
FLORIDA

Date: 2017-09-21 18:43:25

To: My Senator

From: Kristie Chiaravalle

State: Florida

Email: [REDACTED]



I need Medicaid. I am 36 years old and have cerebral palsy and am mentally handicapped since my birth. I receive Med-Waiver Services which enables me to do a little socialization and to go to the stores to make purchases with my provider's help. Medicaid allows me to be able to see a dentist and doctors when I need them. I only work 2 hours a day on my job and therefore do not make a lot of money to afford health or dental insurance on my own. It is difficult for people like me to get good paying jobs. Without Medicaid and my Med-Waiver Services, I could not survive. My parents are retired and on Social Security, they can't afford my medical bills and theirs too. Please don't cut Medicaid for the handicapped, we are not capable of taking care of ourselves. We need Medicaid's help. Please do not pass this health bill and cut my Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:34:35
To: My Senator
From: Barbara Thomas
State: Florida
Email: [REDACTED]



I am the President and Administrator of a Medicaid Waiver support coordination agency.

Our agency serves over 250 developmentally delayed clients eligible for Medicaid funding.

The supports and services our clients receive through Medicaid dollars have assisted our clients with gaining independence, self worth, employment, mobility, improved health, safety awareness, lasting relationships, education, daily living skills, social skills and a much improved quality of life.

Without continued Medicaid funding, our clients will be at risk of institutionalization, the progress they

have made with the assistance they have received throughout the years will be at risk of greatly diminishing as will their quality of life, their health and their safety needs.

Date: 2017-09-23 04:26:55

To: My Senator

From: Janice Harvey

State: Florida

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is a 32 years old who has Down Syndrome. She has worked for Publix Supermarkets for 16 years and this year has moved into her very own apartment. She is loving being able to walk to her job which is right next door to where she lives and her self esteem has truly blossomed!! We of course want all of our children normal or ones with disabilities to be independent. But of course our children with disabilities have so many more challenges than our normal children. This is why Medicaid is so important for them to have services such as my daughter the in home supports that come in to help and teach skills like cooking and cleaning. We her parents also participate in these functions but they don't want us as much because they want to be independent! Please keep medicad for our children so they can have what we have and that is freedom and happiness. When we her parents pass away give us the peace of knowing our children are taken care of. Isn't the peace of mind something you want for your own children? I pray you will vote no to the bill and have compassion for our children . Thank you for your time in reading a Mothers heart.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Pam Yarbrough [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:34 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: State of Florida regarding Medicaid cuts

Please vote "NO" on any cuts to the Medicaid program. Any cuts would have devastating effects on our most venerable population those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. My 38 year old son is able to live an independent life with the services he has been receiving from the Medicaid program. Please do the right thing and don't devastate my son's life. Our country is the greatest in the world and we have to take care of those who can not take care of themselves.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Pam Yarbrough

Nicole Jorwic

From: Carol Graham [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic; mjohnson@arcalachua.org
Subject: Repeal of ACA. Florida

On behalf of our son and his peers, we ask that you give the drastic cuts in Medicaid a good hard look. Our son is Autistic with low verbalization. He currently resides in a group home in Gainesville Florida. At the age of 43, he has made giant steps in behavior and socialization thanks to the program's implemented through the ARC of Alachua County.

As a teenager and young adult, his behavior was quite aggressive. It made it difficult for him and us and thanks to the Medicaid Waiver program he was able to move into a group home. Due to his aggressive outbursts, at one point he was Baker Acted and was moved to three different group homes. Finally coming to the ARC of Alachua County. There we found professionals who helped him.

Without the Medicaid programs that benefit him and his peers, their futures would be uncertain. These individuals ask little...they just want to live a life as full as possible. They cannot speak for themselves so we MUST.

Please give careful consideration to this bill. It will have a huge impact on so many. Schedule a visit to the ARC facility to see first hand the wonderful work they do.

