MINNESOTA

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 19:11:05
To: My Senator
From: KATE QUALE
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

Our 3 year old daughter Belen was diagnosed Autistic at age 2.5. She also has Dyspraxia, Hypotonia, & Oral - Dysphagia which causes her to choke & aspirate food or liquids. Belen needs constant care. I am her mom, I am well educated with a Masters, but I had to leave my career to provide her hourly in-home therapy & care. I also transport her to professional Day Treatment (at Fraser), Occupational, Speech, and Physical Therapies.

I am extremely grateful for Medicaid (in Minnesota also known as MA & TEFRA - where we pay a parental fee). Medicaid is honestly the only reason our daughter is now talking and& interacting with the world today. From constantly choking and us having to do the Heimlich maneuver at every meal, wondering if this will be the last time our daughter is alive. Now she can feed herself with a spoon and only has choking episodes once or twice a month. Belen can now say her name, and even runs up to other kids to greet them. She now understands her own sensory needs and what leads up to a meltdown and can self-regulate or even ask for help. She loves dress-up, stuffed animals, art and books. In many ways she seems like a typical 3 year old. Someday we hope she'll even say "I love you" back to us.

Medicaid enabled us to get the specialized therapies she needed. Private insurance companies frequently deny services for Autistic children or like our private insurance ($12,000 deductible, 80/20, plus copays), they capped therapy at 60 hours of sessions a year. Yes, 60 hours per year. To put that in perspective our daughter requires a minimum 18 hours of therapy per week. That's 929 hours of therapy per year! And that's a low number, many Autistic children need 30-40 hours of therapy per week. Because of the therapy Medicaid provides plus all the hours of therapy I provide for her at home, our Neuro-Pyschologist has reported in all her years she has never seen such dramatic improvement as our daughter. Sadly, many families only using private insurance can't afford any medical therapies. Usually many of these children receive little to no therapy until they receive basic school services (usually 20 minutes of direct support), which by then results in them having even more severe disabilities. For autism early intervention is key. This lack of access from reducing or cutting off disability services for children only results in costing the family (& the government) more money in long run, as these children don't grow up to be self sufficient - they grow up to require 24/7 personal care assistance.

I really appreciate you taking the time to hear about our story. It is not something you prepare for as a parent, that your child will be disabled. You work hard, save up for emergencies, & never live beyond your means, give back to the community - you do everything "right", then find yourself in a dark hole wondering how you can afford to provide the critical services your child needs to be an active member of our society and to feel safe, accepted and& competent.

Again, I am extremely grateful for Medicaid. I can't thank all those enough who worked to create Medicaid (MA-TEFRA) & make it accessible to hard working families.

Date: 2017-09-23 17:44:02
To: My Senator
From: Jill Kivo
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

Medicaid Matters! My son is now 33 years old, and because of Medicaid he is able to live a productive, and enriching life in spite of his autism. He was diagnosed when he was 6 years old. At that time, autism was considered a pre-existing condition and also very few therapies were covered under any insurance plans. Fortunately, we lived in Minnesota and I fought for services under our county's programs. We were also fortunate that my parents were able to help us pay for services and medical expenses, that always put a strain on our budget.

As an adult, my son was able to receive SSI and Medicare funding, along with his Medicaid and waivered services, he entered a wonderful group home in which he can obtain needed supports. Furthermore, he enjoys his daily activities and opportunities at his day program. Because he is unable to work independently he does not earn any income and depends solely on the county, state and federal services. It could be devastating if funding was cut to my son and other vulnerable adults, while we as parents and caretakers work extremely hard to support our loved ones, along with contributing our tax dollars to meet their needs.

