal care which will lead to an increased number of premature infants. Cutting Medicaid dollars and essential benefits is not how this should be done. Do not pass this harmful legislation.

Scott Krugman, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betsy Novotny [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal/September 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and distinguished members of the Committee, I am writing to urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

I am fortunate enough to have decent health insurance. I bought it when both my husband I were perfectly healthy and have been fortunate enough to have only had to use it a few times over the course of decades. Once was when I broke my arm after getting kicked by a horse.

The second time was when I was diagnosed with uterine cancer. I hope you never have to hear that word uttered about you or a family member. It was a terrible phone call that I will never forget. But, I was fortunate in having reasonably priced health insurance that enabled me to concentrate on finding the best care and on my recovery and not on how I was going to pay for it. And my premiums didn't increase nor did I get kicked off my insurance because of this diagnosis.

And now my husband is dealing with squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. Once again, because of decent, affordable, health insurance, he is recovering nicely because we didn't have to worry about how to finance his treatment.

But now, we both have pre-existing conditions. With this current proposal, we are at high risk of either losing our coverage completely or having the premiums be too expensive. And, because we are in our sixties, we will be penalized because of our age as well. And, if I read the proposal correctly, insurance companies would be able to increase my premium at any time, if either my husband and I would have something else go wrong.

There isn't a family out there who hasn't been affected by cancer, either directly or indirectly. How can this committee justify denying people access to health care because they were unfortunate to have been diagnosed with any type of cancer? Or families whose babies have to spend the first days or months of their lives in the NICU and will reach their lifetime cap before their first birthday? How is this proposal a hallmark of

compassionate conservatism? How is this proposal making sure that the American people will have access to affordable health care without be penalized because of our gender, our age, or any pre-existing conditions?

I worked for over thirty years in the biomedical research field. I believe strongly that a healthy population is the key to a thriving country that still will be that "shining city on the hill". If funding for research to improve health care is cut, along with denying access to affordable health care, then this country will begin a slow spiral to insignificance in this world. I refuse to let that happen.

If this committee lets this proposal go forward, I would hope that each member who votes for this will have the courage of their convictions to go to cancer wards and NICU wings at hospitals around the country, look people in the eye, and explain to them why their access to affordable health care is being denied.

Do the right thing, Chairman Hatch, and urge your committee to reject this draconian proposal. Is the Affordable Health Act perfect? No. But don't dismantle it, just so your Republican colleagues can say they repealed it. Have them go back to the drawing board, work with the Democrats, and come up with something that will benefit all of our citizens, not the insurance companies.

Sincerely,
Betsy Novotny
Gambrills MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eleanor Graves [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My health care concerns

Hello Graham Cassidy proponent,

I am writing to express my concern over your proposed bill. Already I am aware that rising rates in Maryland will mean I can no longer afford the health care I have, and I only just got off Medicaid and onto Blue Cross Blue Shield last fall.

Three years ago, my husband went to Afghanistan as a contractor for a security company. He came back and asked for a divorce. We divorced, and with that I had to find my own health care. I was lucky to live in a jurisdiction that allowed me to go on Medicaid. In that time I had a medical emergency -- my first ER visit ever! I'm 46 and in excellent health. But sometimes, genetics get the best of you, according to my gynecologist. I got treated and never missed a day of work. Last fall, I was financially comfortable enough to get off Medicaid, and purchased a plan on the ACA exchange. I get some help with my monthly bill. As a small business owner, I can't emphasize enough how helpful this support is. I live and work in Baltimore, rehabbing vacant houses. I know the work I do is important to this city, but the financial rewards are minimal. A supportive health care system can go a long way, beyond just the individual on the receiving end. If I am healthy, I can keep working and paying the contractors who do the work for me. They support themselves and their families, and we all pay into health care. The system we have needs attention, but we do not need to abolish it. Not having Medicaid when I needed it would have had disastrous consequences for me. I would not be where I am today: contributing and participating in a robust working economy.

Please don't repeal the ACA! Don't do it!

Thanks for reading,
Eleanor

Eleanor Graves
MA Interior Design
Clean Air Homes, LLC
Baltimore, MD
[REDACTED]

Eleanor on [Pinterest](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paul Foster, MD [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Paul Foster. I am a physician in Baltimore, Maryland. I have many reasons underlying my belief that the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill is catastrophic medically and economically, and that the effects will be immediate and far-reaching. I will leave those arguments for others. I am not even writing as a physician who has directly witnessed the life-saving impact of the Affordable Care Act. I am writing as a brother.

My brother, William Foster, is brilliant and disabled. He has suffered from severe bipolar disorder since his teenage years. Because of Medicaid and later the Affordable Care Act, my brother obtained a Ph.D. in Information Sciences, traveled to China to study their use of the internet, assisted multiple national security groups to assess the Chinese capacity in cyberwarfare, and taught multiple students about the importance of understanding the international impact of the internet. He has more than paid the country back for his intermittent hospitalizations and expensive medications. His life has not been an easy one and there have been significant bumps in his career. Nevertheless, he has been able to make a significant contribution to this country based primarily on his ability to obtain health care. I have no doubt that my brother would have been homeless or died of neglect without these systems, while extending the already crippling expenses for the family. Our national security would have suffered accordingly.

Recently, my brother's illness has progressed to the point where he has become fully disabled. This means he will have some health security through Medicare. Nevertheless, he retains skills and an ability to contribute that he has acquired during the years of the ACA which he would not otherwise have had.

For the sake of preserving crucial national resources hidden among our disabled and disadvantaged, similar to my brother's prior situation, please turn down this ill-thought-out solution. The block grant process pretends to put the social and economic cost for this bill off for several years. The loss of pre-existing condition coverage will immediately push people like my brother out of the private insurance system, and cuts to Medicaid will limit their ability to obtain preventive care and limit exacerbations. As they become critically ill they will fill our emergency rooms, and the price of that care will be higher. With increased uncompensated care, hospitals will raise rates and transfer costs to the private insurance pool. That same pool will have shrunk because without the ACA mandate, many people will stop paying premiums. Without the ACA's quality and cost incentives, we will see cost hyperinflation. Any brief, premium relief will vanish in a shockwave of disruption.

Your committee has an extraordinary responsibility to protect our tax dollars -- the attractions of this bill are somewhat like a pretty

"Please Step Here" sign on a land mine. Please step away.

Sincerely yours,

Paul N. Foster M.D. FACP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicolette Pizzitola [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a sole contributor who has been on the Maryland exchange since it started and pays for insurance without subsidy, I can testify that my premiums have gone up, my coverage is more robust, and I have (had) more confidence that I will have coverage as needed. This means I make health decisions based on what is best (preventative or before crisis/critical) Esther than based on finances.

Yes, I wish premiums were lower and it is challenging - but I understand why and support bringing more citizens health insurance. It is the right thing to do and with supports (rather than concerted effort against) states would find their way to cover more people at a more reasonable cost.

I support ACA and am growing more afraid daily by the constant erosion of what has been working. I am once again afraid of going to the doctor to later find my policy no longer supported by Trumpcare and my ability to be insured make more tenuous and expensive by Graham Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: beth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to let you know that I, as a voter, strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As written, it will weaken or eliminate critical medical care for some of the nation's most needy patients. I urge you not to rush this bill through, but to take time and careful consideration to create a model of health care that would not decimate services to so many people.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bohac
Columbia, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LMerrill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: No on Graham Cassidy Bill

From: LMerrill <lori@merrill-samuelson.com>
Sent: September 21, 2017 12:30:30 PM EDT
To: gchcommwnts@finance.senate.gov
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy Bill

The efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act are not what we need fiscally or morally.