Robert and Carol Graham
[REDACTED]

Ocala, Fl. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Carole Emerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 5:32 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Florida

Senator Rubio,

Can we introduce you to our brother Glenn? He was born in 1963. Glenn was born hydrocephalic. In short, our brain is about 75% water; Glenn had 300% at birth. At one point, the doctors said he wouldn't live to the age of 8. But we have seen to his care, education, work programs, doctors, physical limitations, medications, etc., with all the love a family can hold for each other. He has blessed us with his sense of humor, his love of food and family; his work, Legos, and his shining spirit. We were picked for Glenn. In his 20's, Glenn graduated from the Paul B. Stephens Exceptional Center in Clearwater, Florida and began a work program at ARC of Tampa Bay. He was there for more than 30 years; producing and performing piecework with other mentally challenged persons and earning a small stipend. Within the last few years, our elderly mom and Glenn needed assistance, so we moved them to our home in Jacksonville. Glenn "retired" from ARC of Tampa Bay and moved into our home. Remember, he worked for over 30 years there; a very substantial change in any person's life. Then, in October 2015, Glenn began his "2nd career" at the ARC of Jacksonville. He's adjusted well and loves his new "position" at the ARC. Who does that? A 30-year employee, retirement and job change! But, he's made new strides and new friends; participates in work and work-related activities, as well as family life, our church and continues to live up to his moniker of The Lego King! Our concerns are the potential cuts to the Medicaid Waiver Program. As we provide most of Glenn's needs, transportation; lodging, food, nurturing, stability and other forms of care, he still relies on the Medicaid Waiver program for some essential services. Cuts to this program will have devastating effects not only on Glenn, but also on programs at ARC of Jacksonville and others like it all over our state that provide essential services, medications, transportation, opportunities to participate in the community and a good quality of life.

Perhaps you'd like to meet Glenn? See his Lego collection? Visit ARC of Jacksonville? Come see the good these people are doing to help those with developmental disabilities and challenges, so they may live their best life. The programs offered by facilities such as ARC and the services they provide to those with developmental disabilities are essential. Glenn is one of the lucky ones, as he has family to provide and care for him to meet most of his needs. Many of his "co-workers" do not. Many have aging parents. Many live in group homes or with family members who have few options for assistance with fundamental care and attention to their loved ones. They rely on the essential services of the Medicare Waiver program only to meet basic needs.

Please consider your vote! We will pray for you and your family as you manage a challenging job and pray for those who have challenges that we could never imagine.

Thank you for your time.

God Bless,

The Emerson, Gordon & Craig Family

Nicole Jorwic

From: Linda Deleon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fw: Medicare matters

--- On Mon, 7/17/17, Linda Deleon [REDACTED] wrote:

> From: Linda Deleon [REDACTED]
> Subject: Medicare matters
> To: "Nicole Jorwic" <jorwic@thearc.org>
> Date: Monday, July 17, 2017, 6:12 PM
> Hello
> I am a mother of a Special Needs
> Child. He is 18 years old now, but his abilities do not function at
> this level.
> I am a mother with health problems, so I needs to know he will have
> services available to help him when needed. Do not take mess with
> Medicare in any way. You hurt everyone when you do. Every person
> needs to be a part of society however they can. Sometimes that is
> with help.
From the state of Florida.
> Linda Deleon
>

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lynn Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: FLORIDA

Please, I write on the behalf of my son who is developmentally disabled. We educated him to be able with the help of medicaid to live on his own in a secure development. Without Medicaid to help him live a safe and clean life, we would not be able to feel like a independent young man working at Publix and giving himself all the wonderful feelings everyone should have.

Please know how important this is.

Thank you for your time.

Lynn Hart

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary K Van Kleunen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fla Medicaid

Had it not been for the Medicaid HCBS Waiver, we would have had to declare bankruptcy after trying to pay for our disabled son's nursing care, trach/vent supplies, and therapies (these things alone cost more than my husband's annual income, and I had to step down to part-time in order to care for our son). Our son would have had to spend a lot more time in the hospital, with the hospital eating that cost. We also have another son to care for. Now, there is a ~25,000 person waiting list for the waiver services in Fla AND YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE???

