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**NEW JERSEY**

Date: 2017-09-22 13:32:41

To: My Senator

From: Nancy Coldreck

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter receives supports through the Medicaid programs. She receives Job Coach through the funding provided by Medicaid. The Job Coach helps to do her job properly, maintain her job and is the liaison between my daughter and her boss. Should this be taken away the likelihood of her being able to stay employed lessens greatly without the support she needs. She then would be an unproductive adult and her wellbeing would diminish. She would become depressed and then her health would also go down hill. Having this job for her gets her out of the house into the world around her and gives her a sense of purpose, responsibility and gives her money to spend doing activities with the Arc of Hunterdon County. This job is very important to her life, take that away and you take away her vitality and life.

Medicaid also supports the Self-Direction of individuals with disabilities. My daughter has someone come once a week to take her out and spend the day with her. They go shopping, which helps to reinforce her paying with money; go bowling, go to the gym; go and do crafts and many other activities. This is a day she also gets out into the community, which helps with her social skills.

I request that you put yourself in my shoes and ask how would I give my daughter all these wonderful things in her life without the support that comes from Medicaid Supported Programs. I am 61 years old and not getting any younger, I'm at the point in my life that I need to consider where my daughter will go when I'm gone. I need to know that programs are out there to support her!! If you take Medicaid away or redirect the money that is needed to support individuals like my daughter, WHO WILL THEN GIVE HER THE SUPPORT SHE AND OTHERS NEED? ARE YOU GOING TOO?

Date: 2017-09-22 22:21:28  
To: My Senator  
From: Lily Yip  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Please vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill because of the proposed devastating cuts to Medicaid. Our family includes two children with autism, son age 21 and daughter almost 24.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired social interaction, impaired verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. It is a permanent neurological disorder that has an effect on normal brain function.

Our daughter attends Hope Autism Solutions - Basking Ridge location which provides adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, an environment that supports personal growth, learning, empowerment and self-esteem. Hope Autism Solutions gives our daughter the tools to live a productive and meaningful life and be integrated into the community.

Our daughter depends on Medicaid to attend this program 5 days a week.

Our son is currently enrolled in our school district and will graduate in 2018. He will depend on Medicaid to help him attend an appropriate program that will suit his needs.

Our family along with 10 million people with disabilities rely on Medicaid to live and work in their communities.

Please vote no.

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:27:47  
To: My Senator  
From: Nancy Javeline  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Our 18 year old daughter is on the autism spectrum with a history of developmental disabilities . She is now attending community college with on campus support of the disability office and the Achievement Center program. She is also working with a job coach through DVRS.

Please make sure that these programs/services stay in place. It is so important to support our special needs population !

Date: 2017-09-22 12:31:15

To: My Senator

From: Corey Lucas

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



Medicaid has helped me out a lot through my years of having my disabilities. It helped me to afford medication that I need. I vote against the bill and I refuse for it to pass!

Date: 2017-09-22 11:17:42  
To: My Senator  
From: Andrea Casazza  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Hi. I'm an unemployed mom to a 21 special needs young man & a wife to an incredible veteran & strong man struggling with leukemia. I'm begging you to vote no in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I'm unemployed & our financial status was affected when my husband was diagnosed.

All differently abled family members will be affected for the rest of their lives if the bill is accepted.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS LETTER WHEN MAKING CHOICES THAT WILL FOREVER CHANGE THE LIVES OF TGE DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-23 08:48:41  
To: My Senator  
From: Marian DeSimone  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



For the 26 years that my daughter Daisy has been disabled, my husband and I have made it our mission to have her live an independent life and contribute to society and her community.

Throughout the years we have funded many of her therapies personally and as well as relying on public aid through the school system and the department of developmental disabilities.

Today, Daisy lives on her own and has 3 jobs ( CVS, ShopRite and the YMCA) yet still earns below the poverty level. Medicaid funding supports her living and working in the community. Without these funds, I honestly don't know what the future holds. She cannot manage without support and my husband and I are getting older.

The decision to cut Medicaid is a 180 degree reversal as it relates to ensuring the disabled are actively part of the community and contributing to society as a whole.

I am counting on my representatives in Washington to hear this story and realize that the decision made regarding Medicaid spending will have a direct and negative impact on our most vulnerable individuals.

thank you for hearing out story

Date: 2017-09-22 11:15:30  
To: My Senator  
From: Sylvia Lee  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



On behalf of my 24 year old son Ryan Lee, who is severely disabled due to diagnoses of Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation, I plead with you to NOT sign the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My son Ryan has significant barriers and he is completely dependent on others for all of his daily living needs. Ryan is non-ambulatory, non verbal, incontinent, has no use of fine motor skills, cannot feed or dress himself, has limited cognitive abilities and experiences seizures. Ryan is completely dependent on others to care for him and requires the services and support currently provided by the Medicaid Program so please, do not sign the pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Not only is it dire for Ryan's health, care and quality of life, it's critical for the well being of his caregivers.

Thank you,

Sylvia Lee



Date: 2017-09-22 09:31:32  
To: My Senator  
From: Gail Frizzell  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



When I became a mother thirty-two years ago, I did not know that the infant in my arms would need the intensive, exhausting care of a newborn for the rest of her life. I also knew nothing of the support services that she would depend on to survive as an adult.

Lauren is my only child, my husband is elderly, and soon I will be as well. We have no one else to provide Lauren's care, except for the caregivers we can hire with the Medicaid-based budget Lauren receives from the state. Without that support, the only option guaranteed for Lauren is institutionalization. Lauren is a bright eyed, sweet young woman who, despite her many challenges, enjoys her life. Now, that life is threatened by potential cuts to Medicaid.

We have come far in the development and design of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. A cut in Medicaid funding would relegate us to a return to the mass isolation, the warehousing in institutions, of individuals, like my daughter, who have done nothing to deserve such barbaric treatment.

To continue to live her life in the community, Lauren needs to be fed, bathed, dressed, transferred, and transported to the activities that make up her day. She has seizures, scoliosis, and kyphosis. She needs competent, caring people to support her. She needs dependable, accessible, stable services to sustain her.

It is my job as her mother, to develop an adult life plan for Lauren that will enable her to survive in a world without me in it. If appropriate supports are not available to her now and in the future, she will be sentenced to death. She will not be able to survive in a world without me in it, and, because of my physical inability to provide her care after many years of doing so, if her services are cut or eliminated, she will not survive tomorrow.

I beg our legislators to carefully consider ALL of the ramifications of the decisions that they are making. The Graham-Cassidy bill will decimate Medicaid and the Medicaid waivers through which my daughter's supports are funded. Supporting the Graham-Cassidy bill is akin to sentencing an innocent young woman – and the thousands of other individuals like her – to death, punishing her for no crime other than being the vulnerable, innocent person that she is.

Thank you

Date: 2017-09-22 20:25:07  
To: My Senator  
From: Carol Hopkins  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son Bobby is 46 years old. We, his parents, are 71 years old. We are his primary caregivers. He has lived at home with us his entire life. Bobby is 5'10 tall, 130 lbs but lives at the functional level of a 9 month old. He is incontinent, must be fed all food, has daily seizures, does not speak, is confined to a wheelchair and has limited use of arms. We lift, bathe, change diapers, feed, medicate, and tend to all his needs with the help of part time qualified aides. Our home is equipped with lifts and ramps. Without this 24/7 care Bobby will not survive. He is eligible for Medicaid assistance to enable him to live in the community with a consistent, caring day program and in-home supports for us. Without those programs we will not be able to care for Bobby. He is medically fragile and there are no state facilities that would currently take him.

Bobby has survived 30 years past the life expectancy given to us when he was 5. His diagnosis is still undetermined but consistent care has provided him with a stable, relatively healthy life. He is happy in his own small world. The assistance he receives from Medicaid is for medications, special equipment, doctors and hospitals. It also provides funds for his day program which stimulates his environment, as well as part time home aides that assist with feeding, bathing and household needs. Training takes months, aides are paid little. Their compassion is priceless.

We live on our Social Security, and depend on Medicare and Medicaid for health services.

We worry what will sustain Bobby when we are not able to do the bulk of caregiving that we have done for a lifetime. Community supports are life saving for him as our doctors have told us for over 40 years. Please do not put his life in danger by cutting Medicaid funding.

Tom and Carol Hopkins

Date: 2017-09-22 14:21:25  
To: My Senator  
From: Anthony Bongiovanni  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a married man of 48 years of age. My wife has several kinds of Cancer and we have an 11 year old daughter with Autism and a heart condition all caused by a rare chromosome disorder. We also have a healthy 9 year old son.

My wife cannot work because of her cancer and because of my daughters condition. We are trying to survive on 1 income because of the health issues. Without our current Medicaid help and insurance there is NO WAY that we could survive every day life with its expenses.

We do not at all live extravagantly and still have a difficult time making ends meet. The loss of Medicaid will be fatal to our family.

Anthony I. Bongiovanni

Date: 2017-09-23 21:04:37  
To: My Senator  
From: Eileen Hurley  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am writing on behalf of my son Colin, a twenty six year old young man with intellectual developmental disabilities and profound autism. He is non verbal, essentially an innocent toddler. He will never have the opportunity to have impact on the world, enjoy a career or have a family of his own.

Colin's entire lifestyle is dependent on family support and the services he receives through Medicaid. He is and always will be financially destitute as he is void if the capacity to work.

The Graham Cassidy Bill will be devastating! There will be no day program for therapy, socialization or volunteering. He will have limited medical insurance and no where to live as group home monies will be significantly reduced. The wait list currently in New Jersey is fifteen years for residential placements. I shudder at the thought of the alternative if this bill passes.

As I age, I am currently 57, I am deeply concerned about what will become of him! Who will take care of him when I am unable? I am destrought ...

Please vote no on this bill!!!

Very Sincerely yours,  
Eileen Hurley

Date: 2017-09-23 10:32:43  
To: My Senator  
From: William Thompson  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Bill Thompson and I have been receiving Medicaid benefits for over 10 years. If the Graham-Cassidy bill were to be passed it would be devastating to me as Medicaid has been an integral part of providing the services that I depend on each day. These cuts would be horrible and I urge everyone who has the opportunity to read this email to vote no.

I am in the process of getting new teeth and if Medicaid were cut I would not be able to afford to complete the work that has already been started. This would leave me with no teeth in the lower part of my mouth. I am also legally blind and suffer from high frequency deafness. Medicaid allows me to have the hearing aids and glasses that I need to be work and function in the community.

Medicaid provides me with coverage for my medical care and prescription drug coverage both of which I could not afford on my own. Medicaid provides me with the services of a job coach. My job coach helps me to maintain employment which is very important to me. I want to give back to my community in whatever way I can and if I could not work this would not be possible.

It is hard for me to think about how my life would change if this bill were to be passed and I urge the senate not to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

William Thompson

Date: 2017-09-23 01:55:58

To: My Senator

From: Cate Kurowsky

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



Our son is disabled with autism and epilepsy. Without Medicaid programming he will have no support and our ability to care for him and his needs will be handicapped putting him at severe risk. He is on multiple medications and round the clock care. Please understand the important role Medicaid plays in the lives of vulnerable citizens.

Date: 2017-09-23 12:04:54  
To: My Senator  
From: Tammy Savidge  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am the single mother and sole financial supporter for my 21 year old son. He has autism, extreme anxiety, epilepsy, adhd and gross motor, fine motor, speech and significant cognitive delays. I work six days a week to support the both of us, I do not receive any financial support from his father. My son graduated in June 2017. While I knew this would be major change in our lives, I could not have imagined how much or how challenging this transition would be. Even with help and support from school and others with the transition, once graduation day comes you are on your own. It has been a very difficult adjustment for my son. Thankfully we were able to find a couple day programs to keep him somewhat active and busy. We are working on finding a direct support person now to spend some time with him. That is very challenging in itself...finding qualified, dependable, caring people to care for your loved one that can't care for themselves. I can't nor do I want to imagine a life for my son where there was no support, day programs, etc. I am not in a financial position where I could afford to feed, house and care for us if I did not work and was forced to stay home with him. If he was at home all day with nothing to do then we would continue to see an increase in anxiety and a definite increase in behaviors, outbursts. My son will never be able to live alone or independently. If the proposed cuts to Medicaid are approved, it will be devastating for our family and all of those with disabilities. Please, please, please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:01:47  
To: My Senator  
From: Lori Barbarisi  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I'm the parent to a son with autism. He will be turning 21 shortly and I am counting on DDD to establish a day program for him. He can not be left alone and I work two jobs to make ends meet. Without Medicaid WE WILL BE HOMELESS and UNABLE TO AFFORD HIS MEDICATION ... autism is on the rise.. 1 in 68... these adults need care and more care not less. Medicaid cuts will be life threatening to my son and I

Thank you Lori barbarisi



Date: 2017-09-24 00:00:20  
To: My Senator  
From: Myra Pludwinski  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



For our family Medicaid is a lifeline, not a privilege. Our daughter Judy is a 29 year old with Intellectual and developmental disabilities who is cognitively on a one year old level. She is nonverbal, nonambulatory, is in diapers, needs to be dressed and fed and all her basic living needs have to be done for her. As of today ALL her services are now being provided through Medicaid. Among them are her day program and transportation to that program which provides her with a structured day and the therapies that are needed to keep her from regressing. It also includes a few hours of respite for us, her parents/caregivers, which as we age it is crucial for us to get a small break emotionally and physically from total care of a multihandicapped daughter. We also worry about the pre-existing condition issue that will always be a concern for obvious reasons. We never asked to receive services through Medicaid but that is now our reality. It will be devastating to us all if cuts were made to Medicaid. Please help us protect Medicaid and the vital services it provides so we can keep us and our daughter alive and healthy.

Thank you!

Date: 2017-09-22 11:09:20  
To: My Senator  
From: Louise Circelli  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I can't believe that I'm writing once again to save my daughter's lifeline. My daughter attends a day program which is funded by Medicaid. If it wasn't for this program, she would sit home everyday and watch TV or listen to music. Going to the program gives her a reason to get up and out everyday like the rest of the family who all work or go to school. She is a part of the community with this program not isolated in her house 24/7. It's hard enough for young people with I/DD to make friends being alone all day is the worst thing. There would also be a regression of the skills that she's tried so hard to master. By slashing Medicaid you are leaving the country open for many older adults with I/DD who, in the future, will need even more services due to the isolation that will be forced on them. Please do the right thing. Vote No!

Date: 2017-09-22 11:40:17  
To: My Senator  
From: amy lerner  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My adult daughter relies on Medicaid to provide her with direct care providers under the Community Care Waiver so she can live an independent life. Without this aid she would not have any quality of life. She would have to live in an institution which is not acceptable.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:56:38  
To: My Senator  
From: Deborah Bieniakowski  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



We have a handicapped son, Johnnie B with Down Syndrome. He is 23 years old and dependent on his parents. He had been treated for 4 years for Leukemia.