Please stop this bill now.

Lori Merrill

[REDACTED]
Rockville, MD 20851

--

Sent from my Android device with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Bohac [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a U.S. citizen to let you know that I oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill that is currently under consideration. It strips away protections for those of us with pre-existing conditions, potentially putting health care out of reach for those who need it most. It removes employer mandates, and guts Medicaid.

What's more, the government simply does not have time before the Sept. 30 deadline to properly analyze this bill. Our representatives will be voting on something without knowing how it will affect the American people, or how much it will cost.

Health care is an incredibly important issue for everyone who lives in this country. The Graham-Cassidy bill is not the solution.

Thank you for your time.

Allison Bohac
Maryland resident

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Iliff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 1:49 PM
To: Jee, Lauren (Cardin); gchcomments
Cc: Henry Bogdan
Subject: Graham-Cassidy "Repeal and Replace" Proposal
Attachments: Maryland Nonprofits Position on Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill.pdf

Dear Senator Cardin,

Thank you for inviting comments on the Graham-Cassidy "Repeal and Replace" Proposal. Attached is the position of Maryland Nonprofits. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue.

Warm regards,
Heather

Heather Iliff

President & CEO
Maryland Nonprofits

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.marylandnonprofits.org



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Cowart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Jennifer Brooke Cowart MD
Subject: Statement for Monday Hearing on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Jennifer Cowart. I am a hospitalist physician in Jacksonville, Florida. I am writing in opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

As a physician, I take care of all types of patients in the hospital, including those with and without insurance. Some of my patients are on Medicare and/or Medicaid. Some have private insurance from employment or via the ACA exchange.

The ones I have to worry about for treatment are the ones without insurance coverage. I can't get them medicines unless I can prescribe something on the \$4 list at Walmart. I can get them urgent treatment in the hospital, but I can't get them long-term treatment. I recently cared for a woman without insurance, losing her vision from cancer. She needed urgent radiation therapy to save her eyesight--and I couldn't get it for her. The ER and the hospital do not give chemo to cancer patients. We don't give long-term insulin prescription to diabetic patients. We are there to stabilize and send you on your way.

Graham-Cassidy will make the uninsured problem much, much worse. Millions of people will lose coverage. My state, Florida, is third in terms of funding losses under this bill. Our governor has declared an emergency for the opioid epidemic; we recently suffered a tremendous hurricane. Cutting Medicaid and exchange funding in the setting of emergencies is both fiscally irresponsible and cruel.

The ACA has obvious problems. The rising premiums, the single-insurer counties, the coverage gap in non-Medicaid expansion states--those issues are all real, and not solved by Graham-Cassidy. Our healthcare system at large has continued problems of high costs and poor outcomes. Our resources are vast but poorly matched to needs. Doctors are saddled with ever-higher student loan debt, administrative burdens, and system fragmentation. Primary care and mental health are grossly undervalued and stretched thin. Drug costs and hospital fees are high. None of these systemic problems are solved by Graham-Cassidy.

I urge the Senate to stop this madness. Hold real hearings. Have actual debate. Write small bills that fix a few problems at a time. Aim for bipartisan reforms, such as Collins-Nelson's Reinsurance Act of 2017. Aim for 60 votes. Let the American people weigh in on the revision of our system. Graham-Cassidy is the wrong direction.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cowart, MD
Jacksonville, Florida 32258

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angeles Gonzalez-Prado [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am an Internal Medicine physician who has seen healthcare before and after the ACA. Many of my patients had no insurance until the ACA took effect. Most of them have pre-existing conditions. I have many patients who will lose coverage if the proposal is approved. Our local catholic hospital cares for indigent patients and the working poor and would be devastated if the proposal is approved. All major medical organizations are against it.

Please, do not approve the proposal. Do it for your constituents

Angeles Gonzalez-Prado, MD

Angeles Gonzalez-Prado

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: christine williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pending health care legislation

I am writing in strong opposition to the pending health care legislation from Senators Graham and Cassidy. I am particularly disappointed with Senator Graham because I thought he was a decent Republican. This legislation will result in millions of Americans losing access to affordable health care. It will drive up costs and punish states that have done the most to assure their citizens are covered.

I have access to health care because I am a retired federal employee - like many of the Senators who will also be covered upon their retirement, and are covered now. How can they deny care to others while preserving it for themselves? Shameful.

I urge you to oppose this legislation.

Christine Williams
Bethesda, MD

(a MA native)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Camille Pane [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it will harm millions of citizens.

I am a pediatrician and I work in the Emergency Department at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Every day I see children who through no fault of their own are ill, disabled, or whose parents cannot afford to get them the medical care that they need. We can argue for years about the parents' choices but the children are not at fault. The funding methodology in this bill is the worst yet and will take the ability to get medical care away from so many innocent children.

My husband is the chief of the Division of Oncology at CHOP. They recently were part of the development of a revolutionary method of treating refractory childhood cancer. So many of these children may need be able to get insurance again if there are not specific safeguards against discrimination toward those with pre-existing conditions. This bill is far too vague on that topic. In addition, many of these revolutionary treatments are very expensive and patients would rapidly reach lifetime maximums.

My 25-year-old son has mental health issues and without a guarantee of coverage he would be unable to receive treatment and would never become a productive member of society.

Please do not allow this terrible bill to pass into law. Our country should not have tens of millions of citizens unable to afford health care.

Sincerely,
Camille Pane, MD, MPH

Camille Pane
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rupert wondolowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassady "Health Care"

To those who might listen to voters as opposed to the Koch Brothers -

I am 57 & the GOP's push to repeal Obamacare without any decent plan that makes economic sense & won't price those with pre-existing conditions - quite a few of Americans - is disgusting. It's blatantly all about partisan politics & not giving a damn about their constituents. People all across the country, including heavy Trump territories have been speaking out at Townhall meetings (when GOP reps are brave enough to hold them) & calling reps on phone to tell them to save the ACA, to not basically kill millions of people with a plan made to benefit the rich & pharmaceutical companies.

Please show some empathy for working people for once & work in a bipartisan way to fix the ACA. You are playing with peoples' lives!

Ron Stewart of Baltimore, MD. 21214

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Gaut [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please continue to oppose Graham-Cassidy Amendment
Attachments: letter to Cardin re Graham-Cassidy.docx

September 21, 2017

Honorable Ben Cardin

United States Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Senator Cardin,

I am writing as the Chairperson of the Ecumenical Leaders Group of Maryland to affirm the work that you, Senator Van Hollen, and Governor Hogan are doing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which would be a disaster for the healthcare of Maryland residents.

The American Medical Association CEO and Executive Vice President James L. Madara, MD, wrote in a letter to Senate leaders: "Like the previous Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal-and-replace bills before it, the Graham-Cassidy Amendment fails to live up to the "First, Do No Harm" principle."

The President of the Maryland Citizens Health Initiative writes that "the Medicaid program which this proposal would decimate has saved the lives of many Marylanders and helped many others lead better lives.... In addition, we all benefit from the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion because, as reported by the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, it has resulted in big drop in uncompensated hospital care which has translated into health insurance premiums for most people going up much more slowly than before the Affordable Care Act."

The Ecumenical Leaders Group of Central Maryland is comprised of the Bishops and Executive Leadership of the denominations in the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council. Historically we have supported the efforts of

the Maryland Health Care Initiative and the Affordable Care Act as a way to enact our moral mandate to “love neighbor as self.” The ACA, while in need of improvements to help stabilize insurance markets, has offered the first opportunity for health insurance for thousands in our state. Maryland Health Care Initiative has, for years, been our partner in advocating for quality healthcare in our state.

