

CALIFORNIA

Date: 2017-09-23 21:52:08

To: My Senator

From: Penny Berry

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Hi, my name is Penny Berry,

I am the mother of a 24 year old young man with severe Autism.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act and cuts to the MEDICAID program would be detrimental to his care in many ways.

Many things would change in his life, and not in a good way.

I would like to share a small bit about my son.

He has multiple problems and takes multiple medications. His monthly medications are very expensive and as it is now we struggle to pay the multiple co-pays alone.

Because of his low functioning autism he attends an adult day program for people with developmental disabilities. He participates in intensive behavioral intervention services to try and help maintain his aggressive behaviors to help improve the quality of his life.

We are trying to keep him living at home with our family and not place him in group home or facility.

With repealing the ACA and cuts to Medicaid the above services that he receives and so much more that I didn't mention would all disappear and we would no longer be able to care for our son and keep him living at home with our family.

I ask that you please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill, and most importantly NO on cuts to MEDICAID.

I was there for you, and voted to have you elected; now I ask that you PLEASE be there for me!!

Thank you,

Penny

Date: 2017-09-21 17:30:09
To: My Senator
From: Irene Jacobson
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I are two self-employed musicians, in our 50's, with a 10-year-old autistic son. I'm also a current cancer survivor (from 4 years ago).

Given the Medicaid/Medi-Cal expansion, our son's health benefits could be covered via Medi-cal.

If it were not for the ACA and the Medicaid expansion, I really have no idea where we'd be now, including living on the streets.

Date: 2017-09-22 18:31:25
To: My Senator
From: Darlene Chapa
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a proud service coordinator at the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center going on 14 years. The clients in my case load are currently residing in residential facilities for various reasons and with various diagnosis such as cerebral palsy, seizures, intellectual disability, and/or autism. Many no longer have families in their lives, their parents have passed on, or their families are unable to care for them due to their extensive medical and behavioral needs. With the help of the United States government thus far, these individuals who are unable to care for themselves are receiving services so they can stay healthy, happy, and ALIVE! Please do not cut Medicaid or any other funds that is much needed for individuals with disabilities. Let's work together to make the world a better place. Medicaid Matters Lives Matters! Love Darlene Chapa

Date: 2017-09-21 23:17:30

To: My Senator

From: Celia Dril

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Hello. I am a behaviorist working with clients with Autism throughout several rural counties in Northern California, all of whom rely on Medi-Cal and Medicaid benefits. My work is funded through Partnership (Medi-Cal) insurance. In my work with these clients, we support parents in toileting, speech, self-direction and many other vital skill sets that help the children to live a functional life.

I am deeply disturbed to hear of the cuts that will result from the Graham-Cassidy bill. They will undoubtedly eliminate vital behavioral services for these families as well as rob them of precious health care for their families due to Autism being returned to its status as a "pre existing condition" in the eyes of the health insurances.

Besides the huge impact on this population, my business--my self and my employees who work throughout the county--will undoubtedly lose our jobs as a result of this bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is shortsighted and extremely dangerous to millions including our most vulnerable population. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Sincerely,

Celia Drill, BCBA

Date: 2017-09-22 00:24:49
To: My Senator
From: Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I have a 3.5-year-old daughter who is brilliant, beautiful, funny, and who happens to have a muscular disorder that prevents her from speaking, standing, or walking without assistance. I gave up my full-time job to take her to all her therapies—occupational therapy, physical therapy, an inclusive preschool, plus therapeutic horseback riding. My husband gave up his lunch break in order to take her to swim several times a week. We both take her on walks in her walker or gait trainer. I fit in a few hours a day to work from home. But it isn't enough to afford all that she needs. Medi-Cal makes it possible for us to afford insurance that gives her the therapies AND the medical equipment that she needs.

Without Medi-Cal, she would literally not be walking, because Medi-Cal bought us a gait trainer and a reverse walker for her. It has simply opened up her potential and changed her life. Today, she walked into synagogue for Rosh Hashanah, in her walker. She was so proud! Children treat her as a peer because she is on her feet, and not seated like an infant. Medi-Cal is invaluable to us. We cannot stress this enough. Please save this incredibly valuable, necessary funding, because it changes, and saves, lives.

Date: 2017-09-22 19:20:58
To: My Senator
From: Marc and Gloria Thall
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son Joshua has relied on Medicare/Medical for almost for 6 years. For Medical alone, it's been almost 20 years. Due to severe autism, Josh is unable to work and cannot communicate his needs. What about his health and safety? These benefits are extremely important to maintain his quality of life.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:23:44
To: My Senator
From: Mark Gordon
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Good Day:

My name is Mark Gordon and I am a 57 year old man with severe Cerebral Palsy. I am an educated individual with a Masters degree in Public Administration. Additionally, I have a paralegal certificate to help people navigate through our challenging systems. I started a non-profit organization called Here's The Deal in 1998 and we provide supports to individuals with developmental disabilities residing in Butte, Glenn, Shasta and Tehama counties.

The Medicaid/Medi-Cal program is essential for my independence, health and well-being. With these supports I have care staff who help me with my daily needs so that I can be a tax paying contributor to society. Here's The Deal serves about 95 clients on a monthly basis and with these supports the clients are able to avoid going into costly institutions. Frankly, this scenario would apply to me as well. I have In Home Support Services and auxiliary supports through the Far Northern Regional Center. HTD employs 76 staff people. I understand that the proposed health care coverage will have dramatic effects on my independence and ability to remain employed. I would implore the decision makers to think long and hard before supporting legislation that will be literally life altering for many and seriously impact the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable citizens. I am extremely fortunate that my brain has allowed me to always try to make a difference in my community and world, however, there are individuals who cannot speak for themselves and need to be remembered. I appreciate your willingness to read my message. [REDACTED]

Respectfully,

Mark Gordon, CEO
Here's The Deal

Date: 2017-09-22 00:02:47
To: My Senator
From: Mary Snoberger
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a 59 year old female who is Disabled. These cuts will affect me and create harm to me even death. Please consider this as you make your decision-making.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:04:58

To: My Senator

From: Laura Lebold

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is 8 years old and has Angelman Syndrome. She is beautiful, full of life and her life is worth living. We depend on Medicaid. She is non verbal, has epilepsy, is globally delayed and will require life long care. We could not afford all of her medications, therapies, appointments or in home health care needs without Medicaid. Please no cuts or caps to Medicaid. We as a society have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable. The cuts or caps to Medicaid will affect the disabled, the elderly and our children. Please do the right thing.

Date: 2017-09-21 22:47:15
To: My Senator
From: Amy Chi
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a single mom w/two sons. My older one has Down Syndrome and has medical issues. Even w/Medicaid, I have to pay for all his medical equipments. My younger son is in college which I paid for. I have to pay for myself and my younger son's health insurance. If Medicaid gets cut, my son will not be able to access the best medical care. And I won't be able to pay for everything even w/ 4 jobs.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:24:36
To: My Senator
From: Monique Harris
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a single mother and I own my own art business.

Medicaid has saved my life and my son's life. I am here to defend it and fight for its expansion.

I was born with cerebral palsy that gave me a speech disability and a physical disability.

With the exception of when I was first born, healthcare became absolutely critical to me was when I became pregnant with my son at age 24. I needed special prenatal and postnatal care. Because I had a disability, my doctor made me come in every week during the first part of my pregnancy because I was considered high risk. So my health bills were really expensive.. luckily these were covered by Medicaid. When I went into labor, my water broke like normal but I wasn't dialating and so they had to induce me using medicine. This allowed me to give birth to my son, Brandon.

When Brandon was one, we discovered he had a hole in is heart. This was the 2nd time that healthcare became absolutely critical to me. He needed open heart surgery to close the hole and prevent his heart from getting weaker and weaker. After the surgery, he needed to stay in the hospital for an entire week to recover. While this was successful, Brandon has other chronic health problems such as seizures and diabetes that needed ongoing care.

If I didn't have healthcare provided by Medicaid at these points in my life, my family would have suffered financially and both my son and I might not be here today. For this reason I am here, to tell Senator Heller and all of the Senate why Medicaid is so important and why it needs to be expanded, not cut.

Medicaid has been absolutely critical to my life in another way. It has paid for attendant support with activities of daily living such as dressing, cooking, and going shopping, which has enabled me to live independently. Without attendant support, I would have likely been placed in a nursing home where I would have had very few choices in my life. Medicaid funded attendant support has made it possible for me to attend college, raise my son and run my business.

I call on the Senate and Congress to get the courage to defend Medicaid against attack and to strengthen the program so that my son will have the healthcare he'll need his entire life to be healthy and so that millions of people with disabilities like me will have the homecare we need to live our lives on our own terms.

Date: 2017-09-22 16:01:33
To: My Senator
From: Mary Eble
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have a nephew with Down Syndrome who depends on MediCal for his support and services.

Taking this away is cruel especially without a thoughtful, democratic process.

Date: 2017-09-22 23:35:58

To: My Senator

From: Guadalupe Kridler

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My little girl was born with a congenital heart defect called Truncus Arteriosus type 2. Later we also found out she has a condition called Digeorge syndrome or 22q. From birth until about 3 months old she fought for her life at Radys children's hospital in San Diego. My little girl is 6 1/2 months old now and thriving at home. Because of her many conditions we have relied 100% on medi cal and the ACA. My Luna thrived because of all the excellent Doctors, specialists , therapies she had available to her because of the ACA. Please do not take this care away. My baby won't survive. Many others won't survive without medical care, medications.

Date: 2017-09-22 18:18:21
To: My Senator
From: Robert Jost
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello:

I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. I provide in-home behavioral health services to some of the most wonderful clients I can imagine. We teach them an array of valuable skills, things that help them reach their highest potential, their highest amount of independence, and help them on the path towards becoming active, productive members of society. Needless to say, many of my clients rely on funding from MediCal to access these services. These services are such a vital part of the community, not just for my specific clients but for their family members, their communities, their schools, and everyone they encounter throughout their lives. Without the services I provide, my clients would have largely different outcomes. Many of them would end up with a much different level of independence, being a great burden on their families and ultimately on the state. However, given the services we provide, my clients lead happy and healthy lives! It is imperative that all are able to access these services. Everyone benefits. Everyone has a right to affordable healthcare. It's just. It's important. It's practical. It's the right thing for California, and it's the right thing for our country. I urge you; I beg; I plead; please do not take away the right to affordable healthcare.

Thank you

Robert

Date: 2017-09-22 16:44:40
To: My Senator
From: Rigoberto Gaona
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Rigoberto Gaona, and I writing to express my concerns regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to ask you to take in consideration when voting for this act the needs of people with developmental disabilities. I am concern over the potential cuts to the services offred to people with disabilities such as; medical, Medicaid, and Medicare. I am a client of these services, and I highly benefit from receiving them. Therefore I would like to continue to receive them. As our California representative I would you to do you're best to take care our needs, to the best of your abilities. Through Medicaid I have been able to go to the doctor which I had never been able to do before. I am married, my wife Julie Gaona also needs these benefits to live independently. Lanterman Regional Center pays an agency called United Cerebral Palsy. They provide services as well. This agency depends on the founding from the Regional center. United Cerbral Palsy is world wide agency there would a lot of people unemployed, which would cause more deficits to our budget. The same thing goes for IHSS, medical, and Regional center workers. There are not enough nursing homes for us to go to, so we would end up in emergency rooms that would cost billions of dollars. There are other cuts that can be made to our budget such as; all the experimenting our planet. There are some corporations making billions of dollars every year, month, and day. Please take that in consideration. I am depending on you and others ton advocate for me and billions of others.

Thank you,

Rigoberto

Date: 2017-09-22 20:18:47

To: My Senator

From: Wendy Banks

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is autistic and has schizophrenia (non-specific type). She is unable to work, but thanks to the current support she receives she is able to maintain a positive life. Her medications keep her stable and give her cognitive functioning. She needs support staff to help her with basic skills such as shopping, cooking, etc., and as a result lives a happy, constructive life.

