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**MASSACHUSETTS**

Date: 2017-09-21 18:09:33

To: My Senator

From: Sarah Coletti

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



My son is 28 and is an affectionate, often happy man who enjoys music, going for walks, and socializing with the staff and participants of his day program and his group residence. His intellectual disabilities mean that he is unable to speak but he is able to convey his appreciation to those around him with grins, hugs and claps.

Private health insurance that I got through my employer paid for his two heart surgeries and now he is the most healthy he has been in his life. I lost my job in 2015 and since then he has been dependent on Medicaid for checkups and to help pay for his drugs that control his epilepsy. Medicaid also funds his day program and enables him to live in a group residence with 5 others.

Medicaid services are vital to keeping him healthy but also to giving him and his housemates and peers in his day program a life worth living.

Date: 2017-09-23 19:33:55

To: My Senator

From: Jeanne Bombara

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



Please do not cut medicaid in any way. I have a brother that has been attending a day care facility in Fitchburg, MA. His name is John and needs a place to go to during the day. John is 64 years old and has lived with his parents until his dad passed away at age 87 4 years ago.

The program he is attending is vital to his well being. If this or any other program is cut, everyone at the day program will be devastated to say the least.

I am certain that there are other programs that can be cut which will not impact the lives of the disabled.

I beg of you put yourselves in their shoes - how would you handle it.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:32:26  
To: My Senator  
From: DONNA DEPACE  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I have a 25 year old son with special needs. He will never be able to live alone. He attends Emarc in which he loves to go and be with his contemporaries. He learns life skills, has a little job in the community

Taking away anything from these adults would be devastating to all of them. These special adults as well as their instructors and caregivers are not ABLE to do something else in order to better their lives like able body adults.

Please. Listen to us.

Thank you for your time.

Donna, mother of Nick.

Date: 2017-09-22 16:13:27  
To: My Senator  
From: Kim Turco  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter Theresa depends solely on her current Medicaid benefits to provide her prescriptions and doctors visits; hence supporting a reasonable mental health stability that she cannot provide for herself .

Theresa is on the autism spectrum and has severe behavioral challenges . Daily conversations in social situations are very hard for her and limits her job options . She's able to work part time but that is not enough to support or supplement any further assistance regarding her well-being .

We must vote no. Medicaid Matters deeply to my daughter and to our family to help make sure she can get what she minimumly needs to survive. It will be devastating for this outcome to be realized.

Thank you,

Kim Turco

Date: 2017-09-21 16:53:28

To: My Senator

From: Jean Howarth

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Jean Howarth, and on behalf of myself, and my family, I am writing to share our story with you and all Senators with regards to Medicaid. Our daughter Ashley, who is now 29yrs of age, was born with CHD(Congenital Heart Disease), while undergoing her 1st open heart surgery at the tender infant age of 6mos, she suffered a CVA(Cardiovascular Accident/Stroke).....this has left her with a multitude of disabilities. Ashley has had 2 open heart surgeries, right foot & leg surgeries, numerous botox injections to her right arm, in 2006 she suffered endocarditis & myocarditis....in which she almost died. She lives in our home with us....me, my husband and her 22yr old brother. I drive her to & from her dayhab program every day in Deven's Ma., which she loves attending very much. I do all of Ashley's advocating for her, as the stroke has affected her ability to speak, write & fend for herself on a daily basis. Ashley along with others like her, need to continue to receive the Medicaid resources to live the life she has been accustomed to. Please do not cut these life-lines that Medicaid provide, as she has already had so much taken away from her since the infant age of only 6mos.....she will never be able to work, drive, get married, have children, etc. We are all she has, and whatever resources are there for her to continue to live the happy, loving life we have given her. Thank you, The Howarth Family....Jean, Ron, Ashley & Andrew...

Date: 2017-09-22 15:48:38  
To: My Senator  
From: Mary Turvey  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son, Michael Hancock, 27, has a cognitive disability, and is permanently disabled according to Social Security. Medicaid gives Michael good health care and a better quality of life and this in turn gives his father, 73, working part-time, and his mother (myself), 69 working full time, a better quality life and better health from not being worried about Michael and his care.

His Medicaid helps pay:

Medical Insurance

Community and Home based Waiver

Job Coaching so he can work

Rehabilitation counselors at work to teach job skills, improve social skills

Transportation to work (12 miles away: no public transportation)

Adult Foster Care so he can live in a safe environment and professionals visit at least monthly

to check on his well being, health, progress and quality of life

Respite care so he can have 1:1 attention and do exactly the activities he likes

Cuts to Medicaid will be cuts to Michael's health, independence and quality and life and this will be effect Michael's father and my quality of life and health as well as to his older brother who

is studying abroad.

**CUTS TO MEDICAID HARM ALL DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES. PLEASE SHOW  
COMPASSION AND CARE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT THE MOST. Thank you.**

Date: 2017-09-22 08:18:55

To: My Senator

From: Helen Margolin

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Brighton, MA



I have an adult son with Asperger's disorder and can only work part time at home. His disability causes him to be very anxious with people or in work situations. He also has Chrones Disease that causes him pain and must be under doctors care all the time. He has been on Mass Health for the last 15 years and needs to have full Medicaid to get his medication and treatment.

I am a social worker and work in a community mental health clinic, The majority of our clients are on Mass Health. If this bill passes most likely our clinic will close because of funding cuts. This would devastate for both our clients , doctors, and clinicians.



Date: 2017-09-22 08:18:30

To: My Senator

From: Helen Margolin

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Brighton, MA



I have an adult son with Asperger's disorder and can only work part time at home. His disability causes him to be very anxious with people or in work situations. He also has Chrones Disease that causes him pain and must be under doctors care all the time. He has been on Mass Health for the last 15 years and needs to have full Medicaid to get his medication and treatment.

I am a social worker and work in a community mental health clinic, The majority of our clients are on Mass Health. If this bill passes most likely our clinic will close because of funding cuts. This would devastating for both our clients , doctors, and clinicians.

Date: 2017-09-22 00:14:18  
To: My Senator  
From: Sarah Schmitz  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My son depends on needing help from the government to assist in his health care coverage as he gets older and in the event that something is to happen to my husband and I. Cutting the little support and benefits there are for people with disabilities is cruel and inhuman as a country and our beliefs.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:44:38  
To: My Senator  
From: Connie Rowe  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My son is 21 and has severe cerebral palsy. He has transitioned early from his private school to a day hab program, as once he turns 22 he will have to leave the school system. We are already disappointed with the drastic reductions in the level of his services which he now receives from the day hab program. Also, the day hab program does not have the equipment which the school provided. The day hab program relies to a large extent on donations to function. Please do not reduce what benefits which my son has which are at a bare minimum now. If funding for this program is cut my son would end up at home which would mean that I could no longer work outside the home. As it is now I only work part time and have no benefits to speak of. Do not make life more difficult. We are just trying to survive. Please maintain Medicare at its current level as budget cuts could devastate my family. Thank you and God Bless.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:17:39

To: My Senator

From: Robert Mouradian

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



Without Medicaid my son will have no protection against catastrophic illness. A hard working, honest and kind person, who just happens to suffer from a developmental disability should not have to go without medical care, but that is exactly what this bill will cause. Plesse do all you can to protect these most vulnerable members of our society. My son and many like him deserve better,

Date: 2017-09-22 11:05:53  
To: My Senator  
From: Marilyn Weber  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



To Whom It May Concern:

For the past 20+ years, I have been a transition advocate working directly with families whose children have disabilities. We are fortunate to live in Massachusetts where our children receive incredible care, whether it's medical, housing, education or home support. I am also the parent of a young man who is now 40 years of age and living at home with us. He has Autism; and while our vision for him when he was younger was to have a full-time job, marry and live outside of our home, that is far from where he is today. My husband and I are now in our late 60s, and we are still somewhat supporting our son. However, like many families in Massachusetts, our son, through Medicaid, has excellent health insurance not only for his physical health but his mental health which includes medication for depression and anxiety, the horrible "side effects" of autism.

