
NORTH CAROLINA

Date: 2017-09-23 12:56:16

To: My Senator

From: Courtney Gaskins

State: North Carolina

Email: [REDACTED]



My daughter and i can't loose our Medicaid. I can't afford insurance and my daughter has special needs. She has a speech delay, behaviour problems, adhd, and development behind. I cant afford to see specialists if she needs to see them with out Medicaid. Taking away medicaid will not only hurt me but you will be hurting my daughter the basic health care she needs as well as others

Date: 2017-09-22 10:24:53
To: My Senator
From: Gwen Goodman
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



6529 Ashdale Place

Please do not pass the Graham-cassidy bill, it would make my child with spe mal needs, way of life independence, move backward. We have survived because of the Medicaid and the care it provides for my child. Put yourselves in our place

Do you have a special needs love one. And how would you feel if their services were cut, because of men and women incentives of our children and family members who need these services. Please do not pass this health care plan, please

Date: 2017-09-21 18:17:22
To: My Senator
From: Stacy Staggs
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



Before our twins were born prematurely, my husband and I knew very little about Medicaid or the healthcare system overall. We spent years planning and praying for children. We are both educated, gainfully employed and have spent years paying our taxes in to the system. We thought about government programs like Medicaid only in the abstract.

Then, our world shifted on 9/25/13 when I was diagnosed with severe pre-eclampsia and HELLP syndrome. All three of us were in grave danger that could only be resolved by emergency csection. My husband had to wait outside the OR, only to see his daughter's rushed to the NICU with an abundance of support equipment and wrapped inside ziplock bags for warmth! My life remained in jeopardy for 4 days before I was able to be wheelchaired down to the NICU to see our girls. They were more wires and IVs than babies. At 1lb9oz and 2lbs, their skin translucent, they looked like chickens. I actually gasped in horror and amazement as I could see their tiny hearts churning away inside their chest. Their dire beginning was filled with terror that replaced the joy we had planned. My husband and I scrambled to learn medical terms. We slept fitfully and were frequently roused by alarms at their bedside. We only returned home to shower and change clothes. We were frequent recipients of urgent phone calls causing us to speed back to the hospital.

Fast forward 4 years later. Our girls are joyful, rambunctious toddlers. They are the light of our lives. They still carry signs of their early birth.

After 98 and 110 days in the NICU, 7 combined surgeries, more than 80 visits to the doctors, specialists, ER and hospital admissions, they are here and making progress.

I have no doubt that my children are alive because of the healthcare they continue to receive.

Let me be clear here. We pay over \$18k/year in premiums for employer benefits. Medicaid is secondary insurance that we require to fill innumerable gaps. Emma's nursing, the majority of her respiratory and enteral feed supplies, and half her therapies are covered by Medicaid.

She has an extensive list of medical complexities and is developmentally delayed. She also has immeasurable potential! She deserves her shot to make it in this world. As her parents, and as any parents would, we are compelled to protect her life.

I cannot abide the passage of Cassidy-Graham. Although I would much rather spend precious time with my family, I find myself constantly making a choice to advocate for them. I need my neighbors, fellow citizens and our lawmakers to understand that we all have a duty to protect the millions of children like Emma. I will continue to walk through fire for my girls. You would do the same for your children, wouldn't you?

Date: 2017-09-22 23:33:39
To: My Senator
From: Jamie James
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



I am writing in concerns of the cuts of Medicaid these cuts do not need to be made our kids are already being denied so many services that are needed and can not get any help with everyday living. I feel like there needs to be money added to Medicaid for our kids with Disabilities every time there is always a cut its cut from where it is needed the most. It is time to STOP and take a look at what is being done to our children they are human just as you are, just take a minute and think about this if the government cut your money and insurance back what would happen to you or think about if you didn't have it because right now there are a lot of kids that do not have the services or Medicaid that they need due to the cuts that have been made. so please take in in consideration if this was you or one of your family members that it effects and how much of a stress of living it would put on you well that is already occurring with those 10 million people that none of you consider how their lives will be devastated by. Compare your life with a child's life with DISABILITIES and reconsider what your plans are going to be! THESE CUTS DO NOT NEED TO TAKE PLACE PLEASE STOP IT BEFORE IT IS DONE!