Date: 2017-09-22 01:58:04
To: My Senator
From: Andrea Sedwary Raft
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My son suffered a cerebral hemorrhage At 10 days old. Leaving him with developmental and physical disabilities.

At the age of 8 we had found a wonderful home like facility where he could get the care that he needed to treat his disabilities. He has been dependent on Medical/ Medicaid funding for his medical needs and housing, schooling. He is now 50 years of age he depends on this funding and my husband and I are in no position to pay for his housing and medical and cannot take care of his needs at our home. What will we do if funds are no longer available?

What kind of society would we have if we are unable to care for our disabled Americans.?

What kind of government abandons their disabled

Citizens.?

Please vote to repeal this horrible bill that that would leave our disabled citizens homeless and without medical coverage.

I have always been so grateful for the wonderful medical and rehabilitative services available to my son, I hope to be able to continue to have these services for him.

Do we go back to state hospital snake pits?

Date: 2017-09-21 18:12:20
To: My Senator
From: Claudia Amici
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senators,

I am a single mother with TWO boys with autism. My ex husband left us when he realized his sons were disabled. I have subsequently been diagnosed with systemic Lupus and it is affecting my internal organs. I work. But we depend on Medicaid. Without Medicaid my boys wouldnt have insurance. I have pleaded to the courts to have their father provide ins but he claims hardship. I need the government to help me.

I did not ask to be in this position. I'm a middle class American who did all the right things. No one expects disabilities or illness.

Medicaid helps fund services such as our Regional Center that provide ABA therapy. I have therapists in my home 4 days a week. I've done this for 15 years. I would never have been able to get my boys verbal and independent without these services. Medicaid also helps provide IHSS. The agency that helps pay caretakers so that the disabled and seniors can stay in their home longer. I have no other family. Our therapist are our lives. With the new Graham Cassidy bill I will not be able to afford insurance for myself nor for my children or these services. I will die. State will have to institutionalize my children, which will cost the govt much more. They may end up homeless. This is not how to have a better society. I implore you on behalf of myself, my children, and the millions of disabled children and adults to say no on this bill. It is cruel and inhumane to the most vulnerable populations. It will directly affect us and devastate our lives.

Sincerely,

Claudia Amici

Date: 2017-09-22 22:34:50

To: My Senator

From: Charlene Cline

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I fully support the repeal of the affordable health care act ,it was not affordable for me . Our monthly payments were nearly \$700 , with no prescription drugs coverage, and a \$9,000 deductible, my copay to see a doctor was \$90 , and it only covered 20% of any procedures ,i.e. xrays mri , blood test , and ect. This was not affordable , I quit seeing my cardiologist because I could not pay the copay. I am sure it only beneficial to the working poor ,but to whos expense. We were living paycheck to paycheck and going into debt from being forced into this, and I couldn't wait to dump it

Date: 2017-09-22 18:29:54
To: My Senator
From: Shalini Srinivasan
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have a special needs daughter, 29 yrs old, who is in a day care program funded by ACA. Finally we found a place where she is happy. She also receives services from Regional Center. My family cannot afford any of these services on our own. When I see the beautiful smile on my daughter's face, I feel very thankful for the services provided by my government. Please do not cut down the funds that are crucial for people like my daughter.

I also work for Los Angeles County, Dept of Health Services. Ever since the election, we see so many of our patients, who have benefited by ACA, really scared and skeptical about their medical services. They are very happy with their coverage and the way they are being taken care of by their PCP. Now they are asking us what is going to happen with ACA and we have no answer.

Every human being is entitled to good education and decent Health Services. It is the government's responsibility to provide these to the needy. The Senators and Congressmen have a moral obligation to make sure these services are available to their constituents. The decisions they make affect millions of people across the country and these decisions should be made solely to benefit the people and not on which party introduced the bill.

I am pleading you on behalf of my daughter and the millions of people who have benefitted by ACA, not to repeal and replace the program and continue to provide the funds necessary for the different agencies who provide services. **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A DECENT LIFE.**

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-22 19:27:48

To: My Senator

From: Gail Vanslooten

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I have adopted three drug exposed, FAS children and love them dearly despite their considerable Disabilities.. Their mothers did not abort them but didn't want them. They are all dependent on Medi-Cal for their medical needs. They are one reason if you are prolife not to cut medi-cal as they re dependent on it to continue their lives. They are all happy and healthy as they can be and the joy of our lives. Consider how many lives would be cut short if medi-cal was cut. THINK ABOUT IT!

Date: 2017-09-21 18:29:43
To: My Senator
From: Bryant Young
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Our autistic daughter lived for many years in an Intermediate Care Facility.

We, like the members of the Senate, and wealthy donors, can afford to have our daughter on our private insurance plan. Most of the other residents are not so blessed, and depend on Medicaid for paying for their medical care.

Those residents, severely handicapped and unable to work and obtain health insurance, deserve the same kind of medical care as our daughter gets, the same care that Senators and their families receive.

It is morally wrong to vote for any bill that effectively will deny medical care to six year olds with cancer, deny medical care to those born with severe disabilities, take away care people need to LIVE, in order to fund a tax cut for the most wealthy in our society. The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill is morally wrong and violates the basic tenets of our Judeo-Christian society. It truly is a matter of life or death for many. Studies of the last attempts to repeal the ACA showed that every year repeal would directly lead to more deaths than 9/11 and Iraq combined.

Just because someone promised to do something wrong and stupid, doesn't mean they have to do it once it becomes clear how wrong and how stupid it is.

Wise men and women, true statesmen, true Americans would accept their mistake and move on, not try to make things worse by doing something simply for no other reason than to do it.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:17:33

To: My Senator

From: Tom St. Dennis

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Mr. President

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham - Cassidy bill that will come before the senate in the next week or so. My wife and I have an adult son that is deaf and intellectually disabled. He attends an adult day program, called Deaf Plus Adult Community (DPAC), in Newark California. His program is highly dependent on Medicaid. I am a registered Republican and I support the administration's efforts to reduce waste in government, but this is one area that we know well and do not see waste. On the contrary, we see dedicated people working with limited resources to support a program in a very high cost of living area. DPAC is a lean program that is supported by the California State Regional Centers. This program supports 30 adults that are deaf or deaf and blind and have intellectual disabilities. They employ ~18 people of which 14 are deaf. Not only do they give the adult clients a life of learning and community engagement, they also employ a large number of deaf staff that have an extremely challenging time to find employment, even in the San Francisco bay area. They do all of that with less than \$1M / year of funding support through Medicaid. Without Medicaid funding this program will be forced to close and those 30 individuals will be a burden to their families until their parents die and they are forced out into an uncertain and likely ill equipped community.

Please don't throw the disabled out with "the bath water" as you work to improve health care in the US!

Respectfully

Tom St. Dennis

Livermore, CA

Date: 2017-09-22 17:14:30

To: My Senator

From: andrea capone

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



PAGE 1 OF 1

I am a grandparent and caregiver of a severely impacted 18 year old girl with autism. This was not the journey her parents nor I expected. But, once it was clear this was the journey we were destined to travel, we have been diligent in protecting and fighting for her to be the best version of herself she could be. It has not been easy. Services are not easy to come by. I can't imagine it getting worse. But, if this new bill is passed it will get much worse. The number of developmentally impacted children are skyrocketing. Cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to my granddaughter and the millions of people with developmental issues.

My granddaughter, Gia is on the severe end of the spectrum. Her parents and I work together in providing her care. It is 24/7 care. She receives IHSS Protective Supervision. She attends a special needs public school for career transitioning for people with severe disabilities. She also attends an after school program for children with severe disabilities. As she enjoys going out in the community we have been fighting for a personal attendant to help take her to community activities. It is difficult to do this without help. These services are funded by Medicaid. Her healthcare is also thru Medicaid. We could not keep her in the home without the services and funding Medicaid provides. We are working hard for her to learn to be as independent as possible. We need the services that Medicaid provides to reach this goal.

I sincerely hope Senators will fight for the people who cannot fight for themselves. Our most vulnerable population should not be punished for what they cannot control. They deserve respect. Families providing care for this population NEED HELP and respect for the care and loving home they provide. A disability impacts the entire family. Washington should be cognizant of the real needs of a family caring for a person with autism. And I hope you will reflect your compassion in your vote on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. We cannot leave it up to the states to provide services, when this bill would cut billions in funding. This bill makes it impossible to care for this population. Please put the people over party. This is not about your donors, it is about taking care of our most vulnerable, and disregarded population....people with disabilities.

SINCERELY

ANDREA CAPONE – Grandma to Gia

Date: 2017-09-23 12:32:51

To: My Senator

From: Susan Lieberman

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My brother depends on Medicaid to fund his program. Without it his program will close and he will have nothing. My brother in law depends upon Medicaid for his health. He is epileptic and has other health issues. He depends upon Medicaid for medication to control his seizures and to see doctors. Please vote no on this awful bill. I honestly cannot I understand why anyone would vote yes except for their party.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:27:20
To: My Senator
From: Ben Rockwell
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have 37 diagnosed disabilities and I live on Social Security and SSI. I am also a wheelchair user and live independently and have the help of an IHSS caretaker. I cannot afford my medications much less my physician care without Medicare and Medicaid. Please do not pass this evil bill as it would KILL many of my friends with disabilities and also many that are seniors like me.

Please STOP this Graham-Cassidy bill as it most likely will Kill me.

Please save the lives of those of us who cannot work to earn enough to live like those of you in the Legislature. Please, Please, Please.

Have some compassion and show your love for the NEEDY in this country. I was born here and I am 72 years of age. Please save me.

Save my health.

Save my HUD Subsidized Housing.

Save my friends and me.

Date: 2017-09-22 16:30:33

To: My Senator

From: Eileen LaMont

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I currently have great insurance thru my employer. I did not always have this opportunity.

As a struggling mother with 2 children a diabetic husband plus going to college I depended

on the programs threatened by the Graham -Cassidy. Americans can not succeed in the American Dream of climbing the ladder as I did with out health care. Stop the hate on the poor and sick.

Eileen LaMont

Date: 2017-09-22 20:56:33

To: My Senator

From: deirdre rojas

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My children and my family would loose the special care we need for our health issues

Date: 2017-09-21 17:59:35
To: My Senator
From: Rosario Soto
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have a daughter that greatly depends on Medicaid. My daughter, Karibe Guadalupe Estrada was born with a 1p36 chromosomal deletion. Because of this she is developmentally disabled, so my daughter although 16 years old, functions at a 20 month old level. She is non verbal, wears diapers, and in addition also suffers from Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Seizures have also been part of our lives, but recently they have been getting stronger and more frequent. My daughter needs Medicaid because of her various health issues. I wouldn't be able to pay for her medication without Medicaid because currently she is on 5 different kinds of meds that help her get through the day. Please do not take Medicaid away!

Date: 2017-09-21 18:38:37
To: My Senator
From: Rosita Whittaker
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I'm sharing a story about my daughter, Veronica, who is now 25 yrs. of age.....this story was written several years ago, when we were still home schooling, but Veronica's life is much similar today....Happy and Healthy, thanks to IHSS, and SSI. There is a copy of this story on the UDW website.

Without Medicaid funding, Veronica's life would be a tragic nightmare!! I can't bear to project the outcome of Veronica's life, without being able to take care of her at home!!

Veronica's Incredible Development by Rosita Whittaker

This article is a brief outline of my daughter, Veronica's incredible development throughout her life. Thanks to In-Home-Support-Services, I've been able to provide a loving home, pets, education and therapy, as well as encouragement, hope, love and inspiration.

Veronica's Incredible Development

I'm truly grateful for the program of In-Home-Support-Services and I honestly don't know where we would be without it. Thanks to the financial support of this program, I've been able to participate in my daughter, Veronica's incredible development. Veronica was born a totally healthy baby until she had her fourth DPT vaccine at age 16 months. Within six weeks of her shot, she became paralyzed and was unable to lift her head, chew or swallow. She was hospitalized, tested for several illnesses and the doctors chose to diagnose her with Metachromatic Leukodystrophy, a degenerative brain disease, although all tests for it proved negative.

