GEORGIA

Date: 2017-09-21 22:59:58
To: My Senator
From: April Tate
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

My amazing 7 year old son Isaiah depends on Medicaid to for life. He was born with an extremely rare chromosome abnormality. This has left him 100% dependent for care. He is non-verbal, non-mobile, unable to sit for any length of time alone, unable to feed himself and still needs diapers. He also has epilepsy, ulcerative colitis, sleep apnea and scoliosis. He has had to have multiple surgeries and most likely will have to have more in the future. Some of the equipment he requires is...

1. Sleep safe bed
2. Wheelchair
3. Feeding Tube
4. Special needs car seat
5. Real Food Blends
6. Feeding tube supplies (syringes, extensions, ect)
7. Feeding pump
8. Suction machine
9. Stander
10. Gate Trainer
11. Diapers
12. Activity Seat
13. Medicine
14. Braces for back and feet
15. Communications device
16. Full support Bath seat

These are all in addition to his regular visits with his pediatrician, ENT, Urologist, Orthopedist, Gastroenterologist, Pulmonologist, Dentist and Sleep doctors. On top of these he also has physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and feeding therapy each 2x a week.

Due to his needs, I am unable to work outside of the home. Therefore we are a one income family. My husband and father of our 2 children works hard to provide for us. We have insurance through his employer, yet that would not cover half of our sons needs. Plus the cost of co-pays and deductible for our 7 year old alone would most likely make us homeless.

If you all allow this bill to pass, you are telling my 7 year old that he doesn't have the right to live. Even though his is differently abled does not mean his is not smart. He understands everything he hears! He is extremely smart, hard working and deserves the chance to fulfill his dreams. The only way he can do that is to have the equipment, doctors and therapists to help him achieve it!

You can follow his story on Facebook and get to know him.... A Day in the Life of Isaiah

Date: 2017-09-23 12:50:53
To: My Senator
From: Elizabeth Primm
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

Dear Sirs,

Medicaid has literally saved my sister's life and kept our family from bankruptcy. My sister, Becky, is profoundly brain injured. She requires 24/7 care. My family is in the middle class, socio-economically. All of us have been hard-working, tax-paying citizens. I am a retired special education teacher. However, our ability to provide Becky with the care she needs would have financially devastated us were it not for the Medical Assistance funds she has received through her Medicaid home and community care waiver. I am 74 years old and our mother is 97---not good prospects to join the workforce! I am a fiscal conservative and know that there needs to be fiscal constraint in government spending. However, the disabled should not suffer as restraints on spending are tightened. They have no recourse. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you.

Elizabeth Primm

Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 2017-09-24 06:04:33
To: My Senator
From: Stephanie Meredith
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

My son with Down syndrome is 17-year-old junior at Woodstock High School and currently works at Publix as a front desk clerk. Andy is also finishing up his Eagle Scout project, and I am tremendously proud of him. However, these achievements have not come easily; they have come through hard work and support.

Our family has worked very hard and made sacrifices to help him become the independent, social, motivated, healthy young man he is today. We've moved between states for better healthcare. My husband has worked more than 60 hours per week since our son was born, and I work full time as well serving new and expectant parents learning about disabilities and improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

We have done all we can, and it has worked because we all receive support from programs like the Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver to get speech therapy and physical therapy so Andy could learn to speak and ride a bike. These services and laws provide the foundation upon which Andy has been able to build an inclusive and independent life.

Medicaid caps would cut the funding for this vital program. Many people with disabilities depend almost exclusively on Medicaid for healthcare, as well as living independently and working. A recent study found that even though the majority of people with Down syndrome work at a paying job, only 3% of people with Down syndrome have employment with 30 or more hours per week, so you can imagine that very few people with Down syndrome receive health benefits through work.

There is also already a significant waiting list for people with disabilities in many states. What this means for our family is that the waiting lists will be even longer when some of us are already told that another person with a disability will have to die for our child to get help. We have already been on the waiting list in Georgia for 13 years so Andy can receive community support and job training as an adult.

Date: 2017-09-22 13:33:03
To: My Senator
From: Pamela Walley
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My daughter's life depends on Medicaid Home and Community-Based services. The majority of her 24 daily medications, equipment, therapy, doctor visits, labs, and hospitalization needs are covered by the private insurance we have through my employer, Madison County Schools.

But Callie requires 24 hour/day monitoring, supervision, and treatments, and BCBS of Georgia doesn't cover this type of care. Currently Medicaid pays caregivers to provide care in our home, allowing me to work and take care of other responsibilities.

Without the HCBS Medicaid support, I will have to resign from my job and our entire family will suffer. We will all suffer financially, as mine is the primary income. My husband, who is a disabled veteran, is not able to work more than he already does, and he will lose the private insurance coverage that has enabled him to be as healthy as possible. (Yes, he also uses VA services, but needs more.) My health is failing due to aging and 22 years of caregiving, but I will also lose access to the coverage we currently have.

Worst of all, Callie will lose everything. It is impossible for us to provide 24 hour/day care for very long without Medicaid home supports, so her only option will be to move into a nursing facility. Her health will decline quickly. I can't contemplate the final impact...

Georgia is already struggling to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and healthcare needs. The proposed funding cuts and service caps will be devastating to thousands of our most vulnerable citizens.

Please, please find solutions to our nation's healthcare problems without pulling the Medicaid lifeline away from citizens like Callie.

Her life depends on you! Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-24 09:10:29
To: My Senator
From: Carrie Pitts
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

If it wasn't for having Medicaid secondary for my oldest daughter Layne who has cerebral palsy and a mitochondrial disease we would be impacted financially extremely hard. I don't feel it's fair to take these benefits from people that are disabled. My daughter has been in a wheelchair her entire life and already feels like a burden, because mentally she understands everything, she can use her eight pointer finger (and not great) to pick around in her touch screen computer she has. That is all she can do for herself. She has MANY doctor appointments and needs therapy which we are already having to fight for because our primary ins doesn't cover any local PT's. It would be financially devastating to our family. We have one other child, and my husband and I have both always worked to make sure we could provide for her needs that already with primary and Medicaid don't cover. So without this coverage it would change the way we live . We would probably have to sell our home and without the assistance that offers an aide one of us would have to be with her at all times. She is 20 years old, we have a very active 8 year old, that wouldn't be fair to her. There are families that would be more impacted than us by far also. Please consider all of these families and the children this would negatively affect. Thank you for your time.

Carrie Pitts

Date: 2017-09-24 12:18:01
To: My Senator
From: Yaser Aballah
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

My Plea for Senate to Vote No on the Graham-Cassity Bill

My Name is Yas Abdallah, I am a Grassroots Disability Advocate and a person impacted by Multiple sclerosis (MS). This is my plea for Senate to VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The Bill will decimate the lives of 18 million people in the first year of the bill totaling to 32 million in 10 years by the repealing of the Medicaid expansion of Obamacare without a replacement.

Medicaid provides vital health insurance coverage to the disabled of all ages, seniors, low-income Individuals and war-torn Veterans. Individuals that are residing in a nursing facility could possibly die because they would have no other means if they lose Medicaid. In fact, for those like myself and many other Americans who transitioned out a nursing facility will live in fear of being institutionalized or even homeless!

Medicaid Expansion under Obamacare is a jointly funded program with matching state and federal funds. Under a Medicaid per capita cap, the federal government allocates funding on how much to reimburse states based on enrollment. Unlike current law, funding would not be based on the actual cost of providing services. Much like the proposed block grants, the intent of the per capita caps is to restructure the program and save the federal government money. Inevitably there will be cuts in funding and other negative impacts to Medicaid recipients by;

- Eliminating home and community-based services and supports. Waiting lists would quickly grow.
- Deleting other critical services such as personal care, prescription drugs, physical and occupational therapy services. Funding becomes more scarce and states may decide to eliminate services completely.
- States will be forced to institutionalize people with disabilities back to institutions.
- Shifting the costs to individuals or family members to make up for the federal cuts. The costs of providing health care and long-term services and supports will not go away but will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers.

Senators if you ignore my plea by your decision to move ahead with this disastrous health care proposal, you will create an injustice to disabled Americans. I myself as a taxpayer has worked over 40 years prior to my disability retirement. My final desire is; that after 39 of living with MS is to continue to live independently and to respectively die at home with family, Friends and loved ones without the chance of being homeless or destined to die without the appropriate health coverage.

Respectfully,

Yaser M. Abdallah

Date: 2017-09-22 16:15:19
To: My Senator
From: Yaser Aballah
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

My Plea To Vote No to To Graham-Cassity Bill

My Name is Yas Abdallah, I am a Grassroots Disability Advocate and a person impacted by Multiple sclerosis (MS). This is my plea for Senate to VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Your Bill will decimate the lives of 18 million people in the first year of the bill totaling to 32 million in 10 years by the repealing of the Medicaid expansion of Obamacare without a replacement.

Medicaid provides vital health insurance coverage to the disabled of all ages, seniors, low-income Individuals and war-torn Veterans. Individuals that are residing in a nursing facility could possibly die because they would have no other means if they lose Medicaid. In fact, for those like myself and many other Americans who transitioned out a nursing facility will live in fear of being institutionalized or even homeless!

By repealing Medicaid expansion will threaten the independence for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that rely on community-based supports.

The "per capita cap" that's in your plan for Medicaid will hurt all beneficiaries, for this policy will make it unresponsive and will put a stop to Medicaid enrollment, unlike a block grant, which gives states a set amount of funding for every person who's eligible, But would eventually lead to cuts in some other ways as well.

Senators if you ignore my plea by your decision to move ahead with this disastrous health care proposal, you will create an injustice to disabled Americans. I myself as a taxpayer has worked over 40 years prior to my disability retirement. My final desire is; that after 39 of living with MS is to continue to live independently and to respectively die at home with family, Friends and loved ones without the chance of being homeless or destined to die without the appropriate health coverage.

The Arc®

Date: 2017-09-23 15:07:47
To: My Senator
From: Yaser Abdallah
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

My Plea for Senate to Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My Name is Yas Abdallah, I am a Grassroots Disability Advocate and a person impacted by Multiple sclerosis (MS). This is my plea for Senate to VOTE NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The Bill will decimate the lives of 18 million people in the first year of the bill totaling to 32 million in 10 years by the repealing of the Medicaid expansion of Obamacare without a replacement.