I recently returned from speaking at the National Autism Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. I heard horror stories from families who live outside of Massachusetts, with little to no insurance coverage, with parents who have to alternate working to take care of their adult children who live in their homes, and families destroyed because of the burden of our adult children. I left the conference realizing that our family is so very lucky to live where we live where there are resources almost at our finger tips to help our children live as independently as they can, whether that is outside of the family home, or in it. Please help to keep our current Medicaid coverage here in Massachusetts, not just because of our family, but the other millions of families in Massachusetts who, like us, are travelling on a different journey with our children.

Marilyn Weber, Transition Specialist

Date: 2017-09-21 20:17:17

To: My Senator

From: Carolyn Cruse

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter collapsed and was paralyzed right before my eyes. I was recovering from my ninth spine surgery I didn't even have the strength to bend over to help her. I cannot work right now due to my own illnesses but this insurance helped to save not just my life but hers too. I worked so hard my entire life and even though I am having a hard time this insurance is a true blessing. I look forward to getting back to work so I can pay into the system again. Thank you for what has been done for me at this time and my daughter in her time of TRUE NEED

Date: 2017-09-22 16:16:26  
To: My Senator  
From: Deborah Osborne  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I are wage earners, taxpayers, home owners and community volunteers. We could be your family or neighbors. I am a registered nurse who has worked thirty-five years for a large Boston teaching hospital and my husband is a builder. We have a daughter who is twenty-seven and in the business world and a twenty-five year old son. J, our twenty-five year old son, is very affected with autism and is largely non-verbal. Our son's condition is such that he requires supervision and active hands-on care throughout the lifespan. In the community he is always with an aide or a family member due to his condition and lack of self-preservation skills.

We have been able to keep J. at home with us and in his own community with the support of the DDS self-direction/Agency With Choice program(AWC). Support in the form of the AWC and the Adult Family Care program has been a god-send. Still, to make things work for J. one parent has sacrificed a career and has had a shortened work day throughout the years. Despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages, we are committed to keeping J. in his own community where people know him and where he volunteers and works and lives. We would not be able to sustain him at home if he were to suffer the loss of these vital programs.

J. receives support from Mass Health for insurance as well as for the day hab program he attends two days a week.

The program specializes in young adults with autism and provides much needed behavioral supports, community experiences, jobs, human relationships, social and exercise activities and supports his communication.

Without these vital programs our son's condition would deteriorate considerably, resulting in harm to his health, well-being and basic human dignity. If he were to lose his health care coverage it would be devastating.

The loss of these programs would also cause me to need to leave my job, severely curtailing my income, retirement benefits and health coverage.

Please preserve and support these vital programs. Medicaid matters so much for our family.

Date: 2017-09-23 10:39:20  
To: My Senator  
From: Emily Nisenbaum  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Greetings! I am a widow with 2 grown children. My daughter, Amy, now 45, has Down syndrome. My husband and I worked really hard to ensure Amy a life of meaning. She has worked since the age of 16, lives in a beautiful home in our local community, has friends, goes to a local gym, takes art classes in the community, AND contributes to the local economy. Besides being a source of funding for her medical needs, Medicaid has made possible the supports that Amy needs to live such a life. Medicaid is a lifeline for Amy and others like her. Threatening to reduce Medicaid funding is, at best, short sighted and, at worst, cruel and heartless. Our goal as a family is to see Amy secure in her future - knowing that she would have the supports she needs to continue a life of meaning after her parents are gone. With my husband's passing, I know the reality that such a time does come. How ironic that after a lifetime of doing all we could to ensure Amy a meaningful life, I am, at the age of 66, faced with this uncertainty and fear about her future.

PLEASE - do not allow the passage of the Graham Cassidy bill. My daughter, and our family, and so many others like her and us, deserve the support of our government - not the disregard and cruelty that such legislation would inflict.

Thank you!



Date: 2017-09-22 11:48:07  
To: My Senator  
From: Joyce Faria  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



As a services provider for more than 300 people with intellectual and other disabilities, I implore you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This bill would be devastating for most of these individuals who rely on Medicaid to maintain their health, safety and well-being. The population we support is already at a disadvantage in our society, unable in many cases to independently partake of the liberties, freedoms, and activities of daily life that most of us without disabilities regularly enjoy. People with disabilities are one of our country's most vulnerable populations, and continue to suffer social segregation, isolation and discrimination - even with the advocacy work that has continued for decades. Please do not further discriminate against these individuals we care for by virtually pulling the rug out from under them. Support of this bill is the same as supporting discrimination towards and neglect of people with disabilities as well as people with pre-existing conditions - shameful for a government that is supposed to be one "of the people, by the people, and for the people." (I don't think that Lincoln had only SOME of the people in mind...)

Thank you for your consideration; and please don't support the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Date: 2017-09-22 08:41:45  
To: My Senator  
From: Robin Slonim  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Every parent has dreams for their child - college, health, success, happiness, productive member of society. Unfortunately, some dreams are shattered. Our sweet, beautiful daughter was born

developmentally disabled. I was forced, to give up my job and run a home applied behavioral analysis program using CARD. Despite our best efforts, Melanie has an IQ of approximately 60 and requires 24/7 supervision. She is a sweet non judgemental person, who sees only the good in others. She is 26 and lives with us while attending a day program which gives her employment training, purpose and value. She delivers meals to seniors with Meals on Wheels, works in group employment cleaning crew and enhances her job skills. Melanie has autism spectrum disorder and we would find out much later, Fragile X. Medicaid is her lifeline. It helps fund her day program . It is not just insurance. It is her life. It gives her, purpose, meaning. Allows her to contribute to society in the best way she can.

Meanwhile mom and, dad have, to tend, to, a parent, who, has, significant dementia and a brother/brother in law with Aspergers who is constant crisis. He lives on shoe string, insisting on doing thing his way, getting evicted constantly, antagonizing neighbors, and agencies trying to help etc. He calls constantly. Medicaid also saves, ou mental health in caring for all these family members.

I can not fathom telling Melanie she is losing her lifeline.

Please reject Graham Cassidy bill and all of it's drastic cuts to Medicaid affecting so many elderly and disabled.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:57:29  
To: My Senator  
From: Robert Langell  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am having my mom write this. I am unable to write or care for myself. I have fragile x syndrome. Please feel free to stop for a moment and look that up. Without Medicaid and all its benefits I would probably be forced to live in an institution. But I am able to remain home, go to a day program and do some work. I am only twenty years old. I am valuable to society and I have a lot to offer but again without support none of it would be possible. Please don't cut funding. Maybe cut money from the White House budget or some other budget that will not hurt people. Government waste is ridiculous I am sure there has to be another way

Date: 2017-09-21 18:23:14  
To: My Senator  
From: Jeanne Clapper  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My first born child, now, 27 years old has an intellectual and developmental disability as well as multiple medical challenges. She has a unique chromosome micro deletion and translocation the only one of its kind identified in the world She has Mass Health (Medicaid) since we learned she would be eligible at age 14. We have always had a private health insurance which we are able to still have as primary payer since our ERISA plan through my husband's job as a firefighter to consider her as an adult dependent with a disability and they agreed. However, her Medicaid is the one that pays for her diapers Our private insurance also does not cover or pay for the day habilitation program she attends but Medicaid thankfully does. Medicaid also pays for the nursing she needs at home. My husband and I both work full-time and provide for our family as best we can. This includes continued support to our beautiful adult daughter who will always require 24 /7 supports. This latest attempt at repealing the ACA with its draconian cuts has us very frightened about the future and others like her. We are ththankful for our MA legislators who are with us in this fight. Please count us in the fight for her life and let us know what else we can do.