Sincerely,

Jamie James

Date: 2017-09-22 11:06:02
To: My Senator
From: Mary Cook
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



I am asking that you vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Cuts to Medicaid will have devastating effects on the most vulnerable in society, namely the disabled and elderly.

Nine years ago we made plans for our daughter Diane to live in a group home - she can never live on her own. If Medicaid is cut it will have a directly affect her group home.....and the home will be in danger of closing. My husband and I are 86 and 82 and now have to worry about Medicaid being cut and what will happen to Diane. This should not happen in this great United States!

People in government don't seem to care or understand how important Medicaid is to the disabled and elderly. These people cannot take care of themselves and to cut their funds is shameful!

We worry every day of our lives about Diane. To cut Medicaid for the disabled and old people in nursing homes who rely on it is wrong. Shame on President Trump and Congress for wanting to cut Medicaid.

I always remember this saying - "the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way the elderly and disabled are treated". Will the United States be known for abandoning these vulnerable people. I beg you to vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Date: 2017-09-23 17:04:58
To: My Senator
From: Brittney Isphording
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



I worked for the MH, SA, and IDD side of Medicaid for 4 years. I handled 100s of calls over that time and saw so many people receive help through Medicaid they would never have received otherwise. If anything not enough people could get the help they needed because caps were met or there were just not enough IDD care coordinators to go around. Some programs have a waitlist of years! Take away what funding we have now and even more people will be without.

Date: 2017-09-22 00:28:47
To: My Senator
From: Nils Skudra
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



I am a second year graduate student for the Master's Degree in American History at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

I am also a person with Asperger's Syndrome and (mild) hypotonic ataxic cerebral palsy.

I have Medicaid and it is absolutely critical for me since I see a variety of doctors and psychotherapists for my developmental disability as well as physical disability.

I moved to North Carolina from the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue my life-long dream of becoming a Civil War historian. That move cost me \$31,000 -- \$21,000 for the first year of graduate school and over \$10,000 for the move. I can no longer afford to pay out-of-pocket for my medical treatments.

Plenary health care is a right that all American citizens should have and I depend on Medicaid heavily for covering costs related to my continuing medical care.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:16:54
To: My Senator
From: Cheri Novak
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



Here is my son, Ian's story:

Ian was diagnosed as being on the spectrum when he was two years old. He didn't get on the waiver until he was five. Since getting services he has made quantum leaps. He went from someone who barely spoke, had no eye contact with others and had daily tantrums to a very articulate self advocate as well as for others. He volunteers at a local charter school three times a week. He has friends in the community. He may become frustrated but thanks to counseling and the support he has through the waiver he remains in the community making a contribution. Please do not take this lifeline away. If anything expand it so others may benefit. We don't want to go back where folks end up in institutions, homeless or in prison.

Date: 2017-09-23 23:40:55
To: My Senator
From: Mikki Gellen
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



I thank God everyday for the help I get because of Medicaid. I am Michael Newtons Mama. And Michael has been with me since birth, which at the time they told me Michael would be a vegetable and put him in a home and forget him. Michael is a very happy young man and so am I because I am a single Mom and being able to keep Michael at home and work with him and have a very special person, Beth work with him also so I can work another job to help us. I am able to have a home for me and Michael. Michael does not do well with places with yelling or loud noises. He is a very sweet, calm man who loves being close to me and loves his home with his swings, rocking chairs and plenty of room to walk. Michael needs 24/7 care because of his seizures that he has that he could fall over like a tree at anytime. Someone has to be near him at all times. He is also incontinent and need help with his feeding and all his daily needs and hygiene. Medicaid helps us with Michaels many meds for his asthma and seizures. He could not get this care at a group home or institution. There is no way he would get the care and supervision and love he gets at being able to live at home. If they decrease Medicaid I would have no help with Michael and lose the monies to keep our heads above water. It would be devastating. Please> please do not cut Medicaid on this area. The need is overwhelming for other families also.

Please don't take that away from us. I am so grateful for what we have and pray it can continue.

Please.