A gastrointestinal tube ("G-tube") was inserted into her stomach for nutritional and medicinal purposes and the doctors sent her home for me to love with six months to live. Needless to say, she surpassed the doctor's prognosis and within a year she started kicking her legs and moving her arms a little. She was still unable to eat with her mouth and lived on a formula called PediaSure followed by several medications including valium, chlorhydrate, baclophen, and Ritalin, to name a few. Her diagnosis was changed to a spastic quad with severe cerebral palsy.

Public schools were a nightmare and our homeschool adventures began when Veronica was ten years old. She was unable to speak clearly and was roughly communicating with her Dynavox and she had confided to me that a horrible incident had happened to her at her school, and she said if she talked, "he would kill her". Her first words to her pediatrician mentioned his name and what he had done to her. Her pediatrician immediately suggested that I homeschool her. And so I did!

I didn't even know that I could, legally. I was scared at first, but I found a homeschool group on a website and started asking questions. This group was extremely helpful and many of the members offered their individual experience and knowledge. They gave me the courage and confidence I needed. During this time we've been homeschooling, Veronica has learned various computer, reading and writing skills. She loves to write, and journals every morning before we start schoolwork. I provide speech therapy, just by talking with her, and I am able to understand the speed of her processing skills. I've learned to keep everything simple with lots of repetition, jokes and humor. I also provide physical and occupational therapy. I walk her with a gait trainer; (a special walker w/support for upper body), and we exercise her arms with various stretches, such as feeding the dogs treats over the balcony.

We have a little Terrier named Ziggy that we've taught to say, "HaaRow", before he gets a treat.

Veronica giggles and giggles! We have so much fun! She also uses her arms to pull herself and her chair around the balcony and back. I've taught her about her body and how eating healthy affects her health and happiness.

Oh, yes and Veronica is free from any medication, and the "G" tube was removed three years ago. Although she is unable to hold a cup, she can drink through a straw and feed herself with supervision.

As I mentioned before, without In-Home-Support-Services, I honestly don't know where we'd be today. Through my consistent love and support as a mother and 24 hour caregiver, Veronica continues to progress in all areas. She's still afraid of men and terrified to be left alone. Veronica and I now have great verbal communication, and a friendship that I never thought possible! She tells me every day how grateful she is to be homeschooled and how much she loves to stay home with me. She tells me that we have a great life and I'm a great mom. Most of all, Veronica is safe and happy!

Date: 2017-09-22 16:35:05
To: My Senator
From: Deborah English
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I work at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, CA as a social worker working with ages from 3-16 years and we see that the loss of these services would be devastating to over 30,000 clients for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:04:45

To: My Senator

From: Michael Bailey

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Michael E. Bailey and I live in Mission Viejo. Medicaid is of high importance to me as I am a client of the Regional Center of Orange County and have complex medical issues in addition to my disabilities. Medicaid makes it possible for me to live in the community and do the best I can do to be a part of the community. Everyone in the disability community and many seniors would be hit very hard if deep cuts were made to Medicaid and/or Medicaid expansion in the ACA were to be eliminated. No cuts to Medicaid. Thank you and best wishes, Michael E. Bailey.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:52:06
To: My Senator
From: Carla Petree
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



In 2003 I came down with a hard to diagnose neurological disorder. During the time it took doctors to diagnose and treat me, I lost my job, I lost my house, and I lost my marriage. But I did not lose my health care because of Medicare and Medicaid being available.

In the years since I got diagnosed and treated, and I have rebuilt my life because my coverage was in place. Had I not had Healthcare available to me during this lengthy process of diagnosis and treatment I would never have recovered and would have become more and more impoverished until I died. Medicare and Medicaid is the safety net that gets US citizens back on their feet or takes care of them when the worst happens. And it's the least we can do for our citizens.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:51:01
To: My Senator
From: Carla Petree
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



In 2003 I came down with a hard to diagnose neurological disorder. During the time it took doctors to diagnose and treat me, I lost my job, I lost my house, and I lost my marriage. But I did not lose my health care because of Medicare and Medicaid being available.

In the years since I got diagnosed and treated and I have rebuilt my life because my coverage was in place. Had I not had Healthcare available to me during this lengthy process of diagnosis and treatment I would never have recovered and would have become more and more impoverished until I died. Medicare and Medicaid is the safety net that gets US citizens back on their feet or takes care of them when the worst happens. And it's the least we can do for our citizens.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Date: 2017-09-22 13:17:05

To: My Senator

From: Mary Cage

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My son, 27, has lifelong disabilities and epilepsy due to a rare genetic condition. On top of that, in 2015 he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Thankfully, with financial assistance from Medi-Cal (Medicaid), we were able to get the chemotherapy and other expensive medical care he required to successfully treat his cancer. Today it is in remission and my son is living a happy, healthy life. However, the proposed cuts to Medicaid could be devastating for our family should the cancer return. For us and many others, these cuts could spell financial ruin and worse. Lives are literally at stake. Medicaid matters and must be preserved and strengthened, not gutted.

Date: 2017-09-22 21:39:42
To: My Senator
From: Adelina Castellanos
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My 2 year old son depends on Medicaid/medi-cal for his medical services. He has Down Syndrome which requires medical checkups to monitor his heart condition, hearing, feeding problems and blood test. My child needs his medical insurance to continue to receive medical attention and make sure we catch any medical problems in the future. Please do not take away Medicaid/Medi-Cal benefits away. So may children like my son depend on it for their future. If my son doesn't get the medical attention he needs, he may suffer major medical problems. DO NOT REMOVE MEDICAID SO MANY DEPEND ON IT.

Date: 2017-09-22 22:28:22
To: My Senator
From: GABRIELA DE ALBA
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Hola mi nombre es Gabriela Garcia de Alba, el nombre de mi hijo que recibe beneficios es LISSANDRO; el tiene cuatro anos nacio en abril del 2013. Mi hijo nacio normal aparentemente y a los tres meses no ganaba peso y la DRA. encontro que tenia algo en el corazon, me refirio a un especialista y este a su vez al CHILDRENS HOSPITAL, de ir a un simple chequeo ya no salio y lo tuvieron que operar de emergencia, duro en la primera operacion un mes hasta el dia de hoy tiene tres cirugias a corazon abierto y cinco caterizaciones al corazon para abrir sus venas que estan muy pequenas.; tiene stens en las venas su condicon se llama SYNDROME DI JORGE Y TETRALOGY OF FALLOT, WHIT ARTRESIA PULMONARY. El toma medicamento a diario no caminaba, no hablaba y gracias a sus terapias comenzo con senas y hoy habla espanol en casa e ingles en la escuela recibe todavia terapias de comportamiento, OTI, del habla, de alimentacion y toma pediasure para subir de peso tiene aproximadamente dies doctores que le dan seguimiento, gracias a estas ayudas va poder ser un nino autosuficiente si no las tuviera no podria y nosotros tampoco tenemos los medios para poder pagar por estos servicios, esto ha hecho la diferencia entre la vida y la muerte. GRACIAS A LAS AYUDAS NUESTROS HIJOS PUEDEN TENER UNA MEJOR CALIDAD DE VIDA YA QUE NOSOTROS TAMPOCO PODEMOS TRABAJAR A VECES DEVIDO A LOS CUIDADOS QUE ELLOS REQUIEREN, POR FAVOR NO CORTEN ESTOS SERVICIOS NI LOS FONDOS QUE NECESITAMOS. SI mi hijo no hubiera recibido los dos primeros anos unas vacunas que necesitaba en el tiempo de invierno hubiera muerto y esas son carisimas, si no hubiera tenido sus terapias hoy no podria hablar, caminar ni comer, EN SUS MANOS ESTA LA VIDA DE NUESTROS HIJOS POR FAVOR AYUNDENNOS, GRACIAS. QUIEN NOVIVE PARA SERVIR NO SIRVE PARA VIVIR, DIOS NOS PUSO ANGELES AQUI Y ESOS SON USTEDES GRACIAS.

Date: 2017-09-23 11:25:50

To: My Senator

From: Eileen Zaroff

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and my practice serves the "special needs" community of children, teen and adults who have Autism, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, social anxiety and Attentional issues.

Approximately 1/2 of the 92 clients that we see weekly are on medication for the behaviors that interfere with their lives, at home, school and in the community. 75% of those on medication cannot afford the \$325-\$400.00 per hour that a child psychiatrist charges per session or the \$175.00-\$250.00 they charge for a 20 minute medication follow up here in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. They ask me if I know any doctors that take Medicaid and I know of only 2 locally that do, but there is a list of specialists they can access.

Without being able to access Medicaid for help, these citizens will have to be kept at home; parents cannot leave them to go to work and eventually these families, may be homeless if they cannot leave home for a job. The population I started seeing 21 years ago are all adults now and receive some services through the Los Angeles County Regional Centers but medication is not included in the multiple services they do fund.

This is a larger population needing Medicaid than most people know if they do not have a child or dependent adult with developmental disabilities, special needs or Behavioral issues (the aggregate of responses to internal and external stimuli.) Please do not put them, their families or the community at risk by taking away any benefits they derive from Medicaid.

Eileen Zaroff, LMFT

Date: 2017-09-22 20:30:16
To: My Senator
From: Jolie Kanat
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am grateful for Medicaid, or MediCal, as it is called in California. As a matter of fact, it is a matter of quality of life for my family. And this is why: I have two severely disabled children, who, through no fault of their own, cannot provide for themselves or their own healthcare. Because of continuing coverage through MediCal, my children can receive life saving services and healthcare. If this were to be impacted in even the slightest way, all of our lives would be impacted negatively. It would be devastating and inhumane.

If you cannot work, due to a disability, you cannot afford healthcare. Very simple. And so thankfully, we have Medicaid/MediCal. What separates our country from those of the Third World is our infrastructure. Our standards of care, our highways, our ambulances, our 911 service, our first responders, our social support, our system of government. In other words, we are built on the mandate of human rights. America is a shining star in the world. And how we care for those in need is one bright point in that star. It makes us heroes to the world and heroes to ourselves.

Sometimes it is hard to fight for a cause when you are not directly affected by the issues. If you have health, sturdy children, and some of the blessings not experienced by everyone for one reason or another, it is easier to be casual with the care and support needed by those not so blessed. This is not one of those times to be casual with the care we depend upon and are so grateful for and that represents the best in America.

Let's not tarnish our bright shining star by allowing this bill to pass. We are too good for that, Let's help one another instead.

Jolie Kanat
Executive Director
Little Red Wagon Enterprises
Supported Living Services

Date: 2017-09-22 17:36:39

To: My Senator

From: Michelle Rousey

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I am a 46yr old women with multiple disabilities. I have had many of them since childhood. What Medicaid means to me is independence. By being on it I have choices I wouldn't have without it. I'm able to live on my own with help from IHSS. Living alone has saved the state hundreds of thousands by allowing me to be independant living at home . It allows me to choose which dr's I use and where I want to be treated. If it were to be capped I'd loose much independence due to back logs of paperwork to then have to do just to get simple things I need. It s bad enough now in which we wait sometimes many months for repairs to be done, would I even be given enough to be able to up keep the needed medical equipment I need. Or will I end up in an institution because you choose to make cuts and Capp Medicaid funding to seniors and people with disabilities. Any time you talk about block grants you really mean cuts to medicaid . Please don't force hundreds of thousands who are on Medicaid to be institutionalized ! It costs more. And it takes away our independence. Thank-You

Date: 2017-09-21 17:30:31

To: My Senator

From: Pam Raymond

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter Briana is severely autistic. She also has ulcerative colitis. Medicaid not only opens doors for her to get the services she needs as a young adult with a disability in her community, it has been a lifesaver for her disease. As she ages she will have no health-care protection if Medicaid is cut as we know it now. She is 22 now, and in order for her to continue to receive her level of care, no restrictions must be put on pre-existing conditions. This was a monumental achievement for our elected officials during the Obama administration to secure.