Medicaid provides vital health insurance coverage to the disabled of all ages, seniors, low-income Individuals and war-torn Veterans. Individuals that are residing in a nursing facility could possibly die because they would have no other means if they lose Medicaid. In fact, for those like myself and many other Americans who transitioned out a nursing facility will live in fear of being institutionalized or even homeless!

Medicaid Expansion under Obamacare is a jointly funded program with matching state and federal funds. Under a Medicaid per capita cap, the federal government allocates funding on how much to reimburse states based on enrollment. Unlike current law, funding would not be based on the actual cost of providing services. Much like the proposed block grants, the intent of the per capita caps is to restructure the program and save the federal government money. Inevitably there will be cuts in funding and other negative impacts to Medicaid recipients by;

☐ Eliminating home and community-based services and supports. Waiting lists would quickly grow.

☐ Deleting other critical services such as personal care, prescription drugs, physical and occupational therapy services. Funding becomes more scarce and states may decide to eliminate services completely.

☐ States will be forced to institutionalize people with disabilities back to institutions.

☐ Shifting the costs to individuals or family members to make up for the federal cuts. The costs of providing health care and long-term services and supports will not go away but will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers.

Senators if you ignore my plea by your decision to move ahead with this disastrous health care proposal, you will create an injustice to disabled Americans. I myself as a taxpayer has worked over 40 years prior to my disability retirement. My final desire is; that after 39 of living with MS is to continue to live independently and to respectively die at home with family, Friends and loved ones without the chance of being homeless or destined to die without the appropriate health coverage.

Respectfully,

Yaser M. Abdallah

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:52:03
To: My Senator
From: Sitara Nayak
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

My name is Sitara Nayak and I live in Marietta, GA. My son Ishan Nayak age is 16 yrs old he is extremely social, loves to go to school and be among his peers. Ishan is not your typical 16 yr old he has complex medical needs, to name a few of his diagnoses Crohns Disease, Cerebral Palsy, two rare genetic syndromes Cri Du Chat & Trisomy 9, etc, due to these medical issues my son uses a wheel chair and needs full one-on-one support for his daily living needs. He needs Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy and because of Medicaid he is able to get these services. Because of Medicaid waiver, he is able to have in home support. As his parent it is extremely difficult to manage his daily living needs without support. Having Medicaid for my son has been life changing for us as a family: It has enabled me to go back to work full time as we have caregivers and certified Nursing assistants who are paid through Medicaid to help with my son's daily living needs (such as eating, bathing etc), it has prevented me from going on disability myself (the constant lifting of my son has caused permanent damage to my back), it has prevented our family from going bankrupt, as my son has had several hospital stays due to his medical complications. If there was a life time cap, my son would've hit it in the first few years of his life and in 2003 he was denied coverage by 8 insurance companies due to pre exisiting conditions. We moved states and he was eligible to get the Deeming Medicaid Waiver in GA which is when he was able to get healthcare coverage again.

This Graham-Cassidy bill would significantly affect health care services for my son. The Medicaid Cap would mean all non essential Medicaid items would be cut and the home health services he is getting right now falls under the non-essential category. But for our family it is critical, without home health services my son would have to be institutionalized and cost of institutional care far exceeds the cost of in home care. Also due to the fact that the bill removes the mandatory requirement of coverage of pre-existing conditions my son could go without insurance once again because of his medical conditions, this would render him with no health insurance at all and in turn would cause our family to face bankruptcy and my son would eventually end up at an institution because we will not be able to care for him.

I strongly urge congress to reject this bill as it would have dire consequences on my son, and our family as a whole.

Sincerely,

Sitara Nayak

(Ishan's Mom)

Date: 2017-09-22 13:41:02
To: My Senator
From: Fay Blythe
State: Georgia
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

My son, Brady, has a rare chromosome disorder causing intellectual and developmental delays. Medicaid allows him to receive the services necessary for him to reach his full potential and lead a meaningful, productive life. Without it, we would no longer be able to afford many of these services and our family would suffer. My current job allows me to work with other families of children with disabilities, and if the proposed cuts to Medicaid are passed, I will no longer be able to do so. Please vote "no" to Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you!

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Rasheera Dopson
[redacted]

Hi my name is Rasheera. I'm 25 years old and I was born with a Craniofacial condtion. I have no right ear or jaw bone. Over the course of my life I have had 101 surgeries. Recently I was denied coverage because of Short – Term Disability because of my pre-exsisting condition. Without proper care or coverage I'm unable to support my medical needs. We need our legislator to protect our care and acknowledge our rights!

Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc
1825 K Street NW, Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20006
T 202.783.2229 x322 T 800.433.5255 | F 202.534.3731
thearc.org | Donate | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

The Arc.
for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

You can help build The Arc by making a secure, online contribution by visiting www.thearc.org/donate. Thank you for supporting the work of The Arc

Nicole Jorwic

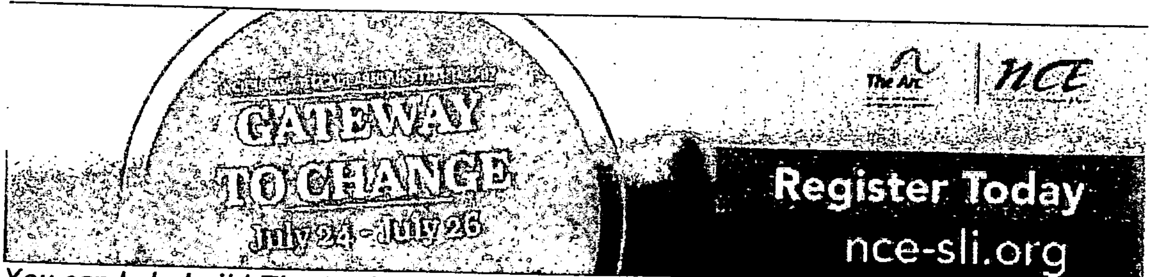
From:	Nicole Jorwic
Sent:	Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:24 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Georgia

Jennifer Harris

[redacted]

This is my beautiful 9 year old daughter Hannah. Hannah has Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, and numerous other medical issues. She is dependent on several medications, therapies, and equipment just to survive. She gets deeming waiver (Katie Beckett) Medicaid that pays for all of this. Without Medicaid I would not be able to afford even her medicine much less her therapy, and specialized care. I am a single mother raising two children on a teacher's salary. Without Medicaid I would have to be on food stamps because I would have to choose between her life saving medicine and having food to eat. Please don't cut or cap Medicaid my family and thousands of others can't live without it.

Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc
1825 K Street NW, Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20006
T 202.783.2229 x322 T 800.433.5255 | F 202.534.3731
thearc.org | Donate | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube
The Arc.
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



From: Tammy Davis [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: The effects of cutting Medicaid benefits

Dear Senate Committee and to whom it may concern,

I am a single mom of an adult age daughter who utilizes the benefits allowed her via the COMP waiver, provided within her Medicaid benefits.

Let me give you a little of our back-story:

As my daughter Brooke was growing up, there were not as many services available as there are today. She had access to speech, physical and occupational therapies while in school. And however grateful we were for those services, they were limited in time to a couple hours a week for each given service.

Brooke's confidence and self-esteem were not nurtured and over the course of time, she had to deal with issues of peer bullying and even a professional staff member that was reported for treating the children unkindly.

I say all that to say this:

My daughter is in a good program now that provides all the benefits that she was lacking during previous years of services. However, without this Medicaid waiver program, this would not be possible. She receives the kind of community living skill assistance and in home assistance that have allowed her confidence to thrive and her self-help skills to improve in the time she has been a recipient of these benefits.

As I get older, I fear that I will become less able to look after her daily needs. What will she do if these program benefits are cut? Are any of you able to take in our children, nurture and look after them, and be sure that they get the help they need? Are you going to cut down their benefits until you must find placement in assisted living homes or nursing homes, until you have them over filled and understaffed? Not to mention the elderly who are already there, what is to become of them?

I understand that the system is flawed, but our disabled and senior citizens do not deserve to have their quality of life diminished to accomplish this. You HAVE to find a better way. Cut out some of the unnecessary, frivolous spending that goes on at the tax payers expense. Lest you forget, we are all getting older. If you make these kinds of drastic cuts, what is the program going to be left with when it comes your time to be a beneficiary of these services?

Speaking as my daughter's voice, I would say this to you:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are not the "forgotten", the "elephant in the room" you all wish to dismiss with a stroke of your pen... We are men, women and children who want to be treated the same as any of you. We have dreams, the same as you; we just may struggle a little bit more to reach them. But we all have those same "unalienable rights", to live our best life, and stand up for our right to Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Most of you have no idea what it's like to live our lives. You take for granted the ease in which you go through your day to day routines. While most, if not all of us, in our own ways, face daily challenges to carry out the simplest of routine tasks. Without these benefits most or all of us will suffer from lack of supervised care, community based programs, and in some instances this may be life threatening.

So, before you make a decision that will have life altering impact to millions of our beloved citizens, I urge you to vote, NO CUTS, NO CAPS to the Medicaid program. This is detrimental to preserving the quality of life for our current disabled and elderly, as well as the generations to come who will need these programs. Someday it could be you or your loved one. You know what you must do to protect and preserve their independence.

Respectfully yours,

Tammy Davis
Parent, advocate and guardian for Miss Brooke Davis

Nicole Jorwic

From: Widget Richards [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fwd: MY letters for next week
Attachments: Dear Senator Isakson.docx; Dear Senator Perdue.docx

I forgot to put Georgia on thes letters

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Widget Richards [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 10:36 PM
Subject: MY letters for next week
To: Stacey Ramirez [redacted], Dawn Johnson [redacted]

I read somewhere that you guys will be taking some letters to the Senators in Washington... here are my letters in the attachment.

Thanks for advocating for me and all the people with disabilities in Georgia, please let me know if there is anything I can do.

