INDIANA

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 20:45:29
To: My Senator
From: Paula Shockley
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

Dear Senators,

My name is Paula Shockley. I am a 53 yo mother to 2 beautiful daughters. Ages 14 and 12. Savannah, our youngest was born with Down Syndrome. Her sister, Meliah who is 14 is your typical freshman in high school.

My husband and I are both gainfully employed, he as a machine operator at FCC in Portland. I am a nurse at the VA outpatient clinic in Muncie. Financially, we have lived a very rocky road before Savannah qualified Medicaid waiver services. We continue to struggle from time to time during the times she has illnesses. I carry Federal BC/BS insurance for our family, and Medicaid picks up Savannah's expenses after my primary pays.

However, we do rely on Medicaid for PA hours for personal care, so that my husband I can get to work, go to work and get to work in time. So that Savannah can have trained staff with her at all times, to maintain her safety, ADL's, nutrition, and our peace of mind. If we did not have those types of services available to her, one of us would have to quit our job, greatly decreasing our ability to maintain our independence. And quite possibly increasing dependence on the states already struggling economy.

I have recently graduated from the Governors Council for Policymaking for Persons with Disabilities. I am a very vocal advocate for the civil rights for this group of underserved Americans. Listen, I get that we need to make changes to the ACA, it's broken where it stands. But not at the expense of the MOST vulnerable sector this nation perceives as a drain on the bottom line. Medicaid, MUST stay intact. The targets you have now, will surely kill fragile babies, medically fragile children and adolescents and adults, and our geriatric populations. I'm pretty sure no one wants that kind of blood on their hands!

Please vote NO on #Grahamcassidy This is bad government, and bad for America!

Sincerely,

Paula Shockley

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-22 15:29:50
To: My Senator
From: Bonita Braun
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

I wish to tell this committee how important medicaid was to our family . In September 2001 it became necessary for us to take over the care and raising of our twin granddaughters. They were eight years old. They were born at 29 1/2 weeks by emergency c section to save their lives. Unfortunately the one they took first was born with severe CP. and did not have use of legs for walking or full control of arms . As she got older she was in a wheel chair to get around. She was intelligent and understood intellectually but was hampered in learning because she was non verbal and while our school system worked well with her, but the abilities of the state and system were not yet ready for a person with her intellect . With STRONG PERSEVERANCE on her grandparents and special education teachers we were able to get her into regular academic classes. Her split egg twin , was in honors and higher functioning classes, from third grade on. However because of her early birth she does have a chronic stuttering condition. She did have excellent school based speech therapy.

Because of Medicaid , our granddaughter with CP was able to have life saving surgeries, and care. Could her Grandparents have paid for it? Yes, if we spent our retirement and or bankrupted ourselves.Never mind the immediate consequences of doing that. Expensive yes,Worth it not only for our granddaughter but her 500 plus classmate and the legacy she left to our school for what they learned by having her in their classrooms and school. Unfortunately she died unexpectedly of twisted bowel general description in early November 2008 of their sophomore year. Her twin graduated high in class and highest honors Coll. No Govt funds. In Grad School. More stories then you know help us keep our brainyest alive and contributing. For our children and adults who need it to be contributing we need this program. Oh other twin most she cost program was for wisdom tooth extraction. Smart enough without her 'wisdom tooth.!! LOL Please keep a proven program in place and don't phase out in ten years or whatever other schemes to cut a needed and worthy program.

Date: 2017-09-22 18:50:24
To: My Senator
From: Natalie Washkow
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My mother is a retired nurse. She rasied me, as a single mother, on income she earned working in long-term care, caring for many Medicaid patients. Medicaid paid for my childhood.

I have worked in long-term care for the last sixteen years, since I was nineteen years old. My income is largely paid for by Medicaid.

The patients I work with, who have become like family to me, are given care, shelter, and food largely paid for by Medicaid.

My 7 year old daughter was diagnosed with Autism. She has been on the Medicaid Waiver waitlist since January. She was finally approved this month and I'm in the process of applying for Medicaid now to pay for services I otherwise could not afford to provide her. Without these available services, what kind of life will she have?

My grandmother is 92. She is almost out of money and will rely on Medicaid to be there, once her life savings runs out, to continue to receive care. My family is unable to provide her appropriate care in her weakened, demented state.

Without Medicaid funding and services, what other options will people have for providing care, food, and shelter to their families?

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-24 00:47:58
To: My Senator
From: Michael Ely
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

To who m it may concern ,

I understand that Medicaid will be cut effecting people with disabilities lives. Medicaid pays for staff who works with people with disabilities like using the bathroom, helping them with their meals , get them dress and other important things with them through out the day. I am a person with disability. The staff play part in my day. Please do not cut Medicaid.

Michael

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Indiana

Jennifer and Grace Akers
[redacted]
We need to #SaveMedicaid to provide crucial supports to individuals with disabilities so they can live in their homes and communities. Medicaid is their lifeline.

What cuts in Medicaid mean to our family and our community:
Cuts in Medicaid have the potential to transport us back to the bad old days when people with disabilities were not seen, not heard, and relegated to living in dreary institutions. I'm not that old, but I am old enough to have been told that if I needed help with my severely disabled son, I should send him to Muskatatuk State Hospital. "Think of your other children", I was told. It would be best for him.

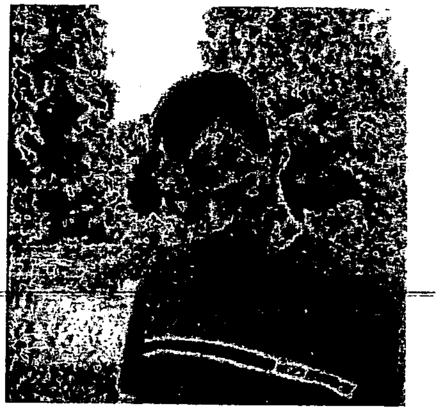
I couldn't possibly understand how sending my three year old son, who needed more love, more attention, more patience...more of everything...away from his family who loved him best of all, into the care of strangers, would be best for him. So I didn't do it. And I'm so thankful. He has been a gift, enriching the lives of all who know him.

I visited Muskatatuk though. Years later when we were lobbying to shut down the State institutions. I visited the ward where the severely autistic, mentally disabled young adults were housed. Every one of them had cauliflower ears (the caretaker explained there was a biter on the ward), broken, missing and yellow teeth, and all were cowering and suspicious.

I think I cried for a week after that visit. Every time I looked at my handsome young son, he was 17 at the time, I knew that with a simple twist of fate, he could have been one of those neglected souls, forgotten, unloved, and as a result...unable to love. No quality of life. Every one of those young men had a family that couldn't care for them. The only difference for us was, in spite of the physical and economic hardships, we had managed.

