NEW YORK

Date: 2017-09-22 10:27:29
To: My Senator
From: Joseph Damiano
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

Hi My name is Joe Damiano, I urge you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill as i am a person with an intellectual disability and this would include cuts to Medcaid. I get services through Allegany Arc which are billed through those programs. These include day hab, community hab etc... I audit classes through Alfred State and Allegany Arc and if you cut funding to these programs it could impact what services i receive. I have medcaid also when i get to 25 and can't be on my parent's health care plan.

Date: 2017-09-22 01:54:39
To: My Senator
From: Margaret Coaxum
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

To whom it may concern,

My name is Margaret Coaxum, parent of an nineteen year old with autism. I am forever grateful that my son has been enrolled in the Medicaid Waiver Program for some time now. However, I am very concerned of the proposed cuts to Medicaid.

In December 2015, before my son turned eighteen, he experienced a seizure. Typically individuals with autism have seizures at an early age, and by adolescent age, seizures can decrease.

Our lives have completely changed after that. My son Elijah was a sweet calm child, and with the adverse effects of his medication, have become aggressive and violent. I am now seeking behavioral and mental health services, which has become very difficult. I wasn't satisfied with the outcome from both psychiatric's consultation. I now have to continue seeking help for my son else where.

I am very happy to say that under Medicaid provisions, there aren't any limitations for my son to obtain psychiatric services. I am afraid that if cuts are made to Medicaid, my chances of finding sufficient help for him will be limited.

Elijah has received many services through Medicaid over the years. The services rendered have helped him in many ways. It would be an devastation to Elijah and many others with disabilities, if cuts are made to Medicaid.

Please consider Elijah's plight and millions of other with disabilities that Medicaid is needed to ensure that their physical, emotional, and mental needs are met.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Coaxum

Date: 2017-09-23 09:43:57
To: My Senator
From: Sara Kelly
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

My 9-year-old son has autism and ADHD. He currently benefits from having the Medicaid HCBS Waiver in multiple ways. He is in a special education classroom, so his school district utilizes his Medicaid to help pay for some of his in-school specialized therapies such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. His Medicaid is currently his secondary health insurance and helps to cover very expensive medication for his ADHD. And when he becomes an adult, it is unlikely he will be able to live independently or earn a livable wage, so Medicaid will be critical in providing him health insurance and other services so that he can live a healthy and happy life, which he deserves as a United States citizen.

Date: 2017-09-22 22:40:34
To: My Senator
From: Mary Bosnack
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

My son is serverly autistic and will require life long help to live in safety. We must take care of those that can't take care of themselves and this should be mumber one in getting funding before anything else, no question.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:18:30
To: My Senator
From: Maggie Hoffman
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

YOUR OPINION: How Medicaid affected us (Star Gazette)

Maggie Hoffman Published 6:26 p.m. ET July 23, 2017

Medicaid costs

Twenty-nine years ago, I gave birth to twins three months prematurely.

Molly and Jake stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for the next 4 ½ months. My then-husband was a carpenter and small business owner, but the cost of the twins' care blew through our lifetime health insurance cap soon after the kids came out of the NICU.

Molly was blind, had grand mal seizures, cerebral palsy, and severe intellectual disability. She needed round-the-clock care from me and skilled nurses. Eventually Molly was unable to digest even tube feedings, and required intravenous feedings at home. Jake needed frequent breathing treatments and critical therapies. When Jake was able to eat by mouth, he had to be fed tiny amounts every two hours. Medicaid allowed me to bring my babies home, instead of condemning them to an institution.

Medicaid was still there for us two and a half years later, when, as a newly single mother of three, I went back to work. Health insurance through my job picked up much of the kids' medical care, but Medicaid paid for essential therapies, and part of Molly's intravenous feeds and home nursing care.

When I lost my job because I was at the hospital with my dying daughter, Medicaid paid Molly's hospital expenses and Jake's care at home, including feeding, physical, speech and occupational therapies.