Widget Richards
Campaign Director of "Wheel On The Beach"
[redacted]

--
Widget Richards
Campaign Director of "Wheel On The Beach"
[redacted]

From: Helen Cunningham [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 7:57 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Helen Cunningham
Subject: Georgia--Senator Isakson --"you said you would never knowingly hurt people who need Medicaid." Keep your word.

Dear Senators Isakson and Purdue,

Jake is still on the Now/Comp waiver waiting list. If cuts to Medicaid are approved per your budget he may never get his waiver. This hurts people who need Medicaid.
Helen Cunningham

[redacted]

"God made us all
human beings in His image"

Nicole Jorwic

From: Stacey Ramirez
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: FW: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

Hi Nicole, Here is another story from Georgia.

Would you mind sharing with me the stories you have collected from Georgia? I will be in DC meeting with Isakson this Wednesday.

Stacey

The Arc.
Georgia
Stacey Ramirez | sramirez@thearc.org
State Director | The Arc Georgia
PO Box 91051, Atlanta, GA 30364
T 470-222-6088 | F 844.228.0521
ga.thearc.org | Facebook | Twitter

The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.

#NO CUTS NO CAPS ~ #SAVE MEDICAID
CALL NOW!! Senator Isakson, Georgia
Atl: (770) 661-0999
DC: (202) 224-3643
@SenatorIsakson

From: Radha Vettraino [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Stacey Ramirez <SRamirez@TheArc.org>
Subject: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

To My friends at the capitol:

My name is Radha Vettraino (Mother of Polly Vettraino) residing in Lilburn, GA

I am a mother of a young lady Polly who will turn 21 on August 27. She has older and younger sibling, both parents work full time. She has Down Syndrome, Autism, is non verbal and can have some significant behavior issues, It is because of the Medicaid, she was able to learn to eat and got rid of feeding tube after 14 years, she was able to learn trip training to use the bathroom.

She needs full assistance with daily living skills including bathing, brushing teeth. The only reason I am still able to work is because of the wonderful staff that help care for my daughter that are paid by the COMP waiver. She is able to go to summer camps, learn music, swimming, get her medical supplies like pull-ups (yes she still wears pull ups) all using the waiver funds. There were atleast 4 weeks where my youngest daughter was hospitalized and I did not have to worry about my Polly because I knew her staff was taking care of her. I plan on having Polly live on her own in a Residential setting by 2018. Please DO NOT cut these waiver programs, it will completely turn our family upside down.

Please please please DO NOT CUT OUR LIFELINE.

Regards

Radha Vettraino
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Dear Senators,

I am writing on behalf of my brother Donald who is Autistic on the severe end of the spectrum. I am his full time caregiver/guardian.
My brother will be 60 in August and unfortunately had a very sad life being locked into the oldest mental institution in the country Eastern State in Williamsburg VA when he was 9 old years old.
Back then they didn't know about Autism so he was diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic. He was housed behind those huge steel doors with big keys with people with the severest of mental illness . Finally after 27 years of mental institutions he was able to come live with family.
After our Mother passed I became his guardian, and because of his need for 24 care, I had to quit my job.
Medicaid is a much needed source for those like my brother who will never be able to provide for themselves. The help is enormous and if you vote to take that assistance away it will devastate all of us who rely on it to survive. The wealthy don't need breaks, these poor people who can not help themselves need a break especially someone like my brother who has had a tragic life. I am dedicated to do whatever I can to make his life joyful, and I pray and plea that all of the senators will agree to NOT cut or cap Medicaid funding.

Regards,
Monica Walden
Donald Walden

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

From:	Barkley Dog [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:59 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Medicaid and how it affects me

Nicole Jorwic
Medicaid affects me because it affects my identical twin 14 year old boys who both have moderate to severe classic autism. They are on a waiting list for the COMP Waiver in Georgia along with 8,900+ other individuals who have disabilities. They require one on one support to access the community and live safely and be a part of life outside of their home. They require one on one assistance in the home as well for activities of daily living. They are progressing very well, but as they grow older, they need greater supports. They are bigger and stronger now. They love life and to be out in the community kayaking, swimming (both with special olympics), going to church, shopping, taking walks, playing supported baseball. Please don't make cuts or cap medicaid!
Thank you, Jennifer Schwenker
Mother of Benjamin Schwenker and Samuel Schwenker
Marietta, GA 30962

From: Diane Prindle [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:07 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Briggs & Associates provides Supported Employment Services to individuals with developmental disabilities through the NOW waiver. Individuals who graduate from special education programs in Georgia are unlikely to obtain employment without this service; approximately 80% of this population remains unemployed. The waiting list to obtain the NOW waiver, funded by Medicaid, is unacceptable. I strongly urge our Senators to vote against this health care plan. I also happen to be a Republican.

Diane Prindle
[redacted]
Roswell, GA [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: ANNA THIELEMANN [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:51 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Anna Thielemann
Subject: No Cuts To Medicaid - GEORGIA-Anna Thielemann 646 Oakledge Dr, Marietta, GA 30060

Hi, my name is Anna Thielemann and I am your constituent.

I live in Marietta, GA near the Square. I want to tell you about my daughter, Louisa Thielemann, 20 years old, who has a disability. She has Moderate Intellectual Disabilities and Autism which means at 20 years old, she is cognitively like a 5 years old and will be for her life. She relies on Medicaid and the NOW Waiver to ensure she can live in the community and not in an institution.

I need to talk to you about the American Health Care Act. I know it passed the House of Representatives last month and is right now being discussed in the Senate.

I need the Senator and his Health Staff Person to know that Medicaid is very important to Louisa and our Family. Louisa's Medicaid provides her with services through the NOW Waiver such as caregivers who take her out in the community to learn skills such as shopping, proper behavior, and practice with everyday activities. She also accesses Music Therapy to help her improve her cognitive and physical skills. In addition, she receives incontinence supplies through the medical equipment service.

I don't know what she would do if her Medicaid was cut or reduced in any way. I am very concerned they might be forced into an institutional setting to receive the care they need since providing care in the community is optional for states.

I am also very concerned that Per Capita Caps, which will cut over $800 billion from Medicaid, will mean that she won't be able to live in the community because her Medicaid will be cut or reduced.

Please communicate these concerns for Georgians with Disabilities to the Senators and ask them not to touch Medicaid. Medicaid is the lifeline of Georgians with disabilities living in the community.

Thank you,

Anna Thielemann
[redacted]
Marietta, GA [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:42 PM
To: abarkoff@cpr-ma.org; Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Picture Ted Robinson


EMERGEN
EXIT
ONLY

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:41 PM
To: abarkoff@cpr-ma.org; Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Re: HCBS story

Wasn't sure Who to send this to. I can send a picture in a separate email.
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2017, at 7:32 PM, Susan Goodman [redacted] wrote:

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Toni Robinson [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 4:46:02 PM
To: Susan Goodman
Subject: HCBS story

HI, Susan,

Webinar was STRONG. Thanks. Makes my heart sing to see how far DNSC has come since the 'struggle' days of the early 2000s. You three make a fine trio, indeed. —I feel honored and privileged to have 7 years of full bore NDSC immersion at an important crossroads time.

As I listened, today it occurred to me the I have a pretty compelling story with Ted, now 33.He was going along fine and dandy post high school (graduated in 2003). We used no services whatsoever. Then, along came crisis.

Over a span of five months, he began having seizures all the time. He would come out of them with such ferocity that he injured others, destroyed property, required calls to 911—where 6 firemen had difficulty restraining him. We bounced from one ineffective treatment to another; one hospitalization to another. It was hell for all of us, and we learned what it is like to feel unsafe in our own home—all the time. We spent several months frantically trying to find effective interventions locally in between trips to the ER and hospitalizations. All to no avail.

Thanks to NDCS connections and friends, and a generous conference with Dennis McGuire, we ended up seeing George Capone. We paid out of pocket for visits to the clinic at KK, then arranged for George to oversee Ted's care via a network here that included his primary and a marvelous neurologist. So, Ted ended up with a complex set of diagnoses including Ds, mood disorder NOS, PTSD, episodic explosive disorder, seizures. . .We went to Baltimore for follow ups 9 summers in a row, paying out of pocket each time. Happily, we have not felt the need to return since 2012. (We miss George but rejoice that we must miss in lieu of visiting him.)

So, in 2004, Ted went from having no Medicaid services to an extraordinary number, and had to move out of our home because after having had seizures in every room of his childhood home, once medically stabilized, he began replaying the past episodes and was so overwhelmed with anxiety that his behaviors took a turn toward the dangerous. So, to keep us all safe, and thanks to Medicaid dollars, he moved out of our home into an alternate family home, where he 'inched' toward restored health over a matter of years. This residential scenario continues 13 years later. Over that time, he has typically been, at his request, with us, now me, over the weekends. We have been able, bit by bit, weekend by weekend, to help him feel safe again and behave calmly with us.

Fast forward to today: Thanks to HCBS services well articulated, carefully monitored and lovingly provided, Ted is not only stable but is working through the overwhelming grief and trauma of living through his Dad's frightening and dramatic entanglement with myeloma that killed him in Nov '15. We have also sought, on our own, the wisdom of behavior consultant David Pitonyak to help with the grieving. Lots of supports, paid and unpaid, are working successfully to date.

Enabled by HCBS supports, Ted's community engagement includes: Since 2002, he hs volunteered daily during the school year in the athletic training department of the independent school where his Dad taught for 40 years. Last year, Ted was given a special award at a whole school assembly honoring his considerable contribution. He was also recognized at the football banquet in Nov. 16 as a special and valuable fan. Besides that, Ted has volunteered since 2004 at the Humane Society, where he spends time twice weekly with animals up for adoption to help them be more comfortable with potential adopters. His third weekly gig is at a food pantry, where he twice a week helps with stocking of shelves and helping customers take their good to their cars. He is so welcome and appreciated there that when his Dad died, they closed for the day so the entire crew could come to the memorial service. Last up, Ted receives supports to run on Fridays a paper route for a weekly. He has been connected to this company since its founding year in 2002.