So are we back there? With the specter of institutionalization looming for men like my son? Right now, through Medicaid Waiver services, he lives not far from me or his brother and sisters in a house he shares with 2 other middle-aged men who also need 24 hour care. He is home several times a week, is included in all family functions, attends church with us, and is known and loved by many in the community for his unrestrained joy in living. Are we going back those bad old days of warehousing those who can't fend for themselves? Because that is what cuts to Medicaid will mean to my son. He can't have any less care. We've already been through enough cuts and his services are pared to the bone.

I think Americans are a proud, moral, just people. We are not the kind of people who believe it is OK to discard our family members with disabilities, or let our aging neighbors die of neglect. We need to rally together now and assure our legislators that turning back the clock and underfunding services for children, people with disabilities, and our elderly is not acceptable. We are not a third world country. We are the United States of America. The richest nation on earth. We are a nation of communities full of people who care. Let your Congressman know how you feel.



Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc
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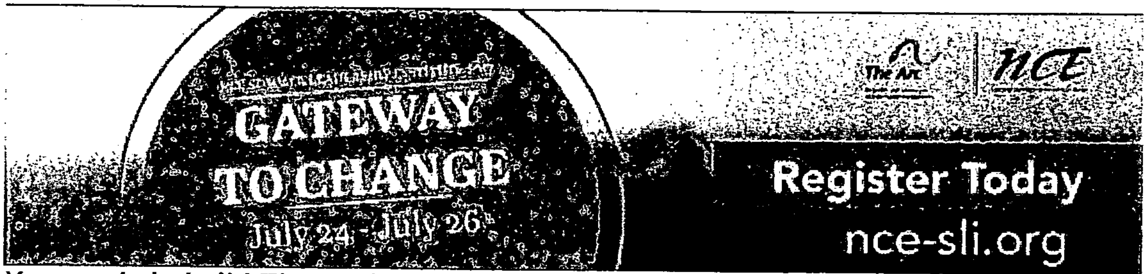
The Arc.
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



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

From: Gloria Holub [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:05 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to me in Indiana!

To U.S. Senators:
I live in Indiana. I have a developmentally disabled daughter who is able to live in a supervised group living program due to Medicaid. This allows her to be semi-independent. She has a job in a sheltered workshop and attends many activities, all while being supervised by staff. She was on a waiting list for Medicaid Waiver for many years and now she is able to take advantage of having a case manager who advocates for her and to access a variety of services which help her to live as normal a life as possible.

Please do not cut Medicaid benefits for disabled adults like my daughter! Cutting Medicaid will have devastating effects for millions of Americans.

Gloria Miller Holub
Goshen, Indiana

From: Christianson, Abigail G [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:22 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Why Medicaid matters to me -INDIANA

Medicaid matters to me because I am an advocate for individuals with special needs. I am a senior at Ball State University and I am studying special education. I am dedicating my life to teach people who NEED Medicaid to survive. People with disabilities require services that are not always covered by typical insurance - wheelchairs and equipment, communication devices, respite care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy... The list goes on. These people who are typically born with impairments that cannot be prevented deserve to live happy & healthy lives like the rest of us. This nation has made so much progress in accepting others, including people with impairments. People with impairments have more rights than ever before. If we lose Medicaid, we will lose a defining, vital chunk of our nation.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Pamela Immel [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:11 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicare/Medicaid

Please don't vote for ANYTHING that will cut benefits for Medicare and Medicaid as my disabled son depends on this funding to live! I feel Medicare/Medicaid for disabled should be under a totally different umbrella than Medicare/ Medicaid for others.

Pamela Immel
Carmel, in

Sent from my iPad

From: Mary Pat Torbeck [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid cuts

We are a family of 6. We have two sons severely disabled by Autism. By severely disabled I mean both boys are unable to speak, one has seizures and is incontinent so must wear adult diapers, and the other has significant behavioral challenges that create potential problems in all environments.

I have stayed home to care for our children so we are a one income family.

Our situation, like many, is NOT a result of poor choices we made, abuse of our bodies, health or finances.

The Medicaid waiver services we receive to allow our family to function by providing needed services so our sons may remain as healthy and active as possible (and for them to volunteer in our community in order to give back) and me (their primary care giver) the respite I need so that I may love them all well and provide a clean home and healthy meals. By assisting our family in this way my husband has been allowed to work full time providing for our family instead of having to stay home and help care for our sons.

PLEASE ALLOW MEDICAID TO SERVE THE MOST VULNERABLE as it was intended! If you cut services to families like ours...you will be doing more harm to our society in the long run. Please think about that.

We are praying for your wisdom.

The Torbeck Family
Indianapolis Indiana

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beth DeHoff [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid story from Indiana

My son Kyle DeHoff has multiple disabilities and special health care needs. Before Kyle had a Medicaid waiver, he had thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket medical expenses annually despite his coverage via his dad's employer-provided insurance, and was well on his way to hitting his lifetime maximum. When he received the Aged & Disabled Medicaid Waiver, that provided him with secondary Medicaid coverage that saved our family from bankruptcy, it provided coverage for previously uncovered g-tube feeding supplies and formula as well as medications, and it allowed Kyle to have a nurse to care for him after school and on school breaks, which allowed me as his mom to go back to work. Today, these supports allow him to stay in his home and community and allow us as his parents to work, pay for his primary coverage, and pay taxes. Kyle is almost 18, and as an adult it will provide him with care and day services and even a chance to work and volunteer in his community. The Medicaid waiver allows my son and our family the independence and freedom to take responsibility for our son by caring for him at home. The loss of a waiver means a loss of employment for us due to the loss of his nurse, a loss of coverage for needed nutrition and medicine for him, and limited means for us to provide what he needs. Because waiver dollars are optional in Medicaid budgets and institutional dollars are mandated, the obvious solution would be to institutionalize him -- a boy who loves being in his home and community, in a family who wants the responsibility for caring for him, but just needs a little help to do so. This would be tremendously costly to our state as well as untenable for us. Please vote NO on the BCRA.

Beth DeHoff, MPH
[redacted], Plainfield, IN [redacted]
[redacted]

From: Denise Reesor [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Indiana

Good morning,

I am writing to share my story of how my family depends on Medicaid. My two brothers-in law are twins with intellectual disability. They are placed in absolutely wonderful caring group homes that enable them to live meaningful lives that include employment, social experiences, and the physical and developmentally appropriate care that they need. These programs are funded in part by Medicaid and we absolutely do not know what would happen if they lost their support and group home. Here these men have been thriving and have been given the opportunity for a life of dignity, value, and richness. As a student myself and my husband as a teacher, who is grossly underpaid in Indiana, we could not financially support their needs without Medicaid.

Denise Reesor
Program Coordinator, Anabaptist Disabilities Network
[redacted]

From: Sharon Andersen [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: The replacement Healthcare act

My name is Sharon Andersen and I am from Indiana. This is to Senator Donnelly and Senator Young.