On behalf of the Ecumenical Leaders of Maryland I urge you to continue your efforts to defeat the Graham-Cassidy Amendment.

Yours truly,

Mary D Gaut

Mary D. Gaut

Chairperson, Ecumenical Leaders Group

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Taddeo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I implore you to vote NO on the ACA repeal bill. Millions of lives are on the line-- 32 million in fact. We cannot return to the days of lifetime caps and no coverage for pre-existing conditions. Please work instead on a bipartisan approach to improving the ACA. Voters will remember and thank you for it.-- Respectfully yours,
Julie Taddeo, Maryland.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey Kallem [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a citizen from Philadelphia, Pa, zip code 19146.

I am a primary care pediatrician and I am gravely concerned of how Graham-Cassidy proposal will negatively effect my patients and am writing to express my strong opposition. Most of my patients have Medicaid for their health insurance and this proposal, with its drastic changes to Medicaid, would have devastating effects for them.

Additionally, the loopholes eliminating protections for pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps will severely hurt my pediatric patients who are born with congenital conditions that require lifetime care.

I urge you to think of my pediatric patients and vote against this proposal.

Sincerely,
Stacey Kallem MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concerns!

I live in Montgomery County. My 33-year-old son was born with several birth defects in spite of my every effort to have a healthy pregnancy.

His care has been a lifetime of difficulty. Just this year, he was finally accepted into a DDA funded residential apartment. He is very happy there and so am I! He receives wonderful care!

Please vote AGAINST the upcoming proposal being pushed by the Republicans!!! There are too many vulnerable citizens in our country who need these services! If they send these healthcare decisions to the states, then there is no way to make this fair!

PLEASE VOTE NO!

Holly Hamilton
Montgomery County, MD

Sent from Holly's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Manning [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you in the strongest terms to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would, without the slightest doubt, cause literally millions of people to lose their health coverage: it would destroy Medicaid and harm some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Nathanael Manning
Laurel, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Burney-Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't kill the ACA

I'm begging you for my son who has developmental disabilities with out medicaid we would not have care for doctors, specialist (including dental) and hospitals, as well as prescriptions. My son wants to live a value and independent life. This program helps us imagine a future for him. So please consider my son Chris Evans of Maryland and vote NO for this bill.

Loving mother
Valerie Evans

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Eckhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATORS;

I am writing to express my concern over the potential for a healthcare bill to cut medicaid for those who have developmental disabilities. Please know that the funding my daughter receives is supplemented by me even though it 'should' be enough to assist her in her quest to live an independent life, as best she can.

Surely you understand that by delegating this to the State level via block grants, many support services would be compromised!!

I am not opposed to a change in healthcare and I am not necessarily for a single payor system. However, I do know that the Graham-Cassidy bill would NOT respond to the needs of my daughter and those who, like her, NEED medicare to maintain their health!!!

Please do not support this bill. Instead, take the time to get back to regular order and develop a bipartisan plan that responds to IDENTIFIED needs for those who rely on medicaid!!

Thank you for your consideration!

Stephanie A. Eckhart, MSB

[REDACTED]
Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152

[REDACTED]
no fax
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deacon Mike Bond [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Funding for People with Disabilities

I find it reprehensible that elected officials have no more pressing matters before them than penalizing their disabled constituents and funding the murder of babies whose promiscuous and self-absorbed parents have no love or compassion for the lives they've be privileged to conceive. It is unholy and unconscionable that a state that bears the name of the Mother of God would facilitate murder-for-profit. May God have mercy on your souls. Be grateful that your parents did not avail themselves of the same "privilege"!

Vivat Jesus!



SK Deacon Mike Bond, PGK, Associate Chaplain
Msgr. Thomas M. Wells Council #13008-Knights of Columbus
St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church-11600 KempMill Road, Silver Spring,MD 20902
[REDACTED]

("...the greatest among you must be my servant") Mt 20:27

("...everybody can be great because everybody can serve")-Dr. Martin Luther King,Jr.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy - JUST SAY NO TO STRIPPING SERVICES FROM THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US

I have a 26 year old son with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He depends on Medicaid supports to our state's Developmental Disabilities Administration to provide important services that are not available otherwise.

We are getting old and may depend on Medicaid ourselves. In any event, after we pass, Mike will be even more reliant on state services funded by Medicaid.

PLEASE DO NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR PEOPLE WHO NEED SERVICES TO MAKE A LIFE.

You senators and congressmen seem only to care about your "party" and who will finance your next campaign.

You have made "Obamacare" a Boogie-man to be feared and hated.

Please cut the crap and show some empathy to the millions of people who, unlike you, need federal and state supported healthcare services

David M. Lautenberger
[REDACTED]
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THIS IS A PERSONAL COMMUNICATION AND IS NOT FROM THE LAW FIRM NAMED BELOW NOR IS IT MADE ON BEHALF OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR PERSON.

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Barnitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill does nothing to improve healthcare access nor lower costs. It is a thinly veiled attempt to destroy Medicaid and fund tax breaks for the rich. I oppose this bill.

Laura Barnitz
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Venessa Kelley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for the Senate Finance Committee regarding the Graham-Cassidy Act

Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal
Hearing time: 1pm, Monday Sept 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen from Maryland who does not wish to see the Affordable Care Act (ACA) repealed, not only because of the accessibility to quality healthcare it affords to women and working mothers like myself, but because of the lifesaving impacts it has granted to people in my immediate circle who suffer from preexisting conditions and rely on access to affordable insurance to be able to keep head above water financially.

My personal perspective is that, while the ACA is imperfect, it is increasingly proving its value as a healthcare solution for those states that have embraced it and applied for the medicaid expansion. Those states that have denounced it, claiming its imminent failure as motivation to repeal it, all seem to have in common a total refusal to participate in the aspects of the ACA designed to ease the burden on the common taxpayer. In essence, those states have sabotaged it at the state level and claimed that the ACA itself is to blame.

Under the proposed Graham-Cassidy plan, it may seem like a boon to grant states "flexibility" by giving them the authority to decide which of Obamacare's protections should be adopted, if any. But those protections exist for a reason: to safeguard citizens from abuses that states may not be sufficiently motivated or equipped to prevent. The standards being proposed by the Graham-Cassidy plan are too loose and therefore too risky given the loophole it leaves for insurers to base their premiums on a patient's medical history.

Graham-Cassidy also results in major slashes to Medicaid, which remains the first line of defense in states that suffer from the opioid epidemic, high infant mortality, and so on. To say that this bill seems to be punishing our most vulnerable people for the sake of "winning" is an understatement. And a host of organizations devoted to healthcare agree with me.

And so, I must emphatically state - AGAIN - that repealing the ACA is a terrible, shameful idea. The fact that I must repeatedly take to the phones to stop Congress from repealing it validates every critic who claims that Congress does not have the interests of citizens at heart, especially if it can justify repeatedly terrorizing Americans who are legitimately afraid to lose their coverage, and by extension, their lives and the quality of life of those they love.

The majority of Americans stand with the ACA. So should Congress. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,
Venessa Kelley
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Esty [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Patrick Moran
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Legislation

As the representative of over 25,000 State employees in Maryland and the leadership of AFSCME Council 3, I am sending this email to object, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed Graham-Cassidy legislation that is before your committee.

This legislation would result in major cut to health care services in the State of Maryland.

By creating block grants, the bill would create a significant redistribution of federal funding, providing additional funding to those very states that have demonstrated their reluctance to provide expanded health care to their citizens.

The cap on medicaid per enrollee cap would be lower in the long run than under current law.