As a result of much loving planning and work by family, friends and staff, Ted is stable and no longer a perceived danger to himself or others. Achieving this state has been a long time coming. His doctors all agree to this day that any changes to 'what works' could jeopardize his health and safety, and the safety of others. So, any Medicaid cuts that hit us could sink this man permanently, thus undoing a huge investment of Medicaid dollars and time and effort and love.

Needless to say, this story can be edited a good bit, but I have indulged in stream of consciousness writing because it occurs to me that in all the Trumpian brouhaha,
you might be looking for people to go to DC at some point, I am willing to do that. And I wanted you to have a broad landscape for your consideration as you help us all figure out how and when to tell stories to try to keep all hell from coming to pass.

Other points: I remember well the days of pre-existing condition problems because, when Ted was born, he was so sick that I wanted to quit my job to care for him full time, and I couldn't because I was carrying insurance and we could not get coverage for him. That was a different kind of hell.

Next up: I know what it is like not to have parity of mental health coverage. My daughter experiences two serious mental health diagnoses. Between 95 and 2004, we paid a small fortune to help her move toward a more stable place. While we had some insurance support, it was but a small portion of what was needed to bring her step by step to place of restored health and functioning. Today she is married, and a full time employee and mother of two small children. (She did, however, seek additional mental health treatment in the spring of '14. This time she managed to swing with her HMO out of network benefits so she could check herself into her preferred treatment center. Her employer was supportive on the front end, yet when she returned, she saw that they had spent the time in her absence working her out of her job. When she was at last fired by her male boss for being 'unable to work the 50 hours a week that was needed', one of the female company execs, who knew good and well what was up, came to her in tears.—Very telling.)

Third: the issue of limiting annual and lifetime benefits, or lack thereof, saved us from financial disaster when Win was diagnosed with myeloma in Oct 2013. This cancer accounts for 1% of all cancer diagnoses; his variety was so virulent that it killed him in 2 years when the average remission time is 9. The treatments to try to kick it into remission were complex, rigorous and hugely expensive. Without insurance coverage, our hard work over our careers to stay debt free would have ended in a compounded nightmare. We are dealing with an irreplaceable loss, but with insurance coverage limits, I might also be dealing with financial ruin in addition to grief and my current worry about Ted's future.

I didn't intend to write War and Peace II here, but I wanted you to see the panorama. If I can be helpful in a targeted way through all of this, I would be glad to try. If not just let this all slip harmlessly away—and keep posting those winsome pix of your grands. They always inspire a smile.

with warmest regards and appreciation for your kindness and your work,

Toni

PS I am obviously okay to do my congressional contacts on my own—at least for starters.

From: M Powell [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

My name is Millie Powell and I am the mother of two adult daughters one is has autism in her 30's and is total care meaning she always has to have adult supervision and assistance daily such as dressing, bathing, and constant direction. My other daughter is in her 40's and is legally blind and deaf. Both my daughters live at home with me because one has a Medicaid waiver and the other has Medicaid also for her health needs.

I am fully employed at the age of 69 and I work as a Job Coach and the people I work with have medicaid waivers so they can be supported on their jobs. This means they are paying into Medicaid and Medicare also as well as myself and other family members. Most of them would lose their jobs if they are not supported and the employer are learning that people with disabilities can be productive and contribute to society.

Passing this new health bill will take away the dignity and care that people with disabilities need to make it in this world. If this bill is passed many, many families like mine will be forced to have the state take care of our loved ones and they would have to move out of their own homes and communities and the cost will be triple what their care cost now.. I am able to work because I can bring providers in to my home to allow me to work, the day program give my daughter a place to go and be productive and I cannot afford to keep them at home without this help.

This is not about loyalty to a political party this is about peoples lives. God said the meek will inherit the earth and you need to heed these words. Many people will be affected especially seniors and the disable. Give us your coverage that you get with you job in Washington and we will be fine or better come live with me for a week and see what I have to deal with then tell me you can vote this bill and feel good about you self. You never know when you might be in my position in the future. Enhance the affordable care act instead of destroying it and ask us. We are the one who are paying for it. Thank you in advance for voting against this bill.

Sincerely,

Millie powell
[redacted]
[redacted] 30032
[redacted]

From:	karen mathis [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 6:07 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

Dear Senators Isakson and Purdue,

I am a resident of Mableton 30126. I am a divorced mom, of a 13 year old with Autism. I have been knowingly living with Autism for 9 years. His best care came from Tri-Care. When that unexpectedly ended, I was able to continue some services through Medicaid. Without services, he regresses. Regression can lead to my son being in a facility rather than at home with me. Medicaid in GA is necessary for families like mine. Please save ACA, not destroy the millions of families that depend on it.

Sent from my LG K10, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Deborah Hibben [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia: Medicaid Matters to Me

Greetings. My 21-year-old daughter has been on the waiting list for the Medicaid waiver since 5th grade. Now that she's an adult holding two jobs w/ me her sole caregiver (and I'm now 62, also caregiver of my mother w/ Alzheimer's, unable to fully retire yet), she is in dire need of the following:

Transportation
Renewed job coaching
Housing options
Service dog

Please no cuts, no caps re Medicaid. Hannah's future depends on it as does the future of her peers. We have patiently waited.

Respectfully,
Deborah C Hibben
McDonough 30252

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carol O'Regan [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GEORGIA

Medicaid affects my life as a physical therapist in the following ways;

1. I became a physical therapist after working as a nanny for a family with a toddler who had cerebral palsy. I saw first hand through working with Michelle and her therapists how even the most well-off families could not afford to provide the much needed therapies and equipment that allowed their children to just be fed let alone interact with their family and their world.
2. Working in nursing homes at different times throughout my career, I have seen how families have had to sell off assets in order to pay for their elder loved one's care. If not for Medicaid, these families and their loved ones would have to pay out of pocket for 24 hr nursing care. This can now be up to $4000 for any nursing home, not even the "nice" ones. If Medicaid is cut, not only will these nursing home residents be out of a home, their families will be broke and probably have to leave their jobs to care for their elders.
3. As a employee who is covered though employer provided health insurance, if Medicaid is cut, the hospitals will have to eat the costs of the uninsured under the new senate bill. These costs will then be passed to everyone else through higher premiums to cover the costs.

Carol O'Regan, PT, DPT
Warner Robins, GA

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary Anona Stoops [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Martha Haythorn, Decatur, GA 30030

For 8 years I have had a Katie Beckett **Medicaid** waiver. This type of Medicaid allows me to get therapies and other services that health insurance does not pay for. I still see an OT, ST, and PT every week. I am working hard on skills to help me be independent.

I got an academic award in school this year. It was for my hard work and participation in my World Literature class. The school system has provided the support that I need to *participate* and *learn* and *thrive*. When I finish school **Medicaid** will provide the support I need to keep doing these things in my community. **Medicaid** is not just for health care. I want to have a job someday. I am a caring person. I especially like to care for children. I want to be a nurse's aid or work in a children's hospital. **Medicaid** pays for supported employment for people with disabilities. It also will pay for the services that I will need to be active and live in my community. I also take drama in school and I am good at acting. I want to be do community theater. Also, I do not want to live at home forever. Someday I want to get married and have a home of my own.

If the proposed Medicaid cuts go through there will never be the resources for me to achieve my dreams. Georgia already struggles to meet the needs of its citizens with disabilities. I am already on a waitlist to get services to get community based services through Medicaid.

This summer I was in Guatemala with the youth group and I met a girl with Down syndrome. There are no services for her. In the United States we have agreed to help people with disabilities achieve their full potential. **This is what Medicaid does.**

Please stand up not just for me, but for all people with disabilities.

Thank you,

Martha Haythorn

[redacted]

Decatur, GA [redacted]

From: Susan S [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Dear Senators,

My name is Susan Selwa and I live in Snellville, GA. I am the proud mother of two wonderful young men. Sam is 18 and Connor is 15. Both of them are nonverbal and also have autism. Both of them are enrolled in Medicaid.

Having access to Medicaid as allowed me to provide them with the therapy and services that they have needed in order to learn. They have recently gotten communication devices. This enables them to communicate with people outside of the family. As a mother I want to help them become the most successful people they can. These devices would not have been possible without Medicaid. Connor was able to tell me that he loved me for the first time using his device. I have waited for 15 years to hear those words.

They both will always need someone to take care of them. This means that they will need access to services that would be paid for as part of Medicaid. Cuts or caps to Medicaid will be devastating to families like mine. I fear for their future without access to services. They will be leading an isolated existence. They need to a part of the community that we live in.

Thank you,

Susan Selwa

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Patrick Thompson [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:19 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Georgia Letter to US Congress Members

Georgia US Congress Members:
Repealing the Affordable Care Act, displacing more people from necessary health care, and replacing the program with the AHCA is an act of cowardice, not leadership. Instead of a good idea for citizens that moves health care in this country closer to the quality outcome success rates of the rest of the free, industrialized world with Medicare for all, a vote for AHCA clearly demonstrates that you care only about a Party promise of repeal that you can't keep and that you want the profit margins of health insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and medical device companies to continue their unsustainable climb.

The citizens you supposedly represent are suffering and dying out here. Their blood is on your hands. Do you truly support our military? More than 441,000 veterans who served for all of us will lose Medicaid benefits under AHCA - over 31,000 of those are Georgia veterans. Will you be there when the State of Georgia, with its newfound decision-making powers, decides to call service-related amputations and PTSD a pre-existing condition? 1.8M veterans depend on the Medicaid to be cut by the AHCA. The AHCA also puts our rural hospital system at higher risk and dangers of closure - especially as this State never expanded Medicaid under the ACA. All hospitals would be at risk under AHCA. Eliminating basic preventative measures and coverage for basic procedures for patients such as pregnant women will bankrupt and harm more Georgians. Granting insurance companies the ability to cap payment for those with chronic conditions or to opt out of covering pre-existing conditions, puts Georgians at greater financial risk.