Please do not cut the Affordable Care Act with the unknowns and potentially devastating affects of the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Jill Kivo

Date: 2017-09-22 14:21:30
To: My Senator
From: Mary Martin
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

My husband and I are proud parents and guardians of our 34 year old son. Richard is an individual with both intellectual and developmental disabilities. Because of Medicaid, specifically the CADI waiver, Richard is able to live at home with in-home supports for Independent Living Skills training. Because of Medicaid, Richard receives 2 days per week of pre-vocational training. Because of Medicaid, Richard has the support he needs to pursue competitive employment in his local community. Because of Medicaid, Richard is an active, contributing member of his community. He has support to give back to his community by volunteering over 15 hours/week for Meals on Wheels, Groceries to Go, the Fairview Hospital Auxiliary, and Greenview (a local Alzheimer's residence). He has the support needed to participate in recreational and competitive activities. He has support staff to drive him to Special Olympic practices and competitions. His success at a State Tennis competition in 2010 qualified him to compete in 2011 in Athens Greece as a member of Special Olympics' Team USA where he proudly represented his country and brought home two silver medals. Yes, that's right, this amazing young man with intellectual and developmental disabilities can and has proven that with the right supports and hard work he can accomplish great things!

Richard's CADI waiver (Medicaid services) are central to his engagement as a contributing member of his community. Appropriate supports and services increase his level of independence and help to ensure his overall health and well being. Cuts to Medicaid would not only have a direct adverse impact on Richard's life but also on all the services he provides to his community each week.

We have dedicated 34 years to being the primary caregivers for our son. We can't do it without the supports that Medicaid provides and frankly, we are not getting any younger! My husband and I are retirement age. I worked my entire adult life retiring early to become the primary caregiver for my aging parents. My father passed away several years ago after battling Alzheimers. My mother is 94 and I continue to be her primary caregiver. My husband is Medicare eligible but continues to work because he carries our family health insurance. I am a cancer survivor. The Graham-Cassidy Bill would be devastating for my family and is a slap in the face to families everywhere.

"People First" These are not just words. People First is a value that leads to strong, sustainable communities. Elected officials need to start putting People First and view their constituents as citizens, not consumers.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:44:20
To: My Senator
From: Dena Belisle
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

My son Anthony is 36 years old with CP, Microcephaly, Profound MR and has recently been diagnosed with early unset parkinsons disease. He needs his medicaid insurance for treatments, medications and his PCA services so he can continue to have a good quality of life. Please do not take away the medicaid program for him and other disabled people like him who deserves to live at home and participate in the community and receive the life sustaining medical treatment they need.

Thank you

Date: 2017-09-24 09:08:13
To: My Senator
From: Nancy Lovaas
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My son was born with a disability. He didn't ask for it. It just happened. He was God's gift to us. He is an incredibly special person and once you get to know him you'll know what I mean.

We've made major life changes because of Medicaid. Instead of pursuing a career, Medicaid programs made it possible for me to care for my son. So now I am older and have no skilled training or years of accumulated work at a company if you take Medicaid away from us, I will have to start over at minimum wage in an unskilled profession trying to pay the bills, muchless the mortgage. In addition to that, how could I possibly afford to pay for increased cost of a pre-existing condition? And if I have to work, what will happen to my son? He cannot be left alone. And if he gets put into a facility, who will pay for that? And just try to tell me that those people, those underpaid people, give a shit what happens to my baby! Turnaround is something else that happens there so he will never learn to trust anyone. There is nobody who loves him more than I do and we have a bond that is so tight he knows he can rely on me forever.

Medicaid programs have also allowed us to get him various therapies that ordinary medical companies wouldn't allow. Because of this his speech has improved, his tolerance and behaviors are getting better, and his muscular strength and body function is improving.

Government Medicaid programs have made it possible for my son to succeed in basic life skills, if you rip away this foundation he will deteriorate.

