
KENTUCKY

Date: 2017-09-22 11:01:00
To: My Senator
From: Rene Thompson
State: Kentucky
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband comes from that old school where you stayed at a company for your career and gave it your all. And that's what he did for 25 years. Then the recession hit and the company that he had worked for his entire life closed. And when it went, so did our insurance.

There were a lot of folks in the same boat and those who were over 50 had a much harder time finding a new position. We have a son with special needs and so our savings went to keeping up with the bills and his medical care. My husband and I didn't go to the doctor unless we were really sick because we simply didn't have the money.

The ACA provided us with the means of getting him the first physical he had had in years. It was at that physical that his cancer was discovered. We were lucky. We caught it early and his surgery was a success. Had it not been for the ACA, we wouldn't have known anything was wrong until it was too late. The ACA literally saved his life. He now gets regular checks to make sure that the cancer hasn't returned.

The ACA also made my son's medications more affordable. What without insurance cost \$300/month, now cost less than \$5.

#GrahamCassidy would make it impossible for us to get affordable insurance and access to healthcare. Without the medication my autistic son needs for his epilepsy, his seizures are severe enough to place him in the hospital. Without access to healthcare, my husband is forced to play Russian Roulette with cancer.

The bill would put the lives of both my husband and son in danger, as well as 32 million other Americans. Make no mistake, if this bill is passed, innocent Americans will die... and for what?

When the 9/11 hijackers murdered 3000 Americans because of ideology it was labeled terrorism. If Republican members of Congress vote to take away Americans' healthcare protections knowing that thousands will die due to their actions and claim they must die due to ideology and keeping campaign promises, should it not also be considered a form of terrorism?

Protect American lives. Vote against #GrahamCassidy.

Date: 2017-09-22 20:35:26
To: My Senator
From: Janice Burton
State: Kentucky
Email: [REDACTED]



I am writing for my son, Hugh Higdon, who lives in Evansville, IN. He has been handicapped since birth. He works at a sheltered workshop for around \$2.25 an hour, goes to work 5 days a week. He is so proud of his job. He struggles to pay his bills and very much needs food stamps and Medicaid. He has medical issues: Diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol problems, eye problems, and anger issues, which require quite a few meds. I hate to think of what could happen to this wonderful young man without Medicaid as well as many more like him. I pray for the senators to have compassion for those who can't survive without the help they are now receiving and vote against this heartless bill.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:12:45
To: My Senator
From: Richard Covert
State: Kentucky
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter, Nancy, is currently on the 1915(c) Medicaid Supports for Community Living Wavier, and I am concerned about the effects of the proposed reduction in Medicaid funding on her life. I believe that she has done as much as she could to be a productive citizen and deserves to receive the benefits that she currently gets. Let me tell you her story:

Nancy was born with mosaic down syndrome, with about 80% of her cells affected. She mostly attended special education classes, and graduated from high school in 1988. Between then and January 1993, she was employed by three organizations, the changes being a result of our moving from Illinois to Kentucky in 1991.

Unfortunately, in January, 1993, she was struck by a car while crossing a street with a green light, resulting in a subdural hematoma that left her a spastic paraplegic, with her left side and speech being affected the most. Despite this, she was able to start working again in 1995, and was primarily employed by the Arc of the Bluegrass doing data input on a computer until there was a change in the management in 1998 that resulted in change in the philosophy of who should be employed. They shortly after that went out of business.

In 1999, she starting volunteering at the VA, folding and stuffing Means Testing forms. In 2004, she received a grant from the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities to form her own company, Stay in Touch. She was hired by two organizations between then and December 2015 to do computerized data entry, assisted by her day staff person, but continued to volunteer at the VA, eventually accumulating over 6750 hours by 2016. Unfortunately, each organization that employed her grew to where they needed a full time employee to do that function. By late 2015, she was showing both physical and mental degradation as a result of her down syndrome and accident, and it was decided that she should "retire".

She was accepted by the Medicaid Supports for Community Living waiver in 2004, and as a result she is able to live in an apartment by herself with only a daytime staff to assist in personal care, transportation and, while employed, in the use of her computer.

Part of her SSDI income comes as a result of her work experience, although the larger part is a result of my retirement.

I believe that she has done everything possible to be a productive citizen and receive Medicaid supports. Both she and I have voted in all elections since we moved to Kentucky.

