MARYLAND

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-22 12:06:19
To: My Senator
From: Aimee Doyle
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My son, Rory Doyle, has profound autism. He is 28 years old and he graduated from the Ivymount School in Rockville (with a certificate) in 2011. Since he left school, the Maryland Medicaid Waiver has funded his day program through the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

He currently receives Self-Directed Services and participates with the Cura Personalis Project. He does volunteer work 25 hours a week at the Wheaton Stables in Silver Spring. He enjoys mucking out stalls, grooming, and feeding horses. He enjoys working with other adults with disabilities, doing meaningful work. The work at the stables gives his days purpose and structure. The work he (and the other participants of CPP) perform is also important to the Wheaton Stables, the horses, and the people who own, ride, and care for them. He is out in the community, showing that individuals with disabilities can be productive members of society. However, he needs support staff to teach him work skills and to help him remain on task while he works. Because of the severity of his disability, he will never be a candidate for competitive employment.

Through Self-Directed Services, he also attends sleepaway camps twice a year, provided by the League for People with Disabilities. At these camps, he works on independence and socialization with others. He LOVES camp and looks forward to going each year.

If Medicaid funding is cut, my son may lose his work placement and his chance to attend camp. He would be devastated. We could not afford to provide him these services out of pocket, and he would end up sitting at home, watching TV. I implore you not to cut these services.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-22 09:18:17
To: My Senator
From: Laura Carr
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My brother John has Autism, an intellectual disability, difficulty communicating and a seizure disorder. Medicaid is vital to his health and well-being. Not only does Medicaid provide health coverage that keeps his seizures under control, his cholesterol at a healthy level, and keeps him generally healthy, Medicaid provides the supports he needs to have a great life.

My brother is a successful small business owner, with lots of clients who rely on his shredding and recycling service to meet their needs. He has friends and a vibrant social life, hobbies to fill his spare time, and a comfortable home to live in. All of this is possible because of the supports he gets through Medicaid.

I am extremely proud of my brother, and extremely grateful for the benefits of Medicaid. He deserves the fulfilling life he enjoys. Don't take that away from him.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:32:52
To: My Senator
From: Christine Towne
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

I'm a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Also I work for a service provider. I rely on Medicaid for services now and in the future. So please don't cut Medicaid! It will hurt people with disabilities like me.

Thank you for your time and immediate attention to this very important matter.

Date: 2017-09-23 21:17:25
To: My Senator
From: James Schiller
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My son is intellectually and emotionally disabled. He is 21 years old and Deaf. It has taken me literally 4 years searching and advocating for services for him as he transitions out of high school. I only found out that he will receive services last month and this process was done under the best circumstances with an informed and educated parent as an advocate. That being said, community agencies do depend on the existing Medicaid formula and if cuts were enacted, they most surely could not sustain the level of community-based my son needs. Hakeem will be living 3 hours away from me because I am single parent unable to both work and care for my son as he needs 24 hour 1:1 care. Lack of services for the Deaf necessitated his having to live in a group home on the eastern shore.That agency is small and quite adequate, however, it barely can pay its staff a reasonable wage and would feel the impact of cuts.

De-institutionalization was a social contract that should not be subject to economics. The moral responsibility that leads to community-based resources does not change over time or economics. Do what's right and honor the obligations established by your predecessors and re-establish the moral high ground for future public servants. If you really want to be fiscally responsible, separate out disability-related services from healthcare under Medicaid.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:00:44
To: My Senator
From: LYNN MIDGETTE
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

On behalf of my developmentally disabled son and many other children with disabilities like him, I urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to my family and many other Maryland families, as well as threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, & educational supports for my son and other individuals with disabilities. I have a son with significant physical, developmental and psychological disabilities. In Maryland 15.7% of children 0-17 years have a special health care need that requires more health care services than typically required (Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. 2009/10 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 9/22/2017 from www.childhealthdata.org.)