He is at high risk for secondary cancers and we are trying to make him as independent as possible. Persons with Down Syndrome also are at high risk for Alzheimers disease. Does Down Syndrome put him in the category of preexisting condition for everything? The healthcare field is a hard enough of a battle to climb. Please don't take away his benefits to stay alive, healthy and happy.

He loves to sing and dance. We are proud to have him in our family.

Please say no to replacing the ACA, with the devastating cuts. We gave him life, please don't take it away from him.

Thank you.

Debbie and John Bieniakowski

Date: 2017-09-22 21:25:45

To: My Senator

From: Carol Thornton

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is severely disabled since birth she is 48 years old she was not supposed to live past 12 . She has been on medicaid since she was 18 . She lives at home with me , I am 70 years old my husband passed away 5 years ago . With the help of medicaid she attends a day program and we have home health care in the home because of these programs I am able to continue taking care of her . Without this help I am not sure I could continue to do this . I could not afford to pay for the medication she is on for seizures nor her diapers . We have not abused medicaid she has used the same wheelchair for 7 years the last one she had was over 10 years old and she just recently got a new bathchair after 30 years . Please do not cut medicaid . I want to continue taking care of my daughter at home .

Date: 2017-09-22 14:50:45  
To: My Senator  
From: Christine Wickman  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter Crystal Wickman was born 3/26/1998. She has a rare brain abnormality, Bilateral Perisylvian Polymicrogyria. She is 19 years old, but functions at the level of an 18 month old child. She has received Supplemental Security almost her entire life. Without her medicaid, she would not be alive today. She has intractable seizures, a mickey button ( gastric tube ), and a vagal nerve stimulator to help control her seizures. She is on multiple seizure medications, as well as other meds for her various conditions. Due to her mental disability, she is incontinent and wears diapers. She also has trouble walking, and therefore spends most of her time in her wheelchair. Please do not interfere with my daughter's care, as well as the care of the many others who depend on medicaid to live ! Vote NO to the Graham - Cassidy bill !!!

Date: 2017-09-23 01:01:51  
To: My Senator  
From: Lisa Robinson  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I was officially diagnosed with bipolar disorder during my second episode in February of 2016. It was devastating. I am 25 going on 26 in November. I depend on state assistance to help me with my mental health needs like medicine, so I can be a productive member of society. My job does not (as many part-time jobs) offer health insurance. Due to stress being a trigger for mania, I do not want to risk my mental health or my job. However, with state assistance, I am provided a therapist and frequent visits for medicine discussion and/or needed changes for my regimen. If you take away my state assistance, you would take away my ability to be a productive, and functioning member to society. Please vote "NO", to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Date: 2017-09-23 10:31:41  
To: My Senator  
From: Jacqueline Griggs  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am the parent of a young lady with developmental disabilities who is currently 46 years old. I am her primary caregiver since she lives at home. Barbara has multiple disabilities including Mental Retardation which causes her to function at an 18 month old level. She also receives door to door transportation to and from the program Monday through Friday. While she enjoys going to the program which she calls "school", I want to emphasize that the program is not just a "social or recreational" activity. The staff at her Center has taught her how to be independent while providing educational activities daily.. She has made major advancements in the areas of activities of daily living and is learning small chores to do around the home.

If the current proposed Graham-Cassidy bill is passed, the Center will be closed . Without the day program, it would be very difficult to keep Barbara at home, as my husband and I are Senior Citizens. She would also lose all the behavioral supports that she is currently receiving which is also paid for by NJ Medicaid! Please oppose cuts to Medicaid as any cuts affect not only the person who is receiving the services,, but the whole family or community setting where the person resides. Please help the disabled community to maintain the existing programs which help individuals and families stay together in the community.



Date: 2017-09-22 11:35:03  
To: My Senator  
From: Bonnie Brien  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



As the mother of a 31 year old woman with I/DD and significant co-occurring medical issues, I have been an active advocate for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) for over 18 years in NJ. I have never been more concerned about the direction we taking at the federal level as reflected in the current Republican agenda, specifically the proposed cuts to Medicaid including block grants and the potential impact on our most vulnerable citizens.

Thirty-one years ago I gave birth to twin girls almost 3 months prematurely which resulted in very low birth weights (2lb 3oz and 2 lb 1oz), both required breathing assistance and gastric feeding tubes. Both remained in the hospital for 2.5-3 months. Our one daughter was spared any long-term issues as a result of her prematurity and has grown up to become a beautiful young woman with a career as an occupational therapist. Her sister, however, experienced challenging medical issues that manifested as I/DD, cerebral palsy, uncontrolled epilepsy, and related medical conditions due to her lack of mobility. As a result she is unable to ambulate independently requiring a wheelchair and is unable to perform any activities of daily living. She requires total care. Thankfully, with the help of extended family, friends, excellent medical coverage and ancillary services such as Early Intervention programs, extended school year programs, and access to physical and occupational therapies we were able to care for our daughter for many years at home. In addition, respite services provided us with much needed breaks for ourselves and to spend quality time with her sister doing activities that her sister was unable to participate in due to her disabilities. Equally important, these supports allowed both my husband and I to continue working and contribute back into the systems that provided us with many of these supports.

After caring for our daughter at home for 30 years, we had to place her in a group home as we are now in our mid-60s and could no longer continue to safely perform the high level of daily supports. It has been the most difficult thing we've ever had to do. While she experienced new and significant health concerns during the first 9 months of her move, because of our oversight and persistence to address these issues her health improved and we are encouraged as personally we can no longer continue to provide needed care. We had to wait 6 years for an opening for a community-based setting. The waiting list for services in NJ has resulted in many families waiting even longer. Our daughter's placement came just in time.

The lives of our most vulnerable citizens have improved dramatically over the past 50 years with the closing of large institutions and placement into communities. The availability of long-term supports through Medicaid has made this possible. Since moving to community-based services, people with I/DD are now included as community partners across the country and are able to participate whether as volunteers or paid employees or enriching others' lives by simply spending time with others. Some individuals with I/DD need minimal supports and can secure employment that allows them to sustain the very system that provides funding for supports. Some may need full supports including bathing, dressing, toileting, administration of medicine, food preparation, etc. and some require a level of support somewhere within the spectrum of care. It is important to recognize with these supports some of these individuals are able to hold jobs while also providing jobs for direct support professionals. Any disruption in Medicaid services has the potential of not only leaving more than 700,000 people with I/DD at high risk for costly institutional placement and decreased quality of life, but also putting thousands of US citizens out of work.

The thought that these services could decrease because of any cuts is frightening to us. It is unconscionable! With appropriate supports community living permits every person the right to live life to their fullest capacity. As a family member grows from childhood to adulthood these services change with them. While in preschool and school years it may be school inclusion supports, supplemental physical/occupational therapy, behavioral/recreational therapy, extended school year all of which help each child reach their full potential to become to the most functional adult possible. The out of school supports allow parents to keep working and give back to the system and, in some cases, help to avoid the need to access public assistance programs themselves. Once educational entitlements are completed, the need for supports for adults with I/DD continues and even increases as the 5-day work week school setting is no longer an option for working parents who may now need to stay at home

with their adult child in the absence of supports. In all cases, the danger of regression for people with I/DD increases every time supports decrease and the burden of care falls onto families.

The current plan as proposed would result in the following:

Block grants would result in loss of home and community-based support services.

The loss of funds for critical services such as personal care, mental health, prescription drugs, and rehabilitative services, may result in states discontinuing these services altogether.

Without funding many would be forced into unnecessary institutionalization and a return to the "warehousing" of people with disabilities.

The costs of providing health care and long term services and supports will not go away, but will be shifted to individuals, parents, states, and providers to make up for the federal cuts.

States would be allowed to charge higher cost for medical care for those with pre-existing conditions, perhaps even deny them any coverage.

People with I/DD will suffer greatly and even die because of this proposed plan!

Under the ACA health insurers cannot deny health insurance or charge higher premiums if you have a disability or chronic condition and there are no arbitrary financial limits to how much health care you can get in a year or in your lifetime. More people with disabilities and chronic health conditions are able to access health care due to the Medicaid expansion. For now the ADA must remain in place, revisions may be needed but should be proposed and reviewed in an open public setting and by appropriate legislative action.

As an extremely concerned parent and advocate, I am asking you to stop the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

Date: 2017-09-22 17:13:06  
To: My Senator  
From: Dan Pisacreta  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Hello,

As the father of a 31 year old woman with I/DD and significant co-occurring medical issues, I have been an active advocate for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) for over 18 years in NJ. I have never been more concerned about the direction we taking at the federal level as reflected in the current Republican agenda, specifically the proposed cuts to Medicaid including block grants and the potential impact on our most vulnerable citizens.

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After caring for our daughter at home for 30 years, we had to place her in a group home as we are now in our mid-60s and could no longer continue to safely perform the high level of daily supports. It has been the most difficult thing we've ever had to do. While she experienced new and significant health concerns during the first 9 months of her move, because of our oversight and persistence to address these issues her health improved and we are encouraged as personally we can no longer continue to provide needed care. We had to wait 6 years for an opening for a community-based setting. The waiting list for services in NJ has resulted in many families waiting even longer. Our daughter's placement came just in time.

The lives of our most vulnerable citizens have improved dramatically over the past 50 years with the closing of large institutions and placement into communities. The availability of long-term supports through Medicaid has made this possible. Since moving to community-based services, people with I/DD are now included as community partners across the country and are able to participate whether as volunteers or paid employees or enriching others' lives by simply spending time with others. Some individuals with I/DD need minimal supports and can secure employment that allows them to sustain the very system that provides funding for supports. Some may need full supports including bathing, dressing, toileting, administration of medicine, food preparation, etc. and some require a level of support somewhere within the spectrum of care. It is important to recognize with these supports some of these individuals are able to hold jobs while also providing jobs for direct support professionals. Any disruption in Medicaid services has the potential of not only leaving more than 700,000 people with I/DD at high risk for costly institutional placement and decreased quality of life, but also putting thousands of US citizens out of work.

The thought that these services could decrease because of any cuts is frightening to us. It is unconscionable! With appropriate supports community living permits every person the right to live life to their fullest capacity. As a family member grows from childhood to adulthood these services change with them. While in preschool and school years it may be school inclusion supports, supplemental physical/occupational therapy, behavioral/recreational therapy, extended school year all of which help each child reach their full potential to become to the most functional adult possible. The out of school supports allow parents to keep working and give back to the system and, in some cases, help to avoid Under the ACA health insurers cannot deny health insurance or charge higher premiums if you have a disability or chronic condition and there are no arbitrary financial limits to how much health care you can get in a year or in your lifetime. More people with disabilities and chronic health conditions are able to access health care due to the Medicaid expansion. For now the ADA must remain in place, revisions may be needed but should be proposed and reviewed in an open public setting and by appropriate legislative action.

As an extremely concerned parent and advocate, I am asking you to stop the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

Dan Pisacreta

Date: 2017-09-22 17:06:51  
To: My Senator  
From: Ciba Salih  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Hi! I am someone with disability , I have been disabled all my life and MEDICAID has helped me a lot. I wouldn't be able to live with out MEDICAID because MEDICAID pays for all of my State Programs and all of my medications.

Date: 2017-09-21 18:52:04  
To: My Senator  
From: Meredith Dvoichenko-Markov  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Please do not turn Medicaid into a block grant or repeal the ACA. My son has Down Syndrome, Bipolar 2 disorder and Chronic Kidney disease.. Medicaid not only covers prescriptions we could not afford but equally importantly pays for the programs he attends during the week. These programs help him become more independent, help him not to lose skills he has struggled so long to learn, increase his social skills and with supervision allow him to work in the community. Furthermore because he is safely out of the house it allows me to work as well. My work involves caring for 4 other special needs adults so their parents can work. These parents work as professionals in private industry. So if the current repeal and replace bill is adopted it will cause a cascade of negative effects. First it would significantly impact my son's health,. Secondly he would become less skilled and less independent increasing the burden on the community when I no longer can care for him. Third I no longer could work outside the home. Lastly the four other families I work for would lose a full time wage earner as that person would have to stay home caring for their disabled adult. Not only is this a human cost but would be a very significant tax cost as the money they and myself pay in taxes would no longer be collected.

Please do NOT vote yes. This bill is a travesty and would cause irreversible harm for by the time if any of the problems I mentioned above could be fixed at a later date, it would still be too late. The harm to health would be lifelong (if indeed he is still alive) , the programs that collapse can not be easily resurrected, the jobs given up by working parents will not magically re-appear, the tax money lost would be lost for good. VOTE NO I BEG YOU.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:21:38  
To: My Senator  
From: Linda Austin  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My son, Christopher, who has autism depends on many programs that are currently available to him through Medicaid. Programs such as recreational activities, OT, and adult day programs which he will be transitioning to in the spring. My husband and I also benefit through respite programs available to us as parents. We urge our Senators to vote NO on this bill for the sake of all individuals with disabilities and their families who will be greatly affected in an extremely negative way by the passing of this bill.

Date: 2017-09-22 09:34:44

To: My Senator

From: Eileen Stuart

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



Our daughter lives in a group home in Livingston Nj. She is served by the ARC of Essex county that is able to program for her due to Medicaid funding. Without these funds the ARC and Laurie could not survive. She has an active seizure condition, is mentally and physically challenged. The ARC is able to give her a quality of life that can keep her safe so that she can function like you and I in the world we all live in. Any cuts to the existing Programs would be devastating to our daughter and others like her. The affordable care act must stay in place. Thank you .

Date: 2017-09-21 18:35:16

To: My Senator

From: Lauren Vogler

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



Our son is 26 years old and had been suffering for years from dangerous self-injurious behaviors due to autism before he was finally able to be placed in an appropriate group home. He has become mostly free from the self-injurious issues due to the Lord and the 24x7 work of the group home staff. Medicaid funding has been part of the reason that his group home placement was possible. Why anyone would want to jeopardize the health and well being of the most vulnerable members of our society is beyond me.



Date: 2017-09-23 12:39:24

To: My Senator

From: Anita Clavering

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Anita Clavering. I have had disabilities all my life and live on Medicaid. My Medicaid provides the medical coverage I need to live a full life. Right now I am living with type 2 diabetes, diabetic nerve pain, and eye problems to name a few. My Medicaid helps me get the worsen cuts in Medicaid for myself, but for my other friends who need it for consistent health coverage. My Medicaid helps pay for my regular medical exams, dental care, eye care, and mental health care. I strongly urge you to please vote down the Graham-Cassidy bill so we can continue getting the medical care we need. Thank you so very much.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:54:02  
To: My Senator  
From: Charron Wishnick  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Please listen!