I implore you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

thank you,

Pam Raymond

Date: 2017-09-22 23:10:11

To: My Senator

From: Tom P Noonan

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



From Thomas P Noonan

this this Thomas P Noonan I do get Medicare Affordable Healthcare through Social Security Check every month please tell Republican not to cut My Medicare Affordable Healthcare every month because I want to keep My Medicare Affordable Healthcare so I can go to the Doctor I do get Medi-Cal Affordable Healthcare every month please tell Republican not to cut My Medi-Cal Affordable Healthcare every month because I want to keep My Medi-Cal Affordable Healthcare.

Thank You Very Much

From Thomas P Noonan

Date: 2017-09-22,18:56:14
To: My Senator
From: Guadalupe Ramirez
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Dearest U.S. Senetors,

I, Guadalupe Ramirez-Macias and my husband, Juan Carlos Macias would like to briefly express our deepest concern with the Graham-Cassidy bill that is pending hearing. We have two young children, Daniel age 5 and Zoe age 2 both of which are receiving Medi-cal benefits and have been blessed to be growing and developing strong and healthy thanks to the amazing care they have received through this program. As unfortunate as it is to say, the truth is that we cannot afford medical insurance through our employer for our children, for it is simply much too expensive. I am a service coordinator for North Los Angeles Regional Center and my husband is a student advisor at National University and despite our extensive education and well-established jobs, somehow, our economy has not allowed for a reasonable opportunity to provide affordable healthcare for our children.

Our parents are all retired and depend heavily on Medi-cal for all of their medical needs. A few months ago, our youngest child, Zoe visited the hospital from an extreme high fever that could have resulted in severe brain damage but was fortunate enough to have received immediate medical attention that was in part paid for by this program which has given my husband and I a financial break, which allowed for an opportunity to have a small apartment for our children.

Today, we let out our voice from the small city of Palmdale, CA and we pled from the bottom of our heart, that you truly consider all the people just like us that are highly dependent on this program. We ask that you really look out into our nation and truly consider the enormous impact that this bill will have on the nation as a whole should the bill pass. We trust that you will acknowledge our story and the story of millions of other people before you make a decision.

Thank your time, and we trust that you will right decision for the best interest of the country.

Respectfully,

Guadalupe and Juan Carlos Macias

Date: 2017-09-24 00:20:21

To: My Senator

From: Jessica Gould

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Jessica Desiree Gould and I 31 years old and a recipient of Medi-Cal which is a supplement result of the Medicaid Medical Medicare system. If this measure passes my insurance will be severely affected possibly even discontinued. Under this new measure it specifies that individuals with the preexisting conditions will have a harder time receiving Medical Services. I have three medical conditions there are preexisting one of which requires a device for treatment that literally keeps me alive. My conditions are the following:

Quadriplegic CP and hydrocephalus

In order to treat the hydrocephalus in particular I have what's known as a VP shunt due to the uniqueness of my condition I can only be covered through Medical it's a very complex situation but I can guarantee you that without services such as Medicaid Medicare Medi-Cal and individual like myself would not be able to live a productive life. Their condition would completely control them and in a case like mine the treatment for those conditions would not be affordable. So I'm asking you not to support the grand Cassidy bill it will take away final services for people such as myself

Date: 2017-09-22 17:17:52

To: My Senator

From: Alon Friedman

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I have a developmentally disabled brother who has had this disability since birth. His care agency is predicting a huge cut in funding services for him if Graham Cassidy passes.

He would be in a very dangerous situation if his services are impacted, as he requires 24 hour care.

Please do not pass this lbill.

Date: 2017-09-21 22:11:52

To: My Senator

From: Debra Coe

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My Son Joshua has sever cerebral palsy and is a quadriplegic , he cerebral palsy is very involved therefore he lives in a group home with 6 other adult with similar disabilities, all of these adults depend on medicaid to manage their care, it is difficult enough to find doctor that care for our disable community, I cant image how we could afford any other medical insurances being everyone has pre-existing conditions. Things are tight as it is and very limited , to take a lifeline is inconceivable. Please don't support the Graham-Cassidy bill as it will cut to many needed services that our disable community is in great need of.

Thank you

Sincerely

Debra Coe

Date: 2017-09-24 02:01:12
To: My Senator
From: Lillian Martinez
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a mother of an adult child, he lives at home, with my support, as I am his caregiver. He has a diagnosis of Down Syndrome, and will need support in his community for the rest of his life, it would be detrimental, to him, to our family- to society as a whole, if persons with chronic illnesses, disabilities etc. , be charged more or be limited to Medicaid services. THAT IS WHY I AM AGAINST THE GRAHAM- CASSIDY BILL. MY SON DESERVES ALL THE SUPPORT, SOCIETY HAS IN PLACE NOW, NOT LESS. HE WILL BE TRANSITIONING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, SOON, I ASK YOU- WHAT AWAITS HIM? PLEASE, MAKE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, SECURE TODAY.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:47:20

To: My Senator

From: Michelle Gayliardi

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Hello. I am the parent of 2 boys with Angelman Syndrome. People with AS are non-verbal, are developmentally delayed, have devastating seizures, are impacted in nearly every aspect of life by this genetic condition. As a parent, we have so much to deal with on a daily basis. As a parent of children with disabilities, the worries are massive....are we giving them the best life experiences, is school providing for all of his needs, can we afford to care for all of their needs? It seems every few months, our government leaders decide that cutting funds that support people's health is something to push through legislation. My older son directly benefits from Medicaid (my younger boy is not of age yet for the waiver and isn't yet in school). His school uses funds to give him the basic services he needs at school. Medicaid helps to defer some of the costs we have to care for our children.

Both of my children, and yes, myself, as a carrier of a genetic disorder, have pre-existing conditions. Angelman Syndrome. I can't bear the thought of paying more for health insurance, or not even being able to afford insurance because of conditions we have no control over. No one decides to have a developmental disability, same as no one decides to have cancer, a heart condition, etc. Every single person in this country ends up having SOME health condition at some point in their life. Living in fear of getting sick and not being able to pay for the care you need is no way to live life. The ACA was designed to put some of these fears to rest. No lifetime caps. Essential health benefits. Not being discriminated against for having a pre-existing condition. When the ACA was passed and signed into law, I breathed a bit easier. I didn't have to fear getting mail from our health insurance company to deny payment for my son's care. It was one less thing to worry about.

Please consider how the Graham-Cassidy bill really and truly affects American citizens. We don't want it. We want you to sit down together and work through the flaws in the ACA. I know its not perfect. We elected you to stand for the needs of ALL Americans. And if you think its good for us, then all members of Congress, Senators, and members of the House of Representatives should have the same health insurance that we do. Would you like it? Would you like your extended family to have it? This is not a legislative decision you are making. It is a moral decision that would really affect the lives of Americans in a negative way. Please take my story and thoughts into consideration on the day you stand up to vote. Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-23 21:12:27

To: My Senator

From: Sheryl Munoz

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid supplements my twin autistic sons' private insurance so that they both can access the services they need to reach their potential and become fully productive and contributing adults. Cutting Medicare and reducing medical services for the disabled, seniors, and low-income individuals would be cruel, unnecessary and unwise.

Date: 2017-09-23 10:43:45

To: My Senator

From: Toung Chhung

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senator:

My name is Toung Chhung, I have my son, Justin Chhung, 32 yrs old, born with autistic and mental disorder symptom, he lives and depends strongly on "MediCal" in order to maintain his health. Without it, his life will be miserable, please Senator, vote "NO" on Graham-Cassidy bill to save life of million people with disabilities.

Thanks you,

Toung Chhung

Date: 2017-09-23 03:56:23
To: My Senator
From: louis richter
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My son, David, is multiply handicapped from birth. Although technically an adult now, he is unable to prepare food, clean up, dress himself, nor effectively bathe. He lives in a group home where the staff does everything for him. His mother and I are too old to be of any help to him. He depends for his very life on Medicare/Medicaid. If the compensation is too little for the group home to remain profitable, what will become of him?

Date: 2017-09-21 21:20:11

To: My Senator

From: Lynda Otvos

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Were Medicaid cut, the elderly woman I care for would end up in a low-quality nursing home because the In-Home Support Services I provide are paid for by Medicaid and those services every day are what is keeping her safely in her home where she wants to be with her pet cat and her DVDs.

My daughter's mental health issues would be a lot less under control were Medicaid cut. She's unable to work and relies on MC for treatment.

Thank you for listening.

Lynda M Otvos

Date: 2017-09-22 18:04:16

To: My Senator

From: Greg Damewood

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



Were it not for Medi-Cal my daughter would be dead. Seizure medications are needed every day of the year. She also had need of a lytic tumor being removed or a leg would have been lost.

We need health care and to show we care. Take money elsewhere like bombs for war and waste of funds on tools like a \$20 screwdriver that can be purchased in bulk for a dollar.

Date: 2017-09-23 01:04:34
To: My Senator
From: Glenis Ulloa
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I'm a mother of a daughter born with multiple disabilities, who at birth was given only 24 hrs to live but God had other plans for her and she just turn 21 yrs old this year, thank God my husband insurance paid for multiple surgeries she has had (13 in total in her short life) not counting endless physical/speech and occupational therapy. My husband lost his good paying job and for the first time in my life I had to apply for SSI for her and with that she gets medical , if ACA is repeal that will be detrimental to her health as she needs continuous medical care. Please take in consideration our pleas for the protection of health care because our son and daughter lives are at stake, without health insurance my daughter will not have the quality of life that she needs and deserves. Is beyond me to see how members of Congress talk about repealing ACA when they don't have a clue what families like ours have to struggle each day, they have excellent ins. coverage becauser WE the people pay for it, why can they do the same for ALL American people that need it.? Please vote NO on the latest Bill, it does not protect the most vulnerable people, the elderly, the special needs, handicap, people with pres-exusting conditions like my beautiful daughter.
GLENIS ULLOA , from Riverside, CA.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:38:32
To: My Senator
From: Elizabeth Young
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senators Feinstein, Harris, Murkowski, Collins & McCain,

I am writing to all of you to ask you to PLEASE VOTE NO on the CASSIDY-GRAHAM bill.

My husband and I have an adult daughter who is 32 yrs old. Kendra has a part time job at Peet's Coffee and volunteers at a special education pre-school. She lives in a supported living home with 2 other adult Austin women.

We have supported Kendra and will continue to support her to the best of our ability as long as we are able. But she will NEVER be able to live independently without the benefits she currently receives from Medicaid, so we are pleading with you to please, please vote NO on this bill as it will leave many individuals like our daughter, completely without a future guarantee of support for their most basic needs as human beings with developmental disabilities.

I ask each of you to consider that a society and country is only as good as it supports its neediest, most vulnerable members.

Please vote your conscious and VOTE NO.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Young

Date: 2017-09-21 20:56:49

To: My Senator

From: Angela Sutherland

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is 11 years old and has autism. She relies on medicaid to live and learn in her natural community. Before we received medicaid our family was living close to poverty as my husband had to leave his job to provide support. If medicaid stops, she will lose the services and supports that she needs to be able to live at home and participate in the community. Now that she is receiving supports through the regional center and IHSS her future is on the right track. Please do not cut medicaid. If you cut this, it is creating a bigger issue for her and our entire disability community and their families. Children grow up and their parents are not there to take care of them. What will happen then? Cutting medicaid prevents many adults with disabilities from having the supports they need to live independently and work in the community. I am very concerned about the future of our disability community if medicaid is cut. I am very worried about where my daughter will be living when she grows up when we are gone and what her quality of life will be. I do not want her to live in a sheltered, isolated setting. She has a lot to give and just needs support to stay and be a contributing member to the community. Let's support in the home and in the community, not in isolation!