Please vote NO to the replacement healthcare act because it does not take into consideration the needs of my adult grandchildren, three of them, who have developmental disabilities and live in an apartment with medicaid waiver services. Their only income is social security which is used to pay their rent and utilities and food and clothing. They need the waiver services, through medicaid, for 24 hour support in the home. They also need the Medicaid for their health care and medication. Their disabilities are too severe for them to work in the community. They have Never been institutionalized and should never be.

Please vote NO until The health plan is equal to or better than what they have now.

Respectfully,

Sharon Andersen
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, In [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Sharon Andersen [redacted]
Sent:	Monday, July 17, 2017 10:36 AM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	The replacement Healthcare act

My name is Sharon Andersen and I am from Indiana. This is to Senator Donnelly and Senator Young.

Please vote NO to the replacement healthcare act because it does not take into consideration the needs of my adult grandchildren, three of them, who have developmental disabilities and live in an apartment with medicaid waiver services. Their only income is social security which is used to pay their rent and utilities and food and clothing. They need the waiver services, through medicaid, for 24 hour support in the home. They also need the Medicaid for their health care and medication. Their disabilities are too severe for them to work in the community. They have Never been institutionalized and should never be.

Please vote NO until The health plan is equal to or better than what they have now.

Respectfully,

Sharon Andersen
[redacted]
Fort Wayne, In [redacted]

From:	Jill Boughton [redacted]
Sent:	Monday, July 17, 2017 9:29 AM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Indiana Medicaid

Please don't cut Medicaid to states!
Our 28-year-old daughter has Prader-Willi Syndrome, which means she needs 24/7 supervision because of the combination of compulsive food-seeking and the fact that she rapidly gains weight if she consumes 1000 calories a day. We her parents are around 70 (one over, one under) and could no longer monitor her effectively, so we were thrilled when she received a Medicaid waiver enabling her to be supervised by a care agency. She is doing great but is totally dependent on this source of funding.
Jill and John Boughton
South Bend IN

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Jackie Dimos [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:19 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Indiana

It is so important to thousands of people and their families not to cut Medicaid.If you have a special needs person or know families who do ,these programs are so important.My son is autistic and until we found the right program for him,he was so unhappy and did not want to leave the house or be any where there was people.He was not verbal and it was so hard to understand why he was like that,be also had behavior problems . As his mother we all loved him but also struggled so much with what to do? Then a miracle happend and we found a day program.It did not take long for him to become a different person! He communicates his needs and what he likes to do to us.He is happy and smiles and giggles and loves going places.His behaviors are almost non-existent.

It takes special people to do what these individuals do day after day to help special children,adults and families. Please, please do not take Medicaid away from us and the thousands of others that need these services!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Caryl Johnson [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Indiana grandmother

I am an 83 year old grandmother of a 19 year old cerebal palsy 20 year old granddaughter. My heart god out to my precious Gracie who is severely disabled in a wheel chair and the mentality of a 3 year old.
She needs constant care and attention. The help that my son and daughter-in-law have received through Medicaid has been so helpful.
Please vote "No.,"

From: MARVIN ROSS [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Marvin & Lois Ross
Subject: GOP HealthCare Proposal

Our 51 year old son was born with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Soon after graduation from high school with a "special education certificate" Kerry qualified for Social Security and Medicaid which has been the backbone of his medical/health support for some thirty years. The State of Indiana currently lists our son on its Waiver Program with 21 distinct disabilities for which he is receiving regular medical treatment. A few of his disabilities are: Pancreatitis, Diabetes, Sleep Apnea, Cardiomyopathy, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Cirrhosis of the Liver and Intellectual Disorders. As parents we are both in our 80's and also disabled individuals, so to loose Medicaid coverage for our son would be equivalent to a death sentence. Any medical facilities available would not be affordable for us to take our son to which means medical care would resort to hospital emergency rooms when there is a dire need. Our son would not be able to receive his daily on-going medications. We urge Congress not to pass the GOP health care bill that is being considered. It would be devastating to our family.

Sincerely yours, Marvin O. and Lois Ross, [redacted] Fort Wayne, IN [redacted]
[redacted]

From: Marlene Cooper [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicade

My daughter Lorrie Gail is in an Easter Seals Arc home that would not be here if it were not for Medicaid. She is 60 years old and has five other clients in the home with her. I cannot even begin to think what we would have done without Medicaid. Please do all you can to support this. Please. Marlene Cooper [redacted] fort wayne In. [redacted]

From: Mindy [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:43 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Indiana

My adult daughter with intellectual disabilities benefits from Medicaid every day.

It not only provides her with health care and her much needed prescriptions but also daily living skills. Three days a week she receives transportation to a sheltered workshop where she has blossomed and grown both socially and with pride. She has learned work skills and can tell others she has a job and receives a paycheck which makes her feel like a responsible adult. One day a week she receives therapy that has helped her learn social skills that she can apply in the community. And another day she receives community hab services that teaches her skills on how to navigate her bank account, shopping, and other community services.

Without Medicaid, or a much reduced budget, she would no longer be able to call herself a happy, able adult with a lot of friends and a much loved job, who knows how to safely navigate her community.

As her parent, I ask that you continue to fund Medicaid to keep standards high for those in need. I support paying my taxes to live in a better society and I appreciate the taxpayer supported services she's received to date.

Thanks for your understanding and time.

Melinda Ketchum
[redacted]
Tipton IN [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary Hall [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid MATTERS!

I am the parent of an adult child with a disability who is now, at age 33, finally living independently with supports from her Medicaid Waiver. She also works as a bagger at a grocery store (for 12 years) thanks to the support and advocacy services she receives from her Waiver-funded job coach.
I also teach high school special education, and have worked with many parents whose children benefit currently from Medicaid and who will need supports as they transition from high school.
Medicaid cuts are a NON-NEGOTIABLE!
Our policy makers MUST put the health and wellbeing of citizens ABOVE political party.
Voters ARE watching...

Regards,
Mary Catherine Hall
[redacted]
Indianapolis, IN [redacted]
Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Joe and Bette Rubinstein [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Us in Indiana

We are in our late eighties, living in West Lafayette, Indiana, and parents of an adult daughter with profound developmental disabilities. She has been living for many years in one of our state's wonderful group homes and supported living arrangements largely financed by Medicaid for those Indiana residents with severe disabilities over the age of 18, who are unable to earn a living wage. Cutting the federal funding share for Medicaid would have devastating consequences for us, our daughter, and many, many others in Indiana and all over the country. Also, leaving such support up to each state would be disastrous, since state budgets vary greatly, some with very large debts, and others with well managed budget "rainy day reserves". The federal government must provide its share in order to equalize the opportunity and prevent a major exodus of people moving from the poorer states to those with more adequate funding. PLEASE vote NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act!!!