My brother Larry is developmentally impaired & has been his entire life. His survival rests in the hands of Medicaid. My siblings & I are senior citizens & are not able to provide the expensive medical care that is required today as we can barely cover ourselves.

Starting with my parents, now we siblings, have all worked hard throughout our lives to try to provide the best life possible for Larry. We have paid our taxes & contributed our part to help ensure that Larry has the help that is needed for him to survive & survive with love & happiness. Through no fault of his own he was dealt a deficit hand with no chance for anything to improve his disability.

Throughout the years Larry has had small programs provided to help him be more independent in life. None of the programs lasted any real length of time before funding was removed. It always appeared to our family that whenever funds were needed elsewhere by the government the very first place attacked was the removal of any funding for programs for the handicapped. Now it appears that the very essence of life support, MEDICAID, is being attacked. While we do recognize that there are persons on Medicaid that do not belong there, a better policing by agencies should be put in place rather than removing coverage from the handicapped.

Citizens of the US should always come first & foremost in the recognition of essential health benefits & help. Medicaid cuts will jeopardize the health & well being of my brother & all other citizens that rely on Medicaid. Non citizens should not benefit from my family's tax dollars. Non citizens & any member of their families have not contributed towards our health benefits & should not have benefits provided for them.

Please show care & concern for our own people FIRST.

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-22 21:28:21  
To: My Senator  
From: Elizabeth Wandelmaier  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter, Rose, will be 27 on Sunday. She does not propel her own wheelchair, or feed herself. She wears diapers. But she is a beautiful young woman, sensitive to the feelings of others, and loves to plan her daily activities.

Rose has cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, severe reflux, and visual impairment.

As her mother, I wish she could be independent and be employed. This will never happen.

Medicaid provides Rose's diapers, and an afternoon aide at home 20 hours a week. Medicaid pays part of the cost of Rose's adult day program. Please continue Medicaid.

My husband and I are in our sixties. We need help to continue to be good parents to Rose.

Date: 2017-09-22 13:18:29  
To: My Senator  
From: Pamela DeCicco  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I have two adult children with Down Syndrome. They both live with us.

Medicaid is a vital part of their ability to have a meaningful and productive life. Services that we depend on to give them that life. The things that are taken for granted with your "normal" adult children ... personal care, safe environment, ability to have an active life outside their home, friends, health care and so many other aspects. Medicaid helps to support them in their everyday life.

We both have health issues and will not be here forever to support them. The services that Medicare helps to provide for our children are so vital for their well being.

Date: 2017-09-22 12:09:00

To: My Senator

From: Diane Woods

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My husband and I have a 40 year old daughter named Kelly with Down Syndrome. She currently receives services that are paid for by Medicaid which include her day program, out of home respite, and in home respite as well as psychiatric services. Her medications and various doctor visits are also partially paid by Medicaid. If Kelly were to lose these services due to the proposed drastic cuts to Medicaid, her life would not be the same. She would lose the socialization of her day program with her friends and staff there. Kelly would also lose the community outings that the program provides. These include various activities such as bowling, movies, volunteering at local parks and nursing homes, arts and craft activities, job exploration activities just to name a few. **KELLY WOULD BE STUCK AT HOME!**

Out of home respite (28 days per year), provides Kelly an opportunity to live somewhere else other than home, be cared for by a qualified care giver, and socialize and interact with new people. It gives her a break from us and provides us with the break we **NEED** as caring for Kelly can be draining. We are both retired now and are about to turn 70 this year. We have been "on the job" for the last 40 years.

In home respite also provides Kelly opportunities to enjoy spending time with her wonderful respite worker who is like a sister to Kelly. It also gives us a break.

Finally, Kelly's medications (and there are several), are covered in part by Medicaid. Also her regular doctor, ear nose and throat doctor, psychiatrist, cardiologist, and audiologist are covered in part by Medicaid.

We implore you **NOT TO VOTE FOR THE PASSAGE OF THIS DRASTIC MEDICAID CUT!** Kelly's life and our lives as well would be terribly affected.

Sincerely,

Diane and Dale Woods

Mays Landing, NJ

Date: 2017-09-22 13:52:13

To: My Senator

From: Cheryl Crick

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My brother Adam has autism and an intellectual disability. He solely relies on Medicaid's Home and Community Based services to help him live and thrive in the community. His group home is paid for in part with money from medicaid waivers. The staff her relies on 24/7 to help him with his activities of daily living (bathing, dress, cooking, cleaning, shopping, getting to medical appoints, etc) are all paid for with dollars from medicaid. My brother also solely relies on Medicaid for Health Insurance, including dental care. Without it he would have no medical coverage and his diabetes and other health issues would go untreated, putting his life in danger. His SSDI check would not be enough to cover his medications and doctor appointments.

My brother could not live without the medicaid program. Any cuts would be devastating to his life and wellbeing.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:47:41

To: My Senator

From: Linda Darge

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senators Menendez & Booker,

I trust that you are going to follow your long history of voting to protect the most vulnerable people in your state and vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I don't understand how they can consider another bill that is similar to previous one's as a suitable repeal to the ACA program in place.

For our family and our daughter who has Down Syndrome and is 41 years old now, Medicaid is a vital component of her support system and it would have tremendous impacts on her health, her day program, recreation and almost every facet of her life if it were impacted by this disastrous healthcare bill. To target developmentally and physically disabled children and adults is not only unconscionable to them but to others whose health and well-being depend on Medicaid.

My husband and I are in our mid-60's now and we have cared for our loving daughter in our home our entire life. This bill will not only limit the funds by block grants, etc. but will put severe financial stress on this state that is already running in the red. NJ DHS/DDD is now rolling out the new Fee For Service Program that relies on Federal funds which means that it would crumble over time if the state as to choose where to spend its money.

I urge you to vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is a vital for the health of New Jersey and our loved ones. Thank you.

Linda & David Darge

Date: 2017-09-22 11:18:50  
To: My Senator  
From: Maureen Maimone  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



To Our Elected Representatives:

My son John is a 32 year old young man with Down syndrome. As his mother and Legal Guardian, I have advocated on his behalf since the day he was born. Since his father passed away almost 15 years ago, I have been John's sole parent.

Medicaid has been a life line to us, especially since my son aged out of school at age 21. He attends programs funded with Medicaid monies. He participates in his community with the help of direct support staff paid for with Medicaid monies and I receive Respite services paid for with Medicaid funds. He receives medical care paid in part with Medicaid monies. My son can not be left alone. I have no family to help with his care, so I must rely on staff and programs funded by Medicaid to assist me in raising my son and keeping him healthy and safe.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid would be catastrophic for us. Caring for a developmentally disabled adult at home at my 60+ years of age is already a difficult task. But if medicaid funding is severely cut and my son's programs and medical assistance is no longer available to us, the effect on our family would be profound.

Please try and imagine the families and faces and stories of the people that would be impacted by this proposed inhumane cut to Medicaid. We cannot exist without the supports and services that Medicaid provides. There has to be some other solution.



Date: 2017-09-22 15:37:51

To: My Senator

From: Daniel Kramer

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My story is simple. My son lives in a group home in NJ and goes to a day program. Both are funded by Medicaid. His medical care is covered by Medicaid. He is severely disabled mentally and physically. Without Medicaid, he could die. He would have no life. I understand that you do not like the ACA. I get it. But why touch Medicaid that is designated for the severely handicapped? Leave Medicaid alone in so far as it protects the handicapped.

Date: 2017-09-22 20:24:40  
To: My Senator  
From: Edward Pittarelli  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



The reducing of Medicaid funds will eventually make my 21 year old son with autism homeless after he exhausts any money raised for him to pay for his costs of living after we die. His only blood relative besides us is a twin sister with a pre existing and potentially fatal illness. Since he is profoundly cognitively affected, he can not work more than a few hours a week at simple jobs to supplement his SSDI, and will only be able to cover about 8% of what it will cost to manage him in a one to one or two to one setting. He is just one of the increasingly large number of adults with moderate to severe autism, the preponderance of whom will be added to the homeless before age 50 if Medicaid is so cruelly cut.

The unthinking actions of the members of Congress, who have lost sight of their responsibility for the citizens of the US in favor of how to pander for votes, will deal a death sentence to many thousands of good people as millions lose their coverage, probably including my son's twin when she turns 26. So the cuts in Medicaid and rate protections for pre existing conditions in all likelihood mean that my children are the last generation of my family.

Date: 2017-09-22 13:02:35  
To: My Senator  
From: Carol Pittarelli  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



#### MEDICAID MATTERS

The proposed cuts to Medicaid will absolutely devastate my 21 year old son with autism and our family as a whole. Robert was diagnosed at 22 months old and has had wonderful home therapy and then schooling. Now, at 21, the majority of support for his day program and his health care will come from Medicaid. He attends an amazing day program from 9 to 4 on weekdays. He is working 2 hours a week, a job he loves. His father takes him to work in the evenings and is his job coach. Robert can live in the community and contribute to society but needs support and care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cutting the budget is equivalent to the death sentence for Robert and others who are the most vulnerable citizens on earth.

Why would anyone do this? It is short-sighted and cruel. Devastating, destructive, and cruel, cutting this funding is morally and ethically wrong on all levels.

Date: 2017-09-24 00:48:42  
To: My Senator  
From: Elisheva Stein  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



our son, Isaac, is severely disabled due to a neurodegenerative disease and cystic fibrosis. He cannot walk or talk, or move in any way. He has multiple medical issues. Isaac requires 24/7 care. He relies on many different services which medicaid provides in order to live, such as nursing, prescriptions, and medical equipment.

I cannot work as I take care of Isaac 24/7. We cannot afford to pay for everything that he needs. We need medicaid to stay as-is.

Date: 2017-09-23 08:02:56  
To: My Senator  
From: Robert Hage  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Bob Hage and I'm the father of Annika, a young women with significant developmental & medical disabilities. No one can be prepared when an unexpected catastrophic event occurs at birth. Annika was diagnosed with an Unknown Genetic syndrome – there is literally no label for her condition. She spent 3 months at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia being cared for by the best doctors in the world before she came home with feeding tubes in her belly, oxygen tanks, monitors and more. Our house looked like a hospital ER.

We had in home nursing care and every type of therapy you can imagine including PT, OT, Speech and early intervention. As you might guess my wife Odette and I were at our wits end being emotionally, physically and financial exhausted. It was only through the grace of God and the high quality & well funded Medicaid Entitlement sponsored supports and services that Annika survived and thrived.

Medicaid Entitlement Programs literally saved Annika's life by giving us access to world class quality doctors, hospitals, lifesaving surgeries, therapies, in home nurses, in home medical supplies and so much more. Medicaid is incredible effective and user friendly. She went from being unable breath on her own or roll over or sit up or eat by mouth to now being a life loving, happy, engaging, carefree 14 year old.

She loves to swim, bowl, dance, go to Zumba Classes, go to live theater, participate in art classes and she absolutely loves going to school and learning. Medicaid continues to be an important part of her life including to help pay for critically need OT, PT and Speech Therapies at school.

Along with continued medical care, Medicaid helps pay for much need respite and will pay for Annika's future long term supports and when Odette and I are no longer able to care for her. Services like housing, transportation and assistance finding and keeping a job.

Medicaid Entitlement Funding provides hope and optimism for the future for families like mine and is the lifeline that provides funding for critically needed long term supports and services to folks with disabilities. Without a well-funded Medicaid entitlement program, my wife Odette and I and millions of other families would have no hope for a happy and healthy future for their loved one.

Most people don't know that about 40% of Medicaid funding goes to support individuals with disabilities. Our most vulnerable population. We cannot allow that funding to be cut and undermined through the Graham-Cassidy bill's per capita caps or block grants.

It is imperative that you vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Date: 2017-09-23 14:42:26

To: My Senator

From: Karen Richter

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



We are afraid for the future of our 35-year old son and the disabled community that depend on Medicaid. Our son is supposed to transition to a residential setting with lifelong 24-hour support services paid through Medicaid. We as parents in our seventies cannot take care of him much longer. Please do not take away critical Medicaid money that our son needs.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:47:18

To: My Senator

From: Carol Hohausser

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My son has the dual diagnosis of autism and psychiatric illness, as well as learning problems and ADHD. We have been getting behavioral services for him much of his 17 years. We are concerned that we could lose the behaviorist and be strapped with high medical bills for his medication for the rest of our lives if this new healthcare plan passes.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:55:07  
To: My Senator  
From: Kristen Sellix  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My youngest sister needs her Medicaid dollars for medical insurance as well as a plethora of services, most specifically her day program which help her continue to thrive, reduce challenging behaviors she once had, and live a fulfilling life where she can contribute to society. Medicaid cuts would take my sister to the dark ages of living at home with my parents who would be unable to care for her and work, thus only continuing to damage the economy. In their old age, I would then need to step in and take care of her full time, versus being able to live my own life, and have her live her own life with as much independence as possible. It is unfathomable to me, that we are looking to slash funding from one of the most vulnerable populations in the country. Slashes to Medicaid will impact our country's disabled and have a system effect on our economy, our human services professionals, and above all else undermine our values as Americans. We are a country of ethical values that supports its needy, and encourages self-determination and prosperity. Without the supports Medicaid funded programs provide for the I/DD population, we will be taking a large leap away from the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Do NOT support these cuts if you support our American values.



Date: 2017-09-22 04:40:56  
To: My Senator  
From: Karen Nulton  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My son Jonathan has Down syndrome. He has had over 40 procedures in his life, including open heart surgery, intestinal surgery, eye surgery, ear surgery, Etc. He is also a survivor of leukemia. Our family relies on Medicaid to allow Jonathon to live a healthy life. It is difficult enough being the parent of a disabled child - - no one who hasn't suffered from that burden can understand how much energy, time, and attention that takes. But at the very least, under Medicaid currently we have good medical coverage and help for some of the ongoing medical needs that my son has. Please vote against repealing Obamacare. It may not be perfect, but it is a policy worth building on because it cares for and helps people like my son and my family. Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:29:50  
To: My Senator  
From: Barbara Reddington  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



To whom it may concern :

Medicaid is my son Danny's Life line!!

. Without Medicaid this beautiful ,wonderful 32-year-old man with developmental disabilities including autism spectrum could not realize a life befitting him. We have worked so hard to play by every rule given us and sometimes play when we don't know the rules. We have found him an awesome apartment in the community that is not just for the disabled . we have Found and trained many support people (some are now part of the family). Danny enjoys A happy social life with his girlfriend and friends going to dances ,belonging to community service clubs , going on trips , volunteering at a local library for seven years now. In short experiencing life.

Without Medicaid all this would be undone and he would have to come back to live with us ,his aging parents , with no one to take care of him when we are gone and forced into a life not be -fitting to any human . Danny never did anything wrong nor asked for this to be his lot in life .

Please, please do not allow Medicaid cuts!!! You are taking the joy of life from the most vulnerable and most deserving population if you cut Medicaid!!!