Date: 2017-09-21 22:27:47
To: My Senator
From: Lynda Smith
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

My husband and I have a 37 year old son with Downs Syndrome. He is very social, easy going, and flexible, but has difficulty with speech and was never able to learn to read. Because of his trusting nature he is very vulnerable, it would be easy for anyone to take advantage of him. He has lived in a small group home with three housemates since 2002. It is staffed 24 hours/day. Chip has 2 younger sisters who are very involved with their brother, but because of their careers they live in different states (one is 8 hours away and the other is 16 hours away). My son works almost 30 hours a week in supported work (and pays taxes)and pays over$635 a month in rent. I know that his housing /staff etc receives almost 85% of funding from medical assistance/medicaid. If medicaid is cut as drastically as proposed I can not imagine what will happen to our son. There is no way we can make up what medicaid contributes. He has grown, matured and learned so much living in his small group home. What will happen to him when my husband and I are no longer capable of taking care of him if his small group home closes. I have seen what happens to people with cognitive disabilities in states like Mississippi that do not have small group homes (no medicaid) - they end up in horrible nursing homes where there is no chance for meaningful work or stimulation. My husband and I were fortunate to have been independent of government programs for many years, but realized we needed help as our son aged. We could not meet his needs for independence, meaningful work and a social life. Finding his small group home was a life saver. One family can not raise or provide for a child with cognitive disabilities by themselves. If a politician says he/she is "pro-life" there is no way he/she can vote to repeal/replace the AFC Act with the Cassidy/ Graham. They are delusional if they say it will not hurt. It is anti- life.

Date: 2017-09-23 21:28:45
To: My Senator
From: Julie S. Anderson
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

Our daughter, Maren, was born 21 years ago with Down syndrome and with a life-threatening heart abnormality. She survived severe heart failure and open heart surgery when she was 7-1/2 weeks old.

Maren has been on a Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waiver since she was four years old. We've used her waiver dollars to pay for therapies to help her overcome some significant health and developmental challenges and staff support to make sure she can be safe at home and out in the community. This support has helped her to thrive.

Three days before Maren graduated from her school district's transition program, Maren was offered a job at a local grocery chain's central bakery facility after succeeding at a Vocational Rehab-arranged "job tryout." She works three mornings a week with the support of a supported employment services job coach. As Maren has learned the job and become more independent, the job coach is leaving her on her own for periods of time with the goal of Maren being able to work at her job in the community with the natural support of her co-workers and periodic checks by the job coach.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Medicaid program. For Maren, her family and others like her - and us - please do not cut funds for this vital program.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:18:36
To: My Senator
From: Michele Olson
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

When my daughter, Evelyn, was born we thought we had a healthy baby girl with Down Syndrome and were overjoyed. However, within a few short hours the reality of the complexity of her body was ever so apparent. Eleven extensive surgeries and many years later, she continues to bring us and so many others joy beyond what we could have ever imagined.

During those first few years, Evelyn would have been denied coverage, reached her lifetime cap on coverage, and I would have not been able to go back to work practicing dentistry without the additional coverage we received through Medicaid. Though her health is stable, she still faces numerous health concerns and we as her parents face the reality that she may not have the insurance she needs to even live without continued help from Medicaid.

Please do not repeal the life saving coverage our family needs to keep her with us. I urge you to work together to find an alternative that does not strip away the foundation that gives so many millions of Americans a future.

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-22 07:40:59
To: My Senator
From: Kate Pickford
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

In Minnesota Medicaid is part an parcel of the funding stream called Medical Assistance (MA) through which people, like our son, not only gets assistance with health care expenses but also waivers. Waiver services that allows people with disabilities, developmental or physical, to live in the community to the best of their abilities instead of hospitals or institutions. It has been proven that this use of funding is far more efficient and less expensive than the antiquated institutional system abandoned about 50 years ago. The services the MA funded waivers provide are residential housing and day/jobs programs allow people like our son to live in a home independent of his parents and and work at a job with support as needed. These programs run on very slim financial margins and should be receiving more funding rather than less. As an example, the staff charged with the responsibility for our son and others with disabilities of varying degrees do so as a stop-gap job or from personal commitment to this population not financial gains...as they receive wages on par with fast food restaurants.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill now being suggested once again attacks a population that can least afford to lose services. It effects the health and basic well being of people with disabilities. Improvements may be needed but they should be thoughtful and with research from a bi-partisan effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Date: 2017-09-22 23:08:48
To: My Senator
From: Elena White
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill for the sake of my son, the over ten million other people who have disabilities, my family, and the American people.