Date: 2017-09-21 18:00:33
To: My Senator
From: Randy Schlecht
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]

4120 N Sepulveda Ave

Apt 26



I have worked hard all my life hanging drywall daylight to dark.

I sustained traumatic brain injury .

I depend on medical to be independent. Please don't take my healthcare away!

Date: 2017-09-22 12:17:32
To: My Senator
From: Michael Condon
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Michael Condon and I broke my neck after being Honorably discharged from the US Army in 1971. Since that time, Medicaid monies have allowed me to thrive in my community as I would have surely died in a Skilled Nursing Home. I am totally paralyzed from the neck down, unable to use my arms and legs yet I paint with my mouth and volunteer to do Peer Advocacy with the VA, helping newly injured Vets, adjust to their new life. Please invest in Home and Community Based Services to give quality to the lives of those that have served and protected your way of life.

Michael Dennis Condon

Date: 2017-09-22 12:42:46
To: My Senator
From: Joan Devore-Gutierrez
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I are both retired USN. Our youngest son was born while we were serving our country stationed in Italy. He has a primary diagnosis of hydrocephalus. He has had over 150 brain surgeries with complications. He is blind, has cerebral palsy, needs assistance with all activities of daily living. Without medicaid waiver programs we would be homeless. Our family benefits with a standard of living that is dignified and allows us the joy and freedom of being active participants in our community. We fundraise for our local Childrens Hospital yearly. We participate in veteran fundraising for wounded warriors. We could not be active participants and tax paying citizens without medicaid programs supporting our sons needs and his desire to live in the community.

Thank you

Joanie Devore-Gutierrez
[REDACTED]

Date: 2017-09-21 17:13:14
To: My Senator
From: Sascha Bittner
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



[Sascha is quadriplegic with a speech disability as a result of Cerebral Palsy.]

I grew up in San Francisco, and also attended UC Berkeley,

When I was three-years-old, a couple of years before I moved to San Francisco, a doctor told my very young, single mother I would never be able to do much of anything. With a great deal of help from my mom and all the other people she calls my "village," I was able to prove that doctor wrong. The support of Medicaid has been critical to my success. I have relied on Medicaid funding for the Home and Community-based caregiving support that enables me to live a full and productive life in the community, instead of in an institution or nursing home. (Or in my case, since my family would have done everything possible to keep me out of a nursing home, Medicaid has allowed them to have full and productive lives, and there wasn't an undue financial burden on them.) I was able to attend UC Berkeley because I had someone getting me up each morning, dressing me, taking me to the bathroom, etc.. I was also able to provide disability awareness programs to thousands of students in the San Francisco Bay Area because of Medicaid provided attendant care. As I have advocated to help domestic workers (like attendants) to get overtime and other worker protections, I have done so with the help of Medicaid funded attendants. In 2011, when President Obama announced a regulation mandating minimum wages and overtime for in-home care providers, I was invited to participate in his announcement at a White House press conference, and of course wouldn't have been able to be there without my attendant.

My mother had to forgo getting married for fifteen years so that we could remain poor enough for me to qualify for Medicaid, in order to pay for my wheelchairs, other equipment and medical treatments. She saw the huge challenges faced by families who did not qualify for Medicaid, but who couldn't get insurance for their disabled children due to their pre-existing conditions. However, her choice was also a hardship, since she had to go without her own health insurance until she was finally able to marry my step-father and obtain coverage through his employer, once I reached adulthood and could qualify for Medicaid on my own. This pre-existing condition problem was solved by the ACA, but now threatens to become a huge problem again.

In 2013, I checked into UCSF for five days to begin chemotherapy for lymphoma. I was supposed to come back every 21 days for six treatments total. Unfortunately, because of my disability, everything went terribly wrong, and I was in the hospital for a very costly five months, instead. If there had been a cap on Medicaid, my family would have gone bankrupt... or I could have just died. A Medicaid cap is a real "death panel."

When I was chairperson of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, we talked about how to EXPAND Medicaid-based attendant care because too many people with disabilities who need this assistance are still not covered. As you saw during the protests in the Summer at Senators' offices, disabled people who need attendants and other Medicaid provided health care are terrified of what comes next. We do not want to be forced into nursing homes or other institutions, like in the bad old days before the disability rights movement. I urge you to vote no on this horrendous bill!

Date: 2017-09-22 18:05:00
To: My Senator
From: The Client Advisory Committee San Francisco
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello,

We are from The Arc San Francisco, an agency that works for adults with disabilities. We are a group of advocates called The Client Advisory Committee.

We are writing because we don't like this UNFAIR healthcare bill that you're proposing.

We NEED Medicaid because we would not be able to see doctors or get the medications that allow us to stay healthy without it.

Many of us live with serious health concerns like diabetes, seizures and other life threatening conditions that affordable healthcare allows us to go to our jobs, keep our community programs open and live independently.

Please support equal rights for everyone to have quality healthcare by voting HELL NO on replacing Obamacare.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:39:12

To: My Senator

From: Jayne Warren

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I'm the mother of two young adults with Autism. Both are unable to work full time- one cannot work at all, the other can only work part time a few days a week. Their disability makes insurance out of reach for both of them. Without Medicaid they would not be able to go to the doctor, dentist or therapy. The possibility of those basic services my one son would be severely impacted! This would be too much of a financial burden for us as both of us are retired. Please consider this when you vote- it's a life saver for us & many other families.

Date: 2017-09-23 19:30:57

To: My Senator

From: laura woodford

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I am a social worker for children with developmental disabilities. There are some stories of severely disabled children that reach out and pluck your heartstrings. One is a young woman who is blind, deaf, non-verbal and unable to walk due to the low level of her cognitive functioning. Medicaid funds are so limited that California children's services will not pay for both a heavy style wheelchair and a lighter easy to transport stroller or a ramp for the car. It took over 2 years for me to convince our agency that we should use some of our tightly held medicaid funds to purchase a ramp for this family's van, so that they could more easily transport their child to medical appointments or simply to go sit in a quiet park and enjoy the day. This same kind of story is repeated endlessly. Even though I have worked for my agency for 5 years, I continue to have to beg for the simplest piece of medical equipment. An adaptive tricycle, which will help a child with Cerebral palsy build their core strength: many many forms, begging and waiting. Diapers, shower chairs so parents do not get back strain or risk hurting their child in the bath, transportation to one of the very few and very overcrowded after school programs. Medicaid cuts will not only endanger their regular healthcare from the few doctors who accept MediCaid, but will make their lives not very much worth living. What a choice for these families already facing daily heartbreak!

Date: 2017-09-22 19:54:07
To: My Senator
From: Elene R. Chamberlain
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Our 29 year-old grandson is severely autistic. He loves to help others and is proud of the work he does wrapping silverware in napkins for elderly citizens at a senior center; he also helps clean up public parks, again proud to make those parks safe for children to play in. But he needs prompts so he doesn't forget to finish dressing (because he's busy imagining a video game in his head) ; he needs daily work supervision;and he cannot live independently. He is cared for in a group home. Most of these vital services are financed through the California Regional Center System which will be severely affected by the cuts to Medi-Cal in the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Half of the regional centers' funding comes from Medi-Cal. It's very frightening to think what will happen to our grandson's programs, especially his group home and its staff, if that bill passes.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:31:09

To: My Senator

From: Dave Bianchi

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My wife and I are the parents of a 36 year old male with cerebral palsy. He is severely developmentally and intellectually disabled (DD&ID). He requires 24 hour care and has resided with us at our home for his entire life. We are his primary caregivers and are fortunate to receive In-home supportive service (IHSS) payments. He attends, barring any occasional physical ailments or medical problems, an adult day program daily. Unfortunately, this wonderful adult day program is severely restricted due to funding cut-backs from the California state budget regarding DD & ID facilities. This is directly affected by reduced national funding as well. We heavily rely upon our In-home supportive service funds to maintain a high level of care for our son.

ANY cut-backs in funding for DD & ID facilities AND funds that source the IHSS program will directly affect us and our ability to maintain a high level of care. Such action will also affect our current level of stress and emotional state as care givers. We simply ask, if we are not supported in caring for our son and those like us, who then in the federal and state social services can? Clearly, dedicated parents like us, and others, are providing a much more efficient system and level of care than any federal or state system could possibly provide! We are also doing it more economically than any government system could ever accomplish it.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:13:27

To: My Senator

From: Rachel Wolf

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Rachel Wolf and I just turned 60 years old. I have been on disability for half my life. And contrary to what the GOP seems to believe I did not choose to be sick. I live on \$900 a month from Social Security and SSI combined. It is always a struggle to cover all my basic expenses.

Without Medicaid I will not be able to afford medical treatment or medication. This is terrifying. Will I die of a treatable illness? Will I have to suffer needlessly? Will hundreds of thousands, potentially millions, of people - children and babies - need to suffer because of the greed and callousness of the GOP?

I contribute to this society. We contribute. Why are we being treated as disposable?

Date: 2017-09-23 01:27:08

To: My Senator

From: Ruthe Griffin

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My son, Martin Florentino, has Polycystic Kidney Disease. His kidney function was at 12, when he started dialysis 10/10/15. He has dialysis 3x a week for three hours and fifteen minutes each time. He is also required to be on several expensive medications that assist his kidney function. Without Medicaid he could not receive treatment and he would die. I am seventy years old and live on Medicare and could not afford his treatment. Also, Martin is deaf and developmentally disabled and functions at a second grade level and he attends program at Vocational Training Center daily and then he is on Protective Supervision through In Home support Services to cover the time he is not in program. Without Medicare and Medicaid he would be stuck in a State Home somewhere. I am very grateful for Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-22 00:18:04
To: My Senator
From: Annie Nezakati
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have two children with special needs and take aways from medical/Medicaid funding could be detrimental to the future for my children and many other people. These funds are needed by so many people with disabilities. Please do not make cuts to the programs that help people in our communities to thrive.

Date: 2017-09-22 07:55:00
To: My Senator
From: Bruce Schaefer
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



Through no fault of hers or ours, our daughter Jodie was born with mental and physical handicaps. She has below average IQ, a difficult-to-understand speech impediment, and some motor skill physical limitations. These limitations prevent her from holding typical employment. However, she is a happy, friendly, fun person who enjoys many activities and social relationships.

She will be 40 years old in November and lives in a Supported Living household with 3 similar women. To date, she has had limited need for medical care. However, as she ages, her needs will increase and her medical expenses will go up. Her mother is deceased and I am retired and live on very limited income from Social Security. I would not be able to cover any significant medical expenses for Jodie.

For all of our working careers, both her mother and I paid into Social Security with the understanding that it, including Medicare/Medicaid insurance, would help meet our family medical needs in our older years. It is critical that Jodie be able to use the Medicaid insurance coverage we paid for to meet her health needs.

Given the high (and increasing) cost of health care today, making any reductions to this coverage could drive us into poverty. Please make NO reductions to Medicare/Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:33:45
To: My Senator
From: Shannon Alvarado
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I'm a single mother of a 17-year-old girl with severe autism. Xanthia is nonverbal & low-functioning. Medicaid allows Xanthia to remain in the home and not in an institution. She's able to participate in the community.

Cuts to Medicaid would be catastrophic to people with disabilities.

Date: 2017-09-22 23:21:20
To: My Senator
From: joann benjamin
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I have an interest in preserving Medicaid from a personal standpoint and from a professional one.

My elder brother has special needs. He is now 69 years old and has benefitted from Medicaid all of his life, along with Medicare as he has gotten older. His income totals about \$200 per month at a sheltered workshop and his SSDI from our father and Medi/Medi make it possible for him to live in a semi-independent way. Without medicaid, his medical costs for a broken hip, regular health care, minor injuries from falls, prostate difficulties and medication would not be covered.

As a physical therapist working with early intervention (children 0-3 years old), many of my patients have medicaid coverage for their enormous medical bills. Many have been born premature, or have diagnoses that have required work ups and treatment. Without this assistance, their parents would likely be bankrupted and care would absolutely be compromised.