Date: 2017-09-23 19:57:42  
To: My Senator  
From: Margaret Gensel  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



I am writing to let you know that the ONLY insurance my 29-year old daughter with Autism, Tourette's Syndrome and other co-morbidities, has is Medicare and Medicaid. She sees a neurologist every 3 months and is on several medications to keep her stable. She also needs the Medicaid to be eligible to receive other services in the state of New Jersey. It is vital that she keeps this insurance coverage. Please think of her and all the rest of this vulnerable population who can not keep a full time job and afford insurance coverage on the open market. Thank you for your consideration.

Margaret M. Gensel

Date: 2017-09-22 22:41:47  
To: My Senator  
From: Kyle Mosca  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



Kyle is a handsome and smart 18-year-old young man with autism and epilepsy. He attends special services school for job training. He loves movies, Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, and has a special affinity for learning Disney movie princess songs. His favorite is currently Jasmine from Aladdin.

His twin sister graduated from high school and now attends community college. She chose to stay close to home because she has a very close relationship with her twin brother.

His weekly tonic clonic seizures are what she hears in the next room to wake her up each morning. She often picks him up off of the floor, even though he weighs 60 pounds more than she does. Kyle's parents work tirelessly to create autism and epilepsy awareness in the community.

Kyle has lost the ability to do many self-care skills, and needs constant reminders, prompting and visual cues to get through his day.

His monthly stipend for respite for 22 hours a month gives his parents and sister a break so that they can do food shopping, cleaning, and visit places that Kyle is unable to go because of the seizures, his awkward jerking motions, as well as unplanned verbal outbursts from time to time. He is a sweet, loving, caring, thoughtful individual, but it is often difficult for him to navigate the social world.

He likes to attend church every Sunday, but the seizures have made that difficult .

The few hours of respite that the family does receive each month have been invaluable to rally Kyle's parents and sister to find strength in knowing that Kyle has a dear friend in the community who can take him to his favorite thrift shops and out for ice cream after he goes for a walk, a swim, or on the treadmill. Kyle and his family are very thankful for their respite.

Loss of Medicaid funding would highly detrimental to the family 's ability to work, do daily tasks and even participate in community events. We all deserve a chance to live our lives with joy, hope and options we choose freely. And so does Kyle.

Please vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham Bill.

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-22 11:38:08  
To: My Senator  
From: Betty Brarman  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is 41 years old and attends a day program . This program supplies transportation and very important therapies such as PT--OT--and speech . The day program relies on Medicaid which provides our Children with the best program possible for them . They are Happy to be going everyday to be with

There friends. Ny daughter is 41 and is STILL learning new things all the time her language is improving,

Her physical abilities is improving and she is very proud of new things she can do and say so our children no matter what age continues to learn. With cuts to Medicaid number 1 is her day program would be tremendously affected financially. Our children need these programs so they can continue to enjoy life.

They have so many challenges in life why do we continue to have to fight for these children who have the right to the best life possible. They do not complain about things , that do not ask for much they just need a place to go to everyday and enjoy being with friends .Think of it if there were no programs our children would be sitting home not doing much because we as parents must provide the best we can for our family so the percentage of parents work. Therefore we could not work how can we afford to tak care of them so this is why many turn to group homes Which in turn costs the state twice as much ..we aren't asking for much we just need you to stop cutting Medicaid .. along with there Day program I have a health care aide come to my house 3 days a week to take care of my daughter so I am able to work .. we need special people to take care of our children not everyone can. As they do need special care. We also need insurance for doctors who understand and know how to take care of our children .

If cuts are made what are we as parents suppose to do ? Insurance is extremely important as much as our health aides and their daily day program which is their second home . Please do not cut Medicaid

As it will affect thousands of our children and their families who have enough stress in their lives already

Caring for our loved ones who require so much care. These children were not asked to be born with

These disabilities so why do we as a country continue to make cuts that affect them so much.

All they ask for and we as parents ask for is a chance for our children to live life to the fullest ...as we love our special children just as much as you love yours. Just our children need extra help. Please, please

Listen to the parents and the people with disabilities and take a serious look at what this would do to their lives. To fully understand one must go to a day program and see how wonderful these programs and how happy our children are there see that beautiful smile it brings to them then maybe you can fully understand how it would devastate them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Date: 2017-09-22 09:59:00

To: My Senator

From: Michele Tyler

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



As a parent of a child with autism, medicaid is essential to his current life and his future.

He is 16 and uses a few medications which assistance with the co-pay is needed. We are also trying to prepare him for a future without parental support. My son had moderate autism. He can not be left alone. He has the mind of a 2 year old but the physical ability of a teenager. Such a lethal combination. Poor decisions but physically able to do what he wants and sometimes aggressive when he is told no. The supports that medicaid supplies helps with his aggression, ability to do things for himself and have meaningful employment one day.

Please do not let this health care bill pass. Medicaid is needed by so many!!

Date: 2017-09-22 15:20:07

To: My Senator

From: Donna Nolan

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



I have worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities for 35 years. During my career I have met and worked with numerous individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities and their families. During my first year I worked with a young man with funding from medicaid who moved into a group home when his aging mother was no longer able to care for him. Since then I have assisted many others. Some stories are similar some are not. I am choked with emotion when I think back to meeting some of my individuals with DD and their young parents. The parents decided they were not going to institutionalize their children as the medical profession told them to do. They felt their children deserved to live with them just like other american citizens children did. Lived their children did and work their parents did to assure a good life for their children. These children are now well over the age of 21. The parents are aging. Their adult children are living with them. The parents over the years while not necessarily looking forward to telling their adult child they would have to live elsewhere knew they would have to in the future. The parents felt confident when they were no longer able to care for their adult child at home their government would still be providing medicaid funding for housing. Our Parents who are Citizens of our great nation who worked hard, paid taxes returned home at the end of the day and may have done the following for their child then adult child: cooked and pureed food, hand fed their child, wiped after bowel movements, changed diapers, lifted in and out of bathtub, assisted bathing, watched uncontrollable seizures they could not stop, searched for accessible parking and entrances at the zoo, theater etc and assured those who stared " yes we deserve to be here"

Now as our parents of children and adults with DD age they are burdened with the worry their United States of America does not care to care for their children.

Taking away medicaid funding is like telling them no your child does not deserve to be here.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY? Please CARE ABOUT ALL CITIZENS.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THE GRAHAM - CASSIDY bill

Date: 2017-09-23 22:24:07

To: My Senator

From: Anna Marie Perrone

State: New Jersey

Email: [REDACTED]



My name is Anna Marie Perrone. I am writing to you because the cuts to Medicaid will be devastating to my daughter, Shannon Lewis, and our family. Shannon is 25 and autistic and attends the Franklinville Day Program through the ARC Gloucester. She also has a home health aide that comes out in the morning for 2 hours and in the afternoon for 2 hours because I work and am not home to get Shannon on or off the bus. Shannon cannot get herself up and ready to go to her day program by herself. She requires help with things as simple as brushing her hair and teeth. Medicaid pays for these services. I would not be able to work without these services. Also, Shannon would not have the quality of life that she currently has. Without a day program, I would have no one to care for Shannon during the day while I work. Also, Shannon would not have the peer interaction that she currently has in her day program, as well as the part that she takes in volunteer community services and activities. She has a purpose because of this day program. Without it, she would just be sitting at home and I would have to leave my job to be with her. This would be emotionally and financially devastating for she and I and our family. Please reconsider and do not sign the Graham-Cassidy bill. Medicaid does matter!!



Date: 2017-09-22 20:02:11  
To: My Senator  
From: Dorothy Blakeslee  
State: New Jersey  
Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter is 25 is nonverbal and has autism. She is also plagued by epilepsy which requires a change in medication every 6 to 9 months. Her seizures are of the grand mal variety and are truly debilitating and frightening. Fortunately, we found an extraordinary adult day program which, despite her challenges, is providing her a life and access to a part time job.

The day program is critical to her life. Without it, she would be home, developing unacceptable behaviors instead of valuable job skills. Every month I have the privilege of reporting her hard earned wages to Social Security which decreases her dependence on government funds.

Before she graduated from school I could not imagine a future for my daughter that did not require 24 hour care. I still don't know what her future will be, but, I've seen a significant change in her abilities because of this day program. The program is largely funded by Medicaid and the State of New Jersey.

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy bill. The significant decrease in Medicaid funding will eliminate any possibility of a meaningful life for my daughter.

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Brenda Nelson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid

My name is Brenda Nelson. I live in the state of New Jersey. In December of 1988, I adopted a eight month old disabled child. My family and I spent his life protecting him, mentally, physically, and medically. He is now an adult and must be Medicaid eligible in order to receive these necessary services. I am now a senior and if something should happen to me I don't want to see him just thrown into the street. He needs Medicaid.

---

Sent from my iPad

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Robert Light [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey- Potential cuts to Medicaid in the health care bill

Potential Medicaid cuts could severely impact funding for the ARC group home programs. The youngest sibling in our family is autistic and has lived with family members his entire life until being placed in an ARC group home. Unfortunately he had to be moved multiple times due to death of family members or health issues. He is now in a place where he is happy and the remaining members know as we age he will be taken care of. Many families and individuals depend on the funding that keeps hard working responsive groups like the ARC working to serve people with disabilities. Thank you, Bob Light

---

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** carole clark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Dear Senators.

What does Medicaid do to help those with Intellectual and Devopmental Disabilities?

My 47 year old son works at a sheltered workshop which gives him purpose and meaning on a daily basis. ~~He lives in a group home that provides caring staff members who help him to grow as well as~~ seeing to his physical, emotional and medical well-being.

He travels by Access Link which is a subsidized bus which gives him independence to travel to and from his workshop.

He has special needs both medically and mentally. Without Medicaid where would that leave him?

Medicaid has been a lifeline for our family. Please don't take it away.

Carole Clark

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Tara C [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NEW JERSEY

My medicaid benefits are vital. They are what I survive on as I am a quadriplegic which means I need 24 hour care. I am paralyzed from my chest down. I am unable to do anything on my own: dressing, bathing, bowel and bladder program, eating, drinking, getting in and out of bed, transferring in and out of my wheelchair.

Please don't take my benefits from me and people like me who need it and are unable to work.

---

Tara Celentano

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Paula Solomon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Fwd: Necessity for Medicaid/ NJ State Resident

Hello again! I believe I forgot to sign my letter. Please advise if I need to redo anything. I know my name/email address was on it. Thanks, Paula Solomon

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

---

**From:** Paula Solomon [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 16, 2017 at 4:35:28 PM EDT  
**To:** [jorwic@thearc.org](mailto:jorwic@thearc.org)  
**Subject:** Necessity for Medicaid/ NJ State Resident

I have a 25 year old daughter who is multiply handicapped & deaf since birth. Medicaid has been instrumental in helping to provide programming & Respite care for my daughter. Without it my daughter would not be achieving the success or even maintaining the skills she has learned by services that have been provided. We, as a family, would struggle to give her the care & services she deserves. Please do not take away Medicaid funding. Our lives depend on it.

Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** kathleen babnew LAST\_NAME [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 8:29 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ - Better Care Reconciliation Act Affecting Medicaid

Medicaid is needed for people intellectual and development disabilities.

My daughter has been multiplied disabled since birth and is now 29 years old (Down Syndrome along with congenital heart issues and other medical problems).

~~She is currently enrolled in a Day program and is job shadowing so hopefully she can work part-time.~~

She has had heart surgery in the past and still needs surgery in the future due to a leaky valve and has another medical issue that will require surgery.

My husband and I are close to retirement and my biggest fear has been that we will retire and she will only be covered by Medicaid; I never thought that my biggest fear would be that she may not even have Medicaid.

I was one of the lucky ones that did not need the support of Medicaid when she was younger since I had good private insurance and great support from my family but others are not so fortunate and need Medicaid supports in order to provide needed services for their child so they can function and live.

Medicaid really is important and is a necessity for most with children with intellectual and development disabilities.

Thank you for your support to not let Medicaid be cut for those that need it most to survive and try to thrive.

Kathleen Babnew

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Barbara Coppens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 8:04 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic

Good Morning Nicole

I'm Barbara Coppens writing

to say that the senators cant cut Medicaid

or any type of health care people with IDD

Needs that will hurt people with IDD

having insraunce is very important

we need the insurance. I represent people with

---

IDD ,

we need to lay message to senator mitch McConnell

to let him know

see you in st louis

Barb



## Nicole Jorwic

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Medicaid and my son:

You ask how any cuts to Medicaid will effect my family, well, there are just so many things to list!! My son is 41 and has Down Syndrome, Diabetes, Sleep Apnea, and behavioral & mental health issues. He resides at home with me at this time. I am a widowed 68 year old Mother, who can not work because of my son's issues! We did qualify for the PPP Program through New Jersey so I am paid for a certain amount of hours per week to be my son's caregiver. This funding comes through Medicaid too. My son is also under the CCW waiver, and has a budget through the State. All of his services are funded through Medicaid too. His community supports are again through Medicaid. These services help to provide him with a somewhat typical life!

The new healthcare bill that is trying to be passed would devastate our current situation terribly!! Not only would his services be effected but also his many medications that he takes for his diabetes, anxiety, depression and other medical issues that have arisen from his diabetes. I have experienced so much stress over this current situation with Medicaid that I have made myself sick with worry!

Please continue to fight for all of us, who just would like our family members to have some quality of life that every person deserves!!!!

Regards,  
J. Davis  
New Jersey

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Biaggino Circelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey urges "Do the Right Thing"

Please do not vote for the latest version of the devastating Better Care Reconciliation Act. My daughter, 21, just aged out of the school system. She's not able to work so she will be going to an adult day program funded by Medicaid. We desperately need this program as my husband and I both HAVE to work. This is unbelievable to me that a plan like this is even being put out there. So many people with disabilities desperately need these programs. If there are no funds for people, what are they supposed to do, sit home all day doing nothing?!?! Then you're bringing up a whole new slew of problems. ~~Please do the right thing, put yourself in our shoes and vote with a conscience. Vote NO.~~

Thank you,  
Louise G. Circelli

Sent from my iPhone

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey - MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME

To Senators Menendez and Booker:

Please convey to your colleagues, the Republican senators, that Medicaid is critical to many, many Americans, including my son. My 35-year old son, disabled from birth, relies on services paid for by Medicaid and state contributions. He will soon be in a group home, where for the rest of his life he will depend completely on funding for food, shelter, ~~caregiving, transportation, vocational training, daily participation in the community, and recreation.~~ Without Medicaid funding I can't imagine what will happen to him.

To eliminate this critical funding would be to rip out the social fabric of support for the least fortunate citizens of our country. It would a sad day for the United States to sink to such a low level of morality after decades of legislation that has heretofore improved the lives of so many needy people bit by bit.

Thank you.