My adult son suffered a serious brain injury in an automobile accident when he was just 3 months old. The car that hit us jumped the median lane and hit our car and another car, killing the other driver, and injuring other passengers, most seriously, our previously healthy baby. In 1969, car seats for infants had not been developed. As you can imagine, this accident has affected my son's whole life as well as the course of our family life. My son benefitted from special education, learning how to read at about a first grade level and being coached in some life skills. Still, his life has been fraught with frustration, debilitating anxiety, obsessive thinking, and difficulty with problem solving. All these challenges result in behavioral issues that make him dependent on a highly structured and consistent environment. He lives with 3 other men and in a home with well-trained staff. He attends a DT&H work site where he is able to do in-house work. Medicaid allows him to have his day program, his extensive, carefully calibrated medications, and his ability to live in his community.

MEDICAID MATTERS! and it matters that it be consistent. Caps on Medicaid will mean increasingly inadequate funds to states in the future. Any decrease or interruption of services would be devastating to my son and my family.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:43:09
To: My Senator
From: Carolina De La Rosa
State: Minnesota
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

I am currently in Minnesota, but I have spent the majority of my life living in Florida with my family. I have a younger sister who essentially relies on Medicaid to live. She was born with sickle cell anemia, a genetic, chronic condition, and has been going to the hospital at least once a month for the 19 years she has been alive. Because of Medicaid, she has been able to receive monthly blood transfusions, a bone marrow transplant, countless daily prescriptions that help her manage her disease, a gall bladder removal, biliary reconstructive surgery (after the surgeon that attempted to remove her gall bladder made a huge mistake), a nurse to come to our home to treat her when she was experiencing the side effects of the failed gall bladder removal, CT scans, MRIs that have detected strokes, and hospitalization for 4-5 strokes that she had within the first 10 years of her life. As a result of so many strokes, my sister has intellectual deficits that make her different from people her age. My parents are legal immigrants but they did not have an education, so they were very limited in the types of jobs that they could get, and as a result have had low income since we got here 20 years ago. In other words, my parents cannot afford even 1% of the medical costs that my sister accrues to stay alive. On a few occasions, we have had the threat that Medicaid was going to be taken away from my sister and that has always been very frightening because if she doesn't get her monthly blood transfusions or medications, then I don't think she would be able to survive past a few weeks or months. Medicaid is literally a life line for my sister, and many other individuals out there, including immigrants and people who have lived here all their lives from all nationalities. To take it away from so many people in need would be the utmost betrayal and one of the cruelest things things our government could do to its people so I beg that the ACA is not repealed and that if any changes must be made, then they are positive ones that increase the quality of life of individuals, and not ones that will destroy people's lives.

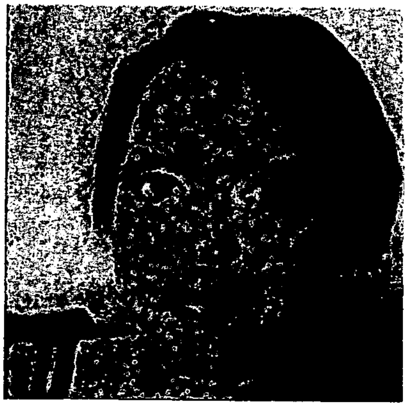
Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota

Lacey Woida

[redacted]

I need medicaid for a cadi waiver that offers extra support for me to be able to live on my own. I have a disability "Mental Illness". I also need medicaid to help pay for things medicare doesnt pay for. With Medicaid I can see my doctors, have an ILS Worker, have food delivery, Medical cab rides, therapy of all kinds. If I didnt have medical cab rides I wouldnt be able to get to my many mental health appointments and that would very much negatively affect my well being. Minnesota Mental Health Care and Programs is one of the better ones in the U.S. but it still isnt enough and people die and go homeless all the time. I almost died seeking mental health 2 times in one week and the hospital turned me away because of no room in the whole state, the third time I came back that week I had a major overdose an attempt on my life. I knew to get help but because minnesota mental health care and funding is still lacking this is my story. To take medicaid away competly or limit it would cause many lifes and many peoples ability to live freely. Awhile back I was very close to being homeless because of my mental health and not being able to keep my job because of no insurance, in fact I had to stay in a board and lodge for a year and it was hell. I am good at adovacating for myself but tooo many people can't.