Jeanne Clapper

Holliston, MA

Date: 2017-09-22 14:25:09  
To: My Senator  
From: Carolyn Young  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am working as a case manager for Adult Foster care program services. I see people who receive funds from Medicaid to be able to take care of persons with different types of disabling conditions. Without this funding many, if not all of these people would need to resort to taking other avenues to survive, including more costly institution-type of living situations. Budget cuts to these programs and or their funding sources would cause more problems or new problems. I am on the front lines in this field and I can attest to the fact that the funds are being used appropriately and preventing other means of survival that would be less desirable for all of us.

Date: 2017-09-23 00:00:21  
To: My Senator  
From: Elizabeth Sampson  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter's and my disabilities are nowhere near as serious as many others', but we both are both still in desperate need of Medicare and Medicaid assistance. I used to have a stable and lucrative career as a Dental Hygienist, but because of the 2 brain aneurisms and memory loss that I now have, I had to go on disability. My daughter was born with a genetic syndrome (through NO FAULT of anyone's...no addictions, no health issues, no NOTHING). She also desperately needs VERY affordable health insurance access. Though in SSDI, she works as much as she possibly can. Do you think she WANTS to be unable to support herself? Do you think she WANTS to take from the government? NO! The vast majority of her friends went to college. She WANTED the opportunity to attend, too. But her health has made continuity in her life very difficult to maintain. Without the assistance that her health insurance has allowed her, she will never be able to become independent. And without self sufficiency, people like my daughter will always continue to need complete assistance from the government to survive. It will only make life worse for EVERYONE who pays taxes.

Allow people with disabilities the chance to become contributing members of society( through being able to access affordable healthcare), and at least there will be more people monetarily contributing to the " tax bank". I would think the benefits of a contributing, healthier society would outweigh the burdens of a failing, sick one. What else can be done? Annihilation of people like me and my daughter? Seriously? What is this now? A Hitler-like State? What's the alternative?

Date: 2017-09-24 08:31:43  
To: My Senator  
From: cynthia perrone  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello,

My Son has Cornelia DeLang Syndrome, which is a genetic disorder, He is non verbal, very little communication and life skills. He lives in a wonderful group home. I took care of my Son for 20 years before it became extremely difficult to so, medically, physically, mentally and financially as could not work. I have mental illness, and extreme anxiety. He needs 24/7 care, also attends a day program that MassHealth/Medicaid funds. Also the Department of Developmental Disabilities funds the group home with state and federal dollars. If he were to lose all of benefits he would pretty much have no place to go. He would also lose all of his medical insurance as he is on Medicare and Masshealth. His prescription drugs were not be covered. He had a stroke 2 years ago. Therefore on top of all the medical issues he faces, this made his condition worsen.

I to would lose my medical coverage, and could not afford medications, and therapy to help with Bipolar disorder. Just think of all the millions of disabled, the elderly in nursing homes, pre existing conditions. If all are cut off from funds, they will die, or become homeless. Also, the caretakers would have to quit their jobs, and staff at group homes, and dayhab programs will also lose their jobs. This would be cause devastation for the economy. I work part time while on SS disability. I do the best I can. I have been advocating for individuals with disabilities for many years. The Senate and Congress may not be able to relate to our stories, especially the president. However, anyone that has compassion, and the understanding of devastation losing funding, and medical coverage, would understand, and not vote for appeal and replace the affordable care act. Maybe if they could come up with something that would not hurt the American people, we would listen. So far, there has been nothing. I plead with you to think harder than ever to stop this bill, and do the right thing. Thank you, Cynthia Perrone

Date: 2017-09-24 02:13:25  
To: My Senator  
From: Maryann Haldi  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



At this moment my multiply handicapped 21 year old son is sleeping in his enclosed hospital bed. His cerebral palsy and epilepsy were caused by a congenital CMV infection. He is getting a specialized formula through his feeding tube. I just gave him one of the three overly expensive anti-convulsant medications he must take daily. He has a pulse-oximeter sensor taped to his toe to monitor his blood oxygen throughout the night. He was hospitalized 5 times in 2016 for pneumonia, the last 2 in the ICU. To remain healthy he now receives respiratory therapy daily at home, with the same expensive equipment used when he was hospitalized. His recurrent pneumonias were in part due to inhalation of excessive saliva, so he had salivary gland surgery in April. He now has a nurse most nights and a personal care attendant to help me care for him for most of the hours he is not in school. Here's the other side: he was rollerskating in his walker today and he uses a sophisticated communication device (he is hearing impaired and non-verbal). He is thriving due to all of the medical care and special education he has received. I am 62, with a Ph.D. in genetics, and had to end my career as a scientist to care for him and his autistic older brother. My older son now lives in a group home and attends a community based day program where he has several volunteer jobs. My multiply handicapped son will continue to live with me when he ages out of special education at age 22 and attend a day habilitation program. Everything I mentioned and more was paid for by MassHealth, but 4 times I had to take them to a hearing to get what was needed. They are already limiting expenditures where they can.

As a geneticist I know that the chance my sons would be brothers is 1:100,000, yet here they are. No one is born into a healthy body because their parents did anything to deserve that and everyone becomes disabled if they live long enough. We as a society have a responsibility to care for our members with disabilities. Cuts to Medicaid are morally indefensible.



Date: 2017-09-21 18:06:50  
To: My Senator  
From: Jacob Sommer  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My family would be bankrupt, broken or both without Medicaid.

My wife and I are parents to two special-needs children. The older one has had obvious autism traits since four days old. The younger one was born with a temper so bad it's not only legendary among people we know, it's diagnosed as a mental health disorder.

No child comes with an instruction manual, but neither child has been anything close to easy to parent. We needed help, and we needed a lot of it. Medicaid allowed our children to get a great deal of the medical help they needed without sending our financially strapped family to the poorhouse. The peace of mind from both the help we received and the lack of financial stress allowed our family to stay together.

Right now, lack of affordable medical care is ripping hundreds of thousands of families apart. These are families that are not well off and have medical problems but still earn too much for Medicaid and don't have special needs beyond the ordinary. They are punished by means testing for doing slightly too well, even though they are struggling to pay the bills every single week--and that is before any serious medical problems.

If you are truly pro-family, you should vote against Graham-Cassidy. If you are pro-business, you should vote against Graham-Cassidy. The only reason you should vote for Graham-Cassidy is if you shun the ideas of promoting the general Welfare and insuring domestic Tranquility--and if you shun those ideas, which are part of the very existence of the US government, you don't belong in Congress.

Date: 2017-09-21 23:16:49  
To: My Senator  
From: Paula Belanger  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



They said my precious daughter would not live beyond the age of three. Despite being full-term, Rachel weighed only 3 pounds. It took 5 1/2 years of endless doctor appointments and hospitalizations before she was diagnosed with mitochondrial disorder. Rachel did not walk or talk until age 3 when she began to receive gammaglobulin infusions every three weeks to boost her immune system and keeping her out of the hospital.

She finally began to grow and develop, Learning to walk talk and potty train. Learning to read and write and make friends. Thanks to IV therapy, early intervention, physical therapy, occupational therapy, low vision training and hearing aids Rachel had access to an education. With supports, Rachel was able to complete high school and then attend the Perkins school for the blind. We have been so grateful to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for being a leader in the area of healthcare and education for all.

Rachel recently turned 27 despite all the odds. Her health problems grow more complex even as her vision deteriorates. She is now a type one diabetic with Hashimoto's disease. Her stepmother's private insurance company has denied her eligibility as a disabled adult child. Rachel is now completely dependent on Medicaid.