Mary Kathryn Van Kleunen
Healthcare Performance Consulting



Nicole Jorwic

From: Travis Coulliette [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:22 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: NO to the Better Care Reconciliation Act/Florida

I work for a nonprofit that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live and work in their community. These cuts to Medicaid will have a detrimental effect on the people I work for and with, as well as millions of Americans that have paid into this system. I understand no one will read this message, but hopefully it will be one of many that will fill the mailboxes of the US Senate opposing the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017! Affordable health care to all is a right not a privilege, and if this plan gets the required votes millions of Americans with disabilities that rely on Medicaid will suffer!

Travis Coulliette
Supported Employment Manager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



The Arc

of Alachua County

1966-2016

*Celebrating 50 years of Exemplary Service
to Gainesville & Alachua County*

Nicole Jorwic

From: Sharon Rauschl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Save Medicaid FLORIDA

What medicaid means to me:

I am not a lazy, ignorant, "welfare queen". I am a hard-working, educated, ~~low-income, single-parent with a disabled child.~~

My 17 year old son has Cerebral Palsy. Medicaid is his **ONLY** source of health insurance. It pays for **medically necessary care**.

He is not consuming more than he actually needs. In fact, many needs are unmet and we have turned to the church and community fund-raising for support.

Medicaid funding will help him become a contributing member of society in the future. Without it, he would be confined to a nursing home where he would simply be a drain on resources.

Sincerely,

Sharon Rauschl

Nicole Jorwic

From: Elaine Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:27 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

Dear Senators,

Please vote "No" on the Better Care Reconciliation Act. I am a 75 year old senior living in Broward County, South Florida and my son with Autism is 36 years old living in a group home. His budget is provided through the Medicaid Waiver. If cuts are put in place, this could be a great hardship for him and the provider impacting his daily care and his daily activity program. I can no longer take care of him at home as I need to go out and earn a living.

I hold a position on the Broward County Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities and am connected extensively with many community organizations serving the disabled. I serve on several boards and have built relationships during all the years of my son's life here in South Florida in Broward as well as Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. I can sway many votes throughout the community among my friends, family and colleagues.

I am urging you to consider the consequences for myself, my son and other families depending upon this support. Please do not take this financial assistance away.

Thank you for your consideration.

All the Best,

Elaine Turner, Residential Designer, ATP and Parent Advocate

[REDACTED]
Pembroke Pines, FL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Melody Figurski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Florida and the new health care bill

My husband and I are in our 70's, and we have a daughter who is both physically and mentally challenged and who is in the program at the Arc Tampa Bay. If this bill passes, it will close The Arc in a few short years because of lack of funding. Then our state will be forced to provide institutional care to those so affected at 3 times the cost. Where else will they go? Forty-seven percent of our consumers have no family at all, and others have elderly or ill parents. I am sure it will affect Arcs all over the country. Melody Figurski, Clearwater, FL

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Nicole Jorwic

From: Sharon Spreen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 7:25 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid is Essential!

People with intellectual disabilities here in Florida rely on Medicaid for health care. We must help those who are unable to help themselves. It is the American way! Shame on those congressmen who are trying to destroy Medicaid!
Thomas & Sharon Spreen, Parents of a disabled son.
Gainesville, FL

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Phil Slater [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:18 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: We in Florida are concerned about pending cuts in medicaid

We are parents of a developmentally disabled daughter who is attempting to live independently with support from Arc of Alachua County. We are concerned that the Senate bill related to health care will be disastrous for a large number of people in need of medicaid support for medical care. It is hard enough that Florida has not elected to extend medicaid benefits under the ACA. We strongly urge that our senators vote NO on the pending Senate health bill.

Roslyn and Phillip Slater [REDACTED] Gainesville, FL

Text sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

Nicole Jorwic

From: Diana Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:08 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Drastic cuts in Medicaid not good for Californians or Floridian

Dear Senators, I am a resident of both Wrightwood, California and Alachua, Florida. I have spent a lifetime educating children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Currently, the cuts that are proposed would cut fabulous programs that rely on Medicaid for support such as my program in Vocational Rehabilitation.

