

ARIZONA

Date: 2017-09-23 18:21:28
To: My Senator
From: Fay Moore
State: Arizona
Email: [REDACTED]



As aging parents of two adult children with mental impairment, I urge you to protect Medicaid funding of community based living arrangements. My children have been able to live semi independently with staff assisting them in their daily habilitation tasks. Society needs to care for its most vulnerable citizens so they may have a quality life. If there weren't supported living arrangements, what would become of them after we are gone? Nursing home costs more than supported living, shelters are not safe for people with mental impairment. They do not have the mental capacity to fend for themselves. Please help.

Date: 2017-09-23 10:29:09
To: My Senator
From: Ginger Pottenger
State: Arizona
Email: [REDACTED]



I have been working my daughter's whole life to make sure they have the opportunity to "Live The American Dream!" The girls were born in the mid 1960s when girls had to fight to be seen as equals to the boys.....early on we found we had to work a little harder because my first daughter, Kandi, was diagnosed with a moderate intelligent disability when she was 2 years old. I was told to take her home and love her! A young Mom, with a 2 year old daughter and a 6 month old daughter, Kristi, and a heart that didn't quite know what to do with this new information in 1966!

The years have flown by but the fight continues for my daughters to Live The American Dream. They both started school the same year in Kansas where we lived.....soon Kandi was moved to a Special Education Center where she was in a TMR class (trainable mentally retarded - thank heaven we don't use those words anymore). Her sister continued in our neighborhood school and excelling at every class she was in. Kristi was now the oldest by default. We worked to get Kandi included in the typical school not a special education center!

The girls graduated from high school the same year. Kristi prepared to go off to the University of Kansas. Support Kandi received was paid for, in the 1980's, by county money, state money and what agencies could fund raise. Medicaid money went to institutional settings. Kandi wanted to move out of my house when she saw her sister leaving for college. So she moved into a residential setting.....

Then County money ran out and State money became less, Kandi lost her funding for supports - she was not going to be able to continue in her vocational program or her residential home. I was told she either had to come home or go to an institution where Medicaid would pay for her supports. She didn't want to move home and do nothing (I worked and it would have been hard to find help while I was at work). I just couldn't send her to an institution so I called a friend who was the executive director of a DD agency about 100 miles from where we lived....Kandi could move there and continue to receive supports.....now to fight for Medicaid money to be used in the community not only in institution.....Kandi wanted to live the American Dream in her community.....her sister had graduated from college, had a job and her own townhouse. Kandi wanted the same, her house and a job! But Kandi will always need long term support because of her disability. She wants the American Dream!

We won the fight for Home and Community Based Services - a State and Federal partnership happened Children and adults with disabilities could stay in their communities with family, go to school with their peers and as adults live in their own place.....work in their community. Medicaid is not just health insurance, it's a lifeline to long term support, in the community, it's the American Dream for people with disabilities! Kandi works for Fry's Food Stores and has for over 8 years (she gets supported employment support through HCBS), she lives in a townhouse with HCBS support.....she has the American Dream like her sister!

We have fought the fight in the past, we fight this fight in the present - Graham-Cassidy is not the answer to healthcare and long term supports.....it will rip my daughter's American Dream out from under her and other children and adults in the community! We can find an answer to Healthcare and long term supports is we listen to each other and work together...Congress needs to get back to what they should be doing.....representing us!

Date: 2017-09-22 13:15:58
To: My Senator
From: Patrick Volle
State: Arizona
Email: [REDACTED]



For the last 41 years, I have devoted my life's work to helping people with Developmental Disabilities. I started in the institution and am now happy to say, most of our members live in community homes. All of our progress in this important field has come about because of Medicaid. Without this funding, these life enhancing changes would not have been possible. These services include residential, day and employment programs, in-home family support services (attendant care, habilitation, respite, etc.). Also included are all the acute care and behavioral health services our member's receive.