Most importantly, this legislation would repeal ACA. While the ACA has not been perfect it has provide thousands of Americans with access to health care that would not have had it without ACA.

Will we become the only major power in the world to not recognize that health care is a right, not a privilege? We hope not.

Please do the right thing and reject this bill. If there are problems with ACA, fix them rather than gut it.

Sincerely,

Sue Esty, Legislative Director (on behalf of Patrick Moran, President)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Baltimore, MD
21230

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Greetings - unfortunately, this poorly conceived bill is not in the best interest of our wonderful country.

I urge all senators to review the bill from the perspective of the neighbor down the street, or from a constituent who through no fault of their own, has been diagnosed with an acute or chronic medical condition. Voting 'NO' is the right act to take, and when you are in your 80s, you will look back and be proud that you took a courageous stand on behalf of our country when it really mattered.

Denise Pintello
Hyattsville, Maryland

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Hadley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill - opposed

Dear Members of the Committee

I am a Registered Nurse who has worked in health care for 40 years. This bill does nothing to provide universal coverage, improve quality or make it financially more feasible for people to buy insurance. It punishes states who expanded Medicaid to help cover our population.

Don't pass a bill that makes Republican law makers look good at the expense of the country. What's more important here?

Sincerely,

Margaret Hadley, R.N.
Potomac, MD

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tony Langbehn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments about the Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill

Thank you for permitting me to comment about he bill.

Representative democracy is based on the principal that persons who hold elective office shall act on behalf of people's needs. This includes protecting and fostering citizens' health. Elected representatives must consider whether or not a health care bill does this.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect or foster health. Under the bill, millions of Americans will be at great risk of losing health care coverage, thus leading to worsening of their health.

In addition, cutting the Medicaid expansion penalizes state governments who have used these funds to help those whose health is at risk without the care the expansion provides. Moreover, the Graham-Cassidy bill grotesquely rewards state governments who haven't participated in the Medicaid expansion. In other words, it rewards states for not helping their citizens obtain needed health care coverage.

Please act on behalf of your State's and this nation's citizens' health and oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill.

Thank you.

Tony Langbehn
Bowie, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Price [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Support the Affordable Care Act

Good Afternoon,

The *Affordable Care Act* is a program that is vital to so many Americans.

A watered down ACA just will not do.

We urge the United States Congress to protect the health care program that ensures health care to so many Americans with pre-existing conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, and other such illnesses.

Please stop current efforts that would annul the Affordable Care Act.

Ann Price
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am pediatrician who cares for many children who depend on Medicaid for their health insurance. Pennsylvania and many other states will likely find it difficult to support Medicaid expansion to the same extent that they do today, and potentially have difficulty in maintaining the Medicaid program as it is currently structured. This will lead to reduced access to good, timely care, resulting more uncompensated care. Children will be sicker and healthcare costs will be higher.

As a citizen and healthcare professional, I find this bill to be unacceptable. Please do not rush it through without considering the devastating consequences. If it comes to a vote, I am counting on you to vote "NO."

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Johnson MD

Rebecca Johnson

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Merry Guben [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Legislation - A threat to the health and welfare of all Americans, especially the elderly.
Attachments: graham-cassidy-legislation-threatens-affordable-coverage-for-older-americans.pdf

To the Committee:

I write as an older American, who relies on SS and Medicare to live.

When you discuss the G-C bill, please consider the AARP analysis of the adverse affect on the people.

Thanks for your consideration.

Merry

--
Merry Guben
Worton MD 21678

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Waszkowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Dan Waszkowski
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

To whom it may concern,

As a practicing physician in NH I would urge you NOT to sign this legislation into law.

It could have disastrous effects on the current low income recipients of health care through the ACA and greatly effect my ability to provide comprehensive care to the population I serve.

Sincerely,

Daniel Waszkowski, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Sutton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: dabennett1996@gmail.com
Subject: I am against Graham Cassidy

The ACA isn't perfect, but throwing millions of our fellow citizens off of their healthcare plans to give tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires is heartless, immoral, shameful, and unacceptable.

David Sutton
Denton, Maryland

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Altar [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Gramham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I urge you to refrain from passing the Graham Cassidy bill. As a nurse practitioner, I am very concerned that the passage of this bill will cause millions of Americans to lose their healthcare insurance or will be left with have inadequate coverage. I am particularly concerned that states will cut back on coverage for mental health care and treatment. I am worried that states will be allowed to loosen restrictions on coverage of preexisting conditions, and that our most vulnerable and ill citizens will not be able to afford health insurance. I urge you to postpone your vote until you can examine the information provided by the CBO. This information is critical for understanding the impact on health insurance coverage as well as the economic impact on the healthcare sector and our economy as a whole. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kristin A. Altar

--

Kristin A. Altar, MS, BSN, PMHNP-BC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KATHRYN Donegan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to plead with you to not pass this bill. Since no time has been allowed for the CBO to score it, I can only go by the other estimates I have seen -- and they are grim. I will not reiterate them here, since I am sure others already have.

But think about this logically. Graham-Cassidy slashes funding in 31 states immediately. Other states will lose funding in coming years. By 2026, overall federal spending for healthcare under this law is estimated to be 9% lower than it currently is. Sounds great, doesn't it?

But how are those savings to be achieved? Healthcare costs are rising faster than the general rate of inflation, yet 9 years from now we're supposed to spend 9% less than we currently do? Where do those savings come from?

The bill makes that painfully clear.

Cuts will come from reintroducing such little gems as lifetime coverage caps and exorbitant premiums for common conditions such as pregnancy, cancer and diabetes.

If your goal is to be able to place a check mark in the box labeled "repeal Obamacare," this bill kind of does that. It may satisfy some of your more gullible constituents until they realize they're paying more and getting less coverage than they do now.

But if you really want to safeguard the well being of your citizens and of all Americans, I urge you to oppose and voice your opposition to Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kathryn H. Donegan

Laytonsville, MD 20882

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Maynard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Greetings,

The Graham-Cassidy bill will be a disaster for millions of Americans. It has the potential to strip Medicaid from many people who rely on it for care and for their very lives.

Please, kill this bill.

Katherine Maynard
Chestertown, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid cuts

Senators

I realize that you are trying to change the health care costs. But it looks like your just not looking at the human costs to the most needy! There are issues with American health care. But don't take it out on the backs of the venerable individuals in this country!

We have an adult disabled daughter who depends on Medicare for her health care. She is a person that needs 24/7 supervision for her limited cognitive disability. She requires health care to help her be able to experience life outside of an institution. The ARC of Howard county in Maryland is her DDA provider. With their help she is able to gain skills and experiences to access the community. We were able to cover her with medical coverage prior to retirement and medicaid was there to pick up the costs that were not covered by her primary. Her funding from SSI barely covers all her living expenses. What's the point of removing this safety net for disabled individuals and their family?

My husband has work to the age of 70 plus. He also has gone thru two rounds of cancer treatment over the last five years. And your cuts and changes will not improve our ability to help our daughter. My husband will have that preexisting diagnosis right in time for us to be retiring!

Do the right thing!

Harold & Gail Benson

[REDACTED]
Annapolis, MD 21403


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessie Ferrio -DORS- [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: re: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Members,

Please let this email serve as voice in reference to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Should this bill pass the devastation will be unmeasurable, as a servant to those with disabilities my concern is great. I'm pleading for you VOTE NO to this bill!

Respectfully,
Jessie

	<p>Jessie Ferrio Business Services Representative Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services 8737 Brooks Drive, Suite 106 Easton, MD 21601 [REDACTED]</p>
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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Geffen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Vote down this bill. It's passage will decrease medical care coverage for citizens and increase economic inequality. If it passes history will not forget or forgive those responsible.