Justin Smith

[redacted]

Here is a link to my #SaveMedicaid story: https://youtu.be/T09HV1PE8I0

You cannot begin to imagine how expensive it is to have a severe disability. Even with good private health insurance, the copays for durable medical equipment or for equipment that I need that is not covered by health insurance would be outrageously expensive. I need 24-hour care to help me with ALL my basic personal cares. Imagine that you have to depend on another person to give you a drink of water if you're thirsty, feed you if you're hungry, and help you go to the bathroom when you need to go. It's important for people to realize, that I can do what I do, because I have special equipment and support staff to help me do these things.

This is why people with disabilities NEED Medicaid – to help cover the many costs that many people never have to worry about and get the equipment and staffing support we depend on to help live independent lives.

TANA VOGELE

[redacted]

We are the Vogele's. Tana is our youngest daughter. She is 16 years old and remains undiagnosed with a rare disorder, even after 7 geneticists. She requires 24 hour around the clock nursing level care. She is currently fed intravenously, taking six seizure medications and still has daily (intractable seizures). She cannot speak, stand, bear weight, roll-over or help with her cares in anyway. Her mother gave up a law career to take care of her since she was an infant due to the lack of nursing care. Tana does have 40 hours/week of nursing now, but her mother still provides the majority of her care. Without the help, her mother would be unable to work a part-time job to supplement their income. Further her mother would not get any respite or relief.

Tana has benefited from a waiver and CDCS benefits for 10 years. This program has allowed the family to stay intact, in their home. Tana has numerous medical tests, procedures and hospital stays yearly. Her family would not be able to afford her essential medical cares because our private insurance does not cover 100% of her costs. Just Tana's prescriptions for all her seizure medications are over $50,000/year. Her hospital stays are easily over $100,000/year and a 20 percent co-pay on insurance would not be feasible for us.

The waiver allows her to remain living in our home, with her biological family. Her mother is a paid caregiver at significantly less cost than a hospital stay. Her nurses are covered for 40-50 hours/week under her waiver, and she receives several in-home services for therapy. We often have a difficult time getting her out for therapy due to her excessive sleepiness, seizures, or fatigue. We would simply not be able to provide her with the level of care she needs if there is a cut to Medicaid, or the waivers. Without her seizure medications, even one of them, she will seize for hours and hours, unable to sleep. Please do not cut Medicaid. We know that all those that are on waivers are very dependent on their services. To throw all the work out that has allowed families to keep children home, and that allows adults to live outside of facilities, would be devastating to the disability community.

Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc
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From: BETH JOHNSON [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota: Medicaid Matters to Me

I am the parent of a 20-year-old son with FASD and developmental disabilities. My son receives services under Minnesota's developmental disability Medicaid waiver.

The Medicaid waiver has been a lifeline for him. He went through a mental health crisis about a year ago and was discharged from the group home where he had been living for 10 years. He spent about three months in the hospital being stabilized on a new psychiatric medication.

After he was stable, the county where we live (Dakota County, in Minnesota), developed a new group home for him. At this new group home, he finally has the intensive staffing and peaceful setting that he needs to be able to participate in the community.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid are terrifying to families like mine. I oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act because its deep cuts to Medicaid will harm the most vulnerable citizens, like my son.

Beth Johnson
[redacted]

From: Tamara Phillips [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota/ Medicaid Matters

To Whom It May Concern,

Our 24-year-old daughter has a diagnosis of autism, mood disorder, colitis, severe peanut and tree nut allergies and many other health related disorders (Chronic CDiff, PANDAS and more).

Our lives are dependent on her MA waiver.