Repealing of the Affordable Care Act will have a serious, negative impact on services. After a few years, the currently proposed bill (Graham) will dramatically reduce Medicaid funding to states, thereby removing the gains we've made in this field. Because of these funding issues, I see a strong possibility that state may move back to institutional placements. In addition, the federal mandate to require states to 'do the right thing' will be lost. States will be allowed to turn their backs on the poor and disadvantaged and allow insurance company to raise rates, effectively pushing people out of coverage.

This bill is mean-spirited and our public representatives (House and Senate) should, firmly and flatly, reject it! Simply dumping a lump sum (aka. block grant) of money on states and turning their backs on how Americans are treated is not what our leaders were elected to do. Instead of trying to ruin the ACA (removing the core elements that would make it effective (market place)), congress should support it and work together to correct the problems. Our country is watching!!

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona

Kerri Smith
[REDACTED]

Hello, My child was born with Down syndrome, visual impairments and 4 yrs ago was diagnosed with Autism and seizure disorder. Without the help of medicaid, I do not know how we would make it through. Between the 5 therapies a week, a school funded by the state by medicaid and the unusual number of illnesses that continue to surprise me and he ends up in the ER or the hospital. I know that we are eternally grateful for the services that we are getting. If you were to take those away, I as a single mother whom works a part time job to take care of her son would not be able to substain the life that we have. I am one of the 44 % that is below poverty level. I barely qualify for services as is because they say that I make too much money. I am lucky to bring home perhaps annually about \$ 16,200.00. If medicaid would be cut, I would then have to pay over \$ 1220.00 a month to have health insurance on my son and I. Then we have the deductable that the insurance company states that I have to meet. An astronomical amount of \$ 18,000.00 before my insurance would kick in to pay for any of medical. Heck, I do not even make this much a year but, now I will be required to meet. This does not include the cost of daycare, let just ballpark figure it to anywhere from \$ 15.00 to \$ 20.00 an hour. because let's face it. These children do not function well outside their comfort zones. A regular daycare center is off the table...I would be working just to cover the medical and daycare expenses. What about housing and food. Those are essentials are they not. I am sure that I am not the only parent that has found themselves in this predicament. I am a highly educated woman with a college degree whom has decided to put the needs of her child first. We are just asking that you look at the picture as a whole and not through rose tinted glasses..



Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org

Director, Rights Policy, The Arc

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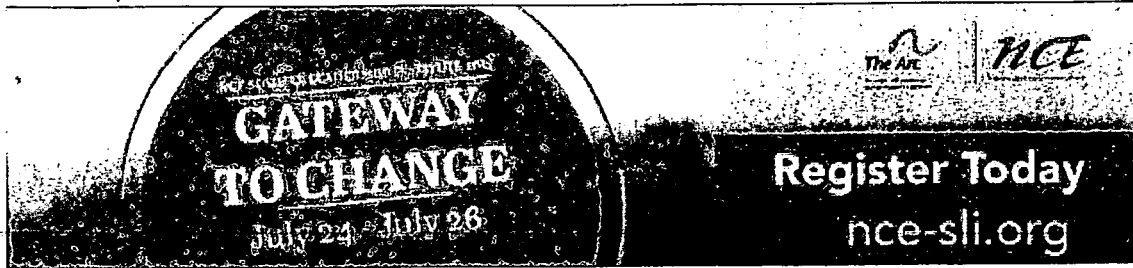
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For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities



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Nicole Jorwic

From: Heather Schmitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:26 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona & California

As a disabled life-long Arizonan now living in California, I've not only experienced the relief of having Medicaid after decades of no healthcare, I've also experienced no healthcare and no way to get it. And I live my daily life dealing with pain and disability that could have been prevented or reduced if I'd had life-long healthcare.

"I hope I don't die from this" was a frequent refrain, and now that I do have healthcare, and have been diagnosed to discover my complex and overlapping medical conditions, I am utterly terrified of going back to having no healthcare at all due to what will then be a pre-existing condition. Because I was able to finally get help for it.

