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**MICHIGAN**

Date: 2017-09-21 21:30:35  
To: My Senator  
From: Toni Reid  
State: Michigan  
Email: [REDACTED]



I have an 11 year old son with Down Syndrome. He has severe cognitive impairment. I can only work part time because I need to be home when the bus drops him off. He receives speech and OT which Medicaid covers. He will need services for the rest of his life and we need Medicaid in order for that to happen.

Date: 2017-09-22 09:18:51  
To: My Senator  
From: Kristen Wright  
State: Michigan  
Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Kristen Wight and I live in Jackson, MI. I am a member of the ARC and a mental health professional. For more than a decade I have come to know many people with a DD/MI diagnoses and substance use affliction. I have witnessed firsthand how people's lives have been changed by engaging in programs such as supported employment, skill building, community living supports, ACT, drop in centers, wellness, long/short term substance abuse rehab and so on. These programs help people attain skills, build confidence, and help them become a more active participant in their own lives. Any cuts to Medicaid threatens the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities. It will limit care for those afflicted with substance use, when there is so little care already available. It will directly effect families seeking respite to help maintain their health and relationship to those they care for daily and beyond typical years when children leave the home.

I am also a family member of DD, MI, and substance use affliction. Without Medicaid the father of my children would not be able to get the help he needs. I honestly believe he would not be with us right now if it was not for the assistance a Medicaid funding. Medicaid funding allowed him to go to detox, attend 1:1 therapy, and provides assistance with proper medications depression. My daughters would be without insurance. This would directly affect the therapy my daughter is getting due to her struggle with anxiety and depression.

Thank you for your time.

Date: 2017-09-22 19:29:23  
To: My Senator  
From: David Greer  
State: Michigan  
Email: [REDACTED]



To whom it may concern,

I am David Greer. I have autism, GERD, hypothyroidism, and hypertension. I receive social security disability, Medicare, and Medicaid. I'm on medications like Mellaril, Symmetril, Zoloft, Prilosec, Synthroid, and Carvedolol. My medical bills and medications are so expensive that I cannot afford them without Medicare and Medicaid. Without Medicare and Medicaid I stand to get very sick and even die. There are many people who in the same situation I am in. Some of these people I know from Crossroads Clubhouse. Some I knew from when I was in the hospital. Some I knew from the group home I was in once. Some I know from Arc. My girlfriend Shannon also has a disability. She belongs to Arc. **PLEASE DON'T PASS THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL.** I need my benefits in order to live. **WE NEED OUR BENEFITS.** and so **PLEASE DON'T PASS THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL.** Thank You.

Sincerely

David Greer

Date: 2017-09-21 17:48:37  
To: My Senator  
From: Mary Pagels  
State: Michigan  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a 62 year old female and live on Social Security Disability.

Without being a recipient of Medicaid, I would no longer be able to have a phone to communicate with my doctors and to get help when I have one of my syncopal attacks.

All recipients of Medicaid have access to Lifeline and without it, I would be in big trouble.

I also have pre-existing conditions which would be used against me and prohibit me from getting the medical care I need at a rate I could afford.

As a recipient of Medicaid I also qualify for help paying for my prescriptions. I would not be able to afford them without being on Medicaid which then allows me to be on the "Extra" program which pays my monthly prescription plan premium and co-pays.

In closing, this very predatory bill should be blocked and I sincerely hope the Senate finally realizes no one wants to get rid of Medicaid or Obamacare.

The rich and corporations do not need more tax breaks! Cutting the safety net to make room in the budget for a failing economic plan called Trickle Down Economics is not the way to "Make America Great" Again!

If you want to make this country great again remember those who are least fortunate and help them not attack them. They always say you judge a country by how it treats those most in need of help. I hope the Senators remember this when doing the bidding of the insurance lobbyists who only represent the needs of the corporations and not the country's citizens who voted them into office!!!

In closing, if the Senate insists on going forward with this very predatory bill -- I say they should be put on the same plan they condemn their constituency to! After all, the taxpayers pay for their medical benefits and should have the right to cut them off if they want to...

Date: 2017-09-22 12:01:58  
To: My Senator  
From: Diane Reed  
State: Michigan  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am the parent of a 42 year old son with Down Syndrome. Medicaid is my sons lifeline. Funding allows him to live at home and continue to learn in a day program and work a few days a month and pay taxes through supported employment. He also has pre-existing conditions. Sending money to the states will cause cuts to these important supports. Without support services, many of us seniors will not be able to continue caring for our son's and daughter's at home. A group home has never been a desired outcome for our son. Please vote against the Graham - Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Diane Reed

**Nicole Jorwic**

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

Shelli Burdo  
[REDACTED]

Both my son and grandson have disabilities. Without Medicaid my son would not be able to afford his medicine for seizures.

In January Medicaid approved his Vegas Nurve Implant to reduce seizures. It's June and the VNS has stoped hundreds of seizures. He has worked at Walmart for the past 2 years. Due to his seizures he had to reduce hours to 8 hrs a week and be very tired when he got home. Now he is working 32 hours a week and doing great.

My grandson is now 6 and has been diagnosed with autism.

Medicaid has helped him with getting the medical needs and services he needs.

Without Medicaid both of these very special individuals would have very poor quality of life or not be here anymore .



Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | [jorwic@thearc.org](mailto:jorwic@thearc.org)  
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc

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## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Brenda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** FW: MICHIGAN

Sorry I forgot to include our names on the email I just sent.

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**From:** Brenda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 12:50 PM  
**To:** 'jorwic@thearc.org'  
**Subject:** MICHIGAN

Our family has 3 members who receive Medicaid services in order to live in their own home. If Medicaid cuts go through my family will probably lose these benefits and have to live in an institution or die.