We recently obtained an apartment for her in a building for individuals with developmental disabilities. Our daughter has never been left alone for more than 10 minutes in 24 years. She is completely dependent. To meet her needs we must provide 24hour staffing, 7 days per week 365 days per year.

This apartment has provided her an opportunity to have a space to call her own. It has provided us a bit of respite as well.

It is very difficult for us to afford 24hour staffing. Even her MA waiver is not enough.

I have dedicated my entire professional career to helping individuals and families living with autism. We too give back to our community.

It is imperative to families like ours that Medicaid is not reduced.

Sincerely,

Tamara and Rick Phillips

Tamara Phillips, MA, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist
Autism Family Therapy, Inc.
[redacted] Plymouth, MN [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Autism Family Therapy

From: Nancy Lovaas [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:39 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota

This may not be exactly what you are looking for, but I felt inspired so wrote it out of inspiration and directed it to the Republican party in their language. There is soooooo much more I could say about how Medicaid, especially the waiver, has impacted the lives of our entire family and in so doing we have been able to raise our disabled son to become an equal citizen of the United States of America.

It is apparent Mr. G. O. P. That you DO NOT care about people with disabilities. However, I intend to make you listen to every voice whether audible or not. To begin with, you DO NOT understand the varied group of people whom you represent. Each one of us is an individual with goals and aspirations to live a full and productive life. Up until now we have lived such a life. But you are threatening to take that away from us. You fail to comprehend that each varied life is the result of the varied ways the waiver/CDCS is provided. The whole reason waivers began was to offer a cheaper alternative to supporting the disabled than the excessively high cost of nursing homes or institutions. This move alone *saved the government billions of dollars* while at the same time giving people with disabilities the option to decide for themselves what type of care was best for them. I cannot speak for everyone but for us IF YOU TAKE THAT AWAY we will be faced with having to put our son into an institution just to make ends meet. That would *cost the government billions of dollars.* And that's just the beginning of your problems that you created. These tender, loving, gifted, smart, happy people would instantly become a shell of their former self and some might even turn criminal causing yet another problem. You ARE NOT unifying the United States of America, you are tearing it apart!

In GOD I trust,

NL

From: Bridget Siljander [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Bridget Siljander
Subject: Minnesota - Medicaid Matters to Me

Nicole,

Medicaid matters to me because my daughter was born prematurely and has been on Medicaid since she was a baby. She spent the first three months of her life in a NICU, and had a long list of medical complications. She has needed lifelong medical care due to cerebral palsy: regular surgeries for 10 years which required ongoing rehabilitation therapy services, braces, medical equipment, hospital beds, a wheelchair, personal care assistant services, and more. Due to having a pre-existing condition, and being considered high-risk, it has been difficult to get her onto a private health insurance plan. Plus it is very expensive to cover her needs and we never would have been able to do it. Currently she is a college student and has a job, and Medicaid is a reason that she has been able to be more mobile and independent and focus on her education so she can be a teacher/journalist. Because she has had Medicaid, she is living a full life with her disability. Without all of these interventions, she would be more significantly disabled and less capable of participating in the community, as well as giving back. And her needs would be greater and more expensive. We are grateful for access to Medicaid. It has been a good investment.

Thank you,

Bridget Siljander

From:	Ann Sargent [redacted]
Sent:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:39 AM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	MN - Why Medicaid matters to me and my family

Dear Senators,

My daughter Sarah is 33 years old. She can't sit up by herself. She uses a power wheelchair, but if there was a fire in her group home, she wouldn't be able to get out of her home by herself because she wouldn't be able to open the door. She is also mentallly retarded and has a mental illness.

But Sarah will remember your name, even if you are the waitress who served her a year ago. She will remember your dog's name, once she knows you have a dog. She will raise hundreds of dollars each year for the Animal Humane Society.

Sarah lives in a group home with three other women who also use wheelchairs. She depends on Medicaid to pay for the group home, the van they use, and the staff that cares for them. Without this assistance she would not be able to go to her day program or maintain her wheelchair or go to the doctor or dentist. She would not be able to afford the drugs that make her mental illness manageable.