Sincerely and may God Bless,

Mikki Gellen

Michael Newtons mom
[REDACTED]

Date: 2017-09-21 20:38:01
To: My Senator
From: Pamela Vaden
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



Dear Senators,

In 1983 we made a conscious decision to adopt a child with special needs. He had Medicaid, while in the NICU, and in foster care. Post-adoption, he didn't need Medicaid, until later in life, because he was insured under our insurance (and still has our insurance as his primary, soon Medicare will be his primary and BC/BS 2nd). At that time Medicare will be the tertiary insurer.

With all of the health care debates, rhetoric and angry partisan grandstanding, we seldom here of the unintended consequences to children in foster care. So, here is one: Most children with special needs who are adopted do need the Medicaid that they had as foster children. In the current and possibly worsening health care economy, people who may have considered adopting a child with medical conditions won't do it. Think about that. How many senators have adopted a child with complex medical needs? How many of you will in the future? So, some of you may have raised your hands. Now, would you do it if you didn't have guaranteed health insurance for life? Not all of us can work for a few years and be insured for life. If you are still raising your hand then please adopt now. You have a choice of kids, as there are approximately 500,000 children lingering in foster care. Many of these kids have intensive needs.

At the time that we adopted, we had no clue, that our beautiful baby boy would require 24/7 care at 35 years old. He does and we meet his needs at home with staff, paid for through Medicaid. Without Medicaid services we would not be able to care for him at home. Even with services some days are rough. When we can no longer do this he will be in a nursing home under Medicaid.

Yes, on an annual basis his Medicaid costs are very high. Imagine how high they would be if he did not have our insurance as his primary insurer? Imagine his costs if he did not have a family?

Our story is not that unusual. However, it will be, if families considering a special needs adoption, have fears about how to pay for their the child's medical bills, now and in the future. Additionally, cutting Medicaid, for people like my son, assures that more nursing home beds will be needed. So many family units, like us, struggle through exhaustion, in order to care for a dependent with special needs at home. We do it because we believe in living our family values. Anything to disrupt our ability to do this, such as The Graham-Cassidy Bill is anti-family. Please do not vote for this anti-family bill.

Respectfully,

Pam and Tom Vaden

Proud Parents of ALL of Our Children

Date: 2017-09-21 18:27:38
To: My Senator
From: Bryan Dooley
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



Good afternoon. My name is Bryan Dooley, a proud resident of Lewisville, North Carolina. About 5 minutes northwest of Winston-Salem. I come before you today to express my concerns about the efforts to repeal and/or replace the Affordable Care Act. While I appreciate you keeping several provisions, specifically towards protecting people with pre-existing conditions and removing lifetime caps, I have great consternation towards the proposal to limit the funds toward Medicaid by turning the program through a per capita cap or block grant system.

Since birth, I rely on Medicaid funding to pay most of my medical bills; physical, occupational, and speech therapies; dental work; assistive devices, including the chair I am riding in and the computer I am using to talk to you. One of the most important of all is the services funding my personal assistant.

I graduated summa cum laude from Guilford College with a major in history and a minor in English. This would not have been possible without the help of Medicaid to help fund my personal care assistants, along with a litany of other crucial services for my basic daily tasks.

Since graduation, I have been appointed by former NC Governor Pat McCrory to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am also on the board of Disability Rights of North Carolina. Through these positions, I am improving the lives of my fellow citizens with disabilities. Without Medicaid, I would not be as productive as a leader in my community that I aim to be.

Other civic engagement activities that I am also involved in, with the help of Medicaid, include being on the board of The Adaptables Center for Independent Living, Teaching a local disability advocacy class called DATA (Disability Advocacy Training in Action), and I'm also the social media content provider for a local law firm.

Per capita caps or block granting might sound like a cost-saving measure, but it's been shown to reduce funding to states over time. And ultimately people. People like me. I don't know about you, but I don't like having someone else tell me what I can and cannot do. But, if there is a reduction in Medicaid funding, this college graduate will be told to embrace idle isolation. States will be forced to reduce services, services for me that are a lifeline not to leisure but to meaningful participation -- a bridge for me to my community, to work, to a meaningful life. I much prefer being a productive member of society rather than sitting at home and watching TV.

I sincerely want to thank you for listening to me and my story.