Her employment focused dayprogram has urged her to transition to a day habilitation program that is funded entirely by Medicaid. These programs and therapies are essential for Rachel's continued well-being. Please don't put our family in the position of losing our home so that we can keep Rachel alive. She is one of the sweetest people you would ever meet. Please do what you can to protect her.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:06:46  
To: My Senator  
From: Caitlin louis  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I work for a non profit agency who serves developmental disabled individuals. We need Medicaid funds for so much.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:55:45  
To: My Senator  
From: Ann Rounseville  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of my son, Luke. Luke is 10 years old and has one of the most infectious giggles on earth. Luke also has several diagnoses including Autism, intellectual disability, mildly dilated aorta, scoliosis, cortical vision impairment, growth restriction, GERD and more. Clearly, Luke would fall squarely into the category of a person with not one but MANY pre-existing conditions. Currently, because of his disabilities, Luke is insured by our family insurance plus medicaid as a secondary. Luke's medicaid has helped our family immeasurably with being able to afford caring for a child with multiple diagnoses. We rely on Luke's medicaid as a lifeline. We also look to the future when Luke will absolutely need medicaid funding in order to help insure that he is able to live as independently as is possible for him. As Luke will need 24/7 supervision for life medicaid would help pay for a group home or other setting with his peers instead of being forced to live at home or in a nursing home. I can not bear the thought of Luke not having some sort of a fulfilling life as an adult. Please, I beg of you, do not allow the Graham- Cassidy bill to pass. Because of its very deep cuts to medicaid and removal of protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions, it will be absolutely devastating to our family and families like ours, now and in the future. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or for more information on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Rounseville

[REDACTED]  
Newton, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date: 2017-09-22 04:12:27  
To: My Senator  
From: HALIL SAHIN  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid paid for my gall bladder surgery.  
I needed to have it removed immediately.  
It was about to burst.

This occurred on Feb 7 2012 at Beth Israel  
Hospital.

Date: 2017-09-23 19:14:57  
To: My Senator  
From: Carol Ryan  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Diagnosed as a toddler with developmental / intellectual disabilities and autism., my brother Michael is smart, childlike, and often funny. He needs 24 hour care and supervision, lives in a group home, and attends a day program that he loves - actually, that he lives for.

There since 1988, he dislikes having days off and was known by the wonderful staff there for, among other things, his near perfect attendance. In 2016, he developed some complex health issues which led to 4 months of hospitalization and inpatient rehab. There were several times when we thought he would die, but we were grateful that, through Medicaid, he had good care and very good doctors who were trying very hard to diagnose and treat his issues.

Finally, after many tests, a number of procedures (some emergency), and accurate diagnoses, he began to improve. Everyone - especially Michael - was delighted when he returned to work, and thankfully, he is doing well now. We are grateful to everyone who helped him, and very grateful that he had the health care and insurance coverage that he so desperately needed.

I strongly believe that if not for Medicaid, Michael likely would've died last year.

With nearly a trillion dollar cut over 20 years and lifetime cost caps proposed in the latest "health care" bill, my heart breaks at the thought of what it would mean to all the people and families, ours included, who rely on Medicaid.

No one should have to die simply because they can't afford health care.

Thank you Senator Warren and Senator Markey for standing up for the people of our state and our country, and trying to prevent this from happening. I hope that enough of your colleagues - like Senators McCain, Collins, and Murkowski did this summer - choose to do the same, choose to do the right thing, to vote no on this bill, so that work can resume on a bipartisan solution to improving the healthcare system.

Reducing costs does not have to mean reducing lives.

Date: 2017-09-22 03:47:14  
To: My Senator  
From: Nathan Herman  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am only alive due to Medicaid. I don't just believe this, it's a fact. I'm a 34-year-old man with a degenerative neuromuscular disorder known as SMA type II. The odds that I will die of this disease is almost assured. I have had more close calls than I can count and have been pulled back from the brink a half a dozen times at least. My most recent near-death experience resulted in me being in the hospital for over three months. Just that experience alone would have bankrupted me 10 times over... Probably more.

Medicaid/MassHealth hasn't just saved my life but helps make my life worth living. Seven years ago, my wife, best friend, and primary caregiver died suddenly and tragically. Since then, I've relied on personal care attendants to help keep me independent and out of a nursing home. Though my mother-in-law spares as much time as she can toward my care, her two remaining children have special needs that she must advocate for. The PCA program allows me to live in an apartment of my own and give me a degree of independence that I simply couldn't have if I had to rely on family alone.

Honestly, I'm completely dumbfounded that a military funding increase bill has sailed through but our government is looking to cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid. It shows that our priorities leaned far toward the taking of lives, and not the saving of lives. Please, don't do this. You will be killing those that cannot provide for themselves. That is an unavoidable fact. Not a maybe, not a possibility. Don't do this.

Truly,

Nathan Herman

Date: 2017-09-22 10:56:01  
To: My Senator  
From: Ksren McCann  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My sister Cheryl McCann has special needs w/a seinure disorder + she needs extensive free care to stay alive...

She works in a sheltered workshop as a shredder for \$50-\$70 per week to contribute to society, + has to be given by her supervisor Valium to avert convulsions.... Sometimes she has to come home, if that doesn't work!!!

She needs to have MassHealth/Medicaid to function + keep all her PCP/Specialist appointments + pay for her seizure medications!!!

Our father died in December of dementia, + my 85 year old mother + I want to keep her in the family house instead of an expensive group home w/paid staff... We give her the best care, + she is loved here...

Please reconsider leaving MassHealth/Medicaid alone + keep it status quo!!!

Thank you,

Karen McCann

Cheryl McCann's Caregiver + Sister



Date: 2017-09-22 12:01:27  
To: My Senator  
From: Karel Henry  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



When our son was born in 1990 he had a hole in his heart. He had to be in the hospital before he could have an operation because he was exposed to chickenpox. In that period of time the doctors decided it would be better to hold off on the operation until he was a little older and bigger. He would have a smaller operation they tied a cord to allow the heart to beat more naturally and also worked on his dissolving aorta.

He was able to come home and I thought he was doing very well, but the doctors decided he was not as healthy as they hoped and had us go to the top doctor at Children's Hospital and proceed with a major operation. Unfortunately it was difficult for them to undo the previous operation in which they had made temporary fixtures. The operation was very long and Charles Caleb Henry suffered brain damage. There was nothing in the hospital records but he was in ICU and very ill when I recognized that he was trembling and called the nurse. He had suffered a severe seizure and had a neurological test and I witnessed that his line was flat. They walked me out of the room like I should know, but I did see it and understood that he had brain trauma. He still has seizures and he takes about 10 pills a day at least.

We love him dearly and he enjoys music but is cortically blind and cannot speak. he needs a one on one aide. I took care of him until he turned 22 and he had to move to a group home close to us. I have a bad back due to osteoporosis.

I also want him to be able to adjust to another house as I assume he will outlive us.

Please do not take money away from him and other people with severe problems like cerebral palsy. This has been a part of our American values for a long time.

Karel Henry, mother and guardian

Date: 2017-09-22 13:57:19  
To: My Senator  
From: Michael Hammond  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello,

My name is Michael Hammond and I am from Pepperell Massachusetts. I receive both day and residential supports from The Arc of Opportunity North Central Massachusetts. I receive services funded through Medicaid waiver services. The services I receive through Medicaid allow me to live in a group home with staff who can help me with my medical needs and ensure I maintain connections in the community and continue lifelong friendships. I also attend a Day Habilitation program funded through Medicaid. This program helps me work on therapeutic goals that keep me in good health both physically and mentally. In addition to the waiver services I receive on Medicaid, I am also on MassHealth for my medical insurance which allows me to receive life saving medical treatment that I do not know where I would be without.

I am very fearful of what my life would be like without the services I receive on Medicaid. I am asking members of Congress to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and any other cuts to Medicaid.

Regards,

Michael Hammond

Date: 2017-09-22 05:23:44  
To: My Senator  
From: Gail Farrell  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son Benny (26) lives with three challenges, Autism, Intractable Epilepsy, and Neurofibromatosis. The most difficult of the three is the Epilepsy. Benny has had daily seizures since he was 5 years old, ( of many different types) that can cause injury, and have caused profound developmental delays.

We absolutely rely on our primary insurance and Masshealth, to defray the costs of his care. It is essential that we have prescription plans that cover the more than \$6,000.00 a month in pharmacy costs, and cover brand name drugs, as generics can cause his seizure frequency to dramatically change. We also need to make frequent visits to his Neurologist to manage his care.