I remarried, my husband adopted the kids, and our family was covered by his employer-based medical insurance, while Jake continued to receive the Medicaid-funded services that kept him stable.

Jake continues to be challenged by multiple disabilities: a seizure disorder, autism, mild cerebral palsy, and mental illness. He needs constant supervision to be safe, but with Medicaid-funded, direct support services, Jake works four hours a week restocking CDs at a music store. He's a productive member of our community. Jake also receives assistance with shaving, washing up brushing his teeth, and crossing the street safely. Staff help him exercise by walking the dogs.

Jake and 100,000 other New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on a Medicaid Home & Community-Based Service Waiver to support them each to continue to live in their own neighborhood. Jake's medical, dental and psychiatric care — and prescription drugs — are also funded by Medicaid. As a family, we prioritize health coverage, but regardless of how hard parents work, there's no way for any family to pay for this much long-term care.

Understand, these Medicaid benefits are not just for people with developmental disabilities: they also cover people with traumatic brain injuries, physical disabilities, and many seniors who receive care in their home.

In the current climate, these Medicaid funded services are at real risk: the GOP House and Senate health bills have proposed substantial cuts to Medicaid which will land people on the street, in hospital emergency rooms or back in institutions. Our New York Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand are fighting to defeat the Senate bill.

My Representative Tom Reed? His enthusiastic support of the Republican House health bill will devastate the lives of countless Americans who depend on Medicaid for the health and support services they need to continue living in their communities, including Jake.

Maggie Hoffman is an Elmira resident.

Date: 2017-09-22 08:14:53
To: My Senator
From: Beverly Schwartz
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

I have a son, Glenn, who is developmentally disabled and he depends on medicaid for medical insurance. He would not have quality of life without it. Where will he go or how can he afford insurance without this vital part of his life.

I cannot understand why congress would take away the only insurance that takes care of all his health issues. You are taking it away from people who need it the most. All of congress has the best health insurance and you are taking away from the most vulnerable.

Why are you taking away the pre-existing conditions that are a part of the Affordable Care

Act? Are you doing this because this legacy is President Obama's?

This is political and not in the interest of the American people. You pass this and you will reap what you sew next November.

Beverly Schwartz

[redacted]

Horseheads,NY [redacted]

[redacted]

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:26:58
To: My Senator
From: Peter Wright
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

My daughter Megan has autism and limited verbal ability. Medicaid had provided needed speech therapy and home based supports as child

At 24 she is thriving in a supportive apartment and day program

Without it she would regress to self destructive patterns

Medicaid for people with disabilities is a life saver not a luxury

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 18:48:09
To: My Senator
From: joseph gerardi
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

we must make our politicians aware of what medicaid means to those withI/DD--

it appears they have no idea---

check out determined life-joey gerardi on you tube to see how medicaid works

jg sr

The Arc®

Date: 2017-09-21 23:05:10
To: My Senator
From: Marilyn Jaffe-Ruiz
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

Description of importance of Medicaid funding for my brother who had intellectual and developmental disabilities(ID/DD)

Without Medicaid, which funded my brother's residence, medical care, transportation, clothing and recreation, he would not have had any quality of life, or life after he became critically ill.

Medicaid has provided funding for group homes for those with Developmental Disabilities. The current status of development of group homes is at a standstill at a time when funding for the development of residential homes for those with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities is desperately needed. Many adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are living with elderly family members who are no longer able to provide safe care.

Without these safe, secure, loving homes families are ruptured, leaving them in despair, depriving them of hope, and a sense of security that their loved one will be safely cared for when the family is no longer able to. Yes, we generally think of parents as the primary caretakers and loving relatives, and they are, and there are also many sisters and brothers, as I am one, who also share the love, concern, responsibility and fear.