Karen Richter  
Princeton, NJ

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Claire Tucker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Good morning,

I am a stepmom to a wonderful 38 year young man with Down Syndrome. I am about to turn 65 and his father is 72. We both still work full time.

We beg you to be certain Medicaid funding for the disabled remain in place. Without it, Stewart would be at home, not becoming the independent person he will be through the classes and activities at his day program.

~~He receives job training, health and wellness instruction and skills that will allow him to live among friends when we are gone.~~

As seniors, we implore you to protect Medicare, as well. We could never qualify for no pre-existing conditions, even though we are in good health, nor could we afford the premiums.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Claire Baney Tucker  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey - Medicaid Matters

Dear Ms.Jorwic,

We have resided in New Jersey our entire lives and have never relied on Medicaid. After having a special needs child, we are now forced to call upon the Medicaid program to help provide much needed services for our son. Our son, David was diagnosed at 3 years old with severe Autism. He is now 21 years old and has recently ~~aged out of his public school district funded Special Needs Program. He has recently been enrolled and is~~ attending an Adult Day Program and has been included on a Community Care Waiver list in line to be eventually placed in a special needs residential group home. We are writing this letter to voice our concerns regarding potential cuts to the Medicaid program. Please understand, while we are hard-working members of the middle class, we are desperately in need of the services that are available for our son. Our son has zero life skills or independence. He is unable to communicate and often exhibits self-injurious, dangerous and violent behaviors to his caregivers and property. We are aging parents that love our son dearly. We have committed to caring for him for as long as we can but we have no support system, or respite to help us in any way and are feeling the effects both mentally and physically. We are concerned that without the services, we will be physically or mentally unable to care for our son.

The effects of a Medicare cut would be devastating. David could lose his Day Program which provides him much needed stimulation and interaction and keeps him from regressing. It also provides us with much needed respite and allows his mom to work part time to help with the family finances. David's day program, permanently placed group homes, and services that provide Direct Support Providers are all key to support our son and his family. Failure to provide Medicare support short term and long would likely lead to irreversible life damaging impacts to David and our family.

As this population is so vulnerable, they need more, not less. Why would government officials consider taking from the absolute most vulnerable individuals in our society? We are asking our Government officials to please consider our son and our family when voting on any changes to Medicaid. We are not looking for a free ride, only for assistance to help our desperate family and our most vulnerable son, David. Please help our family as well as other families who are trying to cope with caring for a challenging special needs adult child.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We hope this gives you some insight as to the reasons we need Medicaid and why we are asking you not to make cuts to this program.

If you would like to contact us, we can be reached at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Melissa & Steven Fromkin

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Miriam Herbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 12:39 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Hello Ms. Nicole Jorwic,

I am writing this letter to our elected officials to show our strong support for Medicaid in our autistic daughter's life. The Senate will soon vote on the Better Care Reconciliation Act; the latest revisions do not eliminate the horrendous reductions to Medicaid, that our 24 year old daughter and millions like her, have come to rely on each day. Medicaid means everything to our family and this drastic cut will be devastating and will negatively impact our daughter's life for years to come. She has an enriching day program to attend every day and she feels good about herself because of it; without her vital programming she would be lost, she would perseverate (repeat her thoughts and words) even more severely than she already does, and she would display even more anxiety and tantrums, than she does now.

Please consider our daughter Hannah and countless like her as this legislation comes up to a vote.

Sincerely, Rich and Miriam Herbert  
Parents of Hannah  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Stephen De Haan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** My Daughter and Many Other Handicapped People Depend on Medicaid

My daughter was born with disabilities and part of our plan for her life after my wife and I are no longer able to care for her depends on Medicaid services.

You should also be asking people to contact Rodney Frelinghuysen. He is a key vote in the House. Our Senators are already on our side. Frelinghuysen gets to vote again on a reconciled bill after the Senate passes their version.

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Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** G Cureton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** gee.cureton@verizon.net; Nicole Jorwic; krushmore@spectrum360.org;  
jwetzl@tcischool.org; swillis@spectrum360.org; kcameron@spectrum360.org  
**Subject:** RE: NEW JERSEY.... MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME

My response.  
Fyi

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail  
Get the new AOL app: [mail.mobile.aol.com](mailto:mail.mobile.aol.com)

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On Monday, July 17, 2017 Gee [REDACTED] wrote:

My daughter has mental illness and without Medicaid she would suffer from limited to no health services.

I am requesting, demanding Senators Booker and Menendez to Vote NO...on the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act...No to Cuts in Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Gilda Gee Cureton  
Newark, NJ

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** familyvoicesnj [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Why Medicaid Matters to Our Family-NJ

My daughter Stephanie has 5 life-threatening conditions and autism just to keep it interesting. She has both private insurance and Medicaid and at one point also had Medicare due to kidney transplant. Medicaid picks up what the other insurance doesn't cover. Even with triple coverage, our last submission to the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund was \$45,000 including home modification needed after 15 hospitalizations. My husband and I both work fulltime but there's not way we could keep up with the medical bills if she didn't have Medicaid even as secondary. Medicaid also covers her services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities including a nurse to attend school, medical day individual supports, personal care assistant, tutor, behaviorist, and summer camp. Finally, Medicaid covers the copays of her 2 pages of medications (including 2 emergency meds. for resuscitation and specialty pharmacy) she gets 7x/day, one of which just the copay is \$200.  
Lauren Agoratus-NJ

-----Original Message-----

From: The Arc <info@thearc.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, Jul 17, 2017 9:09 am

Subject: Emergency Medicaid Matters to Me Letter Writing Campaign - Deadline Extended to Wednesday!

**Emergency *Medicaid Matters to Me* Letter Writing Campaign - Deadline Extended to Wednesday!**

The Senate is set to vote soon on the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act. The latest revisions to the bill do **NOT** change the devastating cuts to the Medicaid program that over 10 million people with disabilities rely on to live and work in their communities. The time is now to take action and tell your Senators why ***Medicaid Matters to You and Your Family***.

Take a few moments and write a brief message about how Medicaid impacts your life. Please send those messages in the body of an email to Nicole Jorwic at The Arc of the United States: [jorwic@thearc.org](mailto:jorwic@thearc.org). **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR STATE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.** We will hand deliver all the printed messages to the Senators from your states later this week. So please act fast, e-mails must be received by **midnight on Wednesday, July 19**, to be printed.

We want to show strong support for Medicaid from all over the nation, but we are particularly looking for letters from the following states:

- Nevada

- West Virginia
- Alaska
- Louisiana
- Ohio
- Arizona
- North Dakota
- Kansas

After you finish your letter, call your Senators and tell them to vote no!

Unsubscribe



**Nicole Jorwic**

---

**From:** Gee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NEW JERSEY.... MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME

My daughter has mental illness and without Medicaid she would suffer from limited to no health services.

I am requesting, demanding Senators Booker and Menendez to Vote NO...on the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act...No to Cuts in Medicaid.

---

Sincerely,

Gilda Gee Cureton  
Newark, NJ

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Medicaid matter to me and my family. My 23 year old son has Down Syndrome, and I continue to provide all of his care. He will never be able to live alone. Medicaid provides for services for my son so that he has some basic quality of life an I can continue to work. Being a parent should not be a life sentence--I am a professor and use my skills to serve students from NJ and other states. I can't continue to be a productive citizen if there are cuts to the funding that provides services to my son.

~~We are judged not by what we do for those who have the most, but for those who have the least. Don't make my son and my family pay for the greed of others.~~

Sincerely,  
Karen Nulton

## Nicole Jorwic

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Medicaid matter to me and my family. My 23 year old son has Down Syndrome, and I continue to provide all of his care. He will never be able to live alone. Medicaid provides for services for my son so that he has some basic quality of life and I can continue to work. Being a parent should not be a life sentence--I am a professor and use my skills to serve students from NJ and other states. I can't continue to be a productive citizen if there are cuts to the funding that provides services to my son.

~~We are judged not by what we do for those who have the most, but for those who have the least. Don't make my son and my family pay for the greed of others.~~

Sincerely,  
Karen Nulton

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Rivera, George [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey Medicaid

My 37 year old son with Down Syndrome is functioning in his group home due to the support of Medicaid to insure his health stays good. Please do all you can to give support and avoid the cuts. What needs to be done is to make sure that ineligible people (fraud) are not bloating the system.

George Rivera  
Local Retail Account Consultant

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Michelle Sterling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:29 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

I am sending this e mail on behalf of our participants at the Arc of Monmouth.

It would be a great hard ship for them as well for all people with disabilities to loose their medicade benefits.

Sincerely,

---

Michelle Sterling



This e-mail and any attachments are intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential material and/or material protected by law. This message may include advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material and, as such, would be privileged and confidential and not a public document. The information may be protected by state and federal laws, including, without limitation, the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which prohibit unauthorized disclosure. If you have received this e-mail in error, you must not review, transmit, convert to hard copy, copy, use or disseminate this e-mail or any attachments to it and you must delete this message. You are requested to notify the sender by return e-mail immediately. Thank you.

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Diamond2k [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:19 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid cuts hugely impact our family

Dear Senator,

My special needs daughter has complex medical necessities and thankfully Medicaid covers what would be financial devastation for our family. Please work to keep Medicaid viable for us.

Thank you,

---

Diane Griffiths

[REDACTED]  
Vineland, NJ [REDACTED]



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** ciba salih [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

I vote No

MEDICAID is my only lifeline. All of my programs are paid by MEDICAID. Please don't take it away.

Thanks!

---

**Nicole Jorwic**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Do Not Cut Medicaid

**From New JERSEY**

**Senator Memendez and  
Senator Booker**

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**I have written to you both before that all the cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security should be returned to those accounts to be there for those that depend on this source. My son has autism and Medicaid is vital to him for Medical, housing and for personal care given by Direct Support Professionals ("DSP"). He is cared for in residence in Group Home by DSP, goes to a Day Center also cared by DSP and goes to work for 20 hours and the coach is a DSP. All this funding is vital for him daily. He receives SSI as he does not make enough, Persons such as my son require Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and these funds must be reinstated. All those that took money out of these funds, must put it back to make these sources whole. The vote to remove money is the method of knowing what salaries and pensions need to be garnished to get their share back into the funding sources that they took money out of. Also the State of NJ has gone on FFS and has used a tool CATNJ to measure what it costs for each person requiring these sources. Please use this source already calculated to let the Federal Government know how much they need for the state of NJ. Use this for the per capita amount for the state of NJ.**

**Senators please support New Jersey in its plan for Fee-For-Service with the funding required.**

**Thank you,  
Eugenia Ramsey**

[REDACTED]  
**Chatham, NJ [REDACTED]**

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** MARTY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 7:10 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid

We live in New Jersey and with both a handicapped child and a mother in a nursing home Medicaid is very important to us . I don't know what kind of care they would be able to get without the assistance of Medicaid. Put yourself in our position if you didn't have the resources you enjoy now. Thank you

---

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Annmarie Gibbs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:42 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid- New Jersey

Nicole,

I am very concerned with discussions regarding our country's health care and Medicaid situation. I am a single parent, working two jobs and raising a high functioning autistic son. My hope for him is to live independently in supported housing. He currently has a support coordinator and we're looking to Medicaid for assistance. The upcoming voting is critical and the senators need to be aware of families situations. Please forward my concerns. Thank you very much.

---

Annmarie L. Gibbs

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:39 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid

Dear Senators Booker and Menendez,

I am the parent of a 30 year old young man with an intellectual disability. He attends a day program at our local ARC. Our family also receives respite funded through Medicaid. This service is crucial for us since both my husband and I work full time. My son cannot be left unsupervised. devastatingharmfuldevastatingharmfulcurrently  
If Medicaid funding were cut or these programs eliminated, it would have a devastating effect on our family. Please do not vote for the harmful bill that is currently being considered.

---

Sincerely,  
Sandra Dunleavy

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Helen Trent [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:15 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

ANYONE who is disabled and needs services from the state of New Jersey must have Medicaid to obtain any services. Medicaid already compensates those who provide the service at a very low rate. It is difficult to obtain medical services for specialists and there is a great need to support staff because of the low pay compensation. IF the health plan as proposed by the Republicans were to pass, this would put all the disabled in New Jersey, as well as the other 49 states in dire straits.

~~Congress; how do you propose to support the population who cannot support themselves; through no-fault of their own?~~

Helen Trent

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Sandra Peterson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:56 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid matters

You do not realize how deeply you are affecting hard working families. It is difficult enough to raise a family in today's world where a dollar does not go far. Please keep us in mind, raising special needs children takes all of your energy and then some!! Do not touch our Medicaid please!!!! The Peterson family of New Jersey

Sent from my iPhone

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Maureen Maimone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:47 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ Medicaid changes would be devastating to this family

To Senator Booker and Senator Menendez,

I am a single parent of a 32 year old young man with Down syndrome. My son's father is deceased and he is my only child.

~~We have relied on Medicaid-based programs for the past 15 years. My son has Medicaid-based health care, attends programs that are funded with Medicaid funds, and hires direct support staff from Medicaid based programs. Any cut to Medicaid programs would result in a devastating effect on my son's life. He would lose all of his programs and his health care would all but disappear, potentially resulting in serious health issues that will not be addressed.~~

I urge you and all our elected officials to remember that any cuts to Medicaid are life changing for those who receive Medicaid benefits. The elderly and disabled are particularly hurt, since they cannot do anything to change their personal situation. My son can't "work harder" or get a good paying job to improve his quality of life. He is in fact a "poster" child for the very programs he receives. If our society does not provide for the most needy, then what has happened to this country?

Please VOTE NO on any proposed cuts to Medicaid.

Thank you,  
Maureen Maimone  
Parent and Guardian of  
John Maimone, age 32



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Warren Massey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:52 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Cc:** David Hagan; Asm. Chris A. D.O. Brown  
**Subject:** Cuts to Medicaid

To all members of the Senate more specifically Republican members , I find the need to write this reprehensible , in that you are now in the position to make cuts to Medicaid which will have devastating effects on the most vulnerable of our society who themselves cannot speak for themselves . I have a brother who I have represented for the past 15 years and without the help made possible by Medicaid I don't know where we would be and I hate to give that even one second of thought , simply because I live in the richest and most powerful country in the world , or so I have always been told . We know that as you are public servants , elected by the people , you have been given some of the more desirable benefits that others do not enjoy , with that said , it seems you take for granted your advantages , as you move forward with denying others the same or in many cases such as the cuts to Medicaid , so much less , which can and will be interpreted as we don't matter .