Sincerely, Bette and Joseph Rubinstein,
Parents of Hannah Rubinstein, living in a local Mentor group home, with very caring staff.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jason Meyer [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:15 PM
To: jmeyer@passagesinc.org; Nicole Jorwic; yehjm@yahoo.com
Subject: Medicaid Message: Indiana

Nicole, I hope your day is going well and thank you for coordinating these messages.
Jason

I urge you today to save Medicaid services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The new health care bill that is being proposed in the Senate is detrimental to the services offered. Passages is a provider of services to over 200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Northeast Indiana. We have been in existence since 1954 and employ approximately 130 people who work with the individuals we serve each and every day. We have three group homes which have 24 individuals we serve with disabilities where we provide 24 hour a day, seven days a week care for these individuals. We also have over 40 people we serve 24 hours a day/7 days a week in our Medicaid Waiver funded program which is usually two, three or four people living together in a residential setting. Passages serves over 80 individuals daily through day program services at our Creative Learning Center. The above numbers do not include the impact of the individuals we serve through our employment and community volunteer program.

Without our services and the services provided by other organizations in Indiana and throughout the United States, and without Medicaid funding, the individuals we serve would have no where to go. The cuts proposed in this budget will drastically reduce our organization's ability to serve our individuals as with our $5.5 million budget, over $4 million of that budget goes towards salaries of our direct support professionals who work with our individuals served with developmental disabilities.

I strongly urge you to vote "No" to the proposed health care bill as it is currently written and encourage you to work with the Arc of the United States and Ancor on a better solution.

Please take a moment to view our Passages Employment Video so you can hear first hand as to how Passages makes an impact in the lives of the individuals we serve. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdAb_t4pWrw&feature=youtu.be
Also, please take a moment to view our 60th anniversary video which shows the impact Passages has made in our community. http://passagesinc.org/wp-content/uploads/Passages-Anniversary-Video.mp4

Thank you for your time.

Jason

Jason Meyer
Passages, Inc.
President & CEO
[redacted]
Columbia City, IN [redacted]
[redacted]

Join the Passages Family Today: http://passagesinc.org/employment-application/

Nicole Jorwic

From: Tysha Rivich [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: INDIANA- Medicaid Matters

Please vote NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act. I work with children with Autism, most of who rely on Medicaid funding to receive their medically necessary treatment- ABA therapy. Without this treatment, most children will never learn functional communication skills and may continue to engage in severe problematic behavior that will forever inhibit their ability to be a productive member of society. A vote for this bill is a vote against people with developmental disabilities everywhere that depend on Medicaid. Your constituents are watching how you vote, voting against our best interest will be noted. Vote NO on this disastrous bill.

Tysha Rivich, LMHC, BCBA
Director of ABA Services

Innovations in Learning
[redacted]
Merrillville, Indiana
[redacted]

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 07:49:43
To: My Senator
From: Angela Humphrey
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

Our son is 17 years old, has Cerebral Palsy, is non-verbal and non-ambulatory. He can't do much at all for himself. However, he is very bright, witty and extremely personable. He has been on the medicaid waiver for 2 years and it's changed our lives. He has the equipment he needs and we have a few hours of respite care because of this waiver. The chair allows him to be an active participant in school activities and programs, gives him a sense of independence and makes a positive difference in his ability to interact with family and peers. Respite care allows us to attend important meetings, enjoy our grandchildren, attend to our own physical needs and is one-on-one attention for our son. I can't even begin to explain the devastation it would cause our family if we lose medicaid services. Please consider the thousands of people who have disabilities that will be impacted by this bill!

Date: 2017-09-23 13:45:02
To: My Senator
From: Marcia Baker
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

I am a 50 year old female I am disabled and can not work with out Medicaid I couldn't continue life as I have arthritis and many other very painful conditions that my medications would be impossible to purchase. I also have a 11 year old daughter who is autistic ,moderately mental retardation and bi polar with out Medicaid she could not live life with out being in a home to control her please don't take away the only chance we have to survive and be s family

The Arc®

Date: 2017-09-22 12:50:47
To: My Senator
From: Ella Boyd
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

Dear Senate Finance Committee ,

My name is Ella Boyd from Columbus Indiana. Let me introduce you to my brother Jamie, who depends on Medicaid/Medicare for his medical needs and home and community supports. Jamie was born perfectly normal until his biological parents decided to physically abuse his as an infant, which in return, caused brain damage , blindness, and other intellectual disabilities. When Jamie was adopted by my parents, physicians told them not to except Jamie's quality of live to be nothing but a vegetative state, never walk or talk or thrive, but little did they know about the power of determination by Jamie and my parents.

Thanks to the hours of never give up attitude and determination, Jamie is a thriving young man who walks, talks, works, shoppes, and attends community events in Columbus,, but non of this would have been possible without Medicaid/Medicare health insurance and community supports. Thanks to Medicaid, Jamie receives Home and Community Based support though his Medicaid Waiver, behavioral therapy, routine medical care for his Cerebral Palsy and brain damage, and other medical treatment that would not be possible without Medicaid.

Due to Jamie's intellectual disability, reading, writing and everyday basic skills does not come easy for him and requires assistance from a multitude of amazing individuals. But, without Medicaid, it would not be possible for Jamie to be living an independent life.

Please put yourself in Jamie's shoes and think about what you would do if you could not work a forty hour work week, need supports to function in your home and community on a daily bases and not have access to quality healthcare for your pre-existing conditions or no health care at all.

I ask you to please put yourself in the shoes of an individual with a intellectual/developmental disability who's life depends on SO many supports; including Medicaid, what would you want for your everyday life?

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you,

Ella Boyd

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-24 13:55:40
To: My Senator
From: Mellisa Goff
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to share our family's story about how Medicaid has impacted our lives and to express that having cuts to this would be devastating.

My husband and I have had to make some hard choices over the past few years. Most of the issues are related to job relocation due to changes in insurance and not having coverage for Autism Services. Our daughter is seven years old and has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has had multiple evaluations and treatments over the course of the last few years and we have struggled financially at times and are still paying off debt due to the high cost of healthcare and services. We had to move from Indiana polis Indiana in order to sell our house and for my husband to get a higher paying job to help cover the expenses we had to meet.

The first two years seemed to be the most devastating as we noticed that living in a smaller city we did not have all the options for Autism Services we had while living in Indy. This forced me to make the decision to leave my job and to move to Fort Wayne for the summer to get my daughter the care she needs. My husband decided to change jobs once more in hopes of having better health coverage and my daughter and I mover back to Evansville. We were educated on the Family Support Waiver and applied for it as soon as we could. Of course there was a waiting list and time it took to get targeted for services seemed forever away.