William Geffen, MD
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melinda Munos [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal
Hearing time: 1pm, Monday Sept 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen currently residing in Maryland (21230) and originally from Indiana (46228) who does not support the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal.

My younger brother benefited from the ACA while living in Illinois. It allowed him to quit his job at Caterpillar and work for himself while teaching himself coding skills before going back to school to earn a masters degree in Data Science. Although he was in his 20s, like many Americans he has a pre-existing condition and likely would not have been able to obtain or afford insurance on the individual market before the ACA, or under the proposed bill. He would have been locked into a job at a company that offers health insurance and his health would have been at risk if he had lost that job.

A close friend had a son born prematurely at the end of July who has the same birth defect as Jimmy Fallon's son, Tetralogy of Fallot. Very fortunately they are covered by health insurance now, but her son has several pre-existing conditions and will require expensive medical care for the rest of his life, through no fault of his own. He is not protected by the current bill, should his parents lose health insurance (or when he ages out).

States should not have the flexibility to waive rules regarding pre-existing conditions, putting Americans' health at risk. All Americans are at risk of needing healthcare at any given time, and all Americans should therefore have access to affordable health insurance. If they do not, the result may be higher mortality (see for example Woolhandler and Himmelstein 2017) and less entrepreneurship and job growth as individuals remain locked into jobs that offer group insurance.

Graham-Cassidy would also result in major reductions to Medicaid, which remains the first line of defense for children with complex medical needs and in states that suffer from the opioid epidemic. To say that this bill seems to be punishing our most vulnerable people for the sake of "winning" is an understatement. And a host of organizations devoted to improving healthcare agree, including the AMA, as well as both Republican and Democratic governors.

Although the ACA is flawed and needs to be fixed to improve the health of the nation, the proposed bill would leave Americans worse off.

The majority of Americans stand with the ACA. So should Congress. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

Melinda Munos

Assistant Professor

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

*All views expressed are my own and do not represent the views of Johns Hopkins University

References

Woolhandler S, Himmelstein DU. The Relationship of Health Insurance and Mortality: Is Lack of Insurance Deadly?. *Ann Intern Med.* 2017;167:424–431.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Messier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill testimony

My name is Jill Messier and my son Christopher is now 22 years old. Christopher was a big (9lb 7oz) beautiful, full term baby. My water broke and he was born 26 hours later. I pushed for 3 1/2 hours. When he came out, he was in cardiac arrest and covered with meconium! He was in arrest for 8 minutes. They weren't able to intubate him in the room. He wasn't actually intubated until he got to the NICU. Needless to say, he suffered severe anoxia! He went into multi organ failure and 6 hours after birth he began to seize. He seized for 2 hours. Once the seizures stopped, he went into a coma. He was in a coma for 2 weeks. He remained in the NICU for 1 month. A CT scan of his brain 1 day after birth showed a normal brain. One month after birth, the CT scan of his brain showed catastrophic loss of brain tissue. That space was filled with water! Discharge was delayed, because he wasn't thermoregulating his body temperate. The anoxia had destroyed his hypothalamus! To this day, 22 years later, he still doesn't regulate his body temp. We do it for him!! When he gets cold in winter his temp goes down to 93.5. When he gets that cold his heart rate drops as low as 35 beats per minute. We constantly monitor his temp and warm him with an electric blanket or cool him in the heat of summer with cool rags. His temp has gone up to 102 degrees when outside in 100 degree weather for 5 minutes! When Christopher was about 4 months old, I began to suspect problems with his vision. We later found out that he is cortically blind. The anoxia had destroyed his optic nerve. Christopher is nonverbal. In fact he has never even cried. When he was an infant, I had to set an alarm during the night so he could be fed. He would call out to me on his own. He was on an apnea monitor, but it constantly alarmed, because it couldn't pick up Christopher's reduced respiratory effort. My 3 year old daughter would go into another room and scream, because the constant screaming of the alarm was terrifying. Christopher missed all of the normal developmental milestones. He has no head control, has never rolled, never crawled, never walked, and is still in diapers today. By the end of his first year, he had already been hospitalized for aspiration pneumonia. He went on to have more aspirations and at age 2 was given a gastrostomy tube. He has been completely tube fed since the age of 2.

When Christopher was 3 months old, I had to go back to work (end of maternity leave). It was extremely challenging, stressful, and expensive finding daycare that could manage all of his needs. Thankfully, a new special needs daycare had opened near me. Unfortunately, it cost twice as much as a normal daycare. I had to go back to work so we had insurance! It was an extremely frightening time!

Over the years, Christopher has had numerous aspiration, usually from secretions in his head. A basic cold, was life threatening! He was intubated and airlifted to Hopkins Children's Center numerous time. Each stay in the PICU lasted at least 1 month. On a few occasions, they told me he wouldn't survive. Christopher is a fighter and managed to pull through. He has had 2 surgeries, but each one resulted in pneumonia from the anesthesia.

I had worked at my job for many years, but there had been problems and it became toxic. I wasn't able to leave and look for another job, because Christopher had preexisting conditions. The stress was immense and I became ill. I have degeneration of my spine and the constant lifting of my son caused my back to breakdown. I myself had to have multiple surgeries. Caring for Christopher during this time became extremely difficult!! We were told about the model waiver program which would allow Christopher to go onto Medicaid. With his Medicaid, we were able to get in home nursing help. This was quite a relief! Until this point, I had been sleeping on the floor, next to his bed, so I could hear him when he would have trouble. Around the age of 14, Christopher had a devastating aspiration while in his classroom. He suffered even more anoxia! This hospitalization was touch and go! He made it through, but I lost a little more of him. It was also discovered that his thyroid and adrenal glands weren't functioning properly. He was given a sleep study and found to have significant sleep apnea. He was put on bipap while sleeping (bipap forces pressure in and then out, it also forces air in when he doesn't breath). After that he also began using vest therapy and a cough assist. The vest moves

secretions out of the lungs and the cough assist moves secretions out of the upper airways. This helps with keeping his lungs clearer. He requires frequent suctioning (oral, nasal, and deep) Christopher has no gag, cough, or swallow reflexes. Therefore, saliva and secretions just pool in his esophagus and airways. Constant monitoring and suctioning reduces the risk of aspirations.

Christopher's current list of diagnoses are as follows: hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, severe cerebral palsy, severe spastic quadriplegia, cortical blindness, scoliosis, dislocated hip (result of spasticity) osteoporosis, asthma, sleep apnea, dysthermia, thyroid and adrenal dysfunction, seizure disorder, NPO, seasonal allergies. He functions on the intellectual level of a 6 month old. He uses 20+ different medications. He is wheelchair bound and completely dependent for all activities of daily living.

The day he was born, our lives changed! We haven't been on a family vacation in 20+ years. Christopher's care is a 24 hours a day/seven days a week job. He requires nursing care. Despite all of this, we love him dearly! I wouldn't change a thing. Without him, there would be a huge hole in our family! I plan to keep him at home where he is loved and safe for as long as I can. If he has to be placed into a nursing facility, he will die! I watch over all of his care in my home to be sure things are done properly and in a loving way. That has been the key to maintaining his quality of life. Oh, and did I mention that we adore him! None of this was his or my fault and he deserves all possible chances at a comfortable, safe, and loving life.