I'm even more afraid of healthcare cuts to Medicaid in Arizona because my parents live there. They have been straight ticket Republicans for my entire life. They have also been without healthcare most of my life. And mom is suffering the end stage results of that lack of care with a failing heart and kidneys, her vision already lost to her pre-existing autoimmune disease.

They subsist on Social Security and are drowning in medical bills for mom's emergency care and the medicines they need to stay alive.

On the bright side the ACA has provided them some relief and while mom is in a care home, she now has better and more compassionate care than she had before. That's still no substitute to the quality of life she lost before ACA could have helped her.

As Senators, you all have excellent health care and screenings for life, so I'm sure you can't imagine what it's like for a disabled Army vet (my dad) who now has good healthcare from the VA to helplessly watch his wife die by inches. He's been at her side in the Home's dining hall every night since she's been there.

The staff think they're sweet. The truth is, as sweet as they seem, after almost 55 years of marriage they don't know how to be apart.

Dad doesn't know how to live on his own, but in-home support services are helping. Not just him, but countless others like him.

We need to plug the gaps in the ACA, not tear gaping new ones.

Please vote with your compassion for your fellow human beings in suffering. Not with your corporate friends, sponsorships, or investments. Or how can you claim to represent all of us if you leave the least of us, the tired and poor, behind?

Thank you for your time,

Heather Schmitz
Formerly of Tucson
Now, Covina

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kaye Sessions [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:56 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

Ms. Jorwic,

I am a resident of Arizona and am writing to express my deep concern over the extreme cuts to Medicare proposed by the Republican leadership in the Senate. These cuts are beyond cutting ACA increases and would negatively impact the most vulnerable of society and those who serve them.

My niece is totally and severely handicapped. She is unable to live independently and provide any of her own support or income. Consequently she has no employer benefits and currently receives all medical care and her day care program via state managed Medicaid benefits.

These benefits are essential not only to her well being but to our family who care for her and have for over 30 years.

Caring for an elderly or disabled family member, for a few years or many years, is a great financial, emotionally, and physical strain. I work in mortgage banking and have read the stories of several people who had to give up jobs, savings and good credit to care for a family member without insurance or income. This is a huge drain on our economy. Deep cuts in Medicaid put jobs, savings, and future economic well being at risk.

For a party that professes to be concerned about jobs and the economy, such severe cuts to healthcare appear to be in very poor judgment for the long term.

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Amy Burtenshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona - Medicaid Cuts,

Dear Senator Flake,

Please vote no on the current BCRA Bill.

I am writing to tell you about our handicapped daughter, 36 years of age, who currently lives at home with her father and I. I need to let you know what the impact of passing the BCRA bill would be on her life and ours

Our daughter's medical insurance (the only insurance she has), day program, respite support and my salary, as her primary caregiver, are all funded by programs administered through Medicaid. If this bill passes, our lives will be devastated. I do not know how we would meet her physical and medical needs if I lost my job as her primary caregiver, and/or her day program closed, and/or respite support was eliminated and/or her medical insurance was severely restricted or eliminated. The passage of this bill makes the loss of all these supports a very real possibility. Our daughter requires 24 hour care and has medical needs that have to be monitored. The impact on our lives would be monumental and severe. We would have no way to provide the care she needs if I had to work outside the home. If we were to lose all or some of these supports our daughter would face real danger to her health and well-being, not to mention the emotional and physical toll it would take on her and her parents, who are in their 60's. Our options to provide for her are limited by our age and health. We simply cannot provide for the 24 hour care, medical care and socialization, a home, food and clothing for her without the support of these programs.

Please vote no on the current BCRA Bill. Please take the time to find out the true impact of proposed changes and work to find a better solution to the healthcare issues our nation is facing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Burtenshaw

Nicole Jorwic

From: Amy Burtenshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:13 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona - Medicaid Cuts

Dear Senator McCain,

Please vote no on the current BCRA Bill.