In the last year we have been targeted for the Family Support Waiver and have had the opportunity to go on date nights and grocery shopping while Respite came in to watch our daughter. We have also had Behavioral Specialists come into the home to help her with many different skills. Medicaid Waiver has been such a God-send to us. After many years of struggling financially due to the high cost of healthcare, we feel blessed to know that there is a program to help. I know that this program is limited and that there are doubts about its impact but I wanted to share that from our family's experience we are overjoyed to be given this as an option to help.

I read stories about other families still struggling and I can only pray that there are better answers for them. Autism is a funny little beast. I say "funny" because living with family members with Autism is challenging and most days you gotta keep the humor in it as it could just seem to swallow you up with the anxiety and overwhelming responsibility. Each person displays the characteristics differently and so it remains an epidemic but one so unique. The needs are many faceted and often there are also dual diagnosis. In our case we have a Support team of over 20 individuals who share in the care of our child: more than I could have ever imagined! It truly does take a village to raise a child and an entire nation united to raise and support children with special needs.

Having cuts in the Medicaid and no longer having the supports of Respite, PAC and Behavioral Management would make our lives harder. Our child is growing and like all parents we want to prepare her for the future. This takes very special timing and techniques and often one of the most important pieces of this process is the collaboration with providers to get everyone on the same page and moving in a positive direction.

We have had to make many changes along the way but one thing to keep in mind in the success of individuals with Autism is it is key to keep consistency and explaining the expectations. When we have to change providers and treatments it is sometimes like moving two steps forward and then three steps back. Other times it can seem like you are starting all over again.

Having Medicaid in place to support us in this way is crucial to the development and success of her future.

This need is great and the numbers effected by Autism are growing so I implore you to consider not only saving Medicaid but also changing it and using the data and experiences referenced by parents to guide you in the changes.

I am just one person but first and foremost a mother fighting for the best for my daughter. I appreciate all that is being done thus far and only hope that we can see Indiana leading the best use of programs for individuals with Special needs, namely Autism.

Thank you for taking the time to read our story. I pray that God will guide you in the most perfect direction and shine his face down on you.

You are in our prayers and we thank God for you!

Most Sincerely,

Mellissa Goff

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-24 08:23:10
To: My Senator
From: Lisa Cushing
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My daughter was born mentally challenged. She did not choose to be born this way. Socially she can function acceptably however mentally it is a challenge for her. We applied for Medicaid services on 1/22/2001. In May 2001 my daughter was approved for Hoosier Healthwise benefits for medical coverage. We were told it would take 10 years to be accepted for waiver services since there were so many individuals on the waiting list. My daughter struggled through school. She did not graduate with a diploma. While in high school she always asked when was she getting her "own" apartment. It was almost 10 years to the date that my daughter was approved for residential waiver services. In 2008 my daughter moved into an apartment with 1 roommate and another was added shortly after. This worked out well for the first few years then the government decided to change how the waiver services worked. Four bedroom houses were being built so the ladies were moved to a four bedroom house and a fourth roommate was added. Due to the lack of Direct Support Staff there is no way having 4 individuals in a house with different mental/physical disabilities can work. Direct Support Staff are under paid and under trained to accommodate these individuals. How can you have 1 staff for 4 individuals? Hence the behaviors my daughter has learned. My daughter has moved 8 times as we have tried to find the "right" roommate(s). She recently moved to an apartment with one other roommate that is higher functioning. She has been there 3 months. I pray every night that this will work.

Please due not cut her Medicaid services. She relies on funding to be able to receive assistance for residential staffing, behavior support and recreational therapy. She recently applied with Vocational Rehabilitation services so she can hopefully get a job. If Medicaid services are cut this would be another service she would not have.

If my daughter does not have Medicaid services as her mom/legal guardian it would be very stressful for me to continue to work as she relies heavily on my support as well.

I challenge all the individuals in government offices that are trying to cut Medicaid Services to individual with mental/physical disabilities to actually be in the lives of the individual and actually observe what it is like for parents/care takers to continue to make sure their daughter, son, spouse continue to receive the services they so much need.

Thanks

Lisa Cushing

[redacted]

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-22 10:24:10
To: My Senator
From: Marvin O. Ross
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

I just sent a full page FAX to Kim. Use any part of you wish. I am not retyping it for this. Hope you understand. [redacted]

Date: 2017-09-22 17:25:12
To: My Senator
From: emily elsner
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

our daughter, robin elsner, lives in a group home in Columbia city Indiana with two other clients of Passages. all being dependent on Medicaid for their medical treatment. the idea that they could all lose their medical coverage is totally outrageous to me.

the fact that some of our elected officials would willingly choose to do this to the least among us is even more outrageous to me. they are certainly not the kind of elected official I would chose to vote for.

robin is our only child and we have tried to provide as much as we can for hr e needs after we are gone, but the cost of medical care is extremely expensive and only getting more so. I doubt whatever we leave her will be enough to last for very long.

we counted on Medicaid to be there for her into her future, without Medicaid will she even have a future, and if so, what kind of future will it be. not a comforting thought for us, her parents, as we approach our final years.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:48:45
To: My Senator
From: Susan Catterall
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

My name is Susan Catterall and my 2 adult autistic sons are the face of Medicaid. My son, Nicholas, is 23 and higher functioning. He works a part time job, graduated from high school, voted in our last election, and is a functioning member of our society. My son, Christopher, is 20 and lower functioning. He attends a sheltered workshop 2 days a week, must have constant supervision, and is generally about at a 5 year old level. I am these 2 young men's full time caregiver and as such I do not work outside the home. My husband works long hours to provide for our family. Medicaid has been a lifeline since our boys turned 18. My 20 year old son participates in Special Olympics and I have becomes friends with a lot of special needs caregivers through this organization. We need Medicaid. Please consider what Medicaid means to these families and individuals before you make a decision on repealing and replacing the ACA. Come to our county and go visit a workshop like Rise in Angola and see where those Medicaid dollars are going. Come and meet the clients there and the aides there. Come and see our faces of Medicaid.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 22:38:21
To: My Senator
From: Natasha Boling
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

I have 4 children who utilize Medicaid. All the children have been in the foster care system. three of the children have feeding tubes and one has a central line. All the children require 24 hour care. We would not be able to support these children without Medicaid. Their countless medications, hospital stays, and equipment are very expensive. We also utilize home nursing through the waiver program. Please save Medicaid! Please save my children.