My brother had Down Syndrome, he was socially amazing but intellectually functioned at the level of about a three year old who did not know how to be safe, protect himself, exercise judgment, or do ADL's independently. He lived home with my widowed mother until two weeks before she died of metastatic breast cancer. She wanted to care for him until she practically took her last breath, and she did. Medicaid provided some in home supports temporarily while waiting for a group home placement.

I was Joel's only other relative and guardian. I am married, have had, and have again, breast cancer myself, and was very gainfully employed in my professional roles as a nurse, clinician, nurse/educator, and university administrator as both Dean of the School of Nursing and Provost of the University. Without AHRCNYC funded in large measure by Medicaid, to offer the necessary supports and services I would have had to quit my job, stay home, alter my marriage, and take care of Joel, who I loved very much, but did not think my taking care of him 24/7 would be in his or in my best interest.

As my brother aged he was critically ill twice, requiring lengthy hospitalizations in critical care units. Without Medicare and Medicaid he would not have received the excellent care he did and would have died.

My brother died five years ago at the age of almost 64. He had lived in an AHRCNYC IRA for 18 happy years. When my brother became ill, frailer, and suffering with Alzheimer's disease, he was able to then be cared for in a special ICF, Dickson/Goodman Apts., in Manhattan, again funded by Medicaid for the frail and sick who had ID/DD. The dedication of the staff, their kindness and competence is unparalleled. Families need to know that our loved ones will not be relegated to nursing homes, a very inappropriate place for those who we care for and about. And this illustrates another point; we need special skilled care homes for our population.

And while I am speaking of the dedicated staff, I must ask as well to provide the level of funding necessary that will allow these caring and competent staff to have an adequate salary so that they may have a living wage, live in decent and safe neighborhoods with good schools for their children, and have healthy diets and quality health care.

Medicaid must be maintained, if not increased, funding for residential services, including facilities for those who are aging and frail, medical care, transportation, and salary at appropriate levels for staff, must be at the very highest priority as budget decisions are made. As said so many times, a society is judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable.

Date: 2017-09-21 16:50:53
To: My Senator
From: Donald DeCann
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Our son, John DeCann, has intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.. He is now 39 years old. We were very fortunate 10 years ago to get John into a group residence operated by the Wayne County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children in Newark, NY.

These residences are able to be provided for these individuals only because they receive Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. The support of the house, his "rent" so to speak, is provided by SSI and his clothing, shoes, medical care, dental care and medications are paid for with Medicaid.

John receives other supports from the Wayne ARC such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling.

John also travels daily to the Cobblestone Arts Center in Canandaigua, NY where he participates in art and theater projects and other forms of community enrichment.

Agencies such as the Wayne ARC and Cobblestone Arts Center receive their funding for these services from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) which receives most of its funding through Medicaid.

Our son is unable to work at a job that would provide him a full living. He is unable to live by himself and take care of himself regarding the most basic needs such as cooking and taking his medications. Without the support that comes from SSI and Medicaid we would have been forced to keep John at home.

While we certainly would have done that if we had had to, it would not have been the best life for our son. Living in a fully supported group residence with 3 other men gives him interaction with other people and as much independence as possible. His trips to the Cobblestone Art Center expose him to the arts as well as taking part in theatre performances.

But the biggest reason that it is better for our son to live in a group residence is that his mother and I are not getting any younger. There would come a point where we would no longer be physically able to care for our son if he lived at home. What would become of him then?

Medicaid allows for the inclusion and participation of disabled people in their communities. If we, as Americans, wish to consider ourselves to be a truly enlightened people we MUST recognize our obligation to provide for the welfare of those of our citizens who cannot take care of themselves.

With the cuts from the Graham-Cassidy bill many if not all of these services will either be gone completely or severely curtailed.