Insurance premiums will increase. People with disabilities (PWD) will lose insurance coverage due to an end on protections for pre-existing conditions. These negative changes to our insurance will worsen my family's already precarious financial situation. My son's disabilities have had a negative impact on our finances (we are drowning in debt) and resulted in one of his parents to stop working. According to this same survey cited above, MD families of 18.3% of children with special health care needs (CYSHCN) experience negative financial impact due to these health care needs, even more for CYSHCN without adequate insurance (31.4%). Overall, 22.2% of MD families with CYSHCN have to cut back or stop working.

In addition to negatively impacting our family's current situation, the Graham-Cassidy bill threatens his future and ability to live a productive, meaningful life in the community. The Graham-Cassidy bill ends protections on pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps. We cannot go back to a time when people with pre-existing conditions were discriminated against. Medicaid helps pay for the cost of long-term supports for people with developmental disabilities. Thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities (DD) depend on Medicaid--or will need it in the future--to remain healthy, live in the community, and stay out of costly institutions. The Graham-Cassidy bill's per capita Medicaid caps cuts coverage for children and people with disabilities.

It's far less costly for individuals with disabilities to live in the community than an institution. Maryland has closed its institutions for people with DD. I hope I never see the time when the state reopens these institutions for families that can no longer care for their beloved family members at home due to skyrocketing insurance and health care costs. Medicaid helps PWD live lives like everyone else, among their fellow community members. Everyone deserves a chance to live at home, regardless of functional ability.

Protecting health care for our most vulnerable, especially individuals with disabilities, is a moral responsibility for our society at large. Anyone that is pro-life needs to see that pro-life isn't just about abortion, it's about protecting life across the lifespan. People with disabilities deserve to live full, productive, meaningful lives in the community. They can't do so unless they have adequate educational, vocational and other community supports, across the lifespan. Without appropriate health care, which includes Medicaid, the future of my son and others like him, is in peril. On behalf of my developmentally disabled son and many other children with disabilities like him, I urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-24 08:11:47
To: My Senator
From: Susan Mountford
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My son is 21 years old and severely autistic. He has been receiving SSI since age 18. He currently receives adult day services, SSI and Medicaid. These programs are critical for him and will likely need them for his entire life span which is the same as typical adults. He is a vulnerable person and we as a country need to protect our vulnerable citizens. Families can not do this on their own. Please continue to support these programs.

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:19:26
To: My Senator
From: Barbara Cromer
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My son was born with cerebral palsy & intractable seizure disorder. We were lucky because my husband & I had excellent employer provided insurance. Our son has had many, many hospitalizations over his lifetime and most of them have been due to the failure of his kidneys which were injured at birth. Fortunately, he survived until 26 and was then removed from our insurance & his healthcare shifted to MD Medicaid. Several times he has spent 3-4 months in a row in hospital after complications with his kidney failure. When I retired & started drawing my SS, and Medicare, he started also receiving Medicare. He is now 30 & must have hemodialysis 3 times each week. This is covered by MD Medicaid. Without Medicaid coverage of hemodialysis, he will die.

I cannot understand how a country that considers itself to be the greatest in the world, cannot provide reasonable healthcare for all citizens.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:46:42
To: My Senator
From: Vicki Leemon
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

The Arc

My son is a 27-year old man with severe autism and bipolar disorder. Two years ago, he suffered from Neuroleptic Malignant Disorder, a near fatal reaction to antipsychotic medications. He is currently living and receiving care at the Potomac Center, a Maryland state intermediate care facility. Living at Potomac Center is only a temporary solution for my son. Eventually he will need to find an alternative setting in the community.

My son is incapable of self support and is incapable of handling such daily life skills as independently washing, dressing, shopping, taking public transportation, cleaning, shaving, nail-cutting, and bathing. Eventually he will need funding -- again, as before he entered Potomac Center -- for housing. (He lived in a group home from age 20 to 25.). In addition, because he can be aggressive when stressed and does not understand danger, he needs constant supervision. Funding for housing and individual direct care personnel has in the past been paid for by Maryland Medicaid waivers. Will there be money for such supports if Medicaid is block-granted and based on a per capital formula?