Date: 2017-09-22 08:45:46
To: My Senator
From: Meredith Howell
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My daughter, Lola, is six years old. She has gorgeous brown hair, a smile that can light up the room, and an infectious personality that demands your attention. She also has an extremely rare genetic condition called Bosch Boonstra Schaaf optic atrophy syndrome (BBSOAS). She is one of only about 40 in the world with the diagnosis. Because of BBSOAS she is legally blind from cortical visual impairment, she has epilepsy, global developmental delays, autism, hypotonia, nystagmus, strabismus, and much more. Never heard of most of these symptoms? I hadn't either until my daughter was experiencing them. In spite of the above-mentioned, Lola continues to surprise us all with her ability to conquer the unexpected. While I attribute much of Lola's progress to her sheer determination to never give up, I also acknowledge that it is because of the intensive therapies, access to doctors and medications that give her the life she has today. My husband and I both work. We recognize that we are privileged to have access to affordable health care through my husband's employer and we are very grateful. We do not take it for granted. With that being said, we also have relied heavily on Medicaid to supplement the exorbitant costs of healthcare in America today. We tried to enroll our daughter in school and while she did well, she wasn't being accessed in the way we knew she could be. We took her out to pursue full-time Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy and it was the best decision we could have made for her. She is learning, developing, growing and thriving. She can now communicate with language, she's potty trained, her hitting has decreased, she plays appropriately, she doesn't elope like she once did, and so much more. I could go on for days about how much ABA has improved Lola's quality of life and ours, too. I can't imagine where she'd be without it. Full-time ABA would not have been a possibility if it was not for Medicaid. Medicaid covers the co-pays of costs for Lola's intensive therapy. Medicaid also helps with the outrageous drug costs for Lola's prescription medications. Lola is also on the Medicaid Waiver which helps in a number of ways like giving her access to other therapies, allowing my husband and I to have respite and more. And boy, do we need the respite because as much as we love our daughter beyond measure--our life is exhausting. We are tired. We are worn out. We need the help that respite care providers can give to us. We are full of worry on a daily basis. And now because of this Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill, we are even more worried. Taking Medicaid away from our family would be cutting the lifeline to Lola. Do you know how disheartening that is to say? Nobody wants to be reliant on something beyond your control, but we are and so are millions of other families like my own. Our kids didn't choose to be born the way they were, but I'm here to tell you that their life, their education, and their future is just as important as anyone else's. Cutting Medicaid would create chaos in the disability community. We are all trying to help our loved ones with disabilities become as independent as they possibly can. My goal is for Lola to not need as much government and social assistance as she ages. If Medicaid is taken away during this critical point in her development, I anticipate that this goal will be much more challenging. As a mother, all I want is for my daughter to reach her own highest potential and our access to Medicaid makes that so much more possible.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:49:52
To: My Senator
From: Karen Smollen
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

My daughter has cerebral palsy, autism, and intellectual disability. She is 27, but essentially functions at the level of a toddler. Thanks to an astute social worker at the local children's hospital, her name was put on the waiting list for a Medicaid waiver when she was still an infant. We were blessed to begin receiving Medicaid services when she was 7 years old.

As our daughter aged, her Medicaid waiver services provided our family with much needed respite care, and Medicaid health insurance has been of great benefit in covering many expenses that my work based health insurance did not cover. Now that she has aged out of high school, her Medicaid waiver has given her the opportunity to attend a day program, and then move into a supported living home with two other housemates. While she still needs total support, she is living a more "adult" life, with community activities, day services, behavior management, and support with the activities of daily living that her dad and I will eventually be less capable of providing as we age.

We live in fear that proposed Medicaid cuts will take away the quality of life that we have worked so hard to create for our daughter. Our daughter can't speak for herself. We are her voice. Please consider the impact that the proposed changes will have on our daughter, and the many others with disabilities like her, and vote no to the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Date: 2017-09-21 19:50:51
To: My Senator
From: Tim Vermande
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee,

I am a person who was born with cerebral palsy. At birth, my doctor stated that I would live about 5 years, never be able to speak or walk, and should be put in an institution and forgotten.

Thankfully, my parents ignored that advice, obtained the medical care that they could, and raised me. I am now 62, have a master's degree and have been working most of my adult life.

That could all change if you approve this devastating and cruel mockery of a "reform" bill. The ability to receive coverage without pre-existing conditions clauses or caps means I can work. For many of my friends, it means they live. For others, it means that their families do not face bankruptcy as a daily threat because their children need medical care of the sort that I do.

We do need a long-term solution, but this is not it. Please leave partisanship behind and focus on helping all Americans reach their potential. Do not cut Medicaid, which assists our most vulnerable citizens. Do not change the restrictions on pre-existing conditions, so that everyone may have care without worry about coverage. Do not allow companies to make arbitrary and capricious denials without recourse.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:13:49
To: My Senator
From: Adrianne Wilson
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My daughter has autism and we are on a waiting list for the Medicaid waiver program. Without Medicaid she may not get the proper help she needs. It's sad that we are on a waiting list, let alone now faced with not getting any help for her at all. We are just an average family with other children to provide for. We don't qualify for any other help and work hard to provide for what our family needs. I have worked in the medical field for years and know that Medicaid could cut back on a LOT of other programs or not pay for some of the things they do pay for. I would like to think that kids with disabilities would be a priority. I hope you reconsider this.

Thank you!

Date: 2017-09-23 15:46:27
To: My Senator
From: Regan Zwald
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Imagine one of your own children suddenly losing her ability to speak. Soon after, she can't hold her toys or feed herself. Her abilities to walk, then even to sit up are the next to go.

You and her physicians search for two years to find the answers. When you learn that your daughter has an incurable genetic disorder, you do everything you can to keep her as healthy as possible. This means that one parent gives up a job and its salary, due to the child's medical and care needs.

In the meantime, your child needs wheelchairs, standing devices, communication devices, feeding equipment, walkers, braces, feeding tubes, specialized food, and therapies. Never mind that the cost of a safe, accessible vehicle or home for your child is well beyond your means.

At least your disabled child has Medicaid via the state waiver to help with the strangling medical bills. Because even though you have good insurance, you continue to open "DENIAL" letters from private insurance.

Senators, please know that Medicaid allows us to care for our 6-year-old daughter in our home, rather than in an institution. It also allows us to keep her as healthy as possible.

We appreciate your efforts to listen to stories and to reach across the aisle to find a solution. Please do not touch Medicaid. Block grants, per capita grants: These are all CUTS to the program that keeps our daughter healthy and at home. Anything that cuts or even delays cuts to Medicaid endangers our child's life.

Our daughter's disorder, Rett Syndrome, can happen to any family. Your neighbor, your niece, even your granddaughter. Please show families that you value ALL Americans: Save Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-22 16:56:26
To: My Senator
From: Claudia Burrows
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

I'm Claudia. I'm a 56-year-old, medically-retired flight paramedic and RN. My career was cut short when I was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in 2005. Without Medicaid and the waiver I would be institutionalized. Medicaid pays for my attendant care, my ventilator, my doctor's visits and medications. It pays for the durable medical equipment that I need to function on a day-to-day basis (i.e. my wheelchair and shower chair, etc). Because of the things Medicaid covers, I am still able to be a mother to my (adult) disabled son with the help of a dear friend who lives with us.