Since Benny doesn't have good seizure control with medications one of the things we hope for most is a new treatment that will improve his quality of life. Having new and experimental treatments available through insurance is a must for people like Benny.

We participate in the Adult Foster-care program through the Arc of Massachusetts because Benny wants to live at home. This provides us with the help we need, and saves tens of thousands of dollars by keeping people out of group home arrangements. We need to be expanding these types of programs not cutting or eliminating them.

Please remember Benny when making decisions about what is essential in health care for the disabled.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:16:37  
To: My Senator  
From: Elizabeth Goulart  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



My family depends on Medicaid. I have 2 adult aged children who were born with disabilities. My daughter has Cerebral Palsy and a seizure disorder. She is on medication that controls her seizures and sometimes her meds have to be changed because they don't work any more. IT is crucial for her to have this medicine and we would not be able to afford to pay the full price for them. Why are they so expensive? She is so lucky to have Masshealth (Medicaid)!

Alex also attends a Day Program, CapeAbilities, in Hyannis, They get funding through Masshealth to help pay for her to be a part of this great program. The program allows her to have social interaction with other people in the community. They offer a wide range of activities for Alex to participate in on a daily basis. It gives her a meaningful place to go everyday so that she has a purpose in life. We need this program for Alex and all of the people they serve on Cape Cod.

Please do not make cuts to Medicaid. This will be devastating to people with disabilities all over the country.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Goulart

Date: 2017-09-21 17:47:00  
To: My Senator  
From: Stanley McDonald, Jr.  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I have a son, age 50, a DDS client with I/DD. Gutting Medicaid would deprive him of vital care and treatment

Date: 2017-09-21 18:12:20  
To: My Senator  
From: Cathy Taylor  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid saved my marriage.

Our son was born in 1987 and needed open heart surgery when he was 6 weeks old. This was before any insurance protections were in place. Our private insurance carrier (through my husband's employment) were not happy about the expenses and raised the premiums so much when it came time to renew, that my husband's boss had to switch companies. None of them would take my baby. We tried hard to find a place with no luck. Insurance was not something we could do without. Our son needed medical care. We were desperate. It looked like our only option was to get divorced so my son and I would be eligible for Medicaid. Then I found out that Massachusetts had a new program called CommonHealth. This is a Medicaid program that allows working people with disabilities to buy into the Medicaid. Premiums are based on income. CommonHealth also allowed parents of children with disabilities to buy into the program - for their disabled child only. No other children are on it. The parents are not on it. Again, premiums are based on income. My husband and I were thrilled. We could get medical care for our son AND remain an intact family. Thirty years later, we are still a family.

If saving families isn't enough for you to understand the importance of Medicaid, look at it this way. The way it turned out, we stayed married. My husband paid taxes. Eventually I stated working again and paid taxes. We paid for our own medical care (minus our son's - which by the way was subsidized by OUR tax money as well). We paid for our own housing. We paid for our own food. We paid for our own everything.

If this Medicaid program didn't exist we would have divorced. My son would have been on Medicaid. And I would have been, too. I would not have ever worked and so wouldn't have paid taxes. I also wouldn't have contributed to the economy by shopping so much. I would have been eligible for housing vouchers. I would have been eligible for food stamps. I would have been eligible for other aid for low income families.

Face it. Medicaid saves lives. Medicaid saves families. Medicaid saves money. Quit trying to destroy us all.

Thanks.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:33:04  
To: My Senator  
From: Hillary Dancause  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



If the cuts were approved for Medicare that would mean a drastic change to my life and my family's wellbeing. I am currently the Director of an Adult Day Program where we service adults with both physical and intellectual disabilities. If the cuts are passed many people we serve would not be able to attend programs like this and I would possibly lose my employment through the agency and be unemployed. This would effect my family greatly as I would not be able to afford many of life's necessities. I would have to go on Massachusetts benefits to survive and in turn would end up costing the state more money. I would no longer pay taxes on my current income which again would lose more money for the state. I would not be able to afford to send my daughter to daycare where she is learning many social and intellectual skills to further her development in life. My family would have a very different life and it would absolutely be much more difficult to manage if this bill is passed. Thank you for your time. please do not pass this Bill.

Date: 2017-09-24 08:52:48  
To: My Senator  
From: david Parker  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



david needs medicine to keep him alive, thanks to medicaid he is able to be with his family. dont take that away from us.  
theresa for david



Date: 2017-09-24 08:36:23  
To: My Senator  
From: carol rizzo  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



243 main st.

My husband and I had twin sons, Benjamin and Christopher, 37 years ago diagnosed with Autism and mental retardation.

They are unable to hold down a paying job that would help pay for their medical care.

With the support of staff, they volunteer helping others where they can.

They live with home providers that do a wonderful job of taking care of them while allowing them to be as independent as they can be.

I am a widow now and do not have the income to pay for their health care nor did my husband and I have enough income to pay for it after they were too old to be on our health care policy.

I have them home two weekends a month to keep family ties with them and to keep an eye on them as well.

They do receive funding from DDS and residential care from the Seven Hills Foundation both organizations that have allowed Ben and Chris to become productive and caring members of society as much as they can be.

Without medical care to monitor and care for their mental and physical health, they would become more burdensome to society and not be as healthy as they are now.

Please continue to fund Medicaid.

Thank You,

Date: 2017-09-22 17:07:55  
To: My Senator  
From: Dianne Huggon  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Twenty four years ago I would never have imagined that my eldest son, born in 1993, would have the meaningful life he has today. Jonathan became ill at two weeks old and within hours of being admitted to the hospital, my husband and I would learn that our precious baby had viral meningitis. As the result of this illness, he lives with his medical diagnosis of quadriplegia. From the moment he entered the hospital at two weeks old, we have dealt with the uncertainty of his future. The constant nagging question, "will his services and supports stop?" is a whisper in my mind.

I want my story, my son's journey, to represent many families who are raising their loved one with a disability. As I write I'm thinking of the many families who are just too busy to take a moment to share their story, not because they don't want to, but because they're too tired to do one more thing that involves their loved one. Our focus is constantly on providing care and managing the needs, constantly fighting to keep services in place, constantly fighting for acceptance in the community and sadly, constantly fighting or addressing issues involving insurance companies, human service agencies and education services.

My son's health coverage is through his father's employer health insurance and supplemented by Mass Health. In the last few years it has been more difficult to get approval for durable medical equipment, including enteral supplies for his g-tube feedings. The quality of supplies has decreased as well as amounts. We have sacrificed the fun things in life in order to private pay for what insurance at one time covered. I can't imagine how much more will change if there are changes to the current health care system.

My son also receives services and supports through the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. We chose the self-directed service model to help him be more independent and take control of decision making about his life. His week schedule consists of doing his own personal shopping, banking, volunteering at our City Hall delivering mail, participates in classes at a local university, is working on becoming a successful photographer and entrepreneur and continues to take private music lesson and compose his own music. This is possible due to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Home and Community Based Services Waiver. Should these services stop or even get cut, it will dismantle my son's good life he has created for himself. His parents are aging and our goal is to prepare for our son's future so that he can live in his own home with the supports he needs.

As much as I enjoy sharing our son's success story to help others realize that all things are possible when we believe in the beauty of our dreams, it's sad to have to share our story time and time again to protect health coverage.

Thank you for allowing me to share our story as we wish to be the change we want to see in this world, positive change.

Please vote against the Cassidy-Graham plan.



Date: 2017-09-23 09:02:50

To: My Senator

From: jean walsh

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]

four years ago-on memorial weekend dennis-our ablebodied special needs son fell back while brushing his teeth,BANGING AND DAMAGING HIS HEAD AND NECK.

He needed to go to the local hospital- but needed more specialized assistance and major surgery at Tufts medical center-Boston. AtTufts he had rods put in his neck/head to stabilize his neck.