I have come to appreciate this safety net for so many who need coverage due to circumstances beyond their control. Please, please, please take careful consideration of the effects of the health care bills that you support - this one or those in the future, and maintain the ability for my family and my patient's families to have health care that is their right.

Date: 2017-09-24 00:28:47
To: My Senator
From: Martin Smietanka
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



We have a severely autistic adult daughter. She is currently in a very supportive environment, supported by Medicaid. As it is, funding is tight to provide the services for her and the other disabled adults in the program. Any cut in the Medicaid funding would be devastating to her and others in her situation.

Please do not decrease Medicaid funding ; it protects those with chronic illnesses and disabilities who would otherwise have no resources.

Thank you

Date: 2017-09-23 09:13:02
To: My Senator
From: Rananah Lubovitch
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I am the parent of a daughter with autism and a one household income family. It is because of the Medical program, here in California, that my daughter was able to be treated in a manner that met her needs at our local dental office. As you are aware most likely aware, many children on the autistic spectrum often experience tactile sensitive aversions and are subject to severe physical outbursts if touched. When my daughter required a dental procedure that necessitated the extraction of 2 teeth, all concerned (Physician and Dentist) knew that the only way to successfully engage in the procedure was to secure an anesthesiologist and "put her under." It is solely because of the Medical program that this procedure was able to be done, as the cost for bringing in the anesthesiologist without coverage via Medical would have been prohibited.

Do not wipe out the benefits that The Affordable Care Program extends to children and adults with disabilities!

Date: 2017-09-23 17:40:59
To: My Senator
From: Mabeny Flores
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My son have autism and need all the help he can get please help my son and all the people with disabilitys

Date: 2017-09-21 18:26:52
To: My Senator
From: Lynda Karl
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I'm the mother of a 14yo boy with multiple disabilities who is 100% dependent on the care of others. The benefits he receives from the Medicaid program are crucial to his survival; without them, we would not be able to provide him with the medical care and equipment he needs to maintain a healthy standard of living.

The proposed cuts to the Medicaid program will have a detrimental effect in my son's life and our life as a family.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:27:30
To: My Senator
From: Carrie Blue
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Our son is 26 years old and will never live on his own. His father and I are self employed and have to rely on Covered California to cover ourselves for medical insurance. There would be nothing to cover him if it were not for Medicaid. For his quality of life we hope that the Graham-Cassidy bill will not pass.

Date: 2017-09-22 13:32:28

To: My Senator

From: Laura Delauder

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My son has had 2 heart operations and surgery for scoliosis, because these treatments were available to him he is a healthy young man today. He will need ultrasounds and preventative care for the rest of his life but he is alive because medical care was there for him. Don't take this life saving medical care away from the people of this country. This care should be available to all not just the wealthy few.

Date: 2017-09-22 18:32:06

To: My Senator

From: Tracy Pfeiffer

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I have a 14 year old son with autism, mild cerebral palsy and he is non-verbal. We rely on Medi-Cal for Regional Center services, our dental insurance, help with in home supportive services and share of cost. His need for the services Medi-Cal covers will only increase as he ages. You see, my son doesn't get to leave home at 18 and run off to college or trade school. He doesn't get to live a life that is solely dictated by him. He will forever need someone to be with him to navigate this world he was born into. He will forever need that Regional Center that we were introduced to when he was 8 months old. Cuts to these programs will affect him and ultimately, our whole family. His needs are high and he relies on this for his health and well being. I urge you to not cut Medicaid, not cut medi-cal. These programs are so needed by those that truly need them, those who rely on them for their most basic needs.

Date: 2017-09-23 12:14:57
To: My Senator
From: Linda Farber
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



I will be turning 65 in January and going on Medicare. I have a 22 year old daughter who is autistic . I can no longer afford to pay for her medical insurance but also Medicare does not allow dependants coverage. She will need Medi-Cal in her future, especially when I am no longer alive.

She tries to get jobs but to no avail due to her inability to communicate and organize in the way that the rest of us do on a daily basis. She walks dogs for pocket money.

In other words, her ability to get a job that would help with medical costs in the future are not in her future.

What will we as a society do in the future with these Autistic individuals?

Date: 2017-09-23 19:16:30

To: My Senator

From: Miriam Erberich

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



My son is 14 years old. He was born with a brain malformation. He has epilepsy, developmental delays, and autism.

We are lucky enough to have insurance through my husband's work, but we need Medical-Cal on numerous occasions. We would be hit hard with medication and doctor visit copays. We might have to use Medical-Cal for my son's behavioral services once Regional Center does not pay anymore. What happens if (God forbid) my husband loses his job, or my son is no longer eligible under the employer insurance?

Date: 2017-09-22 18:29:13
To: My Senator
From: cecelia andrade
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



My Son Daniel is 5 1/2 yrs old and has Down Syndrome and a Heart Condition.. He currently goes to a general ed elementary school. If it wasn't for the services that I receive through ELARC such as Respite Care and Personal Hygiene/Potty Training, he wouldn't be progressing nicely in his general ed Kindergarten classroom. Daniel also recwives Speech and OT services through PIH hospital and they bill Medi-Cal for these much needed services. If he were to receive a cut and/or lose all of these services he would definitely regress and more than likely have to attend a Special Day Class/ Mod-Severe classroom which would be to his detriment.

Please, I beg of you, Do Not Pass the upcoming bill that would cut 10's of Millions of dollars in Funding to Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Andrade

Mommy of Daniel Villegas

Date: 2017-09-23 01:59:35

To: My Senator

From: Gloria Perez

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I'm a parent with a son who has autism. We rely on medical to help with his therapy, cutting medical will effect the services he needs to help him improve to function in life.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:02:05

To: My Senator

From: Dawn Hamilton

State: California

Email: [REDACTED]



I am mom to an adorable little girl named Emerson. Like many six-year-old girls, she loves to read, ride her bike, swim, go to school, and ride horses. Unlike most other six-year-olds, Emerson has cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and chronic lung disease after having a complicated birth. She can't walk, talk, sit, or stand without assistance and needs multiple medications daily to keep her breathing, her muscles calm, and keep seizures away. Emerson is in first grade this year, and thanks to the Affordable Care Act and Medi-Cal, she is learning at grade level and continuing to achieve every day. Please protect Emerson's health care and fight for children like her.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:25:43
To: My Senator
From: Elsa Detweiler
State: California
Email: [REDACTED]



We are a family of 4: My husband, my 17 year-old daughter and my 89-year-old mother, who lives with us and me. Medi-Cal helps to pay for my mother's adult day care so that we can go to work and my daughter can go to school. It also helps supplement her care when she is not in day care, as we have to have one person with her at all times due to her health and her Alzheimer's disease. Medi-Cal also pays for her Medicare, which in turn, pays for all of her health care. We would not be able to afford a day care, a private person to stay with my mother or any health insurance for her to care for her health needs if we lost her Medi-Cal. My mother is completely dependent on Medi-Cal for all these things. She doesn't receive any Social Security because she never had a job and she doesn't qualify for any other benefit other than Medi-Cal. If she didn't have me, she would not have any place to live, either.

Medi-Cal is very important in our lives and that of our community. If she couldn't go to day care, one of us would have to stay home caring for my mother. That would mean either that my daughter could not go to school; or that we would lose mine or my husband's income, which in turn, would hurt the economy in our community; we would no be able to continue to afford our mortgage and we would ultimately lose our home.

Losing Medi-Cal would be devastating to our family, our community and, ultimately, our nation. Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you so much for your time and attention to this note.

God bless you,

Elsa

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:20 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Kecia Weller
[REDACTED]

How has Medi-Cal benefited me in my life?

I don't have to pay for my extremely expensive medications because of Medi-Cal

I get free of cost dental cleanings every 6 months because of Dental-Cal

I have the great opportunity to live independently in my own apartment because I get support services from Westside Regional Center

Independent Living Skills Agency
Specialized Support Team

I also receive IHSS through Med-Cal too

Job Coaching Services

Nutritional Counseling

Psychological Services

Also, because I am Medi/Medi, I don't have to pay anything for medical visits via doctor's office or the ER; etc.

Kecia Weller, Los Angeles County



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

Director, Rights Policy, The Arc

1825 K Street NW, Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20006

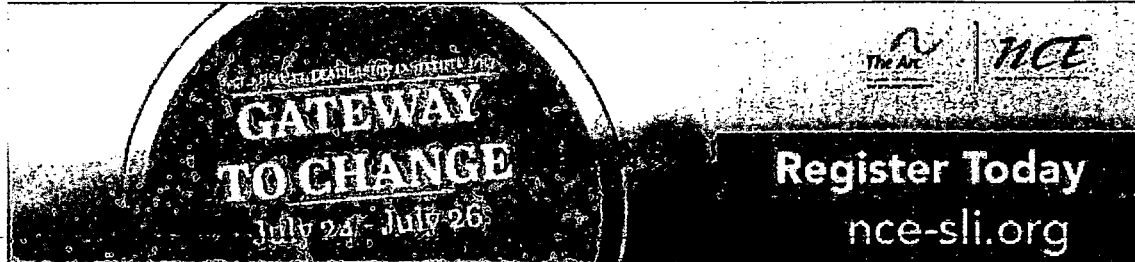
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Nicole Jorwic

From: Jennifer Brooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:52 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Dear Senators:

I am one of the many millions who stand to lose health care coverage if Medicaid is taken away. In 2009, in the worst of the depths of the Great Recession, I was laid off from my job working for local government. Following the loss of my job I fell into a deep depression. Thanks to Medicaid I receive a prescription antidepressant that costs more than \$200/month for free, a cost I could never afford to pay out of pocket. Without the medication I could never have been able to return to school and work toward becoming once again a productive, taxpaying member of society, which is all I want to be. I recently graduated with my Master's Degree in Statistics, which I could not have achieved without Medicaid for the simple reason that I could not have afforded the costs of school tuition and fees, health care and the costs of daily living simultaneously.

If the ACA were repealed, insurance companies will once again be able to deny people coverage or charge unaffordable rates for people with pre-existing conditions. Because I now have a pre-existing condition I will be one of the people denied coverage or charged unaffordable rates. So am I irresponsible? Should I have been more responsible for keeping my job when the economy collapsed? Should I have been more responsible by choosing to pay for health insurance instead of the Master's Degree that will lead me to a higher-paying job in a more stable career field which will in turn lead me to be the responsible, taxpaying citizen you want me to be?

If people with pre-existing conditions who can't get health insurance are irresponsible, is Jimmy Kimmel's baby irresponsible? This baby was born with a life-threatening heart condition and will have a pre-existing condition for the rest of his life. Would you tell this baby that he should have made a more responsible choice than to be born with a pre-existing condition? How can it be pro-life to deny this baby the medical treatment he needs when his life has barely begun?

In the wealthiest nation on earth, the fact that we are *still* unwilling to treat health care as a right available to all regardless of color, income or creed is a disgrace. That child lives, like that of Jimmy Kimmel's baby, are considered political fodder rather than a sacred responsibility by every adult is unjust and shameful and in no way pro-life.

You, the ever powerful United States Senate, will soon have a choice to make when Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell brings the deeply harmful, flawed, unpopular and misnamed Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) — it should be called the Worse Care Reconciliation Act — to the Senate floor for a vote. This draconian bill will unravel decades of progress fighting for more health equity and justice for all. I hope every voter will stand up for children, the disabled, the elderly, the mentally ill and the most vulnerable among us and make sure those who vote against them are held accountable.

At a time when 95 percent of children in America have health coverage after years of laboriously achieved incremental progress with bipartisan leadership and the percentage of uninsured Americans is at a record low, will you vote for renewed pain and suffering or forward progress? Will you vote to

end Medicaid as we know it — a lifeline for more than 37 million children and more than 40 percent of children with special health care needs — to pay for a giant tax cut for wealthy Americans and corporations who don't need or deserve it? Will you vote to rip away health coverage from 22 million Americans and leave millions more paying a lot more for skimpier coverage? Will you vote to undermine coverage for essential services for children and other Americans including those with pre-existing conditions? Will you vote to strip important and popular protections, returning us to a day when discrimination based on age, gender, health status and ability to pay is permitted? Will you vote to deprive millions of Americans mental health and substance abuse treatment in the midst of a national opioid crisis?