In closing , Public Servant , Elected Official , I implore you , to give my brother and others like him , the opportunity to the have only life he knows, they know and that is the life that has been possible by the benefits he receives ( thankfully ) from Medicaid remaining in place , humanely so

I Remain ,  
Warren Massey Sr.  
Atlantic City , New Jersey  
2nd District

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey medicaid

I am the parent of a 29-year old daughter on the Autism Spectrum with additional health issues. Erica relies totally on Medicaid to pay her medical expenses. She is no longer eligible to stay on my husband's health plan. The state of NJ is making it mandatory that anyone receiving services from the NJ Department of Developmental Disabilities must be on Medicaid. Erica goes to a day program 2-days a week that is paid through her budget. She sees a neurologist, and is on several medications. She can not lose Medicaid. There is no way she could survive without this help. She can not be employed with someone that would offer her any type of health insurance. She just can't handle it. She truly is one of the vulnerable people that would be caught in the crossfire of this budget.

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Margaret Gensel

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Karen Greene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:42 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

To: Senator Cory Booker & Senator Robert Menendez

Medicaid matters in every aspect of my son Kashif's life. He receives

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long term care(LTC) services under Medicaid. He was born with Down Syndrome(Trisomy 21) an 21 extra chromosome which has caused him to have intellectual and developmental delays. He was diagnosed with Autism at age 5 years old and continues to be non-verbal. He has a host of other medical conditions like: heart disease, seizure disorder, scoliosis, degenerative disc disease, sleep apnea and mild hearing loss.

If it were not for Medicaid my son may not be alive today living with me his 55 year old single mother, who left her full time job over ten years ago to care for him, instead of sending him to an institution. He is loved by his family, friends and neighbors in the community. Medicaid played a big part in that.

Since birth, Medicaid has provided him early intervention until age 3 years old with physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, a special education teacher and a social worker. The therapies along with special equipment and assistive devices (funded by Medicaid) to help to crawl, walk, eat, etc. At age five years old he was diagnosed with Autism (a rare combination at that time) a neurological disorder with no speech. Medicaid funded another set of special doctors; developmental pediatricians neurologists psychologists, cardiologists,

special speech therapists. During his primary school years Medicaid funded most of his special education and other needs.

Kashif will be 30 years old in one month. He still sees specialty doctors for his mental and physical well-being. He has been a participant of two Medicaid Waiver Home Based programs: the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Personal Preference Program (PPP) which are both self-directed programs.

These programs allows him choice(s) to achieve his independence.

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The DDD program allows him to hire staff to assist him at home(as opposed to being institutionalized) with daily living, self care, grocery shopping, household duties and transportation in his community, he can utilized community programs and purchase goods and other services. PPP assists with the same daily living, self care, etc. however a family member can be his paid Personal Care Assistant.

I am his Personal Care Assistant(PCA) and a Medicaid participant as well.

If there are extreme Medicaid cuts it will not only affect Kashif's medical needs and his waiver programs, it will affect my medical needs and livelihood.

So MEDICAID MATTERS TO US!

Karen Greene

Orange, NJ  


**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Paula Solomon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Necessity for Medicaid/ NJ State Resident

I have a 25 year old daughter who is multiply handicapped & deaf since birth. Medicaid has been instrumental in helping to provide programming & Respite care for my daughter. Without it my daughter would not be achieving the success or even maintaining the skills she has learned by services that have been provided. We, as a family, would struggle to give her the care & services she deserves. Please do not take away Medicaid funding. Our lives depend on it.

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Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Nancy Wilson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Better Care Reconciliation Act

Dear Senators,

The latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act will have a devastating impact on our 30-year old son with autism. All of his residential and day services are heavily dependent on Medicaid funding. Phasing out the Medicaid expansion will be particularly cruel. Please vote "no" on this act.

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thank you,  
Nancy Wilson  
273 Glenn Avenue  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Bonnie Brien [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 3:09 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Matters New Jersey



In 1985, our twin daughters were born 3 months prematurely, weighing in at 2 lb 3 oz (Aly) and 2 lb 1 oz (Rachel). Aly spent 2 months and Rachel spent 3 months in the hospital before coming home. Rachel came home with a cold and an apnea monitor to alert us if her breathing stopped or her heart rate slowed down. She experienced a cardiac/respiratory arrest within 72 hours of coming home. She was rushed back to the hospital and began to have seizures as a result of the lack of oxygen to her brain.

During Rachel's early development years she was diagnosed with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), cerebral palsy (CP), and refractory epilepsy. While her receptive language skills are good, it is obvious she comprehends much of what is communicated to her. Her expressive language skills are extremely limited and most consider Rachel to be "nonverbal." Due to her I/DD and CP she requires 1-on-1 assistance to bath, dress, and eat independently. Rachel is able to walk but only with someone holding on to her while walking in case she experiences a "drop seizure" to prevent her from sustaining physical injury from a fall (which has happened numerous times despite assistance). Consequently, Rachel most spends most of her awake hours in a wheelchair.

Until the age of 21, we were able to manage Rachel's care at home with limited support from family and respite hours provided by local agencies. These supports allowed both of us to continue to work as we could extend Rachel's care beyond regular school hours and during school breaks. It was challenging but we made it work. We had to – we could not afford for only one of us to work and we wanted our family to stay intact. We considered ourselves lucky as we had employers who allowed one of us significant flexibility by permitting us to work from home. We were able to be productive and pay into the systems that Rachel's relies on 100% to survive – Social Security and Medicaid.

Our goal with this letter is to educate you on the complete reliance Rachel has on Medicaid in order to survive daily. With the help of Medicaid, we were able to care for Rachel in our home until the age of 30. Medicaid provided funding for us to hire in-home direct support professionals (DSPs) that not only allowed us to both continue working but also assist with daily care in bathing, dressing, eating, and equally important, in getting Rachel out in her community. They were invaluable! As we aged into our sixties it became more difficult to

provide intensive care 24/7 365 days of the year and clear that we needed to make some very difficult decisions.

Rachel takes 4 brand name anti-seizure drugs (AEDs) daily. Many people who experience seizures require brand name AEDs to control their seizures can be life-threatening as the generic AEDs are a class of drugs that are well documented to not be effective and can result in serious adverse events which can be irreversible. Medicaid has continued to cover the balance of any costs of Rachel's AEDs after her primary health insurance. Rachel also requires physical and occupational therapy on a regular basis. This permits her to attain and maintain her best levels of physical abilities making it easier for others to assist her.

We are now 66 and 64 and no longer physically able to care for Rachel 24/7 365 days of the year. Rachel moved into a residence 1.5 years ago. She now receives all of her Home and Community Based Services through the New Jersey Medicaid Community Care Waiver (CCW) which allows her to remain in the community as she has for her entire life. The CCW provides the funding Rachel needs to pay for her DSPs and other supports. Without these supports Rachel would be forced to move into a large congregate institution. Large institutions are restrictive environments and not conducive to community interaction. As a nation we recognized more than 50 years ago people with I/DD were treated inhumanly and even died due to the institutionalization of this very vulnerable population. As a result many institutions have been closed and people with I/DD have been moved back into the general community or have never had to be placed in a large congregate setting. This movement has also demonstrated the overall cost of caring for those with I/DD is less costly than in an institution. This reflects of our country's constitutional right to personal freedom.

Our lives were forever changed because of Rachel. It was not our plan. We worked hard our entire lives and provided for our family. We love our daughters with our heart and soul. Rachel is fun loving and has a wonderful sense of humor. She makes everyone smile. We raised 2 daughters who enjoy others and who enjoy them. In many ways Rachel is a typical 31 year old who thrives on interacting with others and spending time in the community.

Rachel could not survive without Medicaid. Today, the majority of individuals with I/DD in the US are living productive and happy lives in their communities with the help of Medicaid. A subgroup of people with I/DD are also able to work and contribute back into the system that supports them, some of whom no longer need access other programs such as SNAP and utility assistance.

People with I/DD as well as children, the elderly and our veterans depend on Medicaid supports to live full and meaningful lives in our communities. Who are we as a nation if we cannot provide for our more vulnerable citizens?

The current Senate bill makes deep cuts in the Medicaid program by lowering the cap and adding penalties for states that provide more generous benefits. The Senate bill also allows states to waive health care protections like coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and requirements that plans provide basic benefits.

For the past 52 years, Medicaid has provided healthcare and long term services and supports to millions of adults and children with disabilities. These 10 million participants with disabilities and, often, their families, depend on the critical services that Medicaid provides for their health, functioning, independence, and wellbeing.

**Please no cuts to Medicaid and no block grants!!**

**Please NOT support the Better Care Reconciliation Act! Do NOT repeal the ACA! Fix the ACA!**

Bonnie Brien & Dan Pisacreta

Hillsborough NJ 08844



Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Charles, Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:08 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey-Better Care Reconciliation Act.

*Hello ☺*

*As a single mom working two jobs to make ends meet, Medicaid Matters to Me and my Family. I also work with people with disabilities and some of the individuals have zero support from families or non at all. Without the support of Medicaid, which helps provide supports services, his/her well-being is in peril. Without the support of Medicaid they will be homeless. Please lets all stand for Medicaid, for the disable, for seniors, for the poor, the middleclass, for everyone that needs a helping hand. Let's be strong in our name: UNITED States!!  
Thank you*

ALLISON CHARLES ☺

*Manager*

*SLP002- Middlesex*

*Alternatives Inc.*

[REDACTED]  
*North Brunswick, New Jersey*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Charles, Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Better Care Reconciliation Act.

**Hello☺**

**As a single mom working two jobs to make ends meet, Medicaid Matters to Me and my Family. I also work with people with disabilities and some of the individuals have zero support from families or non at all. Without the support of Medicaid, which helps provide supports services, his/her well-being is in peril. Without the support of Medicaid they will be homeless. Please lets all stand for Medicaid, for the disable, for seniors, for the poor, the middleclass, for everyone that needs a helping hand. Let's be strong in our name: UNITED States!!**  
**Thank you**

ALLISON CHARLES ☺

**Manager**

*SLP002- Middlesex*

*Alternatives Inc.*

[REDACTED]  
*North Brunswick, New Jersey*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Yvonne Dallam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid in NJ and my infant son

Dear Nicole,

Thank you for compiling these messages. I am aghast at the shift in American values that has moved us from caring about the members of our community to fearing our neighbors. Last October, after being induced at 37 weeks to end a complicated pregnancy and spending almost a full day in labor, my son was delivered by cesarean. At the time of the surgery, I was at risk for kidney failure, experiencing massive fluid retention that threatened to put pressure on my heart and lungs, and experiencing other complications from pre-eclampsia. My son weighed eight pounds and initially seemed perfectly healthy. Then, five minutes into his life he began experiencing breathing problems and was whisked into the NICU. He remained there for fifteen days. My husband owns and runs a small business. I am a freelance artist and educator. We have health insurance through the ACA. We have always had independent insurance and thankfully the ACA ensures that we can continue our coverage affordably without undue financial penalty simply because I had a complicated pregnancy. My beautiful, strong, bow healthy boy gets his insurance through CHIP which is part of the NJ Medicaid program. Without it, we would have had to sell our home and move into an out of town rental in order to afford his NICU bills. We would have had to chose between having a healthy son and having a home to raise him in. Even this places us so far ahead of the many citizens of this country who rely on Medicaid for lifesaving treatment and/or medication. I grew up believing that America was a country that cared for our poorest and our neediest because we could and it was the right thing to do. A healthier citizenry makes for a better country. The healthcare law currently up for vote in congress turns that basic goodness on it's head. This law would rather have my infant son homeless than use our broad tax base to ensure that he made it safely and healthily into this world. This law would saddle him with the burden of expensive health insurance for the rest of his life because of complications during his birth. This law would start him off with a major bill against a lifetime cap on his insurance costs. My son is now healthy, robust, curious, kind, and not even one year old. How can congress even contemplate a law that is so mean spirited towards this infant boy? One that harms him in so many ways before he is even able to speak out against it. We as a country are better than this. I urge all representatives of the state of New Jersey in the House and Senate to think about the innocents like my son which this bill will harm and then to vote against it.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Dallam  
NJ

Yvonne on the Go

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Linda Home [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Cuts in NJ

### To Whom It May Concern:

I am the aging parent of a 44 year-old special needs son who has an intellectual disability as well as a mental health diagnosis for which he needs daily medication. He is a part-time employee at our local library and is able to work only 15 hours a week. He only makes \$8.58 per hour. He relies on Medicaid for many things and the severe cuts to this program that are being considered would prove devastating to his life.

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### If he were to lose Medicaid:

1. He would lose his secondary insurance and his medical care costs would rise. His primary insurance of Medicare does not cover everything.
2. He would lose access to his prescription plan, which currently provides him with no co-pay and essentially no out-of-pocket cost. Without that, his monthly costs would rise dramatically.
3. Most importantly, he would lose eligibility to receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. This provides him a budget which covers costs for transportation to the supermarket, staff to help with cooking and cleaning, staff to help with behavioral issues, transportation and staff accompaniment to special needs activities, and transportation and staff to help him navigate his many doctor visits.

He does receive SSDI and Survivor Benefits, but much of it goes to pay rent for his Section 8 apartment. That expense, along with the cost of food and transportation to/from work, eats up most of his funds. Medicaid is essential to his life; without that his health would suffer as he would likely not be able to afford proper medical care or his prescriptions. Therefore his mental state would deteriorate and, being bipolar, he would likely end up hospitalized. He also needs the stimulation of socialization, and with no way to afford his programs or transportation to them, his behavior would severely decline.

Please, please do not consider this budget action that would cut Medicaid so drastically. There is a population out there that depends on these funds. Block grants are NOT the answer.

Sincerely yours,

Linda M. Home



[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** jorwic@thearc.org.  
**Subject:** protect life line :emergency weekend medicaid matters to me later writing campaign

I am writing this letter to our senators to oppose the proposed medicaid cut under the new health care bill. I live in the state of new jersey and I have two daughters who have cerebral palsy and they need 24 hours care because of their condition. If their programs are cut it will do irreparable damage to their lives and also to us because it will be extremely difficult to take care of them without these medicaid programs. So I urge the senators to say no to this cuts for medicaid programs. This is going to affect millions of people and their lives. I live in south bound brook, nj  
Thank you

**BALAKRISHNAN GOVINDAN**

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Sam & Irene Hansen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:24 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey - please do not cut Medicaid

We have a 39 year old son with Down syndrome. Our son, Paul, lives in an ARC group home and attends a day program run by the ARC Morris. Paul loves his home and his 'job'. Please DO NOT cut Medicaid funding. His physical and mental well-being also depends on Medicaid.

PLEASE - DO NOT cut Medicaid funding to the developmentally disabled. Any cuts will be devastating!!

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## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Kathy Chapin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 6:59 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

This new health bill they are trying to pass is devastating to families that care for their disabled children! Our lives are at times greatly difficult in the challenges we face! So many of the population with disabilities suffer from medical problems! If the families caring for their loved ones do not face enough difficulties already and now this! It is like they are saying Disabilities Lives don't matter! Kinda refers back to the Black Lives Matter! As a mother of a 36 year old Down Syndrome male I know he needs his Medicaid Services! If this cut he loses his DDD services which means his life will suffer tremendously! Please-Please-push-hard-for-our-People! Thank-you-Kathy-Chapin

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Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Beth Eppinger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:44 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** State of NJ

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To whom it may concern,

A vote on the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act will occur very soon. If passed, it would be a great disservice to the elderly and the disabled population.