I am asking for you to give the intellectually disabled a chance at a better life, not cut it away. They have needs, wishes and dreams. Your very reason of being an elected official is to represent all of the citizens of America, even those who may have a severe disability in learning. Please give this area of the population a chance.

Those of us who have devoted our lives to their well being and their dreams are often their voice, their advocates. In essence, we vote. We will be prayerfully watching and hoping you make the wise decision to support ALL our citizens.

Thank you.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jan Broadwater [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:07 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Florida

My name is Karen Broadwater and I am the proud mother of a 21 year old Intellectually Disabled daughter named Emily. While Emily is biologically 21, she functions at the cognitive level of a 2-3 year old. She requires constant supervision, help with all activities including feeding and toileting and will continue to need this support for the rest of her life. As you are meeting to discuss the fate of Medicaid, please remember that these cuts will affect real people, real families and their overall quality of life. Simply because an individual is disabled, they are no less worthy of basic human rights with dignity as you are. We depend on Medicaid to assist us with personal care services as well as respite services. Having a special child creates difficulty in community participation in areas such as church or work. I am a Special Education teacher in Pinellas County and once Emily graduates from her program this year, I am unsure as to how I will continue to work due to the already limited adult day program hours. More cuts would create a catastrophic change to my family's quality of life. If I am unable to work, we will have to go without insurance and I will lose my retirement that will someday help take care of Emily once I am gone. Try trading places with me for just one day, I guarantee you will see the importance of the Medicaid program for all families.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kandace Penner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 5:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Our daughter Brandy

My husband and I are extremely anxious about the possible passage of the Senate version of Trumpcare.

Here is our story: We took Brandy into our home in 1986 when she had just turned 6 years old. She was born in her parents' car on a bridge in Jacksonville, Florida. She was very ill and fragile for several years and her parents were unable to care for her. We have been her "parents" ever since and she is now 37 years old. Brandy has no contact with her birth family in many years. Brandy has I/DD and cerebral palsy. She is functioning in the severe range, walking with Lofstrand crutches, she has speech and language problems, visual perception challenges and needs constant supervision. Brandy lived with us until she was 27 after which time she has lived in an Arc of Alachua County group home for the past 10 years.

Brandy receives Medicaid health insurance and receives Medicaid Waiver services which provide Residential Habilitation at her group home and other services providing community-based meaningful day activities for her. Without her Medicaid Waiver services, she simply would not have anywhere to live and nothing to do. Although my husband and I were her foster parents and took care of her in our home for 20 years and are still the only parents/family she knows, we are in our 70's and can no longer care for her in our home— she needs Medicaid Waiver for a place to live, care around the clock and services to keep her connected to life in the community. In addition, she is covered by Medicaid for her health insurance. Over the years, Brandy has received very good care through Medicaid and we are grateful.

If this support is taken from Brandy, especially if my husband and I become deceased, Brandy will be in extreme danger in terms of health and safety, let alone quality of life. There are many people with I/DD who will be similarly affected if the current Republican healthcare plan is adopted.

Kandy Penner
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Florida/Article in The Mighty

My article published by The Mighty, please feel free to use...

[REDACTED]

Thank you!
Susan Brown

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:37 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Florida

Cuts to Medicaid...what does that mean to families like ours and maybe yours, why should you care?

Let me share a small bit about our journey. I grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta, graduated from the University of Georgia in 1980 with a degree in Special Education. Moved back to my home community and began my teaching career in the fall of 1980, working with 4th-6th graders who had mild intellectual developmental disabilities. Married my guy, Ed, in 1982, continued my profession as a special educator. In the fall of 1985 I moved to a middle school and taught students from ages 12-21 with moderate to profound intellectual developmental disabilities.