I am writing to tell you about our handicapped daughter, 36 years of age, who currently lives at home with her father and I. I need to let you know what the impact of passing the BCRA bill would be on her life and ours

Our daughter's medical insurance (the only insurance she has), day program and my salary, as her primary caregiver, are all funded by programs administered through Medicaid. If this bill passes, our lives will be devastated. I do not know how we would meet her physical and medical needs if I lost my job as her primary caregiver, her day program closed and her medical insurance was severely restricted or eliminated. The passage of this bill makes the loss of all three supports a very real possibility. Our daughter requires 24 hour care and has medical needs that have to be monitored. The impact on our lives would be monumental and severe. We would have no way to provide the care she needs if I had to work outside the home. If we were to lose all or some of these supports our daughter would face real physical danger to her health and well-being, not to mention the emotional and physical toll it would take on her and her parents, who are in their 60's. And if we were to lose our supports to care for her here at home, there would be no outside support available. Those programs would also be cut.

Please vote no on the current BCRA Bill. Please take the time to find out the true impact of proposed changes and work to find a better solution to the healthcare issues our nation is facing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Burtenshaw

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lois Morvillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:50 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Lois Morvillo
Subject: Medicaid Cuts - Arizona

My name is Lois Morvillo and reside in Mesa, AZ. I am the parent of Steven, our 23 year old son with Autism. He is functioning at the level of a 4 year old, and is unable to work or care for his basic activities of daily living. He lives in a group home and is dependent on Medicaid to survive.

~~My husband and I are senior citizens with health problems, and depend on Medicaid to provide many services for our~~
son that we are not able to provide. We both worked our entire lives and consistently paid our taxes to the government as good citizens do. Now we need help from the government through Medicaid for our son, and beg you not to let us down.

We are pleading for the future of our developmentally disabled son, and all of the other families with disabled children who depend on Medicaid. Please do not cut the lifeline to the most vulnerable members of our nation.

I urge you to vote NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Sincerely,

Lois Morvillo

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:38 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Arizona and why Medicaid matters to me

I am 72 years old and my wife is elderly as well. We have a 46 year old son who is mentally handicapped and he will live with us until we die. We continue to be very active in his life as he has worked at the local Mohave County ARC since the time he graduated from High School. We are also very active in the ARC volunteering at the ARC and I am also the President of the MCARC Board of Directors. MCARC has been very valuable to this Community for more than 40 years and there are numerous clients there who have worked there for more than 30 years. We currently have 32 clients who are part of the program. There are several of them who work there and the pay is their sole means of income other than the Medicaid benefits they receive for Health care. But the vast majority are solely dependent on the Arizona State benefits that help pay for the support of MCARC. It would be a devastating blow to take away their benefits as many of them are elderly and their parents have already passed away so they also need additional care for living.

It is sad that the majority of our Politicians care more about taking money away from the wealthy people in this Country than they do about the hundreds of millions of other Citizens in this country.

This is particularly true here in Arizona both at the State and at the national level.

We used to be Republican in all of our families but the hypocrisy of the Republicans who act like they are so diligent about protecting people before they are born then they could care less about an American Citizen after they are born is shameful.

If Politicians in Washington get away with this they should be forced to have the same healthcare and benefits that any other American is subjected to. I am hopeful that the Political Dam is about to break and Americans will vote these "bought and paid for" Politicians out of Washington

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kristena Frick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona

Hello. My name is Kristena Frick and I reside in Glendale, AZ. I am currently on ACCESS which is Medicaid. I rely on Medicaid for all of my medical needs. I was diagnosed with Bi-polar disorder. I have had severe mood swings in the past and with the medication which Medicaid covers I am functioning as a productive citizen of the United States. These medications that I am on would cost me over 300 dollars for a refill. I cannot afford that kind of dollar amount to control my disorder. Medicaid is a huge instrument in my medical needs! Also, I currently have a serious medical problem. It caused me to not have the ability to walk. I had to have an MRI and was put on strong pain medication. Without Medicaid I would not be able to work because of this conditon I have.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE REPEAL!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristena Frick

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nancy Licht [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:54 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Arizona -- Senator Flake and Senator McCain -- Meet Sydney

Dear Senator Flake and Senator McCain,
I want to introduce you to my wonderful 25 year old daughter, Sydney.