Without Medicaid, she would probably have to move in with me, a 66-year-old widow in a 2-bedroom apartment. I would have to quit my job to care for her. We could panhandle in the skyways. When I am no longer able to care for her, who would care for her then?

Please save Medicaid.

Thanks,

Ann Sargent
Minneapolis, MN

Nicole Jorwic

From: elena white [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:26 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota son needs Medicaid

Please vote against any plan that would cap Medicaid. My 47 year-old son has dealt with the results of brain injury since he was a baby. He depends on Medicaid for his seizure and psychotropic drugs, for his day job at his DTandH work site where he is supported for his behavioral needs, and for his home life with 3 peers and a caring staff. Medicaid is his lifeline! If he doesn't receive this consistent support, he will be back in a still more expensive crisis center.

Capping Medicaid would be disastrous for my son. State "creativity" with static funds will simply not meet my son's needs.

Thank you,
Elena White
St. Cloud, MN

Sent from Outlook

From: Julie Kilpatrick [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:26 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: MN

Medicaid matters to me and my son John. I am my son's guardian. John has cerebral palsy since birth. He relies on Medicaid because he cannot work competitively to receive insurance. He also lives in a group home and relies on Social Security. Please do not change the ACA . We support health care for all.
Thank you.
Julie Kilpatrick
Stillwater MN

From: Fatima M [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Mn.

Mn. My son Noah turned 5 years yesterday. He has autism he means the world to me. Since his diagnosis our family's live has changed immensely our house is therapy center Noah has made big progress and we were able to celebrate his birthday at chucky e cheeses without meltdown the first in his life. This was made possible by all the services provided by Medicaid, honestly I do not know what I will do if Noah's loses his insurance. He needs constant supervision , behavioral therapy. I can not afford to pay this alone. Autism has changed my life in every possible way. This is the time to support families of children with disability. Please do not reappeal Medicaid.

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Jane Lawrence [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 9:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: My Friend Mary Ann Depends on Medicaid - Minnesota

I have known Mary Ann for over 30 years. An advocate from Arc Minnesota introduced us and we have been connected ever since.

Mary Ann grew up at Faribault State Hospital -- one of the (thankfully, now closed) institutions for people with disabilities in Minnesota. As a person eligible for Medicaid, she was able to move into a group home in the community when Minnesota started closing its institutions.

As a person receiving Medicaid, she later received Home and Community Based Services which allowed her to receive support to live in a duplex that she bought with another friend of mine. They shared the duplex for almost 20 years before health issues made living on her own difficult.

As a person receiving Medicaid, she is now living with three other women her own age, in a supportive and caring adult foster home and attends an adult day program for seniors with disabilities.

Medicaid made it possible for my friend to have a rich, fulfilling life in the community. The proposed cuts to Medicaid foreshadow a grim and chilling future for far too many vulnerable people.

Thank you for your ongoing support to people with disabilities and your commitment to vote "NO!" on the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Sincerely,

Jane Lawrence
[redacted]
Eagan, MN [redacted]
[redacted]

From: Kathleen Holiday [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota

As the mother of a 29 year old with Down Syndrome whose group home and day program are paid for by a Medicaid funded waiver, I worry how the proposed Trumpcare cuts will affect his future.
Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Karen Wiersum [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Minnesota - Medicaid Matters

We are AGAINST the proposed health care bill and its significant cuts to Medicaid. We are the parents of twin 31 year old daughters who were born prematurely (29 weeks) and both with Down's Syndrome. Jennifer and Amy are severely disabled, functioning at a 2-3 year level. They are non-verbal and non-ambulatory. After living in our home, under our care for 29 years, Jennifer and Amy moved out of our home two years ago. Despite that, we continue to be very involved in their care. We fully understand that the numbers need to add up. Our nation cannot continue to spend more money than it takes in. However, funding a tax cut, or even balancing the budget at the expense of those who are least able to care for themselves defies logic and is frankly morally reprehensible.

Karen & Brad Wiersum

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Karen Wiersum
[redacted]