In November of 1986 I chose to stay home with our firstborn son, Matt, taking a break from teaching to be a stay at home mom. Here's where the twist happens in the story of our family...Matt is severely intellectually developmentally disabled. We didn't know this at his birth, but as development was supposed to occur, he was getting farther and farther behind. At that time, 1986, early intervention services were just beginning and not offered in all areas of America. Our pediatrician, at that time, was not very helpful, kept encouraging us to "give him some time". When Matt was about 9 months old, I answered an ad for a part-time special education teaching position, with our local early intervention office. At that time, I was not informed about early intervention and had no idea that the services that were offered at this office were what we also needed for Matt. Long story short, I began a 9 year career with that amazing team of nurses, social workers, developmental pediatricians, occupational/physical/speech/music therapists and the incredible families we worked with. Matt also received his therapies and needed services from this agency, too.

Fast forward in our lives, 2 more sons, Matt is the oldest at age 30, Neil is 26 living in NYC, Jeff is 22 pursuing a degree in secondary education. We now live in Florida, after moving from Atlanta to Denver, Ed works in the home building industry and I continue to be a stay at home mom caring for Matt. Ed and I just reached our 35th year of marriage this past spring. I left my teaching position about 20 years ago, as Matt's needs increased and it became more difficult to juggle work and care for our family. We are grateful we had this as an option many and most families don't have the option we did.

Our primary goal was to stay intact as a positive, growing, joyful family, caring for Matt in our family home for as long as we possibly can. We have never let Matt be the excuse for our sons or ourselves for not having full, productive, positive lives. He is the motivator for our family, he pushes us to learn, to love, to be compassionate and to laugh at life.

When Matt finished his public education time, at age 21, we were unsure what the next step would be for him. Families of children with special needs are not given a hand book, it takes much energy to research options and look for programs and resources. Many families are just struggling to keep life going on a day-to-day basis and don't have the energy or resources to find help.

The Medicaid Waiver is a "pot" of federal/state dollars that are specific for helping individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Individuals who need this waiver are not going to be able to be employed to provide for their life-long needs. Even that cute person, with Down Syndrome or some other type of Developmental Disability, who bags your groceries at the local grocery store, is probably receiving services via the Medicaid Waiver.

Do you know someone who has Down Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, or someone like our Matt? These are the people who need the Medicaid Waiver to keep them living in their family homes or living in community based homes

with the supports needed...we DO NOT want to go backwards and see the use of institutional care begin again for this most vulnerable population.

Every state gets to determine the process for application to the Medicaid Waiver and the delivery of that waiver if you are deemed eligible. Most states have lengthy waiting lists, the process is complicated and quite often people never receive funds/services.

In our state of Florida, there are over 20,000 people waiting to receive funding/services from the Medicaid Waiver. You cannot move from state to state, so if we decided to return to Georgia we would have to apply for Matt again and go on a waiting list. Agencies that provide services that are paid via the Medicaid Waiver, services such as adult day training, cannot bill at a reasonable rate. Because of the low billing rate, these agencies are not capable of keeping employees creating a high turnover of staff. Most employees could work at WalMart for better pay and benefits. The state of Florida has left the billing rate for agencies for day programs at a rate that was set in 2003 and has not increased the billing rate. Florida has made an effort to get older individuals off the waiting lists, but families now have difficulty finding agencies to serve their family member due to the low billing rate. Agencies cannot maintain payroll for employees if the billing rate is not commensurate with the services offered, so 1000's of agencies have gone out of business.

Our Matt is now 30, he is stubborn, funny, loves to boss his 58 year old mom around, he's a goofy guy. He also needs physical assistance for all his personal care needs, bathing, toileting, dressing, feeding...he functions at about the average of an 18-24 month old. That developmental age doesn't define him, it's just a part of who he is, his life has worth and he deserves to be cared for with love, compassion and dignity. We gladly continue to care for Matt in our home.

Matt continues to be on our private health insurance for his health needs, with Medicaid as his secondary health insurance provider. Matt receives a Medicaid Waiver to provide for his adult day program which operates from 8-2 Monday-Friday, he also has respite and consumables (diapers/pads/wipes) built into his budget. Since Matt lives at home, his budget is around \$20,000 annually to cover those costs, it is not cash we touch it is an electronic transaction with approved vendors/employees/agencies. If Matt lived in a local group home, like many of our friends in this people group, his annual budget needs would be upwards from \$65,000 and likely much higher.