Sydney is a bright and funny young woman who happens to be autistic.

She loves puzzles, trivia, and she is a voracious reader.
(She is quite well-versed in famous Supreme Court cases if anyone ever needs a quick fact-check.)

Medicaid Medical Care: When Sydney was a baby, we had a family situation that resulted in a change in health insurance.

We were devastated to learn then that her father's new insurance plan would not cover our daughter due to "**pre-existing conditions**".

Thankfully Sydney did qualify for Medicaid and she has had her medical care provided through AHCCCS ever since.

Sydney as a child experienced the normal childhood medical needs but also struggled with Epilepsy and Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

These medical conditions were covered and she received good care with ongoing medical treatments provided through **Medicaid/ AHCCCS**.

With appropriate preventative care – Sydney's seizures were stopped and she has been seizure-free for many years due to Medicaid provided healthcare.

Medicaid Therapy and Early Interventions: Due to our daughter's early language delays and other developmental challenges,

Sydney received early interventions in the form of **Speech, Physical, and Occupational therapies** ... provided through Medicaid.

Our bright daughter made incredible advances with these interventions to the point that she was fully included in her general education classes throughout her schooling in Arizona's public education system until she graduated from high school.

We are two working parents and have another child: Sydney's hero ... and older brother, Cameron (now an Arizona high school math teacher).

Providing for Sydney's needs has been challenging.

Without the **medical care and interventions provided through Medicaid**, I cannot imagine how we could have managed and I cannot imagine the unnecessary limitations our daughter would have suffered.

- Would Sydney have achieved the life-altering improvements in language and functioning skills without the early interventions that we could not afford to provide?
- How much damage to her brain would have happened with continuing epileptic seizures without proper preventative medical care?

Employment / Vocational Rehab: Sydney now has a goal to be employed in her community.

She receives **Vocational Rehab** services to help her gain the skills that she needs.

Medicaid Independent Living Supports: At this time, Sydney also receives supports to make it possible for her to live independently in her own apartment.

With Medicaid supports, what seemed like an outlandish and extremely unlikely dream in her early days is becoming a reality.

Through Medicaid, Sydney receives **in-home and community supports** to assist her in her daily needs and to help her achieve her goal of a safe independent life. Sydney understands that though her parents love her beyond words,

we will not always be able to provide the kind of support and care that she needs.

She is working on the skills she needs to reside safely in her own home.

Without her Medicaid supports, Sydney would be unable to safely live in her own home and would eventually need to move into a group home.

There are many troubling aspects to this new "health care" bill and the CBO has determined that it puts many critical Medicaid services at risk.

Please **do not dismiss** the CBO findings. There are real people ... real families ... depending on your honest and compassionate, clear eyed acknowledgement of the devastating faults in this bill.

We urge you to do the right thing for your most vulnerable constituents ... and **vote NO** on this "health care" act.

If you knew our Sydney, we think you could only in good conscious vote one way.

Preserve her healthcare. Protect her Medicaid services. Defend her right to a life of dignity.



Sincerely,
Nancy Licht
Phoenix AZ 85020

Nicole Jorwic

From: Linda & Randy Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

Please do not cut Medicaid and Social Security. America needs a safety net for the poor, elderly, and chronically ill. I personally do not receive Medicaid but have friends that depend on it. I don't understand why members of Congress who obviously don't need Medicaid, would take this away from those who need it.

Let's be a true United States of America and take care of all citizens.

When the Congress talks about jobs, they must realize that without Medicaid many nursing homes will have to close and the infirm and elderly will be out on the street and many may die.

Cutting Medicaid and Social Security is unacceptable. Please take the right action and do not cut Medicaid.

Sincerely,
Linda Smith
Dewey, AZ