Please, vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Don and Pauline DeCann

The Arc®

Date: 2017-09-22 02:10:42
To: My Senator
From: Michelle McCormack
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

Stop bullying

Date: 2017-09-22 14:57:01
To: My Senator
From: Donald Wyckoff
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

I am currently trying to assist a woman with Medicare (Fidelis) She is a 65 year old, unilateral amputee, with only 4 toes on her remaining foot. She is blind in one eye, has severe edema in her legs and has congestive heart failure. In October 2016 I conducted an Architectural Barriers on-site assessment to determine the accessibility needs she may have. After the inspection, it was determined she needed a new ramp, as the one she had was over 25 years old and the grade is much steeper than ANY code allows. In addition, the ramp has zero edge protection and has deteriorated to the point of rot through.

Her bathroom does not meet any requirements for accessibility and is virtually useless to her. The small corner shower has a 5 vertical rise encased in glass; within it sits a bath seat that takes up most of the available maneuvering space which also makes this environment dangerous for a woman with such severe disabilities.

On August 24, 2017 Fidelis denied her the ramp and the shower modifications stating that accommodations such as prosthetics would allow her to use the stairs or the existing (non-compliant) ramp. I remind you she has severe edema due to heart condition, is blind in one eye and yet is expected to traverse this inaccessible environment with limited mobility and severely compromised depth perception.

On the very same day August 24, 2017 and signed by the very SAME reviewer this consumer was APPROVED for an electric wheelchair. WHAT?

Almost 1 full year since the on-site was conducted and she is just now denied an ADA compliant ramp and shower due to (As stated in the denial letter) her ability to overcome her TEMPORARY disability! She is a unilateral amputee...temporary?

It is more common than not to see Medicaid providers stall through unfair denials by seemingly incompetent reviewers. It leaves us to wonder (especially noting the frequency of events) whether it is incompetence or a tactic used by insurance providers in the hopes the person requesting the modifications will give up or quite frankly DIE before their grievance is heard and re-evaluation procedures could rectify this shamefully neglectful practice.

A policy and procedures oversight committee staffed by people with disabilities would be a great start to ensuring a more honest assessment of a persons needs and a more timely dispersement of funds.

The Arc

Date: 2017-09-23 00:18:02
To: My Senator
From: Lisa Krebs Borgen
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

I am a single mom of three children - two of my children with special needs. Brittany is 20 years old, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, she has cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder. My daughter Jessica has Autism. She is non-verbal, ADHD, OCD and behavioral issues. Without the help of Medicaid, I don't know how we would survive.

The services my girls receive have helped them be more independent, learn how to do basic skills that we all take for granted. They are involved in a self-direction program that get them involved in the community and each improvement is a huge milestone for them. As a caregiver, the aide I have makes it possible for me to continue to care for my children at home. The lifting of my daughter, the incontinence, the behavioral issues, the feeding issues, the required night time care-it puts a major toll on me- physically, emotionally and financially. It is the smiles on my daughters' faces that keep me going.

Sadly, I think there is a stereotype of who is the Medicaid recipient. It IS the senior who worked their whole lives and are now in a nursing home. As a parent, in addition to the required care of my children-I work two jobs to keep a roof over my children's heads. Each of these jobs have flexible hours because as a parent of a child with special needs—a 9 to 5 job is not an option. Too many emergencies, meetings and doctor appointments make it impossible.

I am not writing this for sympathy—I am writing because the new healthcare plans that are being proposed are sadly heartless and would be devastating to those with special needs, children and seniors.

Enough of the political parties! Enough of the Obamacare, Trumpcare!! Please We are talking about human beings, we are talking about Americans. These are people's lives you are going to crumble, these are people you are going to kill. Those with special needs and seniors require Medicaid to survive. I urge you to vote NO to these devastating cuts—Medicaid Matters. People Matter.