If anyone's lives have been touched by those of the elderly and/or the disabled, then one should realize that Medicaid can be a lifesaver.

Please vote "no" to save their health, comfort and dignity.

My husband and I are the parents of 2 disabled adult children.

Please do not destroy the funding that is so important and necessary for their quality of life.

Thank you.

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Jennifer Little [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:04 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

Dear Ms Jorwic and Senators,

My mother is on Medicaid and in a nursing home. There she receives compassionate twenty-four hour a day care from trained and skilled staff. She is in a wheelchair, suffers from dementia, cannot eat solid foods and is on oxygen. With Medicaid, we would have to pool limited resources and provide her with limited care. Medicaid is saving her life and ~~allowing her to age with dignity rather than suffer in a subpar environment or create an impossible economic burden on~~ one of her working daughters.

If Medicaid is cut, my mother could lose her nursing home aid. She could be without the vital nursing and medication she needs twenty-four hours a day. Medicaid is not a luxury or a privilege. Healthcare is a human right. It is time for the United States to join the rest of the Western world and make sure people not only have access but can afford that access. Access without affordability is a joke and that is what Trumpcare is. If people can't pay their food or rent bills; HSA's are meaningless. Healthcare is not an Arby's meal away; it is a mortgage payment or two years of a Senator's pay away.

Please vote no on Trumpcare and work towards Medicare for All.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Little

Sent from my iPhone

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Janet McCormick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:49 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey Medicaid

I have two sons with Autism that attend Medicaid funded day programs. In addition, we are hoping soon to transition them to group homes. Our dream is to one day have a break from caring for our 24 and 26 year old sons and give them a chance to live in a home of their own. If Medicaid funding is cut they could lose the stability and structure they need in from their day program. Our family can only survive if they attend day programs. Please don't cut the funding for Medicaid. It is so important for the disabled population who aren't able to fight for what they need. Help us, help them. Thank you.

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Janet McCormick  
Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Tammy Savidge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:50 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** MEDICAID MATTERS - New Jersey

The cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to my son, our family and many others. I am a single mother of a 21 year old male who has autism, epilepsy, anxiety, behaviors, adhd and cognitive, speech, fine motor and gross motor delays. I have sole financial responsibility for my son and work six days a week to provide a living for us both. While he does receive Medicaid now it is not nearly enough to support him. He graduated in June 2017 and currently attends an adult day program. Without funding from Medicaid he would not be able to attend a day program or receive the additional support that he needs on a day to day basis. I would also not be able to work because I would have to stay at home to care for him. What would our next option be? Public assistance/welfare? Probably. Not only would the financial effects be devastating but so would the effect on his mental and emotional health. My son is in a wonderful, supportive day program and he enjoys being there. Please don't take these programs away...many, many lives depend on these programs and supports!

Thank you!

Tammy Parsons Savidge  
Manager  
Dredge Harbor Boat Center LLC

[REDACTED]  
Delran, NJ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"Full Service Marine Facility Since 1939"

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** J Earle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:22 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid and Our Life - New Jersey

### **Medicaid and My Family**

As children and young adults, my husband and I never dreamed that Medicaid would be critical in our futures.

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We both come from educated, solid, middle class families. We both are fortunate to be highly educated. We both have worked all our lives.

In 1990 when our daughter was born, her medical needs became quickly evident. Morgan was born with cortical dysplasia and was repeatedly hospitalized throughout most of her growing years. She is now a wonderful young lady who battles refractory seizures despite several neurosurgical operations, and continuing multiple medications.

As my husband and I age, and work to try to figure out how we will be able to provide for three people in the future rather than just two, we are very, very grateful that Morgan now has Medicaid coverage. The huge amounts of money for her medicines and her frequent trips for health care are finally covered. New Jersey is attempting to transition all disability services to Medicaid, and while that transition is currently fraught with issues, clearly the importance of Medicaid to the future of so many people is daunting. We are totally dismayed by the possibility that our representatives might look to lessen these critical and life saving services for Morgan and others who simply cannot provide for themselves without such supports.

Because many of those in public service and our representatives have such generous and lifelong healthcare packages for themselves and their families, we believe the realities for families like ours are perhaps overlooked, and not carefully considered.

We implore everyone to keep these critical provisions and services in place for children and adults with disabilities, and for all those who truly need this type of assistance.

Jean Earle

1

New Jersey

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ don't cut Medicaid!

Dear representatives,

Please do not cut this poor man's Medicaid which allows him to be in a group home that can address his self injurious and aggressive behavior. It has saved his life and our families.

I am his mother and I am a hard working taxpayer. I want my tax money to pay for social programs that benefit our community, not to build walls, finance wars and subsidize corporations. This is the face of the forgotten. The face of those being told to "pick themselves up by their bootstraps and get a damn job". The face of the "welfare queen who always has their hand out". This is the face of those who are told "I don't want my tax money going to you" this is the face of "healthcare is not a right, it's only for the privileged few"

What kind of society are we if we can't take care of our most innocent?

Shame on the republicans and shame on those who voted for them.

Veronica jurjevic



Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Carole Tonks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey  
**Attachments:** jason medicaid.jpg

Carole Tonks  
Executive Director  
Alliance Center for Independence

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[REDACTED]

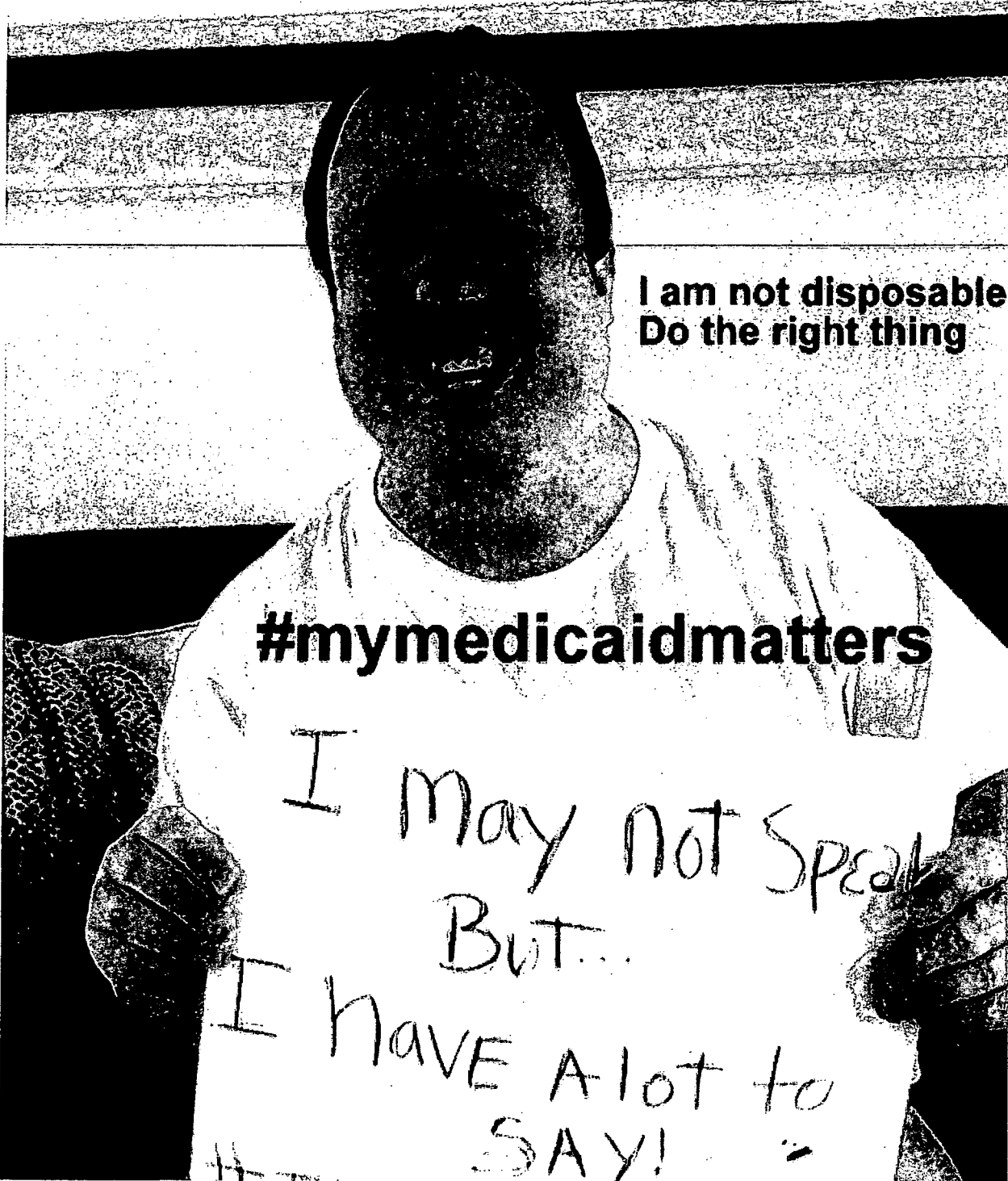
Edison, NJ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

See attached





**I am not disposable  
Do the right thing**

**#mymedicaidmatters**

I May Not Speak  
But...  
I HAVE A lot to  
SAY!

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Isabelle Coccio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:37 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** State of New Jersey

To Whom It May Concern:

Medicaid matters to me and my family. The Proposed Medicaid cut would have a devastating impact on my Adult with IDD, and my family.

My loved one lives in a Group home, attends a Day Program, and needs behavioral supports, along with many other services.

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Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Robert Hage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Why Medicaid Matters to Me and my Family - NJ

Hello Nicole,

Medicaid matters to me and my family because it is the **ONLY** lifeline that allows my daughter Annika and millions of other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have a hopefully future. Annika is 14 years old and has complex medical needs and developmental disabilities. Medicaid pays for therapies in her school such as occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. It also provides her with medical insurance. In the future, Medicaid funded long term supports and services will allow her to live successfully in the community by providing her access to community based housing options, direct support professionals, job training, transportation, therapies and medical insurance. Without a well funded entitlement based Medicaid, Annika's future would be doomed.

Best regards,

Bob Hage  
[REDACTED]



## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Diane Dona [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey needs Medicaid

Hello

My daughter and our family's life has changed dramatically and foundationally due to Medicaid.

Our daughter has not only developmental disabilities, physical disabilities but also fragile health due to intractable epilepsy.

At one point she was having 100 to 200 seizures per day. She was bed ridden and often calling 911 due to uncontrolled prolonged seizures.

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We received private duty nursing that can supply her life saving emergency and daily medications and keep her safe. In addition, we have been able to receive the needed care at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Today, my daughter has graduated from her special education high school and read a speech in front of 200 people. She is seeking either employment or volunteer options in our community. She has just spent this week at the Flemington Food Pantry packing fruit for the needy in our community. The volunteers she works with love her personality, warmth and humor. They have nicknamed her "peaches".

The bottom line is that Medicaid provides for the most needy in our life and in the community so that they can in turn give back to our lives. Many have called my daughter an angel here on earth and without the medical treatment that Medicaid has provided she would not only not be there to cheer others but she may not be here at all. Everyone deserves the opportunity to get to their potential and to make our country the best it can be. Therefore, please provide a continued support for the Medicaid programs that the disabled need. They are a most welcome part of our communities that we all benefit from.

Much appreciation for my tax contribution going to this important element in our government.

Diane Dona

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Lalitha Pisharoty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NEW JERSEY---Vote "NO"

Dear Senators of New Jersey,  
Medicaid matters to me and my family because my loved one lives in a group home in NEW JERSEY.

So dear senators please vote "NO" to the bill.

Thank You,

Very Sincerely,  
Lalitha Pisharoty

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Lalitha Pisharoty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:38 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Senators voting to the new Healthcare bill

Dear Senators of New Jersey,  
Medicaid matters to me and my family because my loved one lives in a group home in New Jersey. So dear Senators please vote NO to the Health care BILL.

Thank You,

Very Sincerely,

Lalitha Pisharoty

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Ed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ -Heathcare bill

7/15/2017

Dear Sir.

My young adult son, Eddie Degeorgis, has been handicapped since birth.

---

He suffers from Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizoaffective Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Mild Intellectual Disability

He is soon to be 40 years old on July 23.

He is on the community care waiver, registered with NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities and goes to a day habitation program.

He has taken the NJCAT assessment . He receives a budget that provides for day habitation, Self Directed Employees to take Eddie out into the community.

His budget allows for a support coordinator that helps create his Individual Service Plan.

Many unfortunate people, like my son Eddie, depend on these budgets to help them exist and have an opportunity to be integrated into the community.

Please do not vote on any bill in the Senate that would reduce these critical benefits, provided by Medicaid.

Respectfully,

Edward J. Degeorgis

[REDACTED]  
Nutley, NJ [REDACTED]



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** MARVIN K. STONE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** new jersey medicaid

Dear Senators

NJ Medicaid is a vital part to the lives of those w/intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Cuts will greatly impede their progress and may well set our country back into the ages when the only option was to institutionalize and hold the mentally challenged in a prison-like environment as if they were criminals.

Let's move forward and not backward. Let's not cut Medicaid benefits for those with disabilities.

Thank you

Connie Stone

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Matters to Me

I am the mother of, and advocate for, medically-complex and fragile children and adults with developmental disabilities. These individuals represent the smallest cohort of the developmentally disabled population in the United States, and have traditionally been given very little choice as to where and how they live. Unable to work, and with their needs requiring maximal caregiver time and expense, they are reliant on Medicaid as their primary or secondary health care insurer.

Families rely on Medicaid to keep their children at home with them, and to provide services such as in-home nursing, ~~durable medical equipment, respite, and other elements of day-to-day living.~~ Without Medicaid, ~~day programs they attend~~ for socialization, learning, and recreation will be in jeopardy.

In fact, families will be unable to continue to take care of these children and adults at home, resulting in out of home placements at developmental centers and nursing homes--all deemed "not in the community" and noncompliant with the CMS HCBS Final Rule. Essentially, cuts to Medicaid will result in elimination of choice for this population--discrimination against one particular subset of the developmentally disabled.

Speaking of the CMS Final Rule, in its original form and intent it was designed to create choice based on individual needs of each person. The entire Rule is predicated on the use of Medicaid funds to allow for choice. Our state's fee-for-service Supports Program is depending on matching Federal Medicaid money to allow for this program. Any cuts will ruin it.

Medicaid means life itself, and choice, and quality of life for the medically complex population with developmental disabilities. That's why Medicaid Matters to Me.