Date: 2017-09-23 09:58:42

To: My Senator

From: Carol Brown

State: North Carolina

Email: [REDACTED]



Our son, Alex, is 23 years old. He has Down Syndrome and has had two surgeries to repair a congenital heart defect. Medicaid has and continues to be an important qualifier for many of the services he receives.

As an infant with a heart defect, he qualified for Children's Special Health Care Services through the state of Michigan. This service enabled his heart surgeries and other health care needs to be covered at the Medicaid rate. Based on our income, we paid into the fund, but the discrepancy between the Medicaid rate and our family's health insurance rate was large enough to make this necessary. As he grew and needed less major health expenses, it did not make financial sense to continue and he was no longer a part of this system.

When Alex turned 18, he again qualified for Medicaid. This qualification was necessary for him to receive Social Security Income, which was necessary to receive services through a Habilitative Waiver via Mid-Michigan Community Mental Health. Also, his Medicaid qualifications led to reduced costs for his county-wide transportation services.

A move to North Carolina led us to reauthorize Alex for Medicaid qualifications, which again was necessary to continue his Social Security Income, which was necessary for him to receive similar community support services. However, because North Carolina did not opt for Medicaid Expansion, he is on a 7 to 10 year waiting list and only receives State supported services (which are not equal).

His Medicaid eligibility was an important factor when he began working in the deli of our local Ingle's Grocery Store. Combined with his training in Michigan schools, he was able to access the services of a job coach through Voc. Rehab. After a matter of weeks, Alex was able to work independently and now has job coaching services for 2 hours a week.

Another benefit of his Medicaid eligibility is access to help with transportation costs to his medical appointments. As he continues to require Cardiology follow up and may soon need another open-heart surgery, his Medicaid coverage is vital. Medicaid also covers his routine physicals and a part of his eye care. Our family does not have vision or dental insurance, so all of those costs are out of pocket.

As you can see, Medicaid is so much more than health insurance. It is the qualifier that leads to many other services that give Alex a good quality of life, meaningful employment and independent community support. As we look to the future, Medicaid and qualifying for Medicaid will help Alex continue his road to independence, where he envisions living in his own home with a roommate, continuing meaningful employment and being a valuable member of his community.

Date: 2017-09-21 21:20:30

To: My Senator

From: Melissa Weir

State: North Carolina

Email: [REDACTED]



My child was born with with a rare genetic disease that caused her to be medically fragile. She did nothing to deserve the hand she was dealt but it could not have been avoided. We had no clue there was even anything "wrong" until she was 3 months old. That diagnosis rocked our world. At age 13, she is currently homebound. My husband and I work....him full time and I work part time so I can take my child to doctors and therapy. We are responsible, hard working, tax paying individuals. And we vote! We have primary insurance with Medicaid as secondary. If we did not have Medicaid, we would live in poverty. We would be buried in medical expenses not to mention that I would be unable to work, as Medicaid is the payor for my child's nursing care since our health insurance doesn't cover private duty nursing. That is the reality of our situation. I understand that the government needs to cut costs. Doing so by cutting Medicaid for children who are chronically ill is not the place to do it. To many children like mine, your decision to cut Medicaid would be a death sentence.

There is a lot of waste that goes on in the government. Certainly, you can find the real source of the problem and cut it there! Dig a little deeper!

Date: 2017-09-22 18:49:55
To: My Senator
From: Sandra Stiles
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



Our son is 42 years old, has Down Syndrome, we rely on his Medicaid for medical necessary things like medication, his tube feeding supplies he does not eat and is totally tube fed. Medicare pays some but Medicaid picks up much of this cost. He has to have special dental, behavior management d/t depression care , he has a low immune system, which places him at high risk, and is on the CAP program which has been a God-send, he has been disabled since birth, we have tried toll always keep him home with us, we r aginging now live on Social Security and we depend on his Medicaid to help pay for his services.... if lost he could not survive..... God help you Senators to do the right thing for all DD special needs citizens of this country vote no to this bill..... we are depending on you to make sure our son keeps his Medicaid HE DESERVES THIS BENEFIT, cannot live without it!!!!!!!