The program will take us back to the "junk" insurance policies, allowed by our GA State Insurance Commissioner, which deceived consumers into thinking their low premiums were a great deal (until something bad happened to them). With 23M fewer people covered under AHCA by insurance will make health care costs higher for the rest of us. People with disabilities who rely on home- and community-based services through Medicaid — such as personal-attendant care, skilled nursing, and specialized therapies—will lose access to the services they need in order to live independently and remain in their homes. As Georgia imposes work requirements on Medicaid access, the death spiral accelerates. And all Georgia citizens will pay for the increasing costs of opioid addiction. Charging some of the most vulnerable citizens, such as our seniors, higher rates for their insurance is the wrong direction - are you willing to tell this portion of the electorate about the true translation of your vote?

Georgia does not have a history of doing the right thing with block grants. Redistribution is precisely what's needed. But the AHCA shifts the health and wealth benefits of public policy away from the poor and the sick, and toward the healthy and the affluent. This will cost all Americans more, will not repair our healthcare system, and will continue to harm the citizens you've sworn to improve the lives of. We're paying the price of viewing healthcare as an accounting problem while fulfilling Tom Price's idea of helping the business of healthcare, not the consumers who must swallow this bitter medicine. Do the right thing and fight for a better solution for the people you serve and don't pretend everything will be better while you increase our suffering.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jane Grillo [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Found a typo... if you haven't sent this... here is corrected Save Medicaid

My name is Jane Grillo. I live (and vote) in Sautee Georgia 30571. I am the parent of a 15 year old who has cerebral palsy.

Medicaid Waivers are vital to us. Although my husband and I are both college educated working parents, we could not possibly afford all of Joe's medical costs. And, right now he is healthy... This year, Joe had a growth spurt and we needed both a wheelchair and a walker. The combined expense of this equipment is around $15,000. Our private insurance only paid $700.

Joe's disabilities classify him as nursing level care. The waiver gives me enough home services support so that I can work (and keep our family insurance).

If we lost the waiver, I would have to quit working, lose my insurance and then we would wind up having to use MORE government services.

A research study about the amount of hidden service families provide for loved ones was published in the journal*Pediatrics* (Dec. 2016). The study, called "Family Provided Healthcare for Children with Special Health Care," estimated the total market value of family contributions could range from a low of $11.6 billion annually, to $35.7 billion if you consider the cost for care by a home-health aid. Meanwhile, family members who do this caretaking work give up an estimated $17.6 billion in lost wages.

Without Medicaid, we would be forced to apply for SSI disability services. We have never used WIC or Medicaid for his Gtube nutrition, since I believe we should pay for the food our child eats. I have worked to be a good steward of his services, and frankly I am insulted by this assumption that everyone on Medicaid is sucking the system dry.

Sincerely,

Jane Grillo

Jane Grillo Parent Mentor Partnership White County Schools [redacted]

From: Christine Kramlich M. Ed. [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia Christine Kramlich 30043

Medicaid matters to our family because of our daughter, Kyleigh Kramlich. She is a beautiful 15 year old who is smart, funny and artistic. She loves music, boys and her family.

However, Kyleigh also uses a power wheelchair for mobility that she drives with her head because her arms don't work well enough to be able to use a joystick. She has a communication device that enables her to tell us what she is thinking that she uses by looking at it because her hands can't reach out and touch.

At least twice a year she visits a multitude of doctors including her pediatrician, her gastroenterologist, her orthotic guy, her orthopedist, her neurologist and others as needed.

In the past year she has had surgeries for pain management including Botox injections and spinal fusion surgery. These surgeries enabled her to be able to tolerate sitting in her wheelchair. Without them, she would be unable to sit in her chair which means she would not be able to leave the house for school, pleasure or even doctor visits.

In addition she receives nutritional supplements that she takes via a tube in her stomach. Without this she would not be able to maintain her weight because she can't eat enough food by mouth to take in the proper amount of calories for someone her age and size. Also, she takes medicine in the gtube 3 times a day for pain management and spasticity and tightness in her muscles.

Finally, Kyleigh requires around the clock care. Someone has to feed her, lift her on to the toilet and take her off, put her clothes on, set up her communication device and all other activities of daily life. Because of this, Medicaid also covers caregiver assistance in the home. Although we do not currently have someone (because it is very difficult to find someone who is able to care for Kyleigh) we are currently looking for someone to assist us so that my husband can get back to work. In the meantime, we are having to support the family on one salary because someone has to take care of Kyleigh full time.

Without Medicaid to assist with all of these items, our family would be bankrupt, homeless and Kyleigh would be suffering in pain and without the necessary things she has to make her life what it is today.

Thanks to Medicaid she is able to live a full and happy life today and we look forward to a day when Medicaid can help assist her with living independently.

On Kyleigh's behalf, I beg you to save Medicaid. No cuts, no caps!!

I'm sure Kyleigh has already reached the cap of whatever a lifetime max would be at the very young age of 15. I don't know what will happen to our family if things continue as planned so we are pleading with you to reconsider your plan for Medicaid.

Thank you so much!

Christine Kramlich

Sent from my iPhone

From: Felicia Fox [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia Medicaid

My name is Felicia Fox. While I agree that the current healthcare system needs a lot of work, lives depend on the services that are currently in place. I am a single parent. My young adult son is severely developmentally delayed since birth. He requires 24 hr. care and supervision. He is non verbal, he can't perform any activities of daily living and has a host of other issues. As well as his medical needs, we depend on medicaid for a waiver that allows him in home care for the hours that I work. If not for this waiver program I would not be able to work and we would most likely become homeless or he would be placed in a 24hr care facility such as a nursing home or mental health facility. This would be extremely detrimental to his health and well being as well as my emotional health. I love my son more than myself. I personally don't think either of us could handle him going into a facility to live. Incidentally, medicaid would pay for the nursing home or mental health care facility 24 hrs. per day, which is considerably more costly than the medicaid waiver that allows him to stay at home where he is happy. Also, I am a Certified Nursing Assistant in the state of Georgia. There are many elderly and disabled people who depend on medicaid services. If cut, many healthcare workers will lose their jobs or have their hours cut back. This is a lose lose situation for the most vulnerable American citizens. We need your help. Save Medicaid. Save Lives.

Thank you for your time and God Bless.

Felicia and Tony Fox

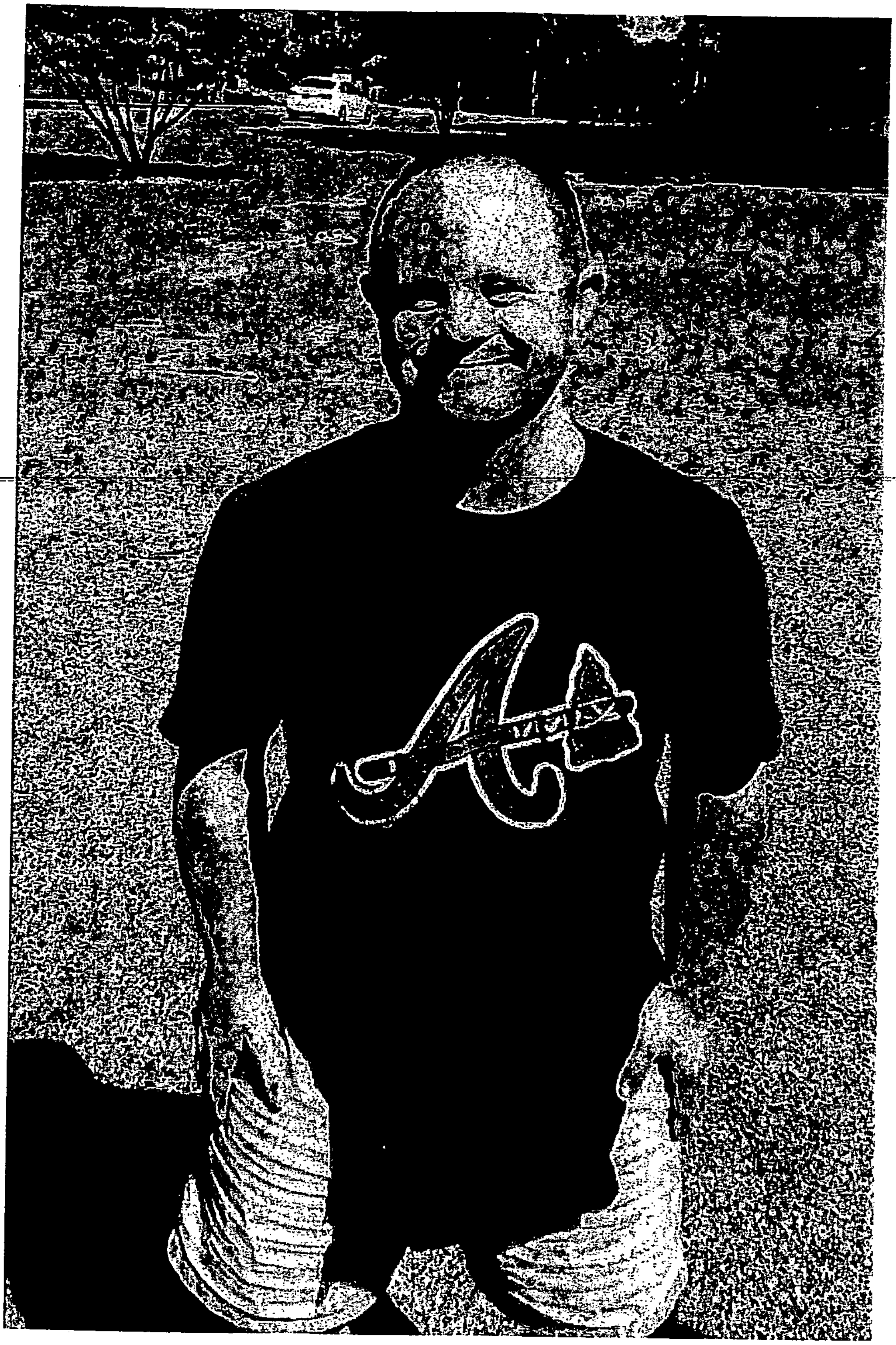
From: Jane Shaw [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:07 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fwd: Georgia

Jane D Shaw
[redacted]
Stone Mountain, Ga [redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Jane Shaw [redacted]
> **Date:** July 16, 2017 at 9:10:40 AM EDT
> **To:** jorwic@thearc.org
> **Subject: Georgia**



Our son Evan is 33 years old. He receives the COMP Medicaid waiver in Georgia. Evan works 20 hours at Children Health Care of Atlanta, Scottish Rite campus, in the ER. He stocks the rooms with needed supplies. He receives job coaching assistance through the waiver. He has been employed there for 4 years. Previously he worked at Publix, Tuco Concrete and Vulcan Concrete with supported employment. He is a contributing member of his community. He pays taxes. He does not take a vacation until he has the hours accrued at his job.