You may be wooed with “fixes” being negotiated behind the scenes that tinker around the edges of the cruel, unjust Better Care Reconciliation Act, but make no mistake: it is irreparably flawed and no altering of growth rates and caps, taxes, or creating special “funds” or “risk pools” will fix it. It deserves a swift and decisive death in the Senate if we are to keep any semblance of an American sense of fairness and moral decency alive.

Would you vote to deprive your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of basic life supports? I suspect not. Denying children essential health care makes no moral or economic sense. Healthy children and adults make America stronger and safer. So at this critical moment in our nation's history, I hope you will stand up for children, the disabled, and the elderly left behind in multiple ways by the politics of greed and self-interest.

A great man and a great writer named Alexis de Tocqueville once wrote that he admired Americans for our belief in the principle of self-interest rightly understood, by which he meant that Americans understand it is in their own self-interest to work toward the common good. Let us truly make America great again, like it was in Tocqueville's time, by showing we still believe it is in our own self-interest work toward the common good. Please vote NO on the misnamed Better Care Reconciliation Act — a mean-spirited, draconian, un-American step backward that would leave preventable suffering among millions in its wake.

Jennifer Brooks
Los Altos, CA

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary Mammini [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

This is a devastating cut in services to so many disabled persons. Can't believe you could consider to vote for this bill. We live in California and have a daughter with Down Syndrome. Who works and is a contributing member of social. but needs Meds-CAI for health care. She is 50 years old.
Mary Mammini

Nicole Jorwic

From: Dan Straus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 7:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid matters in California

Senators Feinstein & Harris,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act. This Act would severely cut Medicaid funding, thereby leaving millions of poor and handicapped people without health insurance.

Our family has first hand experience with the enormous importance of MediCal to disabled people here in California. Our adult son has autism spectrum disorder and was in Special Education throughout K-12. When he turned

~~22 he was dropped from our health insurance and would have been uninsured for a number of years were it not for~~
MediCal. It is hard to imagine how he could have survived this.

Please fight back against the attack on Medicaid, a program that is of vital importance to disabled people!

Sincerely,
Dan Straus

Nicole Jorwic

From: Elizabeth Samulewicz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:24 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California- Better Care Reconciliation Act

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am imploring you not to vote yes on the Better Care Reconciliation Act. The cuts to Medicare are devastating and could possibly cost my daughter's life. My daughter was born with a congenital condition that causes severe epilepsy. She has endured not only epilepsy, but Valley Fever and meningitis. If it wasn't for Medicare, she would not be with us today. She wakes up each day with a smile on her face and is determined to make the best of an unknown day ahead. Will she have a seizure, will she go into status seizures? At the very least, she knows she has insurance that will help her get through the difficult times of her health issues. The name, Better Care, is a cruel joke because we all know it is not better care for those who truly need it, the most vulnerable in our society. Please vote against any changes to Medicare.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Samulewicz

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Nicole Jorwic

From: Darleen DeMason [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid/MediCal Matters to my Family - California

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris:

I have a 33-year-old intellectually disabled son. He is handicapped since birth and graduated from High School in Riverside, CA in 2002. For most of his adult life he has had part-time employment or no employment at all. After turning 22 we could no longer cover his medical treatments with our healthcare insurance. Steven had no healthcare insurance except for MediCal for about a decade. ~~He needs psychological care and medications and will need these for~~ his entire life. Recently he got a full-time job, the first in his life, which provides healthcare.

However, as a handicapped employee, when the economy sags, he will be the first to be laid off. Our biggest fear in life is that after we are gone, he will become destitute due to lack of healthcare and die homeless on the street.

Medicaid/MediCal is the safety net our society needs for these most vulnerable people. Please don't let our nightmare happen. Vote No on Trumpcare and do everything in your power to make sure it never becomes law.

Thank you,

Darleen DeMason

Nicole Jorwic

From: Karla Galvez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:11 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me Letter: California
Attachments: Chrissy.jpg

Dear Senators,

The Senate's latest ACA repeal proposal to cut Medicaid will take away health care services for poor children and children with disabilities.

For our family, that means that my son may not have access to the speech therapy and occupational therapy services he needs at school that we cannot get through our insurance even though we have supposedly really good insurance through my job that costs \$2,200 per month. It also means that children like mine would not have had access to the diagnostic and therapy services provided by the Regional Centers in California which were so important for our family when my son was an infant.

Before you vote on this repeal proposal, please look at the photo of my son I included and think about the impact that your vote will have on him. Thank you.

Karla Galvez
[REDACTED]

Walnut Creek, CA [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Joseph G [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

Wtf is going on with you guys. Stop screwing with peoples lives. Especially the disabled and then you're gonna give \$ to the rich?

Nicole Jorwic

From: Teresa Fazio [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:58 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matter to our family

To Whom It May Concern:

Medicaid has been a life saver for my Mom literally saving her life. She would not be here today if she did not have it.

Please do not take this valuable insurance away from the people who need it. We love our family and so many families depend on this to stay healthy and it makes the world a safer place to live knowing people have a place to go when they are sick and not spreading it around.

Teresa Fazio
Program Coordinator, Aurelia Foundation - Creative Steps
Adult Community Integration Program
Malibu Special Education Foundation
Board Member
[REDACTED]

"Be kinder than necessary. Everyone you meet is facing some kind of challenge. Live simply, love generously, speak kindly, care deeply."

L.S.

Nicole Jorwic

From: carolyn wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: why Medicaid matters to me and my family

I have a 59 year old daughter who is mentally handicapped. Without Medicaid she would have no medical coverage! It is not that she is lazy, but just unable to generate enough income to care for herself. Caring for her is not like sending a child to college for 4 or 5 years- it is a lifetime of providing care for her to the best of my ability. Presently she resides in a group home and works at a sheltered workshop. This is an ideal situation for her because she interacts with people all day and works contracted jobs that are within her abilities. Isn't this much better than the old solution of putting her in a back room or in front of the TV all day? I appreciate the services provided to her and feel like I have paid a life time of taxes and Social Security to not only help her but others in her situation as well.

I am now 80 years old and worry tremendously about what you will do to the Medicaid program. Please do not make her suffer by withholding the benefits presently afforded her by Medicaid. I, my husband, my other daughter and my son are all contributing members of society. A society which in the past has tried to take care of those not able to care for themselves.

What has happened? And by the way, what sort of health care do you have and who pays for it?

Carolyn Wallace
California

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kitty Sutcliffe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

We need Medicaid reform!

I'm from California with a disabled son. Medicaid & Medial fraud is ramped.

Kathryn Sutcliffe

Nicole Jorwic

From: John Lacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

To the Senate of the United States!

Please restore the devastating cuts to the Medicaid programs. It is there to provide safety for those in need.

John Lacey

[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Bruce Schaefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:24 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California Medi-Cal support

Gentlemen:

Through no fault of mine or of my wife, our daughter was born mentally delayed with cerebral palsy which has severely affected her speech and mental acuity. Currently, she is 39 years old and lives in a Supported Living home with 3 other similar women and the home is staffed 24/7. We pay for her typical living expenses – food, rent, clothing, etc. At present, her medical needs are relatively small but, as she gets older, they will surely increase. Her medical coverage is provided from Medicare and Medicaid/Medi-Cal.

It is critical that Medicaid/Medi-Cal be funded at its current level or higher for handicapped people such as our daughter. At our age – retired and in mid-70's – it is impossible for us to provide expensive medical care for our daughter if it becomes necessary.

Therefore, Medicaid/Medi-Cal must having full funding renewed. Please approve Medicaid/Medi-Cal funding for these handicapped people who cannot pay for it themselves.

Thank you.

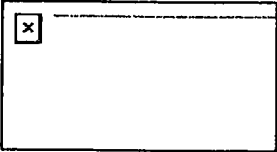
Bruce Schaefer
[REDACTED]
Saratoga, CA [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Gary Malfatti [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California - Medicaid Matters to Me

Hello,

If the people who support BCRA had to live with the same disabilities for even one day that medicaid recipients live with, ~~there would be ZERO support for BCRA. People with disabilities and many others rely heavily on Medicaid, not just to~~ treat their ailments or afflictions, but to maintain their dignity. The support and care that Medicaid affords allows people with disabilities to live a simple and person centered life where they can enjoy the things others may take for granted, such as maintaining a sense of independence and self reliance that keeps their morale heightened and keeps them working toward being an essential part of our society, excising liberty and freedom. They want to be a part of our great country and not a burden and Medicaid allows them to do that, everyday.



Gary Malfatti
Assistant Manager SLP

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jennifer Dier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

My special needs son is difficult for medical professionals to care for, at times, but he is a precious soul, a vulnerable young man who will never be able to care for himself. He doesn't deserve to suffer unnecessarily from a lack of good medical care.

Jennifer Dier

Jennifer Dier
Jennings Realty
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Marian Cruz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Single Payer/Medicare For All

I have family members that depend on Medical and many older folks that are in Assisted Living.

What we must have is Single Payer/Medicare For All. Big Pharma and insurance companies are only interested in profits.

~~Thank you for your attention to this very important issue,~~

Marian Cruz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Walnut Creek, CA [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: B foraker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California - Medicaid Matters
Attachments: IMG_1226.JPG

Hello!

Greetings from California, where we have the visionary Regional Center system that supports all of the citizens of our state with intellectual disabilities from birth to old age. 51% of the Regional Center system is funded with Medicaid. 49% ~~has perpetual funding from the state of California...it will be untouched in any budget process thanks to forward~~ thinking legislators decades ago.

My husband and I have four children: Jack, 24, Mary Kate, 22, Patrick, 18 and Caroline, 11.

I am writing to you about Patrick. Patrick has Down Syndrome. He also had the heart defect that so many people with Down Syndrome are born with called the AV Canal Defect. It was repaired with open heart surgery when Patrick was just 9 weeks old at UC San Francisco. Right before Patrick turned three he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia - which made for a difficult three plus years of chemotherapy, non-stop medical intervention and difficult medical reactions to procedures and medicines. In August of 2005, Patrick finished all treatment for leukemia and began kindergarten.

Gratefully, Patrick has been in good health since 2005, and he is set to graduate with a California high school diploma from Da Vinci High School in Davis, CA in 2018. He is healthy, strong and has all sorts of big dreams.

Patrick has been fully included in all of his schooling = **Medicaid**

Patrick received Early Intervention Support at birth = **Medicaid + Regional Center**

Patrick has a job with the City fo Davis as a Snack Bar Attendent

Patrick will live independently - at least that's his plan = **Medicaid + Regional Center**

Patrick is attending the National Down Sydnrome Congress Convention this weekend as a self-advocate = **Regional Center**

We need your help!

We need you to vote against the current Senate healthcare bill...but we also need you to vote against the current budget proposed that slashes Medicaid funding by almost a trillion dollars as well.

This effort is not just an assault on people with disabilities healthcare option...this is a direct assault on people with disabilities LIFE.

Their freedom and independence is at stake.

Please stand with us against this administration's attack on people with disabilities and the supports they need in order to live an independent and vibrant life.

Thank you for your time! ~Beth Foraker and family

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California - Medicaid

I have an adult daughter with intellectual disabilities who relies on Medicaid. Please do not make any cuts to the program. My daughter is a weaver, a Special Olympian, and a productive member of society. As a people we need to care for all our citizens; Medicaid helps us do that.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Shawn Christopherson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

I am the mother a of 25 year old son with Autism. He will never be capable of having a job that provides health insurance. Nor will he ever have the ability to find any kind of health care on his own. Medicaid is the only health insurance he has. Who will pay for his care from doctors, specialists, and hospitals, as well as prescriptions?