Date: 2017-09-22 22:15:13
To: My Senator
From: Cindy Amerson
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



My son who is now 32 years old receives CAP services through the ARC. These services have allowed him to be at home with the one on one care that he has to have. He is unable to tolerate too much noise or too many other people around him for too long a period ever since he was a child. He is for the most part unable to communicate his feelings. He will have meltdowns and aggressive behaviors when he is overstimulated or is being treated in a way that he does not like. He is unable to relate to me that I feel bad, am sick, or someone mistreated or abused me. I as the parent have to try and figure out what is wrong and how to get him calmed back down. This happened on a daily basis while he attended school and a vocational rehab program. He has been on medication for the last 16 years for his aggressive behaviors. He exited out of school at the age of 21 and I quit my job as a nurse to take care of him at home. He began receiving CAP services which have been a Godsend for him and myself. His bad behaviors have decreased dramatically. We were able to decrease his medication to the lowest possible dose. His quality of life has improved 100%. He is happier, is able to be more independent and has amazed us at some of the things he has accomplished. A good example is tying up a trash bag. That was one of his service goals to master and it took quite a while for him to master but he did. It takes a great deal of patience, care, love, hands on care and modeling but is so worth it. We are so appreciative of the CAP services and don't know what we would do if they were not there for him. My son would regress terribly in an institutional setting and it gives me nightmares to even think about that. It is hard to find quality people to care for those who can not speak for themselves. His behaviors would escalate and that would result in being over sedated. His quality of life would not be good at all. He and anyone else with a developmental disability deserve to be included in our society, They have a lot to offer and we could all learn from them.

I pray you will not cut any Medicaid related CAP services or Medicaid for all those with developmental disabilities. It should be a separate area of Medicaid and not included in the overall Medicaid funding. This is something they were born with and of no choice of their own. We do not have our son home for any reason except that we love him as all parents do their children and want only the best for him. We also want to know that he is happy, safe and secure as all parents do. It is hard to understand what these services really mean to us unless you have a child or loved one with a disability. PLEASE I PRAY DO NOT CUT ANY MEDICAID FOR ALL THOSE WITH DISABILITIES!

I greatly appreciate your time in reading this. My family would be happy to meet anyone interested in seeing firsthand what these services mean to my son and his parents. We would welcome that opportunity. Feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,
Cindy Amerson

Date: 2017-09-21 19:12:55
To: My Senator
From: david taylor jr
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



David Taylor Jr and I just turned 34. I have CP and IDD and I really have multiple disabilities.

I worked for 10 years for NASCAR. I have a Medicaid waiver. I live in my own house in the community.

My waiver cost 1/4 of what it would cost for me to be in an institution.

I live Life in the REAL World! Vote No on this new Gram /Cassidy bill to repeal and replace Obama Care.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:21:13
To: My Senator
From: Allison Layton
State: North Carolina
Email: [REDACTED]



In October 2012, my twin boys were born two months early. They qualified for Medicaid at that time, but I didn't really understand and told the social worker basically, "we have private insurance, but thanks!". I didn't understand Medicaid because I'd never needed to.

My husband and I both work full time jobs. Our jobs are stable and decent paying. These jobs put us in the middle class where we live. We have twin boys who are almost four years old, and one, Ian, has cerebral palsy.

Due to the fact that we both work and receive decent compensation, my son does not qualify for SSI or Medicaid. Because of this, we often have to ask for help financially from our families. As a 34 year old, I can assure you, it is both humbling and humiliating.

In March of 2017, however, Ian's CAP-C application was approved. What this means is that our son meets an institutional level of care. Cognitively he is typically developing, but he needs assistance with most things. He cannot sit, stand, walk, write, dress, bathe, toilet, or even get comfortable in bed by himself. If he were not at home with us; if we weren't able to care for him at home, he would most likely end up in an institution. The CAP-C waiver program helps us keep our son with us and in the community.

What CAP-C also does is give him access to Medicaid. This means incredible things for my son and our family, because here is our reality: we pay close to \$15,000 a year in insurance premiums. Add on top of that the fact that Ian meets his deductible every year so there's another \$3500. Add on top of that the out of pocket cost for equipment (walkers, standers, wheelchairs), each one running in the thousands of dollars. Add on top of that the medication and the diapers and the money we spend trying to find things to make his daily life easier, more enjoyable, and to give him some degree of independence. I'm not that great at math, but that adds up.