Evan now lives in a house with 2 other roommates in Tucker Georgia. Personal care waiver helps him

live in his community. He is able to work, go to church, buy groceries, cook, and balance his money with staffing help.
Evan would not be able to keep his job or live in the community without these supports.

Sent from my iPad

From: Laura Overstreet [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GEORGIA - Laura Overstreet, Atlanta, 30309

Dear Senators Isakson and Perdue,

I am a lifelong Georgia resident who was disabled at the age of 10 due to a rare neurological illness. I became a quadriplegic within a few short hours before which I was completely healthy. I was fortunate to regain some mobility through rehabilitation at the Shepherd Center and go on to graduate from Wheeler High School in Marietta, Kennesaw State University, and earn my master's degree from Georgia State University. After working for a small nonprofit, I taught part-time at Kennesaw State, giving back to the university and education system and state that has given me so much.

However, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the Medicaid funded Independent Care Waiver Program that pays caregivers to help me dress, shower, get up and go to bed each day. I have a supportive family, but my needs are greater than one or two family members' capabilities and I wish to direct my own care and have as much of a typical community experience as possible. Paying completely out of pocket for home based services is too expensive for the vast majority of people.

Not only does this program and programs like it support my life, they provides jobs in the state of Georgia and other states. These are difficult jobs, but they are done by and large by caring people who understand that we all need help in life.

Please do not vote against these Medicaid programs. I am 37 years old and still have goals to pursue and plenty of life ahead of me.

Sincerely,

Laura Overstreet
[redacted]
Atlanta, GA [redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GA Healthcare
Attachments: jodylarjuliamaya.jpg

Dear Nicole,
I am a GA 30152 resident, a senior citizen, with twelve year old disabled twin granddaughters, Julia and Maya. The twins are diagnosed with CDKL5 disorder, Mitochondrial Disease and Autism. They are severely intellectually delayed and will always be dependent. One of Medicaid's functions is to keep dependent children in their own loving homes. My daughter devotes her life to the girls. Her husband works hard every day. They need help acquiring professional services and the many other special needs of the atypical person. The wait lists are long. The disabled of GA cannot sustain cuts and caps.
Thank you for representing us,
Joanne Gareau
[redacted]

From: Jane Grillo [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:06 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Stacey Ramirez
Subject: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

My name is Jane Grillo. I live (and vote) in Sautee Georgia 30571. I am the parent of a 15 year old who has cerebral palsy.

Medicaid Waivers are vital to us. Although my husband and I are both college educated working parents, we could not possibly afford all of Joe's medical costs. And, right now he is healthy... This year, Joe had a growth spurt and we needed both a wheelchair and a walker. The combined expense of this equipment is around $15,000. Our private insurance only paid $700.

Joe's disabilities classify him as nursing level care. The waiver gives me enough home services support so that I can work (and keep our family insurance).

If we lost the waiver, I would have to quit working, lose my insurance and then we would wind up having to use MORE government services.

A research study about the amount of hidden service families provide for loved ones was published in the journal *Pediatrics* (Dec. 2106). The study, called "Family Provided Healthcare for Children with Special Health Care," estimated the total market value of family contributions could range from a low of $11.6 billion annually, to $35.7 billion if you consider the cost for care by a home-health aid. Meanwhile, family members who do this caretaking work give up an estimated $17.6 billion in lost wages.

Without Medicaid, we would be forced to apply for SSI disability services. We have never used WIC or Medicaid for his Gtube nutrition, since I believe we should pay for the food our child eats. I have worked to be a good steward of his services, and frankly I am insulted by this assumption that everyone on Medicaid is sucking the system dry.

Sincerely,

Jane Grillo

Jane Grillo Parent Mentor Partnership White County Schools jgrillo343@yahoo.com

From: Rita Haggerty [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:13 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia-Why Medicaid matters to Me

Dear Senators Isakson and Perdue,

I urge you not to vote to make these devastating cuts to Medicaid. Medicaid has helped our family in significant ways. Our daughter Hannah was born with Down syndrome and she qualified for a Katie Becket Program waiver. It covered the costs of the Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy that our health insurance would not cover. After our ENT's Audiologist recommended a hearing aid, they also told us they would not accept Medicaid as payment for the hearing aid. We were able to be seen at CHOA and she received the hearing aid, paid for by Medicaid. She has had numerous tube placements in her ears, and with the assistance of Medicaid our out-of-pocket costs were greatly reduced.

In 2014 my husband and I were both laid off from our jobs, and our company health coverage ran out during the summer of 2015. My husband and I (we both have pre-existing conditions) were able to buy affordable insurance on the Health Exchange - thanks to the Affordable Care Act. We were able to buy insurance for our teenaged son via Peachcare for Kids, and by this time, because Hannah was now 18, she was fully using Medicaid for her medical and dental coverage.

My husband found work this year that provided health benefits and our kids have rejoined us on our insurance plan. But Hannah turns 20 this August and can only remain on our insurance until 26. What will happen to Medicaid during these intervening 6 years?

Hannah has been on the waiting lists for a NOW waiver (New Options Waiver) since she was 14. At that time the average wait in Georgia was 7 years and we were hopeful she would receive a waiver as she left school for employment support, transportation, and assistance when she moved to her own living space. We were thinking we could manage to pay for living space for her. Because Georgia has not increased funding for the NOW/Comp waivers, that wait has stretched out to 9 years, and because of our lost years of employment income our plans for Hannah have become much more tenuous. Cutting Medicaid over the next decade would be devastating to Hannah and so many people like her. With improved healthcare, people with developmental disabilities are living longer lives, living well into adulthood and outliving their parents.

I'm 60 years old and my husband is 54. We will be in the high-risk pool in the proposed Senate plan which will have a significant impact on our healthcare costs should we need to purchase on the Health Exchange; we expect our costs will rise on the employer-provided plan, too.

Senators, the current plan is not good enough for the American people and absolutely terrible for people with disabilities and seniors who use the bulk of Medicaid dollars! Senator Isakson, I was on the town hall phone call where you said you would not let Medicaid be gutted! Please sir, honor your promise.

Senators, vote to start over and make a better plan.

Sincerely,

Rita Haggerty
[redacted]
Clarkston, GA [redacted]

From: Teresa Tallent [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia Senators

Importance: High

Dear Sirs,
I have been on ICWP for several years. If not for programs like ICWP I would have been in a nursing home long ago. I am 60 years old & live with my parents who are each in their 80's. I currently have 3 caregivers who assist me 7 days a week. I use an electric wheelchair due Cerebral Palsy. If this revised healthcare bill passes. I will lose the following:

1. The ability & Right to stay in my home with family & friends.
2. The use of adaptive equipment in my home.
3. The Right to Worship as I chose.
4. The Right to practice choice in everyday activities.
5, I will lose my caregivers & they will lose jobs.
6. I will spend the rest of my life in a situation I neither **want or need** to be in.
7. Losing insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions &/or cost that is too much for a fixed income. My Parent's are worried about this themselves. My Father is an 87 yr. old USAF veteran.
8. In short, I fear losing my **Right to Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness!**

Community-based programs are much less expensive than nursing home placement. Has anybody thought the logistics of a major program shift like this would be? Short term are there enough beds to house a large number of nursing home placements? Do you take kids from there home? What about those conditions nursing homes are unable/or unwilling to accommodate?
I ask you not to support this bill.

Teresa Tallent
[redacted]
Marietta, Ga. [redacted]

My parent's also join me by signing this message.

M/M Howard & Ruby Tallent
[redacted]
Marietta, Ga. [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Linda Turner [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Fwd: Georgia Medicaid, Linda G. Turner, Woodstock, GA 30188

Subject: Georgia Medicaid

Nicole,
This is an extremely urgent matter to my family!! We have a 52 year old son who is borderline retarded and has bi-polar, obsessive-compulsive disorder with many other issues such as impulse control disorder, epilepsy seizures presently controlled by medication! I am his legal guardian and am now 77 years old. Because of being able to have him on Medicaid and after a long wait is now covered by a Medicaid Waiver which helped with getting him into a great group home with United Cerebral Palsy, and helps with having a job coach with Briggs and Associates who has gotten a job at Walmart where he works 2-3 days most weeks for 4 hours a day to be able to have money to cover the cost of social activities in a Social Club. We wanted to make sure before our deaths that he will be well-taken care of and have a comfortable and happy life! I have attached a list of the medications that he takes to control his disorders. Before we found his present Doctor, who has done a magnificent job with his medications, he had so many issues he at one time ended up in jail for attacking another disabled boy! I pray that we do not lose Medicaid and the Waiver so that he can continue to have a safe and happy life once we are no longer here! We have also managed to set up a Special Needs Trust which will be funded upon our deaths, to cover any additional expenses he may have.

From: Dot Blum [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Save Medicaid in Georgia

I live in Smyrna, Georgia.

Without Medicaid coverage many families will face financial hardships which affects all of us because it sends the price of everything up and floods the emergency rooms. The loss of Medicaid will create more homelessness because the cost of medical bills is exorbitant and without Medicaid these families will lose everything they own and their self-respect and dignity.

We have family members and friends whose lives are saved because of Medicaid. Please, help us save Medicaid in Georgia. We need to have this option for ourselves, our families and our neighbors.

This issues is not about Politics. It's about doing the humane thing.

Thank you,
Dot Blum
[redacted]
Smyrna, GA [redacted]

From: Fragile X Association of GA [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Email to Isakson & Purdue

You have always been reasonable in your decisions and I hope that you will continue that mind set as you vote on matters that include personal support for those adults living independently but need support like our son Scott. Thanks for all your support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Gail
sent on iPhone

From: Stacey Ramirez
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:13 PM
To: Sitara Nayak
Cc: Nicole Jorwic; Dawn Johnson
Subject: Re: Save Medicaid In GEORGIA

THANK YOU so much Sitara!!!