All three of my (adult) children have a genetic disorder and rely on Medicaid. My sons are more affected by this disorder and are diagnosed with autism as well as intellectual disability. They are charming and delightful members of society, but they could not function independently without caregivers 24/7. My older son lives with his father and step-mother. My younger son lives with me. Both receive attendant care services through Medicaid waivers. My younger son also gets music therapy which helps him cope with extreme anxiety related to his genetic diagnosis. Both guys take medications that allow them to function and participate in life. Without their medication and other supports, they would have to be institutionalized.

My daughter has earned advanced degrees and was an adjunct professor. She also has a diagnosis on the autism spectrum and struggles with debilitating anxiety and panic attacks. Thankfully, through the miracle of pharmacology, she's able to hold down two part-time jobs. She lives with me out of economic necessity.

There's no way that my disability income would suffice to meet my family's medical costs without Medicaid.

For two decades, I was the person who came to the aid of others...for that, I was awarded a "Lifetime Paramedic Certification" by Governor Mitch Daniels. Now, I am the one who needs the help. Please, don't fail me or my family now.

Without Medicaid, our family will be destroyed.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:01:34
To: My Senator
From: Brenda Crickmore
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My son is on a Medicaid Waiver. This allows him to stay at home. I am a single parent with no family support and I am also my son's staff. I do this out of necessity, due to staffing shortages, I cannot work outside of home when I have no one showing up. If Medicaid is cut like this bill will do, my son will lose his waiver. That would cause us to lose our home and be homeless. Without a waiver I cannot pay for someone to care for him, so I can work and pay the bills. His medical care could only be covered if I put him in a nursing home, if they could take him due to their funding would also be severely cut. In essence my son would die. He has a rare syndrome. CHARGE Syndrome. It's very complex. As of now he gets wonderful care from his many doctors/specialists, and he can live at home, as he has a right to.

This legislation will be devastating to him, and all who have rare syndromes, developmental disabilities, etc. This legislation cannot go through. You will be harming people who do not deserve it. No one deserves this. Why do you feel it necessary to be cruel? The ACA is not perfect, and it can be improved (not destroyed). I will do all I can to have you voted out of office if this legislation is passed.

Sincerely,

Brenda Crickmore and son Joseph Bolinger

Date: 2017-09-24 09:09:53
To: My Senator
From: cami berkau
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My son, Joshua Berkau, is severely autistic with medical issues such as seizures, choking issued etc. we have struggled every day and night and at age 17, (he Will be 21 in Dec) through the medicaid waiver using music therapy he was able to discover his voice through typing. His goal is to be in an apartment which his waiver would provide for. This is a critical step for his independence and we have witnessed the miracle of hundreds of others who were thought to be incompetent find their voice through the services that the waivers provide. Making cuts to this area will drastically affect his life as well as our family. Please reconsider voting for these cuts and as I have done in past will be watching where our representatives vote on such issues. These cuts have the potential to devastate individuals who already have suffered so much and this could be deadly for some of our children, Thanks you for listening and please don't allow these individuals to fall through the cracks of then system. my son has dreams and it will create support that has been allowed to him through these medicaid waivers and funds. Thank you again for your time.

Came Berkau

P.S. My son who has been doing colors the month before finding his voice was awarded the Indiana autism Society self advocacy award in Sept of 2014. He also has a blog

Joshandhisprayingheartonautism.com.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:33:27
To: My Senator
From: Beth DeHoff
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

Hello. My name is Beth DeHoff and I live in Plainfield, Indiana. I have three sons, and my youngest, Kyle, is 17. Kyle loves music and people and is an important part of his family and community. Kyle also has multiple special health care needs.

Kyle has Down syndrome, autism, is a leukemia survivor, has a primary immune deficiency, malabsorption, OCD and anxiety, and requires multiple medications, g-tube feedings, and nursing care when his parents are at work. The cost of this care is considerable. In the year before my son had a Medicaid waiver, we had $13,000 in out-of-pocket expenses after insurance paid, and he was set to hit his lifetime coverage maximum before he finished high school.

Today, because of Kyle's Medicaid waiver, we can work while he receives the nursing care he needs, and because of this, our primary employer-based insurance pays for most of his care. What is not covered by this plan is covered by Medicaid. These costs not covered by our employer plan include the nutritional supplement feedings he needs to stay alive, the daily nursing care he needs to stay at home and for us to work, the braces that allow him to walk, and the wheelchair that allows him to enjoy parks, zoos and other public places that require lots of walking.

If Kyle were to lose a Medicaid waiver due to the capping and block granting of Medicaid, he would lose many of these services, and one of his parents would lose the ability to work, thus plunging us into financial crisis and stripping Kyle of needed care. Ironically, we could get much of this care for him if we institutionalized him, an option not tenable for him or us, and far costlier to our state. If annual and lifetime maximums returned, Kyle's medicines would cap out before the leaves fall every year, and he cannot survive without them. If the ability for insurers to carve out conditions or deny coverage for pre-existing conditions return, Kyle would be uninsurable. Without insurance coverage and Medicaid, my son will die.

The Graham-Cassidy bill takes a tremendous step back by capping and block granting Medicaid in ways that make it impossible for states to meet the needs of their citizens. In this scenario, federal funding gets smaller and smaller and states will be faced with an inability to pay for Medicaid for vulnerable citizens like my son. Waiving requirements to cover essential health benefits and pre-exisiting conditions will result in many citizens without coverage, skyrocketing premiums, and the parallel weakening of commercial insurance plans and the health system at large.

The Graham-Cassidy bill will dramatically hurt my child and family. I strongly urge Congress to reject it and instead work toward a bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA, Medicaid and Medicare, in regular order and with public hearings.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:23:07
To: My Senator
From: Dan Stewart
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

I am guardian of 97 individuals with cognitive, intellectual and other disabilities living in group homes, supported living homes and nursing homes in east central Indiana. All of these individuals rely on Medicaid for critical services and supports. There are over 400,000 people with disabilities in Indiana who rely on Medicaid for their medication, therapies, living arrangements, oxygen, dental , hearing needs and many other basic supports Medicaid provides them . I addition many attend day programs, work centers or they have a job in the community. With any Medicaid cuts they lose these opportunities to live a dignified life. They have no frills. Most barely make it month to month. Again, Medicaid is the program they rely on. Any cuts will be devastating tp them

The Graham-Cassidy bill INCLUDES the devastating cuts to the Medicaid programs that over 10 million people with disabilities rely on to live and work in their communities.

If this legislation passes people with disabilities will suffer greatly. many will die. Many people that I am guardian over MUST have these critical life saving services and supports offered through the Medicaid program to survive.

There are over 102 people with disabilities who attend the communities sheltered workshop. Every one of them relies on Medicaid for staffing supports, transportation, 24 hour staff to keep them safe in their living arrangement, assist them is shopping, cooking and many other critical supports. Please do not cut the Vital Services to the neediest people in our community.