My son needs behavioral supports by trained psychologists and psych associates. He needs frequent adjustments and constant monitoring of his behavioral medications, including mood stabilizers and an antipsychotic medication by a psychiatrist with an autism specialty. When he lived in a group home, he had monthly appointments with the psychiatrist. Now the psychiatrist at Potomac Center checks on him weekly and when he is in crisis, as he is now, at least daily.. He is at high risk of a recurrence of NMS. If Mental health care is removed from the essential benefits package, what will happen to him? Will such care be covered by reduced Medicaid or by private insurance. Would any insurance pool provide insurance to cover him at a cost that he could afford or even at a cost that his father and I who are close to retirement, be able to afford?

He has had numerous hospitalizations for extensive medication adjustment. Each hospitalization lasted from 2 weeks to several months. Our family's Blue Cross policy paid for these hospital stays with Medicaid paying for the balance. Again, what will happen if Medicaid is based on a per capital basis and block granted?

If Medicaid benefits are cut back because my son's care is too expensive, what will happen to him? His father and I are too old to care for properly. He used to aggress on his father and sister. We would need to hire round the clock aides to care for him at home because he has a sleep disorder and may elope. For years, before he entered a group home paid for by Medicaid, my husband and I skimped on retirement saving so that we could hire strong young men with behavioral training to care for our son and to protect us. Will we need to return to that life? And my husband and I have elderly parents for whom we provide care now. How would we care for fragile parents, age 85 and 92, and our son?

If we need to get private insurance for our son -- and we are currently paying for a family plan that covers him -- , what will happen if life-time caps are restored? Without a doubt, he has already exceeded any lifetime cap that an insurance company could design. Potomac Center charges our insurance about $25,000 per month. How long would any private insurance pay for that before a life-time cap was met?

From what we have read about Graham-Cassidy, it could lead to reduced lump sum (block grant) funding to our state and our state may no longer be able to cover the array of services it has provided to our staff n through Medicaid. It could allow insurance companies to apply for waivers regarding essential health care packages and life-time caps. My son may just be too expensive for the State of Maryland or private insurance or both. I am very concerned.

Thank you for reading my message and for taking my concerns into consideration.

Date: 2017-09-22 07:31:51
To: My Senator
From: Nina Raymond
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

I have a 17-year-old son with autism nonverbal he has had to have extensive behavior therapy without Medicaid I would've never been able to afford it the doctor visits and patient care and certainly not the medications last year I had my first stroke and then a series of more strokes again I wouldn't have been able to afford extensive test hospitalization and medication and certainly not a therapy my son was hospitalized for months due to his aggressive self injury behaviors I would not have been able to afford that- not the help that I need to care for him now we're not on Medicaid because I want to be just because I don't have a choice between our therapy's medications and the help we get for Medicaid we would not survive medically

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:06:08
To: My Senator
From: Lyda Astrove
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

My son is a 26 year old man with autism. He lives safely in our community thanks to a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver. This Waiver enables him to volunteer and work in the community with support, participate in recreational activities in his neighborhood with support, and live with a housemate of his choosing and the staff support that he needs 24/7 to stay safe and healthy.

These services are "optional" Medicaid services, as opposed to "state plan" services. If a cap is placed on Services, these home and community based services would be the first to go. Perversely, then Medicaid would pay for him to be institutionalized.

We have come too far go go back. My son and others like him deserve the Services they need to live and thrive in the community-and those services are dependent on Medicaid. Please vote to support my son and the hundreds of thousands of Americans like him.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 15:09:09
To: My Senator
From: Stephen Sabia
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My roommate Eli and I moved into an apartment together. We have Down syndrome. We live great lives with some help.

The apartment makes us independent. I ride the metro near the apartment. Now I don't wait for my mother to drive me. But we need support with some things. Medicaid pays for that.

We use Medicaid services to help us get and keep jobs.

If this bill passes I might have to move home and not have a good job.