There he was hospitalized and after post-op was transferred to Tewksbury State hospital,at there special needs unit for his rehabilitation.He was at this unit for 10 months recovering and having pt,and ot. what a great rehab unit and great staff there.

Upon discharge he was evaluated and accepted into a state operated group home here in Tewksbury.

Great move He finally recovered with lots of help,support,assistance and therapies.

He now has been working at Valley Collaborative in Billerica.He uses a walker and wheelchair to navigate and get around, A home and a his day program

He has been blessed with caring and loving supports.

As aging parents it has been a great help,less worrisome with these supports and programs.

MassHealth/medicare/medicaid covering all his bills,and his needs.

PLEASE continue to support and fund these needed programs in the community for our most needy clients and their families.

HOPEFULLY, JEAN AND GENE WALSH, TEWKSBURY

Date: 2017-09-22 22:41:20  
To: My Senator  
From: Marie Rej  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid matters to my 21 year old son with Down Syndrome who may never be able to support himself or have an employer-provided health benefit. It is a lifeline for him and many of his friends. For this reason, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:59:07  
To: My Senator  
From: Eleanor DeBlasio  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am widowed and therefore a single parent. I have a 19 yr old daughter with Down syndrome. I depend on her Medicaid/Mass Health to help pay for her medical bills. Katie has anxiety and sees a psychiatrist and therapist. She also sees a cardiologist, dermatologist, and podiatrist. It is emotionally challenging to raise an adult child with special needs. If Katie's medicaid were to get cut in anyway, I would have financial problems as well. Please do NOT let Medicaid cuts happen. It affects individuals who cannot take care of themselves.

Eleanor DeBlasio

Date: 2017-09-24 08:51:46  
To: My Senator  
From: Aliza Edwards  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senator Markey and Senator Warren,

I am writing you regarding the pending cuts in the Medicaid program.

My son, Win was born with CHARGE Syndrome, caused by a spontaneous mutation just before or after conception. He was very ill at birth and given a 50/50 chance of survival. Thanks to all the technology that a NICU unit offers, excellent medical care over the years, an outstanding education at Perkins School for the Blind and lots of love and encouragement, he survived and is now 23 years old.

However he is considered 'deaf blind as he is profoundly deaf with a visual impairment, has poor balance and is significantly cognitively delayed. He continues to be seen by medical specialists and requires 24/7 supervision. Thanks to Medicaid, he is living in a group home with four other deaf individuals of similar abilities. He enjoys living with others with whom he can communicate in American sign language, benefits greatly by having staff who sign fluently and are frequently deaf themselves, and attends an excellent work program weekdays, earning a small amount of money.

My husband passed away a year ago of cancer after just turning 60 so I am now a single parent/guardian. I inherited my husband's business as well. I would not have been able to care for my son during this past year. My son has some semblance of a normal life. He is living with others with similar interests and enjoys their company. He will never have his own family so this is what he needs. I am grateful for the group home in which he has been placed, the work program and the medical insurance and would be struggling without these supports. And I know that my situation is fortunate as compared to that of other families with individuals with significant disabilities.

Please do not allow cuts to these programs. If anything they need to receive more funding.

I know that you are in agreement and fight hard for these programs and I appreciate all you both do for the citizens of our state. If there is something more I can do, please let me know.

With thanks.

Aliza

Date: 2017-09-23 07:50:32

To: My Senator

From: Justin Bernard

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



I am asking to cancel this bill and stop the Medicaid cuts. I have friends and family that need Medicaid/Medicare for medical support in addition to myself. I have contacted my legislators on this issue. I thank you for your time.

Date: 2017-09-22 16:02:01  
To: My Senator  
From: Lisa Majewski  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senators,

Caps to Medicaid will have a huge impact on my adult son with disabilities and many people like him. Medicaid provides for the care he receives in his own home. Without this care (group adult foster care), he will not be able to live independently.

He has multiple medical issues as a result of having Down syndrome. His medical care stands to be compromised under Graham Cassidy.

Please do what you can to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Majewski



Date: 2017-09-22 19:57:49  
To: My Senator  
From: Sheila Gerety  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



10 Petrell Park

Medicaid is vital to our family. We have two special needs adult children. Philip 36 and Lindsay 33 years old. They both live at home with my husband and I. They are total care 24/7.

Without medicaid they could lose their day program and transportation. Like anyone else they need to be part of the community and engaged in activities, not sitting at home everyday .

They both get PCA hours funded by medicaid. We depend on those hours to help us with all the personal care. As we age it is harder for us to do all the care., bathing, feeding dressing, toileting, etc.. They have no safety awareness they have to be watched at all times .

We have been taking care of them for 36 years. We don't know what will happen if their benefits from medicaid are taken away.

We are asking you please vote NO on the Graham - Cassidy Bill.

Thank you for your Support,

Sheila and Philip Gerety

[REDACTED] MA 02188

Date: 2017-09-21 22:22:44  
To: My Senator  
From: Sethany Griffin  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son will be 17 in October. He is diagnosed with autism, bipolar disorder and Type 2 diabetes. Without Medicaid, he wouldn't be living with us. K went through a very hard time where he was very aggressive, very sad, and filled with anxiety. At 6'5 and 330lbs, we were terrified that we wouldn't be able to maintain his needs at home. Hospitalizations and medications are covered by our primary insurance, but due to his intense needs our primary benefits often don't cover enough, His Medicaid allows us to cover the difference and maintain the care and expensive medications that he needs to be able to maintain himself at home. Our AFC services allow us to provide him with Personal bathing and hygiene assistance that a typically developing child stopped needing somewhere around age five or six. Like so many others, our family needs this to remain whole. Our son belongs with us, and we need some extra help to keep that a reality. Please, think of the millions of families that making these cuts will destroy when you are voting on changes,

Thank you

Date: 2017-09-22 11:07:56

To: My Senator

From: susan murphy

State: Massachusetts

Email: [REDACTED]



my dad is an 81 year old paraplegic. he was a very active member of the community, working with the winthrop council on aging, washing windows for local businesses, having coffee with his cronies, bowling multiple times a week and the list goes on.

unfortunately 6 years ago he fell, and from that fall he sustained a spinal cord injury which made him paraplegic and unable to care for himself. he was and continues to live with me and my husband where he has his care in his home by people he knows, loves and trusts and is surrounded by the things he knows and loves.

I have had to quit my full time job as well as part time job which I got after the full time to be able to take care of him more fully as he continues to age and need full time help and by him being on the frail elder waiver which affords him the opportunity to be on Mass Health it has given me that opportunity to become his full time care giver and get compensated for this care, which save the state many, many thousands of dollars per year and gives the patient and caregiver peace of mind to know they are being taken care of properly.

he has had numerous stays in "skilled" nursing facilities and has come out worse than when he went in, and these said "skilled" nursing facilities are not an option at this point for the care of my dad, which of course would increase the cost of his care significantly.

I beg at this time for all to reconsider these drastic cuts that will hurt many patients who are able to thrive in the surroundings of their own home and loved ones and look deeper at other ways to cut rather than hurt the ones that truly benefit and need it.

Date: 2017-09-22 19:52:53  
To: My Senator  
From: Marjorie Cohen  
State: Massachusetts  
Email: [REDACTED]



As the mother of a 40 year old woman with severe Cerebral Palsy, health care is essential to her well being and meaningful life. Caroline requires all of her needs and daily personal care needs, done by direct care staff. She was born 9 weeks premature and is considered having pre- existing condition, no fault of her own, because of that.

It is cruel and insensitive to deny her and thousands of others like her, without the healthcare she deserves, this is what keeps her so healthy and well cared for, so she can have a productive lifestyle.

Thank you, Caroline, Marjorie, David and Michael Cohen, Worcester, Leicester, Massachusetts, and Oakdale, Minnesota.