Linda Zani Thomas  
Ringwood, NJ

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:39 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ and Medicaid

Please vote no for cuts to Medicaid! I am a young man with autism and I really need Medicaid for my health insurance. I work, but am not able to work enough to get health insurance from my job.

Thank you!

Patrick Flaherty

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Sent from my iPhone

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** MarySue Flaherty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey and Medicaid

Good morning,

PLEASE do not allow cuts to Medicaid! My son, who is a young man with autism, relies heavily on Medicaid for his health insurance. These cuts will be extremely detrimental to so many people with special needs.

Thank-you!

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MarySue Flaherty  
Voorhees, NJ

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:07 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Ryan Lee - Better Care Reconciliation Act - Somerset County, New Jersey

Dear Senator,

Oh behalf of my 24 year old son Ryan Lee, who is severely disabled due to diagnoses of Spastic Quadrapelagic Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation, I plead with you to **NOT** sign the Better Care Reconciliation Act – Medicaid Program. My son Ryan has significant barriers and he is completely dependent on others for all of his daily living needs. Ryan is non-ambulatory, non verbal, incontinent, has no use of fine motor skills, cannot feed or dress himself, has limited cognitive abilities and experiences siezures. Ryan is completely dependent on others to care for him and requires the services and support curently provided by the Medicaid Program so please, **do not sign** the Better Care Reconciliation Act. Not only is it dire for Ryan’s health, care and quality of life, it’s critical for the well being of his caregivers.

Thank you,  
Timothy Lee

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Linda Sprung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

My 32 year old son has Down Syndrome and heart issues. He depends on Medicaid. His insurance is Medicaid. He is in a wonderful day program sponsored by the Arc of Union County. It is funded by Medicaid. I am very worried about this health care bill! Please don't cut Medicaid and vote against this awful healthcare bill!!!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Diane Woods [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

We have a forty year old daughter with Down Syndrome. She attends a day program that she loves. Medicaid pays for this program. If cuts are made, Kelly

Sent from my iPad

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Julie Wolfe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Keep funding for Medicaid - NEW JERSEY

Dear Senator Booker and Senator Menendez,

I would hope that you know how critical funding for Medicaid is. This new version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act still has devastating cuts to the Medicaid program.

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So many people, including my daughter, rely on these funds to get the care and support she needs to function and succeed in society. It would be archaic to not support those with special needs or other disabilities. In fact, I would hope we did even MORE, not less!

Please think about your constituents you represent, and look closely at this Bill, and look for the best ways to support us. We count on you for that.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

Julie Wolfe  
Rockaway, NJ



**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** B Cerqueira [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:08 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey - Attn\_ Nicole Jorwic

Dear Senators,  
Please vote against the proposed Medicaid cuts.

**Medicaid matters to me and my family!**

I have a developmentally disabled daughter that relies on Medicaid! These cuts will have a devastating impact on everything that supports her from day to day.

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My daughter, Karen has downs syndrome and attends a day program. Karen is learning basic life skills in hope that one day she might be able to work.

If she is able to get a job, a life coach would be the key to her success.

All of the proposed Medicaid cuts would impact my daughter's ability to be successful and live her life to her fullest potential.

Please vote against these cuts.  
Thank you,

Best Regards  
Betty Cerqueira

[REDACTED]  
Whippany, NJ [REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 12:05 AM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

How does Medicaid impact our family's life?

Our 25 year old son has autism. He attends a day program from 9 am to 2 pm every weekday. He has wonderful job coaches who work with him daily. His behaviors can be challenging, and this time every day helps him to focus, be productive, and it gives our family a break. For example, thankfully I am able to work from home while he is in program. Since his program ends at 2, it is practically impossible for me to work full time outside of the home.

---

I don't know what he - and we -would do without this program. He is happy there, and the people who work with him are the salt of the earth, so patient and kind.

He also recently had three hernias repaired and we are grateful for the quality medical care he received thanks to Medicaid.

He has a happy, productive life. Please, I am asking you not to cut Medicaid benefits for those who need it the most, like my son Matt and our family.

Thank you,  
Sue Wynne

[REDACTED]  
Clementon, NJ. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Susan Coll-Guedes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 11:13 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0601.JPG

### WHY MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME

Alex is 16 years old. He has Down syndrome, Autism, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, limited gut motility, has a feeding tube and 16 hours a day of 1:1 nursing care. When Alex was born, his parents were 27 years old, just having bought their first home on new teacher salaries and a lot of student debt. By age 2, Alex's medical bills were too much to handle, even with "good" insurance. Alex's parents were told to get a divorce to qualify for help or give him up to foster care. With the help of their town mayor and a state senator, Alex was placed on a Community Care Waiver for Medicaid and declared to be, at an "Institutional Level of Care." Medicaid has been the lifeline for Alex and his family covering hundreds of thousands of dollars of care over the last 14 years. Alex lives at home with his parents, his 6 year old brother, 3 year old sister, and pet cat. Without his CCW for Medicaid, Alex would not receive the care he needs to live at home, with his family and in the community. He would live in a pediatric nursing facility, and at age 22, would move into an adult nursing home. Changes to Medicaid that include cuts or caps will devastate families who have loved ones with complex medical needs.

--  
Susan Coll-Guedes, M.Ed.

*The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery. - Mark Van Doren*

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Lewis Spring [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 9:47 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid matters to me

Medicaid paid for expensive dental work for mu son. by an excellent dentist. Medicaid is necessary for DDD services which provides help for supportive living for my son. Medicaid provides for all necessary things to improve his quality of life. New Jersey do not permit any cuts in the medicaid program.

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Spring

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** sheila noll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 7:06 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ resident parent of an ARC client

we need to be sure that the cuts to medicare that are being suggested don't happen, our kids have enough problems without having to worry if their medicate protection will be taken away.

thank you  
Sheila Noll  
Somerset, nj

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Nicole Jorwic

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**From:** Lee, Sylvia [TTTUS] [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 6:55 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Ryan Lee - Better Care Reconciliation Act - Somerset County, New Jersey

Dear Senator,

Oh behalf of my 24 year old son Ryan Lee, who is severely disabled due to diagnoses of Spastic Quadrapelgic Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation, I plead with you to **NOT** sign the Better Care Reconciliation Act – Medicaid Program. My son Ryan has significant barriers and he is completely dependent on others for all of his daily living needs. Ryan is non-ambulatory, non verbal, incontinent, has no use of fine motor skills, cannot feed or dress himself, has limited cognitive abilities and experiences siezures. Ryan is completely dependent on others to care for him and requires the services and support curently provided by the Medicaid Program so please, **do not sign** the Better Care Reconciliation Act. Not only is it dire for Ryan’s health, care and quality of life, it’s critical for the well being of his caregivers.

Thank you,

Sylvia Lee

[x] \_\_\_\_\_

[x] \_\_\_\_\_

The Senate is set to vote next week on the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act. The latest revisions to the bill **do NOT change** the devastating cuts to the Medicaid program that over 10 million people with disabilities rely on to live and work in their communities. The time is now to take action and tell your Senators why ***Medicaid Matters to You and Your Family.***

Take a few moments this weekend and write a brief message about how Medicaid impacts your life. Please send those messages in the body of an

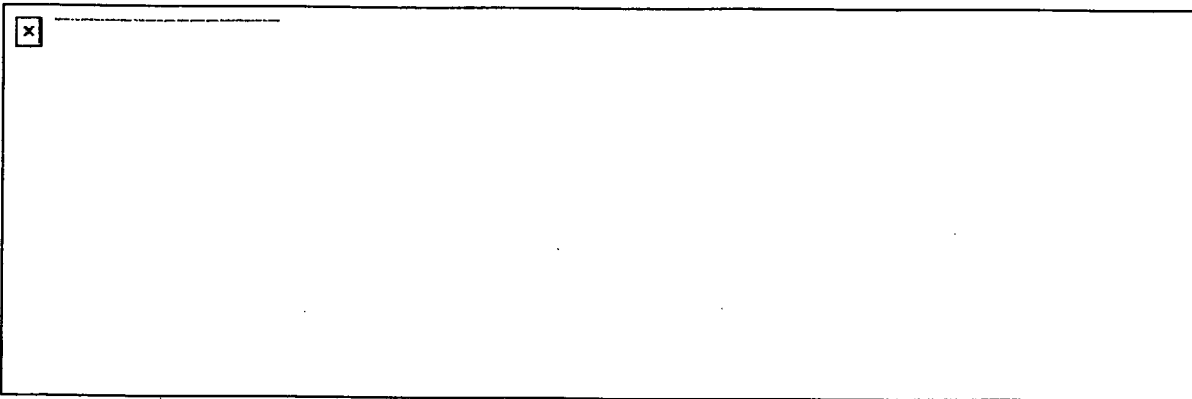
email to Nicole Jorwic at The Arc of the United States: [jorwic@thearc.org](mailto:jorwic@thearc.org).  
**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR STATE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.** The Arc of the United States will hand deliver all the printed messages to the Senators from your states on Monday. So please act this weekend, e-mails must be received by *midnight on Sunday* to be printed.

After you finish your letter, call New Jersey's Senators on Monday and tell them to vote no!

Senator Cory Booker: (973) 639-8700

and

Senator Robert Menendez: (973) 645-3030



**Proposed Medicaid cuts would have a devastating impact on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.** If your loved one:

- lives in a group home
- has the help of a job coach
- attends a day program
- receives respite services or
- behavioral supports

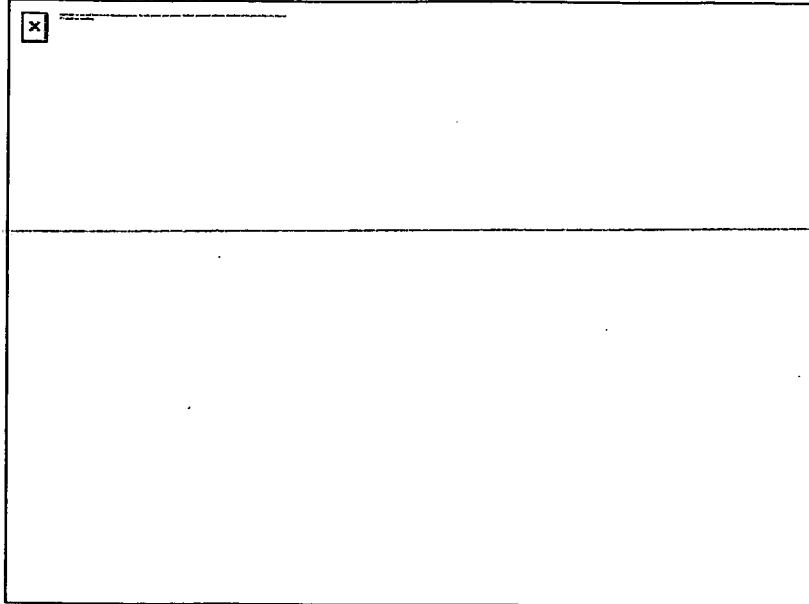
then MEDICAID MATTERS to YOU.

**Did you know that special education is hugely reliant on Medicaid and that it helps pay for therapies (such as OT and PT), equipment and specialized transportation?** If your child depends on those types of supports, then MEDICAID MATTERS to YOU.

These are just a few examples of the many, many things Medicaid makes possible for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That is

why we need your help. Tell your representatives that **MEDICAID MATTERS** to YOU.

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If I could say one thing

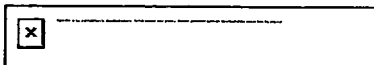
**We appreciate all your calls and advocacy over these past few months and we know we can count on you to keep fighting.**

**For additional information, see [The Arc's fact sheet about Medicaid.](#)**

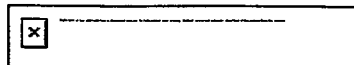
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## **Your Advocacy Tool Belt**

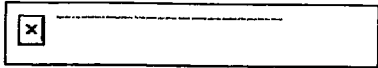
We know that calling your representatives may feel overwhelming. We want to help you feel more comfortable and confident in your advocacy role. Below are some resources to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us [fap@arcnj.org](mailto:fap@arcnj.org).



**Commonly Used  
Legislative Lingo**







**Tips for responding to  
action alerts when  
calling**



**How to Build a  
Relationship with your  
Legislators**



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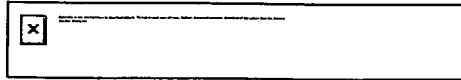
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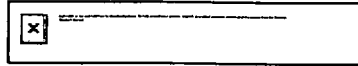


The Arc of New Jersey, 985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Evelyn Schisler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

I am the mother of a son with a developmental disability.. He relies on Medicaid to support him in his group home and day activities. Without these dollars I do not know if his quality of life will be maintained. Please do not pass the current health bill as it stands. It takes away from the most needy in our society. Evelyn Schisler

Sent from my iPad

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Elaine Calvo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 5:23 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey Medicaid

I am writing to ask our state representatives to vote no to any bill that includes taking Medicaid away from or change it. I we as parents of a disabled child have fought so hard over the years to come as far as we have for programs which have enhanced our daughters life. Without Medicaid or the programs it provides would be a high hardship.

Elaine Calvo  
Sent from my iPad

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Genevieve Spielberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

To voting members of Congress, the House and Government. I am the mother of a severely disabled child and I urge you to please not cut medicaid as it will greatly impact our ability to get care for our son which is already a challenge. We work hard and pay our taxes and it is our responsibility to take care of the infirmed and disabled who cannot fend for themselves as my son Justin, who suffers from Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome will never live independently. Please think of him and all those like him who will be impacted if you vote to put this new plan through. Thank you for your consideration.  
Genevieve Spielberg.

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[REDACTED]  
Summit, New Jersey [REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Julie Esch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** NJ: Please save Medicaid!!!

Help!!!

I have a son w autism who Will aging to Medicaid in the next few years. I am still nervous about how to afford his care for a lifetime. Please take Medicaid!

Julie Esch

Sent from my iPhone

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Marvin Elmowitz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid-New Jersey

My disabled son along with 5 other disabled adults living in a group home need and use Medicaid.

Marvin Elmowitz

---

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Daniel Kramer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Medicaid Cuts....New Jersey

My son lives in a group home which is funded by Medicaid. His medical care is provided by Medicaid. He is severely disabled. Without Medicaid, his safety and life would be devastated. If you are going to cut Medicaid, THINK for a minute about the disabled adults which have NOTHING. Medicaid gives them a life. Do you really want to take that away and impair their health and safety?

Daniel Kramer

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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Ginny Vogt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 12:39 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** New Jersey

I'd like to express how important Medicaid is to those with disabilities.

I am a single mom with and adult daughter with autism and her medicaid is what allows her to be healthy, and see a Doctor if she is not.

---

Please continue to keep the system in tact and to push for no reductions in services, because it is all she has.

Respectfully,

Virginia Vogt