Date: 2017-09-22 02:36:29
To: My Senator
From: Patricia Chang
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My husband and I are NOT "Takers." I worked as an R.N. for 20+ years. My husband got his PhD in Hydraulic Engineering from Purdue and worked for the State of Indiana at IDEM until his retirement. He then worked for 5 more years for Veolia Water Co. as a consultant. We put 3 children through college. They didn't have to take out loans. We paid our taxes; obeyed the laws; did volunteer work; and cared for our parents. Now, my husband of 52 years is in Cumberland Point Nursing Care Center. He is on Medicaid. I would far rather have him at home; but I am disabled. I can no longer lift him. He cannot walk, turn over, take a bath, control his bowels and bladder, and has lost his voice and much of his vision. He has end stage Parkinsons Disease. He needs help eating; and forgets to drink water. I am left alone with a small pension and my Social Security. Medicaid takes all of his pension and Social Security. I repeat, regardless of what the Republicans and Paul Ryan think, we are not and never have been "Takers." We simply cannot afford $300 a day care charges. Few people can. We never had luxuries. We were always careful with our money. What possesses the Republican Party to want to put sick, elderly people out on the street? Where is the decency, the compassion, the humanity in that! It is an abomination. Then, there is the question of pre-existing conditions; and allowing insurance companies to discriminate against people and children with asthma, heart conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, and other maladies. I have several of those conditions and had to have a heart valve replaced last year. I know I will not be allowed to have insurance, if this dreadful bill goes through. Or, I will not be able to afford insurance, because the premiums will be astronomical.

The Republican Party is going to drive us into another deep Recession. Your tax breaks for billionaires will not stop the inevitable, when you cause millions of people to be unable to spend their hard-earned dollars on much else but healthcare. The boomerang effect will put millions more out of work in nursing homes and other affected health care organizations. Health care is already inflationary. When you burst the bubble, the whole stack of cards will fall; and the Republicans will be blamed, as they should. Yours and Trumps vendetta against Obama is utterly self-defeating. It will come back upon you with a vengeance. And, where are your so-called Family Values, when you take away Medicaid for disabled children, for poor children, for sick children? If you are cutting funding for Community Health Centers, where will the poor families go? To the ER, as some empty headed fools have said! Hospitals already turn people away and are overburdened. I worked in an ER for a number of years. That solution is not one; and you know it.

This is a rich country with an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor; and now the Middle Class. Such a gap destabilizes society and causes needless suffering and pent-up anger. Eventually, it boils over. You are taking us down an immoral, inhumane path and doing so blindly and carelessly with lies and false 'facts'. May God have mercy on you; because many harmed citizens will not,.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:48:41
To: My Senator
From: Jennifer Akers
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

The Arc

I used to think America's health care system was fine. I was single, with a teaching job, with good benefits. In fact, I wished that I had more money in my pocket as opposed to the health insurance I accessed maybe once a year. That all changed when I became a mother...

Despite doing everything right during my pregnancy, my child was born with two rare genetic syndromes. As she struggled to survive, my husband and I struggled to figure out how we were going to meet her long term needs. She was approaching half of our lifetime cap for private insurance before we even got to take her home from the hospital. And when she did come home, we still had out of pocket costs for specialized formula, specialized equipment, etc. Adding to our financial stress was the fact that I needed to quit my job in order to take care of Grace.

Fortunately, in her first year of life, a social worker helped us obtain the Aged and Disabled waiver under Indiana's home and community based services. It allowed her to access Medicaid Disability via Senate Bill 30, even though our income of one teacher's salary had made her previously ineligible. Medicaid paid for home nursing, enteral nutrition, assistive technology, incontinence products and many other services that our private insurance would not cover. The waiver provided much needed nursing-level respite for us.

We still worried about maintaining creditable coverage so she had access to private insurance even with her pre-existing conditions. Any thoughts of my husband changing jobs were always dominated by what the private insurance benefits would be for Grace. We still struggled to pay for her other expenses...and we were lucky. Most families are still waiting for Home and Community Based Services. Indiana has waiting lists for most services. Middle class families find that they make too much money for many programs because the programs never consider the costs of raising a child with a disability.

I imagine many of you will read this and be thankful that this doesn't resemble your life. I am glad it doesn't...for now. Most of us will experience some level of disability in our lifetime, even if it's just through aging. We're saving the state money by caring for our child at home instead of placing her in a nursing home or institution. I'm also certain she's an asset to society because she's received the supports she needs to thrive.

The Affordable Care Act provides states with critical new dollars toward achieving a goal of supporting everyone who can live at home or in community-based living the supports to do so.

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-23 09:13:53
To: My Senator
From: Kathryn Hiles Trusty
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

Dear Senator,

My name is Kathryn Hiles Trusty and I live in Winamac, Indiana. I am a member of The ARC and I am a single mother and caregiver for my two special needs daughters. My one daughter is severely epileptic with Lennox Gastaut syndrome and the other daughter is multiply handicapped and on a ventilator and oxygen and has a GJ tube for all her intake needs.

I am writing to plead with you to oppose ANY cuts to Medicaid and Medicaid Waivers and to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Any cuts to Medicaid/Medicaid Waiver would be a very serious threat to my daughter's lives. We have a very limited income and already are stretched to the max trying to cover expenses for medication that Medicaid does not pay for and items my girls need medically, as well as paying for everyday essential things such as our housing, food, vehicle, utilities and so forth. My daughters medications alone are several thousand a month and there is no way we could be able to afford them without Medicaid. Their medicines are essential to their lives and without them they would lose their lives. The Medicaid Waiver is also extremely important as well as it gives me more hours for help for me for my girls. As a single mom with no other support system in place I rely on that help to be able to get out to get medications, go to appointments, grocery shop, etc. The Medicaid Waiver has been a blessing for us to be able to get the equipment and modifications my girls need here as well. These are just a few examples but very important ones!

I again implore you to vote to oppose ANY cuts to Medicaid and to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hiles Trusty

Date: 2017-09-22 16:40:08
To: My Senator
From: Michelle Burdine
State: Indiana
Email: [redacted]

My 32 year old daughter was born with Down Syndrome and relies on Medicaid funding to help pay for the program she attends 5 days a week at The Arc of Greater Boone County.Without that help,she would probably be living a very boring and unproductive life.While at the Arc,she works for a company that hires people with disabilities to assemble bird feeders.The company is called Mr.Canary and they are one of the few places that is openly seeking disabled people to work for them.She gets to be with several other adults like herself,and has had many opportunities through her enrollment at the Arc.The funding also provides her with safe transportation to and from their building.Thanks to Medicaid,the disabled community has made such enormous strides.It would be truly heartbreaking to go backwards in giving support to our most vulnerable citizens.I beg you,do NOT cut the Medicaid funding as it is the lifeblood to so many families.I cannot imagine a parent having to see their child in the dire circumstances that may happen if funding is eliminated.

Thank you for listening,

Michelle Burdine