My husband is disabled and relies on in-home help for every aspect of daily living including incontinence. I also use an electric wheelchair for mobility and cannot care for his daily needs myself. He is paralyzed and can only get around in a motorized wheelchair. Medicaid Waiver pays for his help so that he can remain in our home. If we didn't have home help he would end up in a nursing home where he would die in a short time due to all his medical needs.

We have two adopted adult children who are disabled and are currently living in their own apartment with help paid for by Medicaid. If they did not have this help they would be put in an institution or group home with their independence taken away. Our son, Robert, has autism and epilepsy and our daughter, Sherri, has schizencephaly (similar to cerebral palsy) and many other medical issues.

In addition to home help, Medicaid helps pay for our doctors, medications, durable medical equipment, etc.

**MEDICAID IS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR OUR FAMILY AND MANY OTHERS WHO ARE DISABLED AND CANNOT WORK. ANY CUTS WILL DRASTICALLY AFFECT OUR LIVES AND DEATHS! PLEASE NO CUTS TO MEDICAID!!!**

James R. Smith  
Brenda K. Smith  
Robert J. Smith  
Sherri L. Smith



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Charity Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:26 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Cc:** Patricia Dudek  
**Subject:** Medicaid Matters in Michigan

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek. I am an attorney that specializes in special needs, elder law and estate planning within the state of Michigan. I am writing to express to you how important Medicaid is to me as a program that greatly benefits my clients. Every day I go to work I am fighting for people with disabilities and senior citizens to be able to gain access to this wonderful program that allows them to obtain excellent medical care and treatment to maintain a dignified life, without causing their families to go bankrupt. The cost to keep an individual in a nursing home is astronomical often reaching well over \$10,000 a month, which without Medicaid, would cause their families great financial hardship. I can't even express the relief my clients experience when they are granted assistance through the Medicaid program. It is as if a great burden has been lifted off of their shoulders and at last they are free to live their lives once again. I urge you to please leave the Medicaid program alone. It's a wonderful program that provides great relief and assistance to so many people. Please consider this as you vote on The Better Care Reconciliation Act this week. I strongly urge you on behalf of myself, my clients, and countless others who benefit from the Medicaid program within the great state of Michigan and across the nation to vote NO as this act that would negatively impact so many people !!!!

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek

*Charity Smith*

Administrative Assistant  
Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek & Associates  
Attorneys at Law

[REDACTED]  
Farmington Hills, MI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Kelly Shuler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** changes to Medicaid Better Care Reconciliation Act.

I would like to express my concerns regarding the Better Care Reconciliation Act and how it will affect individuals with developmental disabilities. Medicaid is the only insurance that a person with a developmental disability before age 18 is able to obtain unless they are also covered by a parents coverage until age 26. Medicaid coverage currently is very limiting and with few doctors available to provide quality health care.

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My son needs ongoing physical therapy, PM&R, neurological, PCP, dental and vision coverage due to his disability. Finding doctor's that are taking new patients or are wanting to assist someone with multiple medical issues is difficult. More limitations to the medicaid plans would be devastating to his overall health care and quality of life.

It appears when individuals in governmental positions what to change health care; their target population to cut are the individuals most vulnerable and in the need of the most assistance. I would imagine that if there were imposed limitations and caps set upon governmental officials to match the rest of the US citizens, the discussion on health care would look much different.

Kelly M. Shuler, LMSW  
Parent: Michigan

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Mary Priebe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Save Medicaid

Mary K. Priebe  
[REDACTED]

Howell, MI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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15th, July 2017

Dear Everyone,

I would like to share why Medicaid and Medicare are Very Important to ME. I have Uncontrolled Epilepsy, Memory issues, Muscle Jerks, Hypothyroidism, IBS, Urticaria, Dermatographism, Eczema, Insomnia, Obstructive Sleep apnea, Migraines, Fibromyalgia, Diverticulosis, Depression with Anxiety, Myofascial Pain, Neck Pain, Midline low back pain, RUQ pain, Chronic low back pain, Knee pain, Arthralgia of Right hip, Osteoarthritis, Pruritus, Heart murmur, Dry Eyes, Macular Degeneration, Hypertension, TMJ, Vagus Nerve stimulation for Epilepsy(this does not help), Venous insufficiency of both lower extremities. I am currently going through testing to see if I could receive Brain Surgery (Neuropace). I cannot have other Brain Surgeries; both sides of my Brain is involved. I have tried all Medications without help. I am currently on 3 different seizure medications. Doctors do not want any patient on more than 2 medications at the same time. I learned the hard way that I have unconscious seizures (I have knowed I had Grand Mal seizures among other seizures.) I was driving when I had a unconscious seizure and I drove off the overpass and very lucky that I am alive. I would like be able to pay for all of the tests, appointments, finding transportation I could afford, let alone the price for Medications. I am BEGGING PLEASE DO NOT CUT MEDICAID OR MEDICARE!!!

Sincerely,

Mary K. Priebe

**Mary K. Priebe**

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Karen Ozga [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Michigan

Dear Senators Stabenow and Peters,

I have an 18 year old son who has Down Syndrome. Throughout his life I have been fortunate to be able to provide health care benefits to him through my employer's health care plan. In a few years when he is 26 years old, I will no longer be able to provide these benefits to him and he will be reliant on the Medicaid program for his health care benefits. My son was born with a congenital heart defect and he will need to receive health care for this pre-existing condition for the rest of his life.

I am afraid that the cuts to Medicaid that are proposed in the Better Care Reconciliation Act will drastically impact the essential supports and services that are needed by my son and other individuals with disabilities that are or will be reliant on the Medicaid program.

I urge you to vote no!

Sincerely,  
Karen Ozga

[REDACTED]  
Hudsonville, MI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]