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** THOMAS FLANAGAN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:09 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid matters to me in Massachusetts

I am the parent of an intellectually disabled adult daughter named Caroline. Caroline is on a community based waiver for the state of Massachusetts. This enables her to have a life separate from her Mom and Dad. She resides in a congregate living apartment in Beverly, MA with three other women. Caroline is employed at Stop & Shop for 15 hours weekly, three days a week. She attends a day program for two days a week in which most of the time is spent in the community. Caroline travels on these five days with transportation services available to her. She also receives 10 hours of support services in her home to help with food shopping and meal preparation. On the weekends, Caroline spends time with her family.

Caroline is very happy with her independence and we would like to enable her to continue with her lifestyle. Loss of Medicaid funding would curtail many aspects of her daily life and would leave her depressed with too much unfruitful time on her hands. Please help to keep her in the community and in her workplace.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Flanagan

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Sarah Coletti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** From Massachusetts - Medicaid Matters to Me

My son is a young adult living in a group home with 5 other individuals with multiple disabilities who need support 24x7. All rely on Medicaid for their health care, for their day programs, and for residential supports. Last week the house manager sent out an email to let me know what the residents had been doing during the week. Two were taken to the movies; one walked to Dunkin Donuts down the block accompanied by a staff person; three got to enjoy a town Independence Day celebration; my son got to go out for ice cream with one of his housemates. ~~Drastically reducing Medicaid does more than make managing my son's epilepsy harder. It may mean my son's day program where he is learning to communicate with a picture-based device will need to reduce or restrict services. It may mean that the residence will no longer be able to staff to the level where they are able to take him out for ice cream.~~ Medicaid does not only keep people with disabilities alive. It gives them a life.

Thank you for your efforts in maintaining the well-being of people with disabilities,  
Sarah Coletti  
Acton, MA

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Jean Walsh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** medicade cuts

jean k. walsh of tewksbury mass.

our special needs son has benefited from medical access to lowell and bosotn drs  
. he still needs follow up. us seniors cannot affort any changes.

Please address this vip program/service to everyone who depends and needs all these benefit.  
~~make improvements- not slash them .~~

saincerely jeanand gene walsh for dennis

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Donovan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Matters to Us in Massachusetts

Dear Senators Markey and Warren,

I know you strongly support Medicaid, but I wanted to share with you another reason why. He is an adorable 17 year old kid with blue eyes, a charming personality, celiac disease, developmental disability and autism.

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Our Brendan really needs Medicaid when he turns 18, not only for the medical coverage, but for the independence it will offer him. He is in the group who really, really needs help with his activities of daily living and social skills, but he could live a semi-independent life if he gets the at home supports from the Medicaid program. And let's face it, if Medicaid is destroyed, DDS won't have any money to support him either.

I am trying to plan his post-22 life, but I can't do it while Medicaid is under threat. The passage of this proposed "health" bill will ruin Brendan's life for the rest of his life. Please do whatever it takes to make sure this does not happen.

We live a good life but we cannot afford to take all of this on for the rest of his life. Indeed, he will outlive us and what happens then? Like many other mothers, I am losing sleep over this and my anxiety is so great I cracked a tooth on Friday.

Everyone loves Brendan. You would too if you met him. Please protect his Medicaid and with it, his future.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Donovan

[REDACTED]  
Ipswich, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Brian Riley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Medicare Cuts

Please do not cut Medicaid and Medicare benefits as this would have an adverse impact on people with disabilities. I have an autistic son 22 yrs old whom relies on Mass Health in state of Massachusetts for his healthcare. Without the AHCA Insurance my son would not have the healthcare Insurance coverage he needs. My Son B. James Riley is currently involved with Amego Adult Services Residential Program in Attleborough, MA. Without the help of ~~programs like Amego or Masshealth~~ B. James Riley would have few if any options at independent living. Thank you for your support.

Brian Riley  
[REDACTED]  
Lancaster, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Khadija Khartit [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Matters to my Autistic Child- Massachusetts

Dear Nicole Jorwic,

I am writing this message to speak on behalf of my 8 year old child who is severely autistic and lives on medication to help him go to bed and have a full night sleep. My son has a team of 10 specialized doctors monitoring his condition and helping him deal with his disability. Medicaid covers a big portion of this medical cost. I cannot imagine my son's life without his doctors and cannot afford to pay them without medicaid.

Thank you for representing my son, my family and all families of autism to preserve medicaid.

Khadija Khartit  
[REDACTED]

Norwood MA [REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Sherrie Marti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:24 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Massachusetts moms say no cuts to Medicaid

Please join us in doing the right thing for the neediest people in our nation. Say no to the Republican health plan and it's inhumane Medicaid cuts. We can not continue to allow the greed of a powerful few to harm our children, seniors and disabled people of all ages. Help make the well being of all our people the priority it should be in a great nation.

Thanks you,  
~~Sherrie Marti~~  
Williamsburg Ma.

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** PJ Rainwater [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Cc:** PJ Rainwater  
**Subject:** Massachusetts . Four residents in a group home

**The Medicaid program is our only source of our much-needed medical services. We need daily life-sustaining medications and we need to see our doctors. We are day habilitation workers/participants, however we will never be fortunate enough to be gainfully employed in the private sector with the hope of employer-sponsored health insurance.**

**Please reconsider taking away our Medicaid.**

**Thank you very much.**

**Rita, Alyson, Mary ann and Henry.**

**This email is being typed by our staff, PJ Rainwater.**

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:31 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Massachusetts

Medicaid matters to me because my son is a 30 year old adult diagnosed with autism. He has medicaid to pay for his four prescriptions for seizure disorder and to see his neurologist, primary care doctor, and ophthalmologist.

In many ways, my son is living somewhat independently. My son has worked at Marshall's 1 or 2 days/week processing shoes for 10 years. He takes the commuter rail to work and to the ARC for further training. He spends money in many different stores, helping the economy. He works out at the local YMCA and has become quite fit.

But he will never be able to hold down a full time job, which would give him insurance. He continues to be very anxious about living outside of our home, and needs assistance with when problems arise.

Medicaid was put in place to help people like my son, who need assistance with life. It needs to stay in place so he can get the medical assistance he needs to stay healthy.

Anita Labrecque

[REDACTED]  
Halifax, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Gutting Medicaid In Mass. Threat to disabled son's care and treatment

My son, Andrew is intellectually/developmentally disabled and dependent upon Medicaid (MassHealth) for his routine care and treatment. He is a DDS client, 50 years old. I am closing on 82 and not in best health. We are extremely worried not only for our quality of life, but about our very survival if proposed cuts to Medicaid (and Medicare) go into effect.

Thank you for this inquiry. Please do all you can to thwart this dreadful threat.

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With my devout thanks and appreciation,

Stanley M. McDonald, Jr.

[REDACTED]  
Sherborn, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid matters

Hi my name is Sara Donnelly and I'm from Ma I have a disability , I don't want them to cut Medicaid I need it . Medicaid helps me with my support staff in my house , they take me out and bring me to appts and anything inpendant living . Also I get services in transport ant and empoylment service . Without this I will live on a street Sent from my iPhone

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Powell, Timothy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Cc:** 'm.heafy@arcofopportunity.org'  
**Subject:** Massachusetts - Note to Senators regarding proposed Medicaid cuts

Dear Senators Warren and Markey,

I am a member of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Opportunity in North Central Massachusetts, located in Fitchburg. The Arc of Opportunity plays a critical role in my community: it opens doors for individuals with disabilities and their families, enabling members to live healthy, productive lives, and enabling families the supports they need to continue to thrive.


As a director of this organization, I know first-hand the importance that Medicaid plays in the lives of our members and their families. Medicaid provides the long-term supports that our members and their families need to play active roles in our community. Under the proposed cuts to Medicaid, our members, our families, our organization, and our community will suffer immensely.

Our country is great because we value every human being and not just the privileged few. I am not a personal recipient of services under Medicaid, and I am proud of our nation's Medicaid program and the fact that my tax dollars are used to provide support to those who need it most. I am eager to see the Medicaid program continue to thrive and innovate in the next decade and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the human element of this policy debate, and I encourage you to continue your efforts to convince your colleagues to vote "NO" on the Senate's proposed cuts to Medicaid.