Without Medicaid, we will no longer have in home nursing help. It's impossible to stay awake and do caregiving responsibilities 24 hours a day! There are times, I'm not even able to eat a meal. I'm not able to lift more than 10 pounds anymore. At times, it's difficult for me to stand for more than a few minutes. My salvation and rest, is our in home nursing supports. My husband and I are now seniors. The loss of Christopher's Medicaid will be catastrophic for our family! Christopher will also be capped out if his benefits are once again capped. I am retired and have private insurance through my employer. If language exempts employers from coverage, that could also be devastating for us!

In finality, I hope you will take this little look into our family seriously. Every day is hard work, but it's so worth it, because Christopher deserves it. Oh and we love him! So for the sake of our family, families like ours and Christopher and all of the kids like him, I plead!!! I plead that you don't vote the Graham-Cassidy bill into law! It will be devastating for my family and families like mine!

Sincerely,
Jill Messier

[REDACTED]
Highland, MD 20777

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clarissa Kripke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for record for Senate Committee on Finance hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday September 25, 10 am pm.

From:
Clarissa Kripke, MD
Clinical Professor, Family Medicine
78 Westwood Dr.
San Francisco, CA 94112

Dear Committee on Finance:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. This bill would cause widespread harm to people with disabilities, elders, women, children, people with preexisting conditions and should not move forward. It is unworkable. It hasn't been fully vetted by the CBO. It requires states to develop health care systems they are not prepared to develop especially in an absurdly short timeline. It would decimate Medicaid which is the program which delivers care to those who have the most complex needs and which provides care in medically underserved parts of the country and for medically underserved populations. It covers long-term care and home and community based services which allow people with disabilities to live and work and go to school in their communities instead of more expensive institutions. This legislation will devastate schools which rely on Medicaid funding in their special education programs and other state priorities as state budgets are decimated. This bill has no group in the country supporting it. It is opposed by liberals and conservatives alike. It is bad policy. Americans will die because of it in large numbers. No American will be spared negative impacts as hospitals close; emergency rooms are overrun with people who can't access primary care and the economy and jobs tank. It must be defeated.

Sincerely,
Clarissa Kripke, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Waller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

No work in Committees. No debate on the floor. No hearings in DC or in home districts. No CBO score.

This is no way to create a healthcare bill that affects so many people. It's wrong for our citizens and wrong for our Country!

---Karen Waller
[REDACTED]
Bel Air, MD 21015

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Raskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments Against ACA Repeal

Community Support Systems, a private, non-profit social service agency serving southern Prince George's County, Maryland, is opposed to the repeal of the ACA. We serve low-to-moderate income clients, and many who did not have healthcare coverage are now covered thanks to ACA. The ACA has literally been a life-saver for so many people in-need! We do recognize that there are problems with ACA, such as the rising cost of premiums, and we would like to see a bi-partisan effort to improve the ACA so that it works as designed. The current bill before Congress is not a viable solution.

Thank you,
Claudia Raskin

Claudia R. Raskin, M.Ed., Executive Director
Community Support Systems, Inc.

[REDACTED]
Brandywine, MD 20613
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ken Thornton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Please oppose the latest effort by the Republican Senate to pass another horrible bill to replace the ACA.

As a recipient of Medicare and the parent of a disabled daughter, we are strongly opposed to this bill.

Trudy and Ken Thornton
Bowie, MD

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 6:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: concern

Please do not vote to repeal the Affordable Care ACT as this will greatly effect out most vulnerable individuals in our communities. I work in a non- profit agency providing behavioral health care to a large population of people on Medicaid. These individuals are working on their goals on mental health and sobriety with the help and support of our staff. Without these services , these individuals will end up in the ERs and psychiatric hospitals thus increasing health care costs.

These individuals have been neglected by society and deserve the same access to quality mental health and substance use treatment that you and I do.

Respectfully submitted-

Debbie Parker LCPC
Div Dir of Rehab Services
Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services, Inc.
200 Booth Street
Elkton, MD 21921

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robert jodoin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

I would like to comment on how bad the ACA has been for not only my family, but the many families in our communities throughout the Nation. We need a better solution and I am in favor of this new GCHJ proposal. No insurance coverage is better than the ACA.

I truly hope you are taking an unbiased view of this and comparing it to the mess we have. I am sure you will see that it is a better proposal for our Nation as a whole.

Thanks you

Robert Jodoin
Independent - Maryland.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Nair [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement on GrahamCassidy

Dear Sir or Madam -

I strongly opposed such a rushed process which greatly impacts not only the health outcomes of millions of Americans, but of a large portion of the economy as well.

I will likely also object to the context of the bill, but without the proper process including the hearings, debates and CBO scoring we deserve, I don't believe our representatives can understand the impact of this bill before choosing whether to implement it.

If this is not a purely political action, taken to shift money from the health ecosystem to "big money donors", then follow the normal process so we can understand this bill and make an informed decision.

I myself don't currently "use" the ACA, although I benefit from requirements on employer plans as well as the option to change employment or even start my own business knowing ACA plans would be available for my family. However purely on the question of ACA for others, I also strongly oppose a repeal action.

Please put this current bill aside and return to a bipartisan process to update the ACA.

Thank you,
Jennifer Nair
Kensington, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shroff, Adhir [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP Graham-Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Adhir Shroff, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Cardiovascular Catheterization Laboratories
Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program
University of Illinois - Chicago
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paul M Bessel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT adopt the Graham-Caaidey bill

Please do NOT adopt the Graham-Caaidey bill. States are no better at administering health care. Many of them are far worse. Every objective health care group, even such groups as the American Cancer Society and AARP, are vehemently against this awful bill. At least pause and hold hearings so you can learn the facts.

Paul M. Bessel

Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daisy Bassen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a board certified child psychiatrist who treats children in residential, inpatient and outpatient levels of care and I am adamantly against the passage of Graham-Cassidy, a bill that will make it impossible for my patients to receive the care they need to stay alive, grow and thrive. No major medical organization supports this legislation and the insurance companies are also against it. In short, it is a terrible bill that will lead to patients with any number of illnesses, but especially those with psychiatric illness, being unable to afford care. I sit with patients and families when their children are so depressed that they want to die; I have been the doctor on the unit when a patient was found in an attempted hanging. I know just how serious untreated psychiatric illness is and I urge the Senators to vote against a bill that will harm and kill millions of American, solely to give more money to CEOs and lobbyists.

The ACA is a system in need of revision and repair; Graham-Cassidy is essentially a nuclear bomb, which would both destroy the ACA and poison everyone it touches. Senators who are elected to represent the best interests of their constituents cannot, CANNOT vote in favor of this bill.

I know I am joined by thousands of American physicians in saying: vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and let us save our patients' lives.

Sincerely,

Daisy Bassen MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evan Oswald [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the American dream

Hello, and I will be concise. I am 33, living outside DC (Bowie area), and have 4 healthy children. I've worked nearly every day of my life since age 14, hold a doctorate in atmospheric science, and work at NOAA (~73K a year). Even though I am frugal, I have no money saved up - life is expensive as you know. If the G.-C. repeal goes through and one of my family members gets very sick I'll never be able to afford it. We'll go bankrupt and even though we did everything right. The american dream will be gone for us.

If the american dream is ripped away from 10s of millions of honest americans then 100+ million other families will organize, unite, and force a universal health care system. Perhaps at the expense of your donors and anyone that tries to impede on that goal.

Sincerely,
Dr. Evan Oswald

--

Dr. Evan M. Oswald

[Currently an atmospheric scientist with INNOVIM at the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

Also currently an atmospheric research scientist affiliated with the University of Michigan's Climate & Space Sciences & Engineering department and the University of Michigan Climate Center.

A 2013-2014 UCAR Visiting Scientist Program (VSP) in collaboration with the NOAA Climate Program Office PACE (Postdocs Applying Climate Expertise) Postdoctoral Fellow working with the University of Vermont Department of Geography, the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources and the Vermont Department of Health.