Stacey Ramirez
State Director
The Arc Georgia
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2017, at 5:09 PM, Sitara Nayak [redacted] wrote:

> My name is Sitara Nayak, I live in Marietta, GA. I have a 15 yr old son who has multiple disabilities. He currently receives Medicaid and the Home and Community Based Waivers. Without Medicaid we(his parents) will not be able to provide him the support and care he needs at home. Medicaid ensures that he gets the medical treatments and medications that he needs, and the Home and Community Based waivers provides him with the in home supports he requires such as help with eating, hygiene needs, and daily living activities..
>
> Please do not make any changes to Medicaid. If the current bill is passed, families and children like my son will be left without even the basic medical care, and personal care support they require in order to just live in their home. This will be devastating for our family.
>
> Regards
> Sitara Nayak
> (Ishan's Mom)

From: Faye Capers [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

Hello My name is Faye Capers and I live in Atlanta, GA. My son Kori is on a COMP Waiver and it helps him to be a part of a community by being able to be involved and having someone to help him in his everyday life. He volunteers at a Nursing home actually helping others. This waiver makes the life that he has possible. Please do not take that away from him and countless other families who depend Medicaid for healthcare and living a better life. Put yourself in our position and what would you do then?

--

Your donations support P2P Youth Activities. Donate Now!

Outreach Trainer
Parent to Parent of Georgia
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Stacey Ramirez
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Kelly Eberhardt
Cc: Nicole Jorwic; Dawn Johnson
Subject: Re: GEORGIA

Thank you Kelly!!!

Stacey Ramirez
State Director
The Arc Georgia
Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 15, 2017, at 11:21 AM, Kelly Eberhardt [redacted] wrote:
>
> SUBJECT LINE: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA Suggestion for storyline- My
> Sister Sally
> Name: Kelly Eberhardt
> City/State where you live: Dunwoody, Georgia
>
> Medicaid provides help and services my sister Sally who has a
> developmental disability. She didn't have access to this support when
> she lived with our mother until 10 years ago. I learned quickly,
> without the help of Medicaid waiver, there were few options to help me
> support of her. Until she was approved for funding five years ago, I
> went in debt to pay for a full-time sitter. Without Medicaid, I will
> either quit my job to care for her myself, or I'll continue to go
> deeper in debt. There's no good future ahead of us without
> Medicaid.[cid:48011DE5-18EA-40C7-8EA2-8C8675E3872F]
> <Sally' Prom Pic017.jpg>

Email: https://www.perdue.senate.gov/connect/email
Atlanta: (404) 865-0087
DC: (202) 224-3521
Twitter: @sendavidperdue
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/perduesenate/

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal
Email: https://gov.georgia.gov/webform/contact-governor
Phone: 404-656-1776
Fax: (404) 657-7332
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GovernorDeal
Twitter: @GovernorDeal

**Note from GCDD: Although Governor Deal cannot vote on this bill in the US Senate, he can influence our two US Senators by sharing the concerns of citizens of his State on the negative impact of Medicaid cuts and caps.*

For more information contact:
Stacey Ramirez, SRamirez@TheArc.org

STAY CONNECTED:

The Arc Georgia, P. O. Box 91051, Atlanta, GA 30364

Nicole Jorwic

From: Stacey Ramirez
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:37 PM
To: adaptgazan
Cc: Nicole Jorwic; Dawn Johnson
Subject: Re: Medicaid Matters! Charlene Barlow 40 yrs in Milledgeville

Thank you Zan! Long live ADAPT!!

Stacey Ramirez
State Director
The Arc Georgia
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2017, at 3:22 PM, adaptgazan [redacted] wrote:

> No cuts No Caps! Medicaid is VIP!
> Medicaid is a life substaining insurance for us. Without Medicaid, there are no waivers...i never want to be in an institution ever.
> Charlene Barlow , Black Deaf woman
> Was trapped 40 years at Milledgeville for 25 years she had no interpreter and the hospital drugged her to keep her calm ....calm is a code word fpr compliant and not talking in sign nor writing.
> She was put in the institution because her stepdad raped her. She ran away age 14. No one signed in her family. So she was forced into an institution that more costly than home and comm. Based service.
>
> I know this for a fact because we helped her file a complaint under Olmstead decision. She now lives in her own place with folks upstairs who help her.
>
> Senators Isakson and Perdue, Governor Deal
> ..are you going to tell her in person she has to go back to an institution because lack of political will?
>
> Zan Thornton
> [redacted]
> Decatur Ga [redacted]
> [redacted]
> I have permission to use her name and situation. She signed" prefer death than jail hell like institute" meaning she rather die 1st than to go back to institute like jail hell.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GEORGIA Mom wants Medicaid left as is; Neva K Maffett, [redacted] Lawrenceville, [redacted]

I am 83; my son, mentally handicapped since birth, now 60 yrs. has always lived with me at home; Medicaid provides me with
a male helper who comes in part time to provide help for my son. Medicaid provides this; I feel that we have saved federal &
state governments a lot of money keeping him at home; I need this help. Thank you for listening. Neva K Maffett, [redacted] Corley
[redacted] Lawrenceville, GA [redacted].

From: Pam Walley [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:42 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic; Stacey Ramirez
Subject: Georgia Plea to Save Medicaid HCBS

Callie is a recent high school graduate commited to helping others, particularly people with disabilities.

Callie's future plans include continuing her education and making a real contribution to society.

Callie is in an ICU room right now, fighting to recover from a broken leg and related infections.

Callie also has cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and a host of chronic medical conditions present since birth. Until this hospitalization, her daily medical needs were met with the help of a Medicaid HCBS waiver.

Without Medicaid supports, Callie can't safely live outside this hospital. I cannot provide all her care myself, so the in-home staff is literally the lifeline to her future.

Callie wants to go home. Don't take away the life she knows. Vote NO on any Medicaid plan that will allow or encourage states to cut or cap services for people like Callie.

We are depending on you.

From:	Debbie Anderson [redacted]
Sent:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:13 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Georgia/Medicaid Funding

Dear Senator Isakson and Senator Purdue,

I respectfully ask that you preserve Medicaid funding. My adult son, Max P. Anderson, is 23 years old. He has Autism Spectrum Disorder and receives a Medicaid COMP waiver. Without these services, I would have to quit my job and stay home to care for him. SInce my husband (Max's father) died in 2016 of pancreatic cancer, I am already working a full time job, plus 3 part-time jobs to help us make ends meet. The COMP Waiver provides services that help Max have a meaningful life in Columbus where we live and allow me to be a taxpayer. Keeping Medicaid at its current funding level still leaves many people with disabilities without services. More than 7000 people that need Medicaid services are on waiting lists in our state. Please show that you, and our society, and our government value all lives by not cutting Medicaid funding.

Sincerely,

Debra P. Anderson
[redacted]
Columbus, GA [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Stacey Ramirez
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:38 PM
To: Dave Zilles
Cc: Nicole Jorwic; Dawn Johnson
Subject: Re: Emergency Letter Writing Campaign

Thank you so much my Friend!!

Stacey Ramirez
State Director
The Arc Georgia
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2017, at 11:43 AM, Dave Zilles [redacted] wrote:

> You are doing a great job. So glad to see someone really step up and make this happen. Thank you.
>
> Just so you know I am not happy with the Medicaid cuts but there needs to be a better way to address the disability issues and bring then to the forefront. This us a start.
>
> Dave
>
> Dave Zilles
> [redacted]
>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: "Stacey Ramirez, The Arc Georgia" <sramirez@thearc.org>
> Date: 7/15/17 10:27 AM (GMT-05:00)
> To: [redacted]
> Subject: Emergency Letter Writing Campaign
>
> Having trouble viewing this email? Click here
>
> Join The Arc Georgia to #SaveMedicaid, critical action needed NOW!
>
> **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**
>
> Emergency Weekend
> **Medicaid Matters to Me**
> Letter Writing Campaign

From: Heidi [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic; Stacey Ramirez
Subject: Fwd: Save Medicaid in Georgia

Subject: Save Medicaid in Georgia

Name: Heidi and Andrew Fernandez
City/State where you live: Woodstock, GA

Medicaid allows my son Andrew to have access to services and supports that he needs to be a member of his community. Medicaid also allows him to have medical/medication services to address his Crohns.

Please don't cut his services!

Thank you,
The Fernandez Family

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Jordan Hall [redacted]
Sent:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:13 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic; Stacey Ramirez
Subject:	Save Medicaid in Georgia

Hi my name is Jordan Hall, and I live in McDonough Georgia. Medicaid is vital to my life. I have Cerebral Palsy, so I rely on Medicaid for my daily life. I use it so that I may have a nurse to get me dressed, which allowed me to attend college and work. It also helped provide my wheelchair, which I must use everyday. Medicaid is what allows me to be a contributing member of society.

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Heidi J. Moore- UniteOurVoices [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Stacey Ramirez
Subject: Save Medicaid in Georgia

Name: Jacob A. Moore
City/State: Alpharetta, GA

Please consider the impact BCRA will have on individuals with disabilities like my son, Jacob, who is 17 years old and has Down syndrome, Autism & a cancer survivor. He needs home and community based programs funded via Medicaid. Block grants and caps will impact the services he receives in Georgia. Currently, Jacob receives the home and community based COMP waiver due to his intensive needs and has had it since the age of 6 yrs old. It's our lifeline as a family. We do purchase primary healthcare insurance for our son but Medicaid is his secondary. I had to give up my well paying career to stay home with my son and take care of his brother as well. My husband works VERY hard to make sure we are financially provided for and have necessary healthcare insurance. We need Medicaid AND COMP waiver for our son in order to continue to live.

I want to make it clear that the BCRA that is being proposed in both the US House and Senate would **NOT** only repeal Obamacare but it would also seriously restructure how Medicaid is funded. Which is guaranteed to reduce funding levels for the ENTIRE Medicaid population. Not only does it cap spending but it will lead to a cut of over $800 billion to the program in the US. In Georgia alone, we have over 399,000 people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities will likely see the most drastic cuts due to the "optional" programs currently in place.