I urge you to consider the effects of the changes in Medicaid that the current proposals would make for individuals like Nancy who have tried their best to be good and productive citizens.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Covert

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lisa And John [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:39 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Kentucky

To Whom It May Concern (and I believe this concerns us all in one way or another),

I am writing this plea to you on behalf of my twenty year old autistic son, Zayne Logsdon. We live in a rural area near Scottsville, Kentucky, ten miles north of the Tennessee line. It is, in many ways, the Land That Time Forgot. Here we have no public transportation, few medical professionals of any kind, and little opportunity for the employment of average people, let alone people like my son. My son is a Medicaid recipient, and in spite of the stereotype that would pigeonhole him to a life of slovenly leisure paid for by Social Security benefits, my son wants to work. Believe me when I tell you, he--and many of his schoolmates who are similarly afflicted--want nothing more than independence and a normal life. After nearly a year of searching, Zayne has landed an opportunity to work at a job he truly wanted, as a part-time elementary school custodian. The unfortunate thing is that none of the local schools would hire him, so he has to travel to a neighboring county to work. My husband and I both work full time during the day, and we are unable to provide transportation to work for Zayne, and Zayne will never have the cognitive ability or the legal right to drive, as he is under our full legal guardianship. Therefore, we must pay for transportation to and from work. There is only one service that will come to our area, and they charge a fee of sixty dollars per day. If Medicaid did not pay the fee for his transportation, Zayne would have to quit his job because he would not earn enough money to pay for his transportation. I know from experience that Medicaid does not pay the same fee that a self-pay client does. This is true of almost every medical expense covered under the program. This is important to consider because of the way that Medicaid's coverage of transportation affects Zayne's Social Security benefits. While Zayne is working, his Social Security benefits are cut by usually more than half. If Medicaid does not continue to cover Zayne's transportation, Social Security will still cut his benefits because he has an income. Because of this, Zayne will be penalized for going to work, and the system that is meant to support him will ultimately be the system that hinders him from working. It is Zayne's dream to become an independent, full-time employee someday, someone who does not have to depend on the already strained Social Security system for basic necessities. But it is clear that without the contribution of Medicaid, at least in the initial years of his employment, he will not be able to work toward his goal of being a successful, independent person who contributes to society in a meaningful way. Please take our case into consideration as you make plans to cut Medicaid. Understand that there are going to be unintended consequences that may make your cuts actually cost the government more money in the long run. A lifetime of Social Security payments are far costlier than a few years of Medicaid-funded transportation. If the ultimate goal is to save money, and if the humanitarian goal is to move forward as a society, the cuts to Medicaid do not make sense.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lisa Williams

[REDACTED]
Scottsville, KY [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

My name is Lucy. I am a funny, loving and well-loved 3- year-old. When I was born, my family found out that I had an extra chromosome, Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome). Even with regular speech, physical and occupational therapies, I'm still developmentally behind the pace of my typical peers. But I have made a lot of progress with the help of Medicaid I have been eligible for through a waiver since I was born. Earlier this year, the benefits of that waiver, Medicaid, were denied to me.



Medicaid made all of my therapies and other medical treatments possible. Even though ~~I have private insurance, they do not cover many of my necessary services.~~ My therapies, which have helped me learn to walk, though I'm still working on fine motor skills, like using utensils and sign language, would cost over \$20,000 out of pocket annually for my parents to provide. The waiver allows me to have a medical card, as a secondary payer, to cover the things I need that private insurance doesn't allow. I am also more prone to other illnesses and require a LOT of doctor visits. Between my therapies and my other specialists, my family decided someone would need to care for me full time, so my dad does that now. My mom is a registered nurse and she works full time, carries our family's insurance policy through her employer and advocates for me. We have been writing letters, making phone calls and visiting as many of our elected officials as we can to help them see, first-hand, how valuable, but vulnerable, Kentuckians truly need their help.

The currently proposed healthcare bill will hurt many Americans, but especially leaves children like me in real danger. Though my parents have good jobs, their employer-sponsored coverage will be able to impose lifetime maximums and reduce their benefits even more – while charging my parents more for my reduced benefits, since I would certainly be considered, "high risk" by insurance companies.

This past December, the state of Kentucky decided I no longer qualified as medically needing these services. I no longer have access to physical and speech therapies as well as lots of other medical care I really need. In my most formative developmental years, I am being denied the speech, physical and occupational therapies that I need to help me reach my full potential as a member of our community.

Please help me, and other children like me who desperately need you to restore necessary healthcare.

Love,
Lucy, age 3

Submitted by: Abigail Kessinger [REDACTED]