Date: 2017-09-21 17:22:15
To: My Senator
From: Karen Hoffman
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

I work with people with disabilities to help them become not only more independent in the community, but also to contribute to the community. I was a job coach for 12 years in an employment program funded by Medicaid which helped hundreds of people obtain and maintain paying jobs in their community. In one instance, a young lady had lived at home with her parents into adulthood. Once they passed away she wanted to continue to live in the house they had left to her, but could not do so without working. Due to her disability, she was not able to work without support so applied for Employment Services. I worked with her to get a job cleaning motel rooms and supported her so she could not only learn how to do the job well, but maintain the job. With the Medicaid funded employment services, this young woman was able to afford to keep her parent's home, pay her bills and buy her groceries. This is just one example where the small cost of a Medicaid funded program, saved tax payers money in the long run. The young woman profiled did not need to rely on other assistance programs to live and actually contributed to her community by becoming a tax payer herself.

Date: 2017-09-22 21:05:29
To: My Senator
From: Roslyn Goldmacher
State: New York
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

Medicaid funding allows my developmentally disabled suster Shelley to be a contributing member of society. Through AGRC Nassau, funded by Medicaid, she receives job coaching services so that she can work in competitive employment . She is supported by community habilitation workers to remain independent in the community in her home . They help her with errands ,with physical fitness, with transportation to her job ,with medical appointments , with socialization, etc. Reductions in Medicaid funding would limit Shelley's ability to be an independent contributing member of our society.

From: Linda G Campbell [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: NEW YORK STATE

Medicaid Matters to Me! It is vital to keep this option for people who are in need!!! Don't take it away!

Let's look at all the other health plans of other government workers and officials who are working and retired collapse all the plans together so that the money is ***distributed to ALL*** not a select group who worked in government and why do government workers deserve better benefits than the rest of us!!! You are talking about our lives when we are in need of support!

Make America Great Again by be fair and equal to all!!!

Linda G. Campbell, Director of Marketing and Employment Services
The Arc of Dutchess
8 Industry Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 471-8876 Ext 173
LGCampbell@arcdutchess.org

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Nicole Jorwic

From: Joan Sczerba [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 7:59 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: NEW YORK STATE

MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME!

Joan Sczerba, Transitional Coordinator
The Arc of Dutchess
[redacted]
Poughkeepsie NY, [redacted]
[redacted]

From:	Evelyn Flavin [redacted]
Sent:	Thursday, July 20, 2017 7:53 AM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	NEW YORK STATE

Medicaid matters to me. The supports we provide to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as the elderly and the disadvantaged is vital, literally, to their survival. Our most vulnerable citizens cannot withstand losing the supports they need to live physically and mentally healthy lives.

Evelyn A. Flavin, Executive Secretary
The Arc of Dutchess
[redacted]

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Dutchess
NYSARC, Inc

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CQL
The Council on Quality and Leadership

From: Melanie Brazil [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:29 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York state, Better care reconciliation act

I am writing about the latest revisions to the bill, which 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.

My son has intractable epilepsy and global development delays. He also has an autism diagnosis. Medicaid is crucial for my son's life. Living with a person with serious developmental disabilities and daily seizures is extremely challenging and requires home help every day. In addition, this way of life is extremely challenging for the rest of the family, and the respite that is covered by medicaid is also crucial to the survival of our family.

Please do not take funds from this most vulnerable community. Our special precious people cannot speak for themselves and our politicians should be our partners in helping to protect Medicaid on their behalf.

Thank you for your attention

Melanie Brazil
[redacted]
mother to 9 year old boy with epilepsy, global developmental delays, autism

Nicole Jorwic

From: 1-609 [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: medicaid

Dear Nicole Jorwic Arc of the United States, My name is Trudy Perkins I am the mother of my Son James DelRossi 27 who in 2004 my son had Brain and Spinal cord Cancer .Previous before that my Husband had neck Cancer ,At that time we had our lives changed in an instance .We were told we had to go to NYU Medical Center .Were I lived at Ronald McDonald House for the next 1 1/2 years. I had to go on Medicaid quit my job times were very tight.. Without Medicaid My son would not be alive today .I could never afford the exspensive treatment .And medicine that he takes to survive.I am very afraid that with the new plans Trump is purposing with Healthcare there talking about cutting back medicare and medicaid .I already saw a change when I went to get my sons glasses they used to give a $104.00 now its $19.00 my son has a parcially blind right eye due to the Tumor damaging the eye so he needs special glasses .I had to put out money I couldn't afford .I this helps you understand the impact of having this Insurance .Thank You Trudy Perkins