I worry about my health and my parent's health. We have pre-existing conditions. I have Medicaid but my father's insurance pays for some things until I am 26. Please don't let our insurance prices go up because of our conditions.

Here is a photo of me and Eli holding keys the day we moved into our apartment! We are so happy. Please don't cut our funding.

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-22 16:21:41
To: My Senator
From: Ricki Sabia
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

I am writing to uge opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our family relies on Mediciad services under the HCBS waiver, which are optional. With cuts to Mediciad my state would have little choice but to cut those services. I also am very concerned that my state will allow major premium increases for people who have pre-existing conditions, which nearly every one of my family members has. We need to maintain the current language mandating protection against such treatment.

My son Steve and his roommate Eli moved into their first apartment together 18 months ago. Both Steve and Eli have Down syndrome and would not have been able to live independently without personal supports that are paid for with Medicaid funding.

Living in this apartment has given them better access to public transportation, which opens more employment opportunities. Both of them use Mediciad funding to pay for job development and job coaching. Eli now works 20 hours a week and no longer receives SSI benefits, plus is a taxpayer. Steve doesn't have a consistent job yet but we are working on that with the help of his Medicaid funded employment services. They also both use Mediciad for health services and need protection in light of their pre-existing condition-Down syndrome- and other health issues.

In addition my husband and I have numerous health issues and would be greatly harmed by changes to the pre-existing conditions rules. If we cannot afford to pay higher premiums for healthcare we will not stay well and will not be able to provide as much support for our son as we do now. That would mean he would need additional personal supports under the HCBS waiver, which may not be funded adequately under this bill. As you can see there are many unintended consequences that will be financially disastrous for states and families if Congress permits the structure of ACA and Medicaid funding to be decimated by this bill.

Date: 2017-09-21 21:18:13
To: My Senator
From: Reda Sheinberg
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

Our 32 year old son is on the Community Pathways Medicaid Waiver in Maryland, Self-Directed Servcies. Because of the supports he gets in the community, he is able to live in his own apartment with supports, Work a 27 - 30 hour job in retail, as well as volunteer with animals once a week. Our son on the Autism Spectrum with Mental Illness is happy to work and live in the Community. He is able to take buses around and work with the help of 3 part-time support people, who he hires.

Home and Community Services are optional services and would be in grave danger in Maryland if Medicaid money is substantially reduced. My son and others with developmental disability are in danger of losing essential funds so they can live in the community.

This population with developmental disabilities will not go away. They are valuable individuals in our community and the Graham-Cassidy Bill is the wrong way to go to support our most vulnerable citizens.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:42:39
To: My Senator
From: Irene Gomez
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

I have a son who has autism and epilepsy.

Medicaid has helped me a lot in serving his needs.

I cannot afford to pay the cost of his epilepsy medicine because they are too expensive.

Please say "No" to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thanks so much and God bless.

Irene Gomez

Date: 2017-09-22 16:00:08
To: My Senator
From: Phelisa Huff
State: Maryland
Email: [redacted]

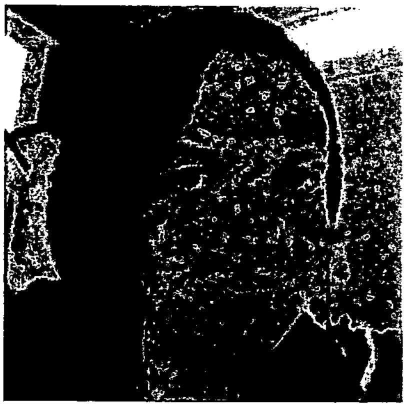
I do not receive Medicaid, yet I have for my children years ago. It was a time in my life when I was a single mother. I had a child with life threating medical issues. That child is now an adult woman, 27 years old and she is here today because of the care she received from her doctor Benjamin Carson. I do not earn enough on my job to live even live comfortable, I am living pay check to pay check, yet I do not complain about the funds that come from my check that is contributed to the state to assist others. If I'm not complaining why should you take it away? We live in a world that is diverse, some people are nice others not so much, God loves us all equally he does not have favorites. I have dedicated my life to helping others. My journey began when I was yet a little girl. I assisted my grandmother with caring for my great-grandmother. I assisted my grandmother until she passed. I now work with intellectual disabled individuals who all need their insurance to live healthy lives. I have worked in this field since I was 23 years old, I am 47. I have seen so many who's suffered due to lack of funds and medical attention. Please, please, leave these funds in place.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland

Mary Jemski
[redacted]

Hi my name is Mary Jemski and I have epilepsy I've had epilepsy senses birth I had my first grand mal seizure at age 3yrs old and now I'm 31yrs old and I'm stable as long as I take my medication I've been stable for 2yrs now but now and then I get dizzy and confused for no reason. Medacaid is the reason I'm stable now but I take 3 medicine morning and night every day and medacaid covers it with out it I have no medicine no neurologist and care. Please I ask you #No Caps Save Medacaid



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The Arc.
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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Nicole Jorwic

From: Lyda Astrove [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland

My son is 26 years old. He has autism and intellectual disability. He depends on a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waiver to live life to the fullest in our community. He needs continuous, 24/7 supervision by trained staff to stay safe.
No cuts!
Lyda Astrove
Rockville MD

Sent from my iPhone.
Ad astra per aspera.

From: Lynn Midgette [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland: Medicaid Matters Letter

STATE: Maryland

RE: Medicaid Matters for DJ

Medicaid matters to my family, both for my son's future and has benefited us greatly in the past.

PAST ACCESS TO MEDICAID

My husband and I have a 9 year old son, nicknamed "DJ." DJ has physical and developmental disabilities with severe functional limitations, which affect the ability to perform daily tasks and care for himself. DJ relies on adult assistance for all activities of daily living, such as mobility, eating, and hygiene/self-care.

When DJ was much younger, DJ and I briefly spent time in Massachusetts, when my husband and I were separated. Although I am happy that my family is again reunited, one of my biggest regrets about moving back to Maryland was that we lost our secondary insurance, MassHealth. My son qualified for MassHealth CommonHealth (Medicaid, through the Katie Beckett waiver) solely based on the fact that he met the State's definition for being disabled. We paid a small premium to add MassHealth, but its benefit was priceless. When the physicians at Children's Hospital recommended a several pieces of equipment, including a bath chair, a gait trainer and an adaptive stroller. While our primary insurance deemed the equipment not to be "medically necessary", MassHealth paid for the equipment. DJ does not have independent mobility, and most certainly relies on adaptive equipment to function every day. MassHealth saved me from fighting against our primary insurance company, to pay for equipment that I would consider as vital as oxygen to a person who COPD. Medicaid was a huge blessing for our family.

A few years after returning to Maryland, my son's physical therapist deemed his adaptive stroller now to be "100% nonfunctional" and recommended a wheelchair. Since my employer did not offer benefits, we used my husband's insurance to cover health care. We had already met the $2,500 cap for durable medical equipment for the employer-sponsored health insurance. This time, we didn't have a secondary insurance, such as Medicaid, to step in to "save the day." We were fortunate to obtain supplemental funding through the MD Developmental Disabilities Administration, however, this only partially covered the cost and we ended up paying for the remainder out of pocket.

CURRENT LACK OF ACCESS TO MEDICAID

Currently, we have employer-sponsored insurance which partially covers DJ's needs. Due to the Affordable Care Act, the insurance policies offered through my husband's employer improved to the point where it was worth purchasing a policy through his employer instead of the MD insurance marketplace. Although our family undoubtedly could benefit from having our son on Medicaid, he does not qualify due to our family income.

In our family, we only have one "able-bodied" caregiver. My husband has his own mobility limitations and health problems, which puts the sole responsibility of care for our son on me. This makes working difficult, as I'm the only person that can pick up our son from school when he's sick, change his diapers, get him dressed, etc. Our van has wheelchair tie-downs but has not been fully converted, necessitating someone to push our son in his wheelchair up a portable ramp. My husband does not have the strength or stability to do this, thus I am the only person that can do this task.