Georgia is required to provide Medicaid coverage to those with disabilities in nursing facilities & other institutional settings as opposed to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) settings. Caring for people with disabilities at home is far LESS expensive than institutional care and fiscally the right decision! The average cost per year for state institution care is $172,280 as compared to $28,901/year for HCBS (less expensive for the State of Georgia). HCBS needs to be protected since right now it's optional!

The bottom line is we need to protect the most vulnerable people with disabilities and their families through these healthcare changes. We need to guarantee that the disability population will be protected from these cuts or give us assurances!

Please vote NO against any bill that cuts healthcare for people with disabilities.

Sincerely-
Heidi J. Moore
Alpharetta, GA
[redacted]

Heidi J. Moore
Parent Advocate for Children with Disabilities and Pediatric Cancer Research

For disability information and previous newsletters, please go to www.UniteOurVoices.com , Twitter or Facebook.

"United- We Will Make a Difference!"

From:	Kelly Eberhardt [redacted]
Sent:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:13 AM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	GEORGIA

SUBJECT LINE: Save Medicaid in GEORGIA

My Sister Sally, Developmental Disability

Name: Kelly Eberhardt

City/State where you live: Dunwoody, Georgia

Medicaid provides help and services my sister Sally who has a developmental disability. She didn't have access to this support when she lived with our mother until 10 years ago. I learned quickly, without the help of Medicaid waiver, there were few options to help me support of her. Until she was approved for funding five years ago, I went in debt to pay for a full-time sitter. Without Medicaid, I will either quit my job to care for her myself, or I'll continue to go deeper in debt. There's no good future ahead of us without Medicaid.

From: Bonnie Seery [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GEORGIA

Nicole,
We work with many young adults seeking employment and independence. We must continue to have Medicaid to enable the training and supportive employment for these individuals. Each person depends on Medicaid for different things to help them live on their own, work on their own, be their own person! Everyone desires the opportunity to contribute to their community with their own special gifts. The services and supports provided through Medicaid allows that.

Thank you!

Bonnie

Dr. Bonnie Seery

Georgia Statewide

[redacted]

Thomasville, GA. [redacted]

[redacted]

#NO CUTS NO CAPS ~ #SAVE MEDICAID

From: Cindy Oxford-Wright [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia Medicaid - Why it matters

I work as a provider of Medicaid NOW/COMP Waiver services. These services are provided specifically to individuals born with a developmental disability. Through my job, I have met many remarkable people who live their lives with strength and courage. These people rely on Medicaid Waiver services to help meet their basic daily needs. Their parents rely on these services in order to hold down a job to provide for their family. To be able to show up for that job, they rely on caregivers provided by the NOW/COMP waiver to care for their loved one with a disability. Older parents rely heavily on these services for their adult children so that they can continue to live together as a family, or have peace of mind knowing their adult child is being properly cared for.
If these services are taken away or not available, these families would have nowhere to turn.

Georgia Medicaid provides many services to many in need. As you review the Better Care Reconciliation Act, please consider the needs of people born with a disability and their parents. These are the most vulnerable of our citizens, neighbors, loved ones, and friends.

Cindy Oxford-Wright, MS, CRC
Director of Services
Loving Care Family Service
[redacted]
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: L McClanahan [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:57 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: GEORGIA - Please don't abandon the most vulnerable

Honorable Senator:

I voted for you. I have contacted you before about this subject. I know you have a BIG job helping a LOT of people, but I find that I need to write to you again.

The Senate is set to vote on the latest version of the **Better Care Reconciliation Act**. The latest revisions to the bill do **NOT** change the devastating cuts to the Medicaid program that over 10 million people with disabilities rely on to live and work in your community.

My son is one of those people. My son is 17, with Down syndrome, autism and learning delays that make it impossible for him to hold a job that will ever support him. He is sweet and well-liked but will depend on others to care for him for the rest of his life. He currently receives Community Based Instruction through his high school and through his Medicaid New Options Waiver. When he graduates from high school at age 21, if his Medicaid waiver is not there for him, where will he turn? If I am not here for him, would you have him locked up in an institution, where it would cost Medicaid over 5 times as much to care for him as home-based care? Waivers would be the first to be cut, if the devastating cuts to Medicaid are made in Georgia, as proposed, in the BCRA.

You MUST consider the needs of the most vulnerable people in our society in the BCRA, or it will fail us all.

Sincerely,

Linda McClanahan

Roswell, Georgia

Nicole Jorwic

From: Carol [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:46 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

I have a 30 year old son who is receiving the NOW and COMP waiver. He has a rare syndrome called WAGR. He has been able to live away from home now for the past three years and has come to love his "independence." In not sure what will happen if he loses these services. He is working about 14 hrs a week and loves his job. I am not getting any younger and am terrified at the thought that my son would be without services or any help when I am no longer around. Please save MEDICAID! I've called and written to Senators Isackson and Perdue and have received an email from Perdue who states he supports this new health bill. Our Senators and Congressmen need to come live in our shoes for just one day to realize how very viral these services are!
Thank you.
Carol R. Unger

Nicole Jorwic

From: Linda Turner [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 11:15 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: FW: Georgia Medicaid

Importance: High

Nicole,

This is an extremely urgent matter to my family!! I have a 52 year old son who is borderline retarded and has bi-polar, obsessive-compulsive disorder with many other issues such as impulse control disorder, epilepsy seizures presently controlled by medication! I am his legal guardian and am now 77 years old. Because of being able to have him on Medicaid and after a long wait is now covered by a Medicaid Waiver which helped with getting him into a great group home with United Cerebral Palsy, and helps with having a job coach with Briggs and Associates who has gotten a job at Walmart where he works 2-3 days most weeks for 4 hours a day to be able to have money to cover the cost of social activities in a Social Club. We wanted to make sure before our deaths that he will be well-taken care of and have a comfortable and happy life! I have attached a list of the medications that he takes to control his disorders. Before we found his present Doctor, who has done a magnificent job with his medications, he had so many issues he at one time ended up in jail for attacking another disabled boy!
I pray that we do not lose Medicaid and the Waiver so that he can continue to have a safe and happy life once we are no longer here! We have also managed to set up a Special Needs Trust which will be funded upon our deaths, to cover any additional expenses he may have.

Prayers!
Linda G. Turner

P.S. I will send another email with a list of his medications as I have
been unable to attach it to this email. Thank you for all you are doing!

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Ashley Gleit [redacted]
Sent:	Friday, July 14, 2017 8:15 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Georgia

Dear Senators,

I write this letter to you as a person who does not have Medicaid and has not benefited directly in any way from the ACA. However, the same cannot be said about the young children I work with on a daily basis. You see, I am a full-time pediatric Occupational Therapist and I am about to start my last semester of graduate school studying Applied Behavior Analysis. Working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities is my passion, and most of my clients would be unable to benefit from the services my colleagues and I provide without Medicaid assisting their families with the cost of the therapies they need and without a doubt benefit from.

What are these benefits you ask? Here is a brief list:

- Teaching an almost 10 year old boy with a genetic disorder to dress himself independently
- Toilet training a 5 year old girl with Down syndrome
- Intervening to expand the diet of a 4 year old boy with Autism, and teaching him to feed himself
- Teaching a 6 year old boy with Cerebral Palsy to point so he can use a communication device to get his needs met
- Reducing the severe self-injury and improving the social engagement of an almost 8 year old girl with Autism, who at 7 years old finally looked at her mother and said "Mama"

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the benefits Medicaid funding provides to my kids every day. While their strengths and areas of need are different, the skills they are acquiring through therapies supported by Medicaid dollars are helping them work toward the goal of being a fully integrated, productive member of society.

I know what you may be thinking, and it probably has something to do with money. However, it is important to remember that with Medicaid support now, the likelihood that my kids will require costly state institutional care as an adult decreases. Just because my kids have disabilities does not mean they do not exist. They are real - living and breathing. And they will continue to grow and become adults who will largely end up one of two ways. They will either (1) require state care because their families were unable to benefit from Medicaid assistance to afford the services they needed, or (2) they will become adults who have the skills to be fully integrated members of their communities, because Medicaid was there to make sure they had access to the therapies, adaptive equipment, and support they needed to get there. The future of my babies (because while I may not have given birth to any of them, each and every one of them has a piece of my heart) is quite literally in your hands.

My kids are smart, and funny, and loving beyond all belief, and they deserve to live up to their fullest potential, something that would not be possible for many of them without Medicaid funding. Think about them, and the hundreds of thousands of children like them in our state and in our country and vote NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Sincerely,
Ashley Gleit, MHS, OTR/L

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kathy Cash [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 8:01 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Senator, I was on your call this week and heard you commit to us that you would not allow our Medicaid services for disabled adults in Georgia to be cut. This is a picture of my 29 year old son, Brandon Cash. He has a Medicaid waiver and is learning job skills because of his waiver. Brandon is a young man with autism, that suffers from extreme anxiety and OCD. Without his programs and staff that supports him daily he will sit at home depressed and alone.

I am Brandon's Mom. I have a physical disability and am on disability and can not care for Brandon alone. PLEASE do not sign a bill that allows our Medicaid services for adults with disabilities to be cut!!!
We need your support!

Kathy Cash
Alpharetta, GA
[redacted]
Kathy Cash
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jean Estes [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Georgia

Dear Nicole,

As both the parent of a young man with multiple special needs, and an attorney who represents children with disabilities all over the state of Georgia, and assists their parents in obtaining appropriate educational services and supports for their children, I beg our government not to pass any healthcare measures that drastically cut Medicaid.

Having children with special needs is very costly, and frequently limits the income earning ability of one or both parents who care for their child. We need all of the healthcare support that we can get, or alternatively, the large majority of children and young adults with disabilities will be left without any coverage, as healthcare coverage for them will be cost prohibitive due to their pre-existing conditions. I do not want my son or any of my clients to die due to their inability to access quality medical care should their Medicaid coverage be taken away. Feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. [redacted] Thank you,

Jean Estes