A graduate of the University of Michigan Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences Department]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Masino [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am VERY concerned about the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill is meant to appease less than 3% of the country. It does not deal with or help the majority of people who need healthcare in this country.

I do not want my friends and family who depend on the Affordable Healthcare Act to lose their coverage.

I do not want my friends and family who depend on the Affordable Healthcare Act to suffer in order to give tax cuts to the top 2% of this country.

If you allow states to opt out of something, some of them will. The states don't have the funding either. And the funding that the bill provides to states, won't fill the gap.

Stop calling it Obamacare -- that just makes republicans hate it.

You have to find a way to pay for some kind of universal health care. Republicans and Democrats have to find a way to fix what we have, not start over.

This is more important than democrats or republicans.

This is more important than who gets re-elected.

This is health care for millions and 1/6th of our economy. The Affordable Health Care Act actually is the compromise between single payor and what the republicans want. Fix the gaps/problems. That's the compromise. Just fix it. That's the common sense thing to do.

Teresa Masino
Voter, Berlin, Maryland

Rescue animals appreciate you ...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abbie Ellicott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy health care bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband, I and our 21 year old son all have pre-existing conditions such as lupus and autoimmune illnesses that would make it impossible to acquire insurance under the Graham Cassidy bill. I know that the ACA has problems but I sincerely believe it needs to be improved in a bipartisan manner, not repealed. Please do not repeal the ACA simply because the Republican party wants to fulfill the campaign promise to do so. This newest version of the Republican health care bill is a disaster and would cause suffering and loss of benefits to many Americans, including the people who need health insurance the most and those who are the most vulnerable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Abbie M. Ellicott

[REDACTED]
Severna Park MD 21146

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patience Robbins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Patience Robbins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shaytu Schwandes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Shaytu Schwandes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Nickerson Bucklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

All,
I lost my daughter, Jill, to pediatric cancer. Had she lived, shed likely be uninsurable under this bill. Under this bill my family would go bankrupt trying to pay for her care. Healthcare should not be a GIFT to wealthy political backers, as this bill is. The government should not give handouts to a pharmaceutical industry that us killing people with opiates that should be illegal.
Human beings come first over profits. So ling as most of the GOP panders to those who benefited from Citizens United this country will not be "by the people and for the people".
This bill cannot pass.
Instead, work on impeaching 45 before he gets us all killed by taunting other egomaniacal world leaders.
Lisa Nickerson
Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mattappally, Nidha [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opposition for Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Nidha Mattappally, MD

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, transmission, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Lavin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy Bill!

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Claudia Lavin MD MPH

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM
To: gchcomments; Jee, Lauren (Cardin)
Cc: Matthew Celentano; Lauren Herman
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: Ben Cardin Letter September 21[977].doc

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Lauren Herman [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, 23 Sep 2017 10:44:38 -0400
To: Vinny DeMarco [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ruth Evans [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 8:46 PM
Subject: RE: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill
To: Lauren Herman [REDACTED]

Lauren,

I could not open the site to send this so have edited the letter sent to me and attaching to this email Please forward to the appropriate person so Senator Cardin get this support.

Ruth Doerfler Evans RN

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Lauren Herman
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vinny DeMarco** [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 9:30 AM

Subject: Letter to Senator Cardin in support of the Affordable Care Act and in Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

To: Vincent DeMarco [REDACTED]

TO: Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition Leaders

FROM: Vinny DeMarco

As you all know the Republican leadership is trying to ram through the US Senate a terrible proposal called the Graham-Cassidy bill which would gut Medicaid, throw millions of Americans off their health care coverage and costs states billions of dollars in needed revenue (\$2 billion for Maryland). Attached is a great summary of how bad this legislation is done by Community Catalyst. We are very proud that our two terrific Senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, strongly oppose this measure and strongly support the life-saving Affordable Care Act. We also thank Governor Larry Hogan for joining several other Republican governors in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

On Monday, the US Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on Graham-Cassidy. Senator Cardin has asked for letters from key groups like yours in opposition to the measure which he can submit. Attached is the letter which I have submitted. Please send one from your group as soon as you can, and no later than Monday morning, to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov .

Together we can save and build upon the ACA to achieve our goal of quality, affordable health care for all Marylanders.

Thank you very much!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bethany Gregg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good evening,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Bethany Gregg

Baltimore, MD

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elana Rudavsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham - Cassidy bill

I am writing to oppose this bill and to urge you to improve the Affordable Care Act rather than repeal it. Despite being a relatively healthy person in my early 60s, I would be in real trouble financially were Insurance rates allowed to rise with preexisting conditions. I am healthy and yet I have a number of conditions that would put me - and just about everyone I know-at risk of financial jeopardy with getting rid of this protection. Also , as a physician, I believe the G-C bill would result in the loss of health coverage for millions , which is a terrible choice for our country.

Elana Rudavsky, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Freire Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Cassidy-Graham

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an emergency physician, and I would like to express that the Cassidy-Graham Bill is a terrible step backwards for the health of our nation. We must not pass it.

I graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School, as well as the Thomas Jefferson University Emergency Medicine Residency (in Philadelphia). I have practiced in Florida and California. In every single one of those places in our great nation, vulnerable populations would be adversely affected.

It's time for the senate to stop attempting to pass these freedom from health care bills. We don't need freedom from health care, we need health care.

It is not worthwhile to do something just to "do something."
Legislation must create progress. Our nation needs to catch up to the other industrialized nations which provide health care for all of its citizenry. If keeping citizens healthy isn't a priority for the nation, what good is anything else?

Sincerely,

Carol Freire Robinson, MD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DMarie FeketePorpora [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE Funding the Graham-Cassidy Health Proposal

This nation was founded on the principle that WE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIFE. This presumes we have a right to HEALTH and access to the institutions, individuals, and resources that support the health of every citizen. Agreeing to fund the proposed Graham-Cassidy/GOP health bill could lead to financial ruin, not just for a discrete few (impoverished, unhealthy, or at-risk individuals) but to the national as a whole.

The question is NOT whether we deserve access to medical care. WE DESERVE TO HAVE OUR TAXES SUPPORT our WELL BEING!!! The questions are: HOW WILL CONGRESS ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY for the consequences of the tax burdens it will levy on citizens and STATES? WHY should we who elected you ACCEPT that LESS THAN 1% of our population (566 in Congress, the POTUS, VPOTUS, and a few sycophants) will CONDEMN ANY ONE to SUFFER from an ILLNESS or health condition that can be improved with proper care?

Are you not BOUND to uphold the Constitution as stated in its preamble? Do you lack the knowledge, wisdom, resources, and stamina to examine options and consider how this ill-conceived proposal will ultimately collapse economically? Under this administration, I've watched a "majority" of disconnected officials play with words. I want you to Be The PEOPLE that elected you and RECOGNIZE your collective responsibility for our COMMON GOOD.

I understand that my taxes will support any federally or state-subsidized health care structure. If a Federal plan is "block-granted," States will use whatever means necessary to meet matching requirements, from "restricting" access to increasing taxes, assigning revenues from sources such as lotteries, directly charging citizens to enroll in "approved plans" and any multiple combinations of those options. When the Graham-Cassidy (or other federal funding) is rescinded (in five or ten or twenty years) those costs to citizens will explode. The system will fail, and YOU will blame it on your constituents inability to support it. We will hold you accountable for the tragedies that will mount and the the toll it will take.