Ed has a great job and we are grateful for his employer meeting our needs with his salary and benefits, but...if at age 78, when Matt is 50, we are no longer able to care for him at home, the cost for his annual care will be approximately \$100,000 annually...if Matt lives to be 80, we would need to have at least \$3 million set aside for him. Well, that won't happen. We know many families across the country with children with special needs, many whose children now live in community based living (group homes or semi-independent living), I know NONE who are able to provide that kind of monetary need for their adult child with special needs.

For too long the intellectually/developmentally disabled group has been pushed into dark corners, out of sight for the average American. Just 30 years ago the expose' on Willowbrook, in New York, exposed the abuse and atrocities that individuals with special needs had suffered with for years in institutional care. Willowbrook was just one example of awful institutional facilities across our country. We have made great strides in providing inclusive lives for all people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, let's not lose ground and see institutional care become the norm again.

Just this past week, I was reading about Senator Mitch McConnell's treatments for polio as a young child, at Warm Springs, Georgia. I found it interesting and sad that when Dr. Salk was testing for the vaccine for polio, he used individuals as test subjects that were in institutions for "the feeble-minded". We are the voices for these individuals with no voices, the intellectually/developmentally disabled continue to be the most segregated and prejudiced group in society, let's not give up on them now.

Susan Crowe Brown

Nicole Jorwic

From: David Lillesand [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me Letter

Dear Senator Rubio:

Like you, I am one of the fortunate parents who do not have a child with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), like Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Prader-Willi Syndrome and others.

Perhaps, unlike you, I work with parents of children with those conditions. Together we have worked privately to form local chapters of The Arc to support our kids and create opportunities to bring them out of institutions into home-like environments with Ronald Reagan's highly successful Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver programs. The result is that the average life expectancy of a child born with developmental disabilities has increased from 25 years to 63 years, with many of them learning the skills necessary to hold a part-time job with understanding and willing employers.

The Better Care Reconciliation Act, even as amended this week, poses a grave threat to developmentally disabled individuals, and to the financial well-being your home state, Florida. The CBO projected reductions in federal effort up to 35% will severely and adversely impact the State of Florida more than many other states because:

- Florida is the 9th poorest state in the United States;
- Florida has the least favorable chance of making up the loss of federal support because by state constitution, we prohibit a state income tax and we require a state balanced budget;
- Under BCRA Florida is required to provide nursing home and institutional care for those who lack the ability of self-care, yet we serve all the northerners who move here after their productive lives and draw down our Medicaid institutional dollars without any contribution from their home states;
- Even with our current favorable FMAP of 64%, Florida ranks 49th of the 50 states in providing IDD services; the federal reduction with the mandatory nursing home requirement, risks the chance of eliminating Florida's IDD HCBS programs entirely and forcing IDD individuals into very expensive nursing homes and institutions;
- Florida, with its population of 20 million residents, currently serves 30,000 IDD individuals but has 20,000 additional eligible persons on its waiting list; if BCRS passes, that number will reverse and we will have more people on the waiting list than we serve;
- The BCRA does not take into consideration the increase in numbers of IDD persons which at current growth rates (1% of future Florida births will be children with developmental disabilities) will add 44,000 more IDD persons in 20 years just when the full impact of the BCRA 35% reduction in federal Medicaid will occur;
- Worse, IDD individuals have the right, like elderly needing nursing homes, to receive institutional services because they lack the ability of self-care; as less expensive HCBS programs are replaced with three times more expensive institutional care, Florida will see the Medicaid Institutional Care Program budget explode with double the number of state budget-busting nursing home resident, increasing from 70,000 residents to 140,000 nursing home residents;
- This preventable financial disaster will befuddle and adversely impact the next two to three Republican Governors who will have few options to deal with a problem not of their own making.

For these financial reasons, apart from the humanity of it, the State of Florida cannot survive your vote for the misnamed Better Care Reconciliation Act. PLEASE VOTE NO.

David Lillesand
Florida Registered Republican
And a Non-Parent Board Member of The Arc Tampa Bay
[REDACTED]
Clearwater FL [REDACTED]