Regards,

Tim Powell  
Director  
The Arc of Opportunity in North Central Massachusetts

Timothy H. Powell  
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[www.bowditch.com](http://www.bowditch.com) | [tpowell@bowditch.com](mailto:tpowell@bowditch.com) | [Bio](#) | 

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Mary Ann McDonough [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 3:37 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid impact - from Massachusetts

My son is 25 years old with cerebral palsy and developmental delay. He now lives in a group home and attends a day habilitation program 5 days a week.

He has had Medicaid (MassHealth) since he was 4 months old. He was enrolled in a state program funded by Medicaid to keep medically fragile children out of the hospital and stay at home. He attended a state school for physically handicapped children until he was 22. He then moved into his community setting.

Although we have always has private insurance for him in addition to his MassHealth, most of his care has been funded by Medicaid. When he turns 26 next year he will no longer have the private insurance.

I am worried that his health care will be severely compromised from what it is now and his community support program will suffer with the proposed health care bill. He cannot work. My husband and I are in our late 60's and cannot care for him at home full time anymore.

What is going to happen to him?????

Mary Ann McDonough

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 3:02 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Cc:** Barbara Cheteoui  
**Subject:** Save Medicaid

My son is 27 yrs old and was born with congenital abnormalities causing not only cognitive challenges but medical issues as well. He has been receiving Mass Health (Medicaid in Massachusetts ) since he was a baby. This support has allowed us to provide for him and allows us to care for him and to remain at home with us. This is a major financial savings for our state and government in several ways. ~~First WE provide home food and support/daily care. He would require~~ placement in a facility with 24/7 assistance and medical support which would be more expensive. Additionally we are able to work , pay taxes back into the government and have him covered under our workplace health insurance as a dependant disabled adult. This enables us to save the state further by using Medicaid as a secondary insurance. We would not have been able to do this if he had been denied Medicaid from his beginning. Additionally he would not be the person he is today and be able to do the things he is able to do if he did not have the support from Medicaid. I ask to please keep funding for Medicaid intact to help our most vulnerable citizens of America. Thank you Barbara Cheteoui

Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Gretchen Maciejowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Letter on Medicaid Cuts

To Members of the United States Senate:

As the mother of a 22-year old with autism and intellectual disability, I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the proposed cuts to Medicaid included in the proposed Health Care bill. Quite frankly, these cuts would be devastating to my son throughout his adult life. He is completely dependent on adults to manage his life. From personal care, to managing medications and doctor's appointments, transportation, meals, Kyle is dependent on his parents and support providers to stay safe and healthy. The proposed cuts to Medicaid would be nothing short of devastating to him. Kyle will never be able to work full-time and earn employer-sponsored medical insurance. He will require Medicaid for his entire adult life. When my husband and I pass away, I shudder to think what will happen to Kyle without government-sponsored programs such as Medicaid. To strip him of these services would be catastrophic.

Members of Congress need to examine their consciences and realize that not all Americans are able-minded and able-bodied. As Senator Hubert Humphrey said, the true test of a society is how it treats those in the dawn of life (children), the dusk of life (the elderly), and the shadows of life (the sick and disabled). I urge you to vote NO on the proposed Health Care Bill!

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Maciejowski

[REDACTED]  
Mashpee, MA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Laura Saldi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Massachusetts

I have worked in the human services field for over 15 years, and have worked in many programs funded by Medicaid (PCA services, Day Habilitation, and currently Adult Foster Care) for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. I have seen countless individuals and families benefit greatly from the services these programs provide, not to mention all of the individuals I've ever supported have gotten their health insurance through Medicaid. I am greatly disturbed by the current bill that has been introduced in the Senate (even with the so-called tweaks they made this week). The truth is, Medicaid needs increased funding, not a dramatic decrease, as they are proposing. The most vulnerable people in our state rely on these services just to live their lives. I cannot imagine where we will be if this bill passes. I've actually heard people recently mention that without Medicaid, this state will be going backwards, to the point of possibly having to institutionalize people again. The people in this state have worked so hard over the last few decades to move individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into their communities. We cannot go back. Please vote "no" on this disastrous health care bill. As I understand it, you already are, but continue to share the thousands of stories you hear like mine, to those who may be on the fence about this bill. It will literally make the quality of life for those people I support disappear, and many may even die. Thank you for supporting the efforts of those of us who work in human services, and the individuals we serve.

Laura Saldi  
Senior Case Manager, Division of AFC and Shared Homes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase. Visit us at <http://www.arcofopportunity.org>  
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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Lois Kraus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Funding - Massachusetts

To Whom It May Concern, I am an advocate, life skills coach and parent to children and adults with developmental disabilities. I urge you to vote no on the proposed ACA, which severally cuts Medicaid payments. Please do not consider this bill until they have restored the Medicaid funding, as this will devastate the most vulnerable of our population, and that is unconscionable.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Regards,

Lois M. Kraus

[REDACTED]  
Dedham, MA [REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** cynthiaperrone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Hello, I am a parent of a disabled son that lives in a group home and attends a day program funded by DDS. He has been on MassHealth since he was a baby with the diagnosis at Birth. I myself have mental illness also on disability and relying on MassHealth from my therapist my medication nurse practitioner, and prescriptions. I can't afford any other insurance. At age 61 it is very hard to have to take care of my son so if he cannot be in a group home I'd a program because of Medicaid Cuts I really don't know what we would do. Tell these senators that the unemployment rate would go up so much due to people not being able to work. Also just think of all the folks with mental illness not being able to get treatment, and not be abke to afford their prescriptions. what would that lead to, of course more crime, steelinf and dealing more illegal drugs. Homelessness for disabled individuals families broken up with no supports. I've been through a couple of divorces because of certain situations with my son. but thank God his dad and I are good friends, and we see our son and take him out every week. However we realize, it's not realistic to care for someone 24/7, especially as you get older. I'm sure a lot of us can relate to that. Thank you for letting me share my story . let's hope they do not pass this bill .sincerely, Cynthia Perrone lowell ma

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Madeline Cronin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** MASSACHUSETTS

Please do not act on this bill, do not approve. Many people with disabilities, both intellectual and physical rely on medicaid for assistance to daily living.

Thank you. .

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Nancy Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Just a note

My son is 18 years old and was born with Down Syndrome and secondary Autistic Tendencies. He displays limited communication skills and experiences panic attacks when exposed to aggression by others. Last October my son was injured in an inappropriately administered restraint. He suffered a torn Patellar ligament and dislocated knee. He was not able to return to school without medical approval and consequently required hospitalization for stabilization. He was hospitalized at BCH for 2 weeks- the cost of the 2 week hospitalization was \$90,000.

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I pay for private Health Insurance through my employer. The charges AFTER my private insurance paid for Isiah's coverage was \$56,000. If my child did not have the necessary Medicaid coverage- we would be forced to remortgage our home to pay medical fees.

We adopted our child through the state. We provide 24 hour supervised care. We have committed our lives to the care and well-being of our child. He requires MassHealth/Medicaid coverage . His medical coverage is necessary.

*Nancy Moore*  
Support Services



[REDACTED]  
Southbridge, Ma [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Jean Papagni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** MASSACHUSETTS

I am strongly opposed to the current health care reform bill in its newest iteration.

I have a 20 year old daughter with Down syndrome who will be depending on medicaid at age 26 once she ages out of our private health plan. These cuts to medicaid will drastically reduce her access to appropriate health care at age 26, and will dramatically limit her access to quality day programming, employment and recreational support when she turns 22.

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Cara is currently doing very well increasing her independence skills, but will rely heavily on support from medicaid to continue to receive adequate supports once she turns 22.

Please do not support this bill as so many valuable lives will be detrimentally affected. My daughter is a valuable member of society and makes meaningful contributions wherever she goes. She deserves to continue to receive the supports she needs to live a full life.

Respectfully,

Jean Papagni