[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Rozg [redacted]
Sent:	Wednesday, July 19, 2017 6:59 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	NYS Medicaid matters to me

Medicaid funds services for my developmentally disabled twin sister Shelley Goldmacher:
-through supported employment (job coaching) Shelley works part time in competitive employment-contributing to the economy, giving herself a real sense of self-worth ,and constantly improving her skills
- Shelley receives assistance under the community habilitation program where aides help her with daily living skills, self improvement, participation in social , philanthropic and community activities and in other ways help her to remain independent in the community.
Shelley is an independent contributing member of our society due in large part to Medicaid funding.

Sent from my iPhone
Roslyn D. Goldmacher
[redacted]

From: Wendy Silvera [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:29 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York

My brother who is developmentally disabled has recently been diagnosed with Asthma. Before it was under control we had many trips to the ER. Medicaid cuts would be devastating to our family.

Wendy Silvera
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: Cindy Myers [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York State

I am sending this in response to the possibility of Medicaid being cut to those with Developmental Disabilities. This money covers most all of vital health care services. These services allow individuals the best possible way to live a healthy life, both mentally and physically. As a RN working for the ARC of Seneca Cayuga, I have witnessed this for 16 years. Cuts would be devastating, and result in loss of quality of life.

Cindy Myers, RN

Arc of Seneca Cayuga

Cindy Myers

Program Nurse
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Dawn Chasse [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 7:10 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York

Medicaid matters to me.
My name is Dawn Chasse. I am the parent and service provider to may individuals with developmental disabilities. I am writing to ask you to oppose any legislation that would cut or cap Medicaid. Medicaid funds 90% of essential services for people with developmental disabilities. Medicaid cuts or caps would seriously endanger this population.

Please ensure my son, and the many I work with will have access to the excellent quality health services to which they are entitled.

Thank you,
Dawn Chasse
Parent/Behavior Specialist
Arc of Seneca Cayuga
[redacted]
Auburn, NY [redacted]
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Rachel Aloyo [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME

I sincerely hope that Thrump care act does not go through. It is unrealistic, I have two brothers that are mentally disabled and live
with two separate agencies. YAI and AHRC. They will need care for the rest of their lives and unfortunately both my parents are deceased, I am not rich, I am retired
on a fixed income and without Medicaid and Medicare, my brothers lives would be devastated, what would become of them??
As it is these two agencies have already faced cuts, and are understaffed. In order for my brother to go to summer camp (which he
looks forward to all year) I have to pay in order for him to go.
Not to mention people with psychiatric and drug problems. This country will see more homeless than ever, if these treatments
are not available. It will start to look like a third world country.
Please don't allow this senseless bill pass.

Sincerely Rachel Aloyo

From: Cantrell Smith [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York

To whom it may concern

My name is Cantrell Smith and I am requesting that you help save Medicaid for people with disabilities. I'm a mother of a son with autism and my son Nickholas depends on Medicaid for his health care. This new law hurts people who has autism and disabilities. There are definitely others like myself that also depends on Medicaid for their health concerns such as being dietabic or having asthma. We as a family asked that you plead for us in saving Medicaid not just for us but for the millions or thousands that depends on Medicaid. Medicine is not cheap it's really expensive Hell some of the co-pays are definitely sometimes hard for some to pay but with Medicaid those co-pay gets cut down please don't let this law pass. We truly do depend on it. I would like to take this time to thank you for reading my letter and thank you for any help you can provide. My family and I really do appreciate the effort you are definitely going to put into this. Hope you enjoy the rest of your day and stay safe and blessed.