California, like all states, also receives Medicaid funding to help pay for the cost of long-term supports that people with developmental disabilities receive. As a Regional Center client, Medicaid will help pay for it when the time comes for my son. Medicaid currently pays approximately half the cost of many community services through Regional Centers.

Hundreds of thousands of Californians 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. I am terrified he will not be taken care of and wind up homeless or worse.

Shawn Christopherson
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO 🇺🇸
Department of Kinesiology • Yolo 243 • 330
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Melissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

I have a developmentally disabled teenager. The proposed extreme cuts to Medicaid would greatly impact him, the care he would or even could receive, and would affect his quality-of-life. I urge you not to vote to pass anything that would be so devastating to our often already marginalized citizens. Please do not support anything that would cut Medicaid.

Thank you,
Melissa Cortes

Nicole Jorwic

From: Bobbie Hedges [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:51 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: CA Medicaid matters to me

Dear Nicole..... Please help us prevent continuation of cuts to Medicaid for the disabled in CA & the nation. This is a very important issue that is being neglected by our congress. These families rely on this support & so do we at The Arc-South Bay, CA.

Thank you,
Roberta Hedges, Manhattan Beach, CA

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nancy LaBelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: CALIFORNIA

.We must save Medicaid!

My mom was a stay at home mom all her life and became a single mom when I was 13 after 26 years of marriage. When my father left...he left us with nothing. So as a result of this very common break up of family when a mom doesn't have a career or skills to get a great job etcas a senior citizen my mom lived in subsidized housing had very little to live on each month with only social security, Medicaid/Medical and her families help.

I witnessed the true benefits of Medicaid for my Mother who would not have been fully covered for her bypass surgery, her leg amputation, rehabilitation, nursing home facilities, medication and her treatment for cancer which ultimately took her life. She would not have had in home support services to have help with bathing and groceries or be able to afford a wheel chair, walker, shower bench and other necessary accommodations. All of this would have fell on her family who would have been devastated financially.

The Rretroactive Medicaid eligibility is a critical feature for millions of families---particularly those who are facing long nursing home stays, which cost \$10-12k PER MONTH. This eligibility can prevent families from going bankrupt from nursing home fees (and in most cases, there is no other option). Medicaid pays for 2/3 of nursing home payments in this country. We are facing an unprecedented number of aging seniors who will need nursing home care. I don't know many besides the wealthy who can afford to pay for this care.

I have worked for 9 years now as the Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area where I see first hand every day what Medicaid means. I fully understand the devastation the cuts and caps will have. Access to early Intervention, many therapies, In home services, Independent living supports and much more. Medicaid allows people with disabilities to live a full productive life. To be part of society and contribute. It allows children to be included in school with typical peers because they get the supports they need to do so.

No one wants to be on Medicaid. 5.6 million people with disabilities depend on it! It is inhumane to take this away.

The so called "carve outs" says it will protect 1.2 million children is a blatant lie. Many carved out will NOT have access to Medicaid because they will be relying on "underfunded" state Medicaid programs who will not have the ability to serve everyone. That is just unacceptable.

The state of this country has literally thrown many into a deep depression. I can't even begin to talk about the Mental Health impact of losing Medicaid.

Those in our government voting for this healthcare reform should be ashamed of themselves and if it passes should be charged with neglect and murder because that is exactly what this bill will do to the people of the US that are not the wealthy.

Nancy LaBelle
[REDACTED]

Danville, CA [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Melissa Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Melissa Fields; Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Re: Melissa Fields From Santa Maria California

I want to add that i have never been able to work, and most of my family have abandoned me because of my Autism.

On Sun, Jul 16, 2017 at 5:44 AM, Melissa Fields [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi, i am Melissa, a 57 year old Autistic person who is also housebound due to chronic lymphedema on both legs and a huge lymphedema tumor that is the size of a basketball on my left inner thigh. I also have back, hip, and knee pain which makes it hard for me to walk or stand or bend down or dress and bathe myself.

I had to stop driving due to this, and have needed personal in home care since 2012. It is a vital need that i can continue to get that care to be able to shower, bathe, get my meals cooked, my house cleaned, and my errands and shopping done. I can only get this care through Medicaid.

If i lose Medicaid, i will lose the in home care i need to be able to enjoy the human right to live in my own home and my own community. If i lose my Medicaid, i will be forced into a nursing home where i could face the frightening reality of losing my freedom, and being abused.

I am frightened of this healthcare bill. Please don't take my Medicaid and freedom to live in my own home, in my own community, away from me.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Melissa Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:44 AM
To: Melissa Fields; Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Melissa Fields From Santa Maria California

Hi, i am Melissa, a 57 year old Autistic person who is also housebound due to chronic lymphedema on both legs and a huge lymphedema tumor that is the size of a basketball on my left inner thigh. I also have back, hip, and knee pain which makes it hard for me to walk or stand or bend down or dress and bathe myself.

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I am frightened of this healthcare bill. Please don't take my Medicaid and freedom to live in my own home, in my own community, away from me.

Nicole Jorwic

From: William Abramson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:08 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

As a person with a developmental disability I need Medicaid to cover for my extra medical expenses because I have to see a psychiatrist for my depression and anxiety.

Nicole Jorwic

From: MICHAEL BAILEY [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 11:00 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Why Medicaid is important to me in California

I have disabilities and Medicaid is critical to me as I need a lot of medical care. The Medicaid Extension in the ACA also covers much of the costs for the programs and services I need to live as independently as possible in the community. Medicaid helps greatly in funding my regional center--Regional Center of Orange County. It covers a lot of the costs of my independent living program that is critically important to me in helping with banking, housing, meal preparation, grocery shopping, and getting to and from medical appointments and setting up the appointments. Before I retired, Medicaid helped fund my supportive employment program I was with--Vocational Visions--which helped greatly with job coaching and supports so I could be the best I could on my job I had at the Mission Viejo Library as a Library Page. Now, I am retired on the advice of both my physical therapist and my doctor and Medicaid covers my rehabilitation day program--South County Adult Day Health Services. As I am in my 60s, I have more things that come up with my health that need attention. So, Medicaid is of critical importance to me and my well being. Please vote NO on ACA repeal. Thank you.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Sam Moglen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 7:56 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about my strong dislike for the most recent version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act. I work with developmentally disabled individuals who usually depend on Medicaid. Many of these folks have complex medical conditions. I have seen my client's struggle to pay for their important medical needs under Medicaid, as it exists now. I can't imagine what the new "revised" Medicaid would do to a medical coverage system that already has so many challenges. Many of the clients I see I see are unable to work and can't rely on friends or family to cover their medical expenses. Medicaid is there only source of protection from showing up to the emergency rooms with life threatening conditions; a situation that would only cost taxpayers more money in the long-term.

I beg of you please protect Medicaid as it is and DO NOT let the Better Care Reconciliation Act pass!

Sam Moglen

--
Sam Moglen
Critical Intervention Specialist, CBEM Napa Office
CBEM LLC

[REDACTED]
Napa, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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Nicole Jorwic

From: Joan Goodreau [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 7:16 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Keep Medical intact

My son has autism and his life depends on Medical. Please keep Medical intact. Everyone is entitled to adequate medical care.

Thank you, Joan Goodreau
California

Nicole Jorwic

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:19 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Dear Ms. Jorwic

I am emailing you to tell you how important Medicaid is for my family and daughter. My daughter's name is Kaliyah. She is 13 years old. She is diagnosed with Autism and Intellectual Disability. She is low functioning (she is unable to complete activities of daily living for herself). She solely depends on me and others to ensure that her needs are being met. ~~Medicaid currently pays for my daughter's depends, her wheelchair, her medical care, her ABA Therapy, and all of her in~~ home support services. Please help assist my daughter and family in any way that you can to have continued Medicaid coverage without any caps or cuts to the program so that my daughter can remain healthy and continue to received medical services that she depends on to survive, flourish, and to have as normal as a life as possible. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lydia Wells

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jesus Franco [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:15 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Del Aire, California - Medicaid

Hello Nicole,

I am a social worker and I have a caseload of 90 families with kids with special needs. 95% of them depend on Medi-Cal/Medicaid. I am against any cuts to this federal program. It will impact negatively my clients and their families.

~~This new government keeps spending out tax money on wars all over the world and they want to cut the most innocent people in our county. So unfair. So I don't support the "Better Care Reconciliation Act"; I do not agree with Medicaid being cut parts of it. Leave it as it is.~~

And please...Do not allow states to opt out of requiring health plans to cover basic health care and keep it affordable for people with pre-existing conditions, **including people with disabilities.**

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jesús Franco

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Nicole Jorwic

From: Timothy Cabral [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:05 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

To whom it may concern,

I don't want my benefits cut because that would take my independence such as my medical coverage. I want to keep my coverage. I live on my own in my own apartment so I don't want to take that away from me.

As for my medical coverage I need this because of my dental, vision, and medical appointments too. So that is why I am asking you to say NO! to the health care reform act 1628.

And by the way I am mentally disabled too!

Sincerely,
Tim Cabral
Stockton, CA [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Ryan Duncanwood [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:00 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Hi my name is Ryan Duncanwood, from Redding California. I'm on the national SABE Board, and the ARC of California board.

I have a few things I would like to talk to you about that is very near and dear to my heart. If we make any cuts to Medicaid or SSI it will dramatically lower my quality of life. As you can see I use a speaking device to speak and a wheelchair to get around. With the proposed Medicaid Block Grant or Caps that will cap what a state can spend on a person. If we cap what Medicaid can spend on a person how will people with intellectual and developmental disabilities be able to get the equipment that we need to live a normal life?

The federal and state Medicaid program is the major and sometimes the *only* source of funding for long term supports and services that many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on to live in the community. This effective and cost efficient program allows people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and work among their neighbors.

Most people with intellectual and developmental disabilities already don't have enough money to live on our own and we have to live with one or two roommates. Now there is an proposal to cut people's SSI when more than one person with SSI live together. We are already barely getting by.

Here is what needs to happen.

Congress should reject any cuts to Social Security or SSI, including any proposals to cut benefits or limit who can qualify.

Congress should request a beneficiary impact statement on any proposal to change Social Security or SSI, to look beyond budgetary issues to the impact on people's daily lives.

Congress should address the many areas in which improvements are needed in the SSI and Social Security disability programs.

Congress must understand that Medicaid is a necessity to people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families!

Congress should protect the individual entitlement to Medicaid.

Congress should reject reductions or caps to the Medicaid program, and reject any effort to block grant Medicaid.

Congress should address the nation's need for an affordable, accessible system of health care and long term supports and services.

Congress should not repeal the Affordable Care Act without simultaneously replacing it with a law that maintains or improves the coverage, including the long term services and supports change, in the ACA.

Members of Congress should act to remove the institutional bias of federal programs, eliminate waiting lists for long term supports and services, and to strengthen the right to community living for individuals with disabilities.

--
--
Ryan Duncanwood

[REDACTED]
Redding, CA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Rebecca Wilkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:42 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Dear Mrs. Harris,

I am writing to you on behalf of my son who is Autistic, I am asking that you please stand behind and support the families providing care for their disabled family members. We rely on med-I-cal and medical to provide much needed support and health services. I had to stop working when my child was diagnosed, and is my only form of income. I would never place my child into a group home nor institutionalize My child, which cost the government more to care for my child. ~~Why would the government take from people who cannot even afford for out of pocket expenses. I myself still~~ beside what our family is given from Medical have medical expenses over 70,000 a year for medical treatments our insurance doesn't cover or recognize as treatment, my son suffers from not just Autism, but other medical conditions. So please stand behind the people who are devoted to the care of their disabled family members and the others that do not have anyone to care for them that rely on medical and Medicaid to provide the medical attention and subsidies they require to live.

Regards,
Rebecca Wilkins
La verne, ca
Your constituent

Sent from my iPhone
iTypos inevitable

Nicole Jorwic

From: Luz Velarde [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:20 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: California

Luz Velarde

SE/ESA/Day Prog

Case Manager

[REDACTED]

El Centro, CA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]