Although on paper our family should be doing well financially, the truth is, we are struggling. With mountains of debt that we've accumulated just to stay afloat, I really need to find a job outside the home. However, given my role as the primary caregiver with no family and friends in the area, it's difficult to find a job with the flexibility so that I can continue to serve as DJ's primary caregiver. It's my belief that if my son had Medicaid, perhaps we might get access to more in-home care and assistance, which would free me up more to work. We simply can't afford to hire anyone, given our financial situation.

FUTURE USE OF MEDICAID

Although he is learning to become a more active participant in his care and may eventually learn to do some activities independently, the severity of his disability necessitates that he will require substantial supports throughout his life, for independent living and future employment. It is my hope that DJ will live a happy, meaningful, productive life. With Medicaid caps or cuts of any type or turning Medicaid into a block grant, services for people with developmental disabilities will be further rationed. As it stands, my son is on the Medicaid waiting list and is only eligible for "resource coordination." I want my son in the community, not in a nursing home. However, with looming detrimental changes to the Medicaid system, my son's future is at stake.

I know that there are many families out there with stories similar to mine, if not more challenging. The truth is, parents of children with special needs, especially ones with severe functional limitations, struggle to stay afloat. We want what's best for our children, and often sacrifice our needs and sometimes even happiness to provide for our children. Further cutting the few services that we're able to access will be devastating for our family's future.

Thank you for considering my letter. Should you have any questions or want further details, please do not hesitate to contact me [redacted].

From: Reda Sheinberg [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 3:15 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Silver Spring, MD 20905: Medicaid Matters Campaign

Medicaid is very important to our son, 32, who as a person with I/DD and Mental Health issues gets personal supports and employment supports thru the Medicaid Waiver. He also gets support from Mental Health providers also thru Medicaid waiver. Because of the support our son gets, he is

1) He lives in and maintain his own apartment in Gaithersburg, MD with the help of his personal support staff.

2) He works a part time job at a local retail company, at 24 to 30 hours week, with support of an employment developer and job coach.

3) He volunteers with MCPAWS, the Animal Shelter, with cats and dogs once a week with support of his personal supports.

4)He particpates in activities in the community with help of personal supports.

With the HCBS waiver Robert would not be living as independently as possible in his Community.

We are concerned by the HUGH cuts proposed to MEDICAID with a lack of discussion and evaluation. The cuts are futile as the poor and disabled will not just go away and if you don't pay for them to be productive members of society, you will have to support them at higher costs when they are in crises, especially when their parents age and no longer can take of individuals like our son.

we support #KEEPMEDICAID #NOCUTSNOCAPS.

Thanks for your consideration,

Reda Sheinberg
[redacted]
Silver Spring, MD[redacted]

From: Susan Igras [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland resident

To our elected representatives:

I have been watching with growing horror the nonsensical health care 'debate' and resulting jimmy-rigged legislation that includes drastic cuts in Medicaid funding.

My sister is intellectually-disabled and lives in a board-and-care facility, attending a day program, both which allow her independence to live her life as fully as possible. It also allows us - her family - to support her in quality-of-life ways that would NOT be possible without Medicaid assistance and the systemic support it provides. Medicaid is a life-saver for my sister, her family, and her community.

I URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS BILL. It does not attempt to address the underlying issues making the Affordable Care Act less effective than it could be. Medicaid is part of the solution, not the cause of the issues. Congress, as our elected representatives, must do better than what the current set of Republican Senators and House of Representative members are proposing for Americans.

Susan Igras

Nicole Jorwic

From: DOUGLAS SHADE [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:21 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters in Maryland

My son is Autistic and learning job skills so that he can be employed and earn wages so that he can be self-sufficient someday soon.

He is is a part of the Transitioning Youth Program,because he just turned 21 years old and is leaving High School to start Adult Services.