Sincerely,

Cantrell Smith

From:	Sarah Clarke [redacted]
Sent:	Monday, July 17, 2017 6:02 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	New York State

Dear Senator:

Medicaid Matters To Me. As a physician and a parent of two young girls with developmental disabilities I am deeply concerned over any cuts to Medicaid funding. My girls' future care and well-being depends on Medicaid provided services.

Any cuts to Medicare expenditures will have a disastrous effect on the lives and health of all people living with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Sarah Clarke, MD

Nicole Jorwic

From: meenakshi bhuvaneswar [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: medicaid cuts

Dear Senator, I am the parent of a person with a disability , who depends on many of his services , on Medicaid . Like many other adults with disabilities he needs Medicaid for special services including therapy , housing etc . It will be devastating for many disabled people in Nys to lose or have a reduction of these critical services. ' We all hope that you will vote to prevent this from happening.

Thanking you ,
Sincerely
Meena Bhuvan
Queens , ny 11354

From:	Dot Cates [redacted]
Sent:	Monday, July 17, 2017 2:39 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	New York State

Hi There -
This morning I already sent postcards to both my U.S. Senators as well as Senator McConnell on this very issue, as well as putting out a heartfelt plea on social media to urge others to do the same. I am the mom of an amazing little boy with developmental delays. Since he was a baby, he has received critical intervention services in speech, occupational and physical therapy and social skills. Today he is 8 years-old and currently attends the Parkside School where he is in a class with 8 children and two adults. His school is a funded nonpublic, so we receive his tuition from the NYC DOE, but his therapies are in large part supplemented by Medicaid dollars as the school relies on Medicaid for much of its funding and to remain a solvent school that can be socioeconomically diverse.

I am incredibly concerned about the health care bill. In short, this health care bill is truly a disaster. It puts us back in a position where people with preexisting conditions can be discriminated against by insurance companies. It penalizes adults for aging with an age tax. It takes coverage away from the poor, the disabled, and children with delays and disabilities.

For me, perhaps the most significant concern is how it will impact our son, who relies on Medicaid dollars to supplement the therapies he receives at school. The end goal is to get this child to a point as he enters adulthood where he is a productive, contributing member of society. We have every hope that with these intensive services as a child and with the support of his family, we will get there. What will happen if these services are taken away?

To give you a sense of what these kind of therapies cost, a weekly 45 minute session at a sensory gym costs $120 and it is completely out of pocket until we meet our $2,000 insurance deductible, and even then, we only receive 80% coverage. Oliver currently receives OT at school 2x per week, speech 3x per week, and social group 2x per week. There is no way as a family we could afford that. We consider ourselves lucky that we can provide him with the weekly supplement of OT 1x per week. And if this new health care bill becomes law, this coverage might be affected. I mean, global delays are a preexisting condition, right? They have existed since he was in utero. Coverage could be denied for his therapies so the extra cost could become completely out of pocket, even after we meet our deductible.

I know how the health care bill will affect me, how it will affect our family, how it will affect our son. Reducing my son's intervention services in childhood due to the decimation of Medicaid will certainly diminish his potential as an adult. Rather than becoming an independent, productive and contributing member of society, he could eventually become a member of society that relies on ongoing financial support from the government - because the government decided he wasn't worth investing in.