In approximately 10 days, I will be enrolled in Medicare. My family and friends have benefited by subsidized health benefits, including treatments for neuromuscular disorders (Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Peripheral Lateral Sclerosis, Parkinsons, Chronic Idoepathic Myelpopathy, etc.), cancers, and other conditions. I have had a medical insurance in every one of my jobs and through my recent retirement from federal service. I have a history of endocrine tumors. Two different insurance plans covered two major surgeries. One covered 60% of costs (at a time early in my career) to pay the balance, I obligated about 20% of my annual income and made monthly payments for three years. The other surgery, under a better plan, covered a lengthy hospital stay for a \$100 deductible and charged reasonable costs for over a year of wound care. As a result of the second surgery, I'm asplenic and a type 2 diabetic. We have a family history of cardiac disease, colorectal cancer, and glaucoma; I have no symptoms of any of these conditions at present. ANY ONE of these medical "issues" could lead to my losing treatment or prescription benefits. My current coverage would be affected and my personal finances would be ruined under the proposed Graham-Cassidy/GOP health bill. Death is inevitable, but I find the current proposal HEARTLESS, CRUEL, and PUNISHING for anyone who seeks the full, healthy life modern medical care offers.

Unless you wish to hold your self liable for the deaths of millions of human beings, DO NOT FUND the Graham-Cassidy Proposal.

DonnaMarie Fekete Porpora
Laurel, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica O'Malley de Castillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No, seriously?

To whom it may concern:

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. After over 50 years of working, my recently retired father was diagnosed with prostate cancer his very last week of work. He now relies on Medicare for his literal survival. I and some of my closest friends suffer from pre-existing conditions ranging from epilepsy to post-partum depression that would render us unfit for affordable insurance. Hard-working, kind, Americans can not be given the cold shoulder like this. We need to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Monica O'Malley

Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: George Bason [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Thank you!

George Bason
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Dehm [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is unconscionable, unethical, and just plain wrong. We have already tried leaving healthcare to the states and private insurance and IT DIDN'T WORK!

How any bill with such financially devastating and literally life-threatening results can be rammed through in this manner goes against the very foundations of our democracy.

Let's not become a third-world country, defined by poverty and illness. Rather, let's join all other industrialized, forward thinking nations and work in a bi-partisan way to healthcare for all.

Enough with the politics! Work on something that works for all!

Ellen J Dehm; MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: suzanne mead [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

suzanne mead
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Berlin, Maryland 21811

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie L Staab [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My family, friends, and neighbors rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have endometriosis and uterine fibroids, which could be considered "pre-existing conditions" by some insurance companies. My dear friends have a five-year-old severely autistic boy, who is nonverbal and whose medical needs can be unpredictable. In my new rural town, I have learned that there is a dangerous heroin problem and grave mental health crises, leaving much of the population below the poverty line.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not reverse the progress that it's made.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katie L. Staab
Westminster, MD

--

Katie Lynn Staab, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
McDaniel College

[REDACTED]
Westminster, MD 21157
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Schehr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Kevin Schehr

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bowie, Maryland 20720

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Petra Flock [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); [REDACTED]
Subject: please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would harm too many patient – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Regards,
Petra Kajla, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Plapinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FW: Why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal

Importance: High

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am the parent of a 15-year old with intensive mental health issues and autism. Through much effort on my part and the critical support I receive from Maryland's Medicaid Autism Waiver Program, I have been able to keep him in our home and out of a residential placement, which would be much more expensive and I believe, not in his best interests. With a huge amount of support, he is able to function at home and at school, despite aggressive outbursts and other challenging behaviors, and is developing skills of self-care and self-management that will enable him to be more independent (and less costly to support) during his upcoming adult life.

I urge you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal, as this legislation will likely eliminate programs such as the Medicaid Autism Waiver Program. The block grant funding approach proposed in the legislation will leave Maryland with significantly less money going forward. Many programs serving high-need individuals such as the Autism Waiver Program will be impacted.

In my capacity as Executive Director of Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland's family support organization, I hear about the families our staff support across the state – families who have children with mental health and substance use issues who are struggling to access essential treatment and recovery supports. Our families with young adult children who are struggling with opioid addiction are losing their children to overdoses as they are unable to access timely treatment. In short, here are my major reasons for opposing this bill:

It allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health or substance use care. Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health and substance use benefits at risk.

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

It effectively ends Medicaid expansion. One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health or substance use coverage.

It reduces help to purchase health insurance. Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health or substance use treatment.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill. I would be happy to share my story or the stories of families my organization works with to demonstrate to legislators the risk and many unintended consequences of moving forward with this bill.

Sincerely,

Jane Plapinger
Executive Director
Maryland Coalition of Families



10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 234, Columbia, MD 21044
www.mdcoalition.org | Connect on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)

September is National Recovery Month. Help to increase awareness and understanding of substance use disorders and celebrate those in recovery. Visit www.mdcoalition.org/RecoveryMonth2017 for resources and information.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emmy Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

*Sincerely,
Mary E. Smith, MD*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Salm [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Casey

I'm a pediatrician. Families shouldn't have to let their children die because they can't afford complicated treatment. This is not the way civilized countries treat people.

Jennifer Salm,MD

[REDACTED]
Newport,RI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Specht, Kathleen Q [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve NOT replace

It's ridiculous to start from scratch. Take the positive parts of the ACA of which there are many, and improve the problems! Please do not deny our most neediest citizens the help they deserve!

Kathy Specht
Derwood MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Chenoweth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a physician. MD from University of Texas Houston School of Medicine class of 2005. This health plan will hurt our most vulnerable. It will take care away from millions including children, the poor, the elderly and women. Women will try to give birth at home, and innocent women and children will die needlessly. Are you pro life? Whose lives are you for?

This plan actually looks like you are trying to ethnically cleanse the nation. It's disgusting.

We need a single payer system. We need to join EVERY OTHER DEVELOPED NATION ON EARTH and provide basic health care. You should all be ashamed that you would even consider such a bill.

Marsha Chenoweth, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Cades [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

My son's chance at a normal life was destroyed by a massive seizure disorder when he was 5 months old. Aaron is now 39 years old, and he lives with us. He still has occasional seizures, and he cannot be left alone. It has been 39 years since I have been able to leave my home for any purpose, work or leisure, without making childcare arrangements.

When my son aged out of the school system at 21, he began attending a day program that offers him the opportunity to do simple work and socialize with others. It also offers those who are able to do so opportunities to work in the community and participate in community life. 66 other people benefit from that program; Medicaid pays half of the cost to run it. It also covers the cost of the 6 medications my son takes daily to prevent seizures. In addition, it funds group homes for people with disabilities many of whom are older and no longer have families. 31 people live in those homes. If Medicaid funds are slashed, those people will lose their homes. Where will they go? Who will take care of them? Our small center in rural Maryland is replicated a thousand times over all over the country serving families just like mine with the same worries about the future.

I am 70 years old; my husband is 75. We are one of about 4000 families in my state hoping to get a group home placement for our son before we die. The massive cut in Medicaid proposed by the Cassidy/Graham bill will only add thousands more families to that endless waiting list. We have no assurance from anyone that someone will take care of our son when we are gone. Millions of other people with disabilities and their families face the same challenges. We literally do not dare die. I hope that wiser, more compassionate people will prevail and defeat the inhumane and cruel Cassidy/Graham bill and devise a budget that takes into account the legitimate needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Please help us.

Linda Cades
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Rosen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I would like to see bipartisan effort to make the ACA work for all Americans. My family relies on the healthcare provided by the ACA, especially with mental healthcare and substance abuse issues. PLEASE think of us, not your political agenda.
Susan Rosen
Potomac, MD

Sent from my iPad