Medicaid pays for the program of Self Directed Services that allows him 18 hours of Job skills training and medication for his Autism, Asthma, and Crohn's disease.

The investment being made now will save a lot of money in the future.

Please put funding back into Medicaid for those with disabilities , so that they may continue to strive for success.

My husband and I have paid taxes for over 30 years into the system.

Thank you for voting No on this current proposal.

Sincerely,

Jackie Shade

[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kavin Walcott [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:14 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland

I'm writing today to implore you to vote against the healthcare bill. Medicaid cuts will impact so many low income citizens as well as the disabled and elderly. I have a 6 yr.old son with severe autism and cerebral palsy who relies on Medicaid as well as SSI to receive his medical care and therapies. They are already declining some of the needed therapies and I'm scared other cuts will really affect his health and future. My father was in the Navy and worked for Social Security for 30 yrs before retiring so I was fortunate enough to have great healthcare as a child. I would love to see Medicaid expanded to single payer and every citizen have basic healthcare as a right.
Thank you for your time.

Christina Brundick

From: Michael Love [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Maryland

Greetings:

I wanted to reach out and join the communication stream to ask the U.S. Senate not to support the proposed Better Care Reconciliation Act. I am concerned mainly about the potential loss of Medicaid funds that currently help provide resources that pay for a direct care provider for my daughter with cerebral palsy. The care provider acts as job coach which enables my daughter to do volunteer work at a local rehabilitation hospital. This volunteer position has provided my daughter with the satisfaction that she is contributing something of value to her community and it allows here to get out and be with other people. The other loss here is that the rehabilitation hospital loses a productive trained volunteer. She has been performing this job for over three years. Cutting these funds could result in her having to stay at home everyday – all day. I know the Federal Government had designs on people with disabilities not to be isolated in their homes and this was accomplished through Medicaid funding.

I would encourage Senators from all states consider the far reaching value these Medicaid funds have. I guarantee there are constituents in their states that enjoy a more healthy and productive life because of these funds. Many of the people receiving supported employment care workers may end up isolated and even a trend back to groupings in more institutional settings if their communities no longer have a way to care for them individually.

Please vote no on the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Michael and Linda Love

Olney, MD

Nicole Jorwic

From: Betty Bahadori [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:11 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Re: Cyrus is on a Medicaid Waiver

Maryland

-----Original Message-----
From: Nicole Jorwic [redacted]
To: Betty Bahadori [redacted]
Sent: Fri, Jul 14, 2017 12:53 pm
Subject: RE: Cyrus is on a Medicaid Waiver

Thank you, what state are you from?

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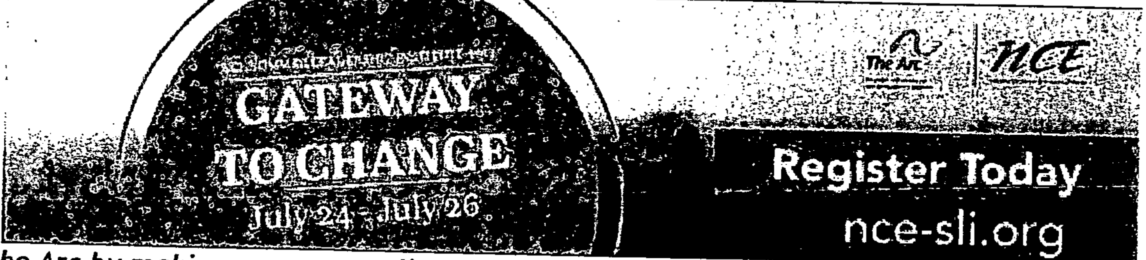

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From: Betty Bahadori [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:51 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic [redacted]
Subject: Cyrus is on a Medicaid Waiver

Medicaid matters to me, because my son, Cyrus, is 30 years old and has severe Autism. A medicaid waiver funds his 24 hour a day staff. Unable to communicate, use the toilet or shower independently, navigate the community independently in a safe manner, use the stove, and do so many daily tasks without assistance, this funding literally keeps Cyrus alive and well.