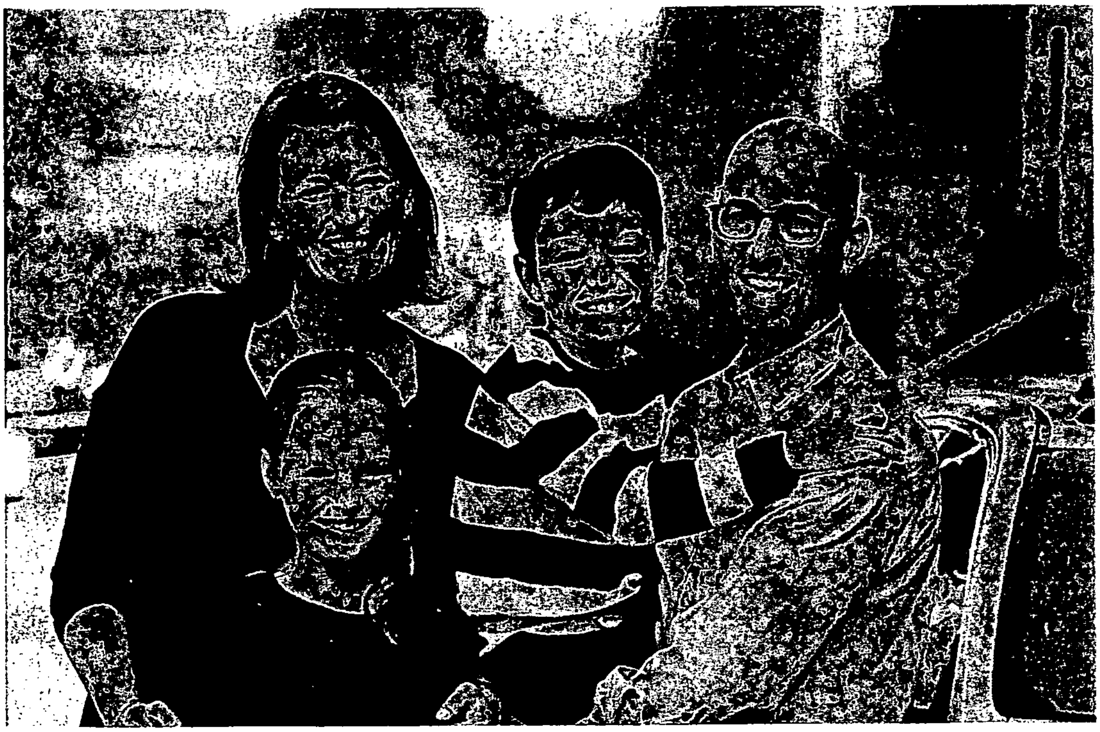
In case you need to see the face of someone who will be deeply harmed by this health care bill, I give you the face of my beautiful boy, and I give you the faces of our family. Please, for his sake, for the sake of all of our kids, please resist this health care bill - please support Medicaid spending, please support my son.

Thanks for reading, and thanks for resisting. My amazing little boy thanks you too.

Best,

Dot Cates

[redacted] Brooklyn, NY 11231



From: Kara Bennett [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: New York Meidcaid Cuts

Please do not cut Medicaid. As a person that has worked in the Human Service Field for 20 years I see what Medicaid means to the families that are supported by the services of the Arc. I started working in sheltered work shops in the 1990s, while going to college. It was a place for people that didn't have the skills to work in the community to obtain a paycheck, socialize with peers, and feel proud of a job well done.
After graduation I worked as an Employment Specialist where I assisted people find jobs in the community. I went to their job site and helped train them beyond their normal on the job training provided by an employer. I also supported them throughout the time they were employed in extended services. With out the additional support most people would not have been successful working in the community.
Currently I work in The Arc's Respite programs. Respite supports families that have children at home. And not just children that are 18 and under. Families are caregivers to people that are adults, with fewer options for residential placements, people with developmental disabilities are living with aging parents, which drives up the need for respite even more. Respite is a service for the caregiver but there are many benefits to the person with the developmental disability. Our respite funding allows people we support to socialize with peers with dances, we go to out to dinner, movies, concerts and produce a full length musical, entirely casted by people with disabilities.
We have come so far in the rights of people with disabilities. Please do not let us go back to the times of institutions where people did not have a voice or could thrive in their communities.
This is what cuts to Medicaid look like,
ending employment programs,
taking away paychecks for people we support,
lack of respite for families,
closing of small human services agencies,
unemployment of many direct support professionals and program facilitators.

Kara Bennett
Community Respite Programs Manager
The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC
, NY
[redacted]

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