Having Medicaid as a secondary insurer is life changing to a family like ours. Medicaid covers diapers. Medicaid gives us the opportunity to pursue additional physical therapy - and that's important because the more independent Ian becomes, he will depend less and less on government services and programs in the future. Medicaid covers what insurance doesn't on surgical procedures he has every 6 months, serial Casting, orthotics, prescriptions, visits to specialists, and equipment. In other words, Medicaid helps us get by. Medicaid helps my son obtain needed services we can't afford because of private insurance costs.

My hope is that you hear your constituents, that you SEE us. SEE the faces of Medicaid and understand that they might not fit the stereotype you have in your mind.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nicole Jorwic
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:35 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: North Carolina

Nils ValdisVytautas Skudra

[REDACTED]

I am a graduate student (beginning my second year this fall) at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro for the Master's Degree in American History, specialization: Civil War/Reconstruction Era.

I have Asperger's Syndrome and mild hypotonic ataxic cerebral palsy.

I also have Medicaid.

I rely on it to secure essential medical services. This includes having services at my primary doctor's office, gastroenterologist's office, and dentist's office.

Medicaid is critical for me.

Javier Chaires

[REDACTED]

I'm only two years old, but Medicaid has already saved my life and my family's financial future. My cardiologist, pulmonologist, nephrologist, endocrinologist, and all of my doctors and therapists agree that I'm worth it! I hope that @ThomTillis and @RichardPBurr think so too!



Robyn Dorton

[REDACTED]

I'm going to be 39 in just a few months. I have seizures and always will have them. I had since I was 1 month. There are other factors to consider of me as well. If you were to cut Medicaid I wouldn't be able to pay for my medicine which cost so much. Each of my meds that I take cost around \$200-\$900. For someone who is on a budget from month to month. Don't got that type

Nicole Jorwic

From: Laura Beam [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:03 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Health Care Bill

MY daughter is 40 years old, she is in the CAP program which is an alternative to institutions. There are no places to place her. I am 68 years old. If I die what happens to her, what happens if the home health care aids that will no longer show up at her home, she will be alone and cannot MOVE, not any part of her body but her mouth. Her eyes will sometimes follow you, some would say she is already dead, not true. That is up to God. I love it in the middle of the night ,although I am tired, I work FULL time, she is sober, from all the drugs that have worn off, and we " talk" about how much I miss her, and she misses me. she is My daughter just as Ivanka is Trumps daughter. you will not be tall, thin, rich and beautiful in heaven, we will have new bodies, your body is a shell for your soul, Have a soul and vote no, my daughter cannot be alone, you have closed all the alternatives, you guys make me sick. I have paid taxes and paid my way, all my life, all her life, her dad just died at 70. She only has me. Laura Beam 828 652 5424 or 659 7122 after 6 when I get home. I WILL TELL YOU SOME MORE ABOUT MY VERY STRESSFUL LIFE.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kim Feller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 8:16 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: North Carolina

Both of my sons have autism and are supported by a Medicaid waiver program which covers medical, therapeutic, and home/community services. My sons could not lead functional lives without these services because they require specialized assistance in every day life skills. They will continue to need support as they become adults. These services are critical to my sons' ability to be contributing members of society and to lead independent lives.

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: maryann glynn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: North Carolina

Dear Nicole Jorwic,

I am writing on behalf of my 39 yr. old son Tommy Glynn who is incapable of writing due to his disability. My son was born with Down Syndrome and has never learned to read nor write. His speech is very limited and not able to understand. He has medical issues as well. He needs Medicaid-so he can continue getting community services and medical services he presently receives. Please take into consideration all the handicapped population that relay on Medicaid. Thank you.
Maryann

Nicole Jorwic

From: Roxann Colwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:40 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: MEDICAID MATTERS TO OUR FAMILY

I have a 33 year old daughter with Down Syndrome who lives in the mountains of Asheville, NC and is able to live independently in her own apartment. A majority of her independence is available to her because she receives supports in the form of direct support professionals who assist her with healthy shopping, banking, getting her to appts. and getting her to the gym to stay in good health. Without Medicaid funds her quality of life would change for the worst as she is so proud of all that she can do without her mom and dad's help.
Please don't cut Medicaid!!!!

Roxann Colwell

[REDACTED]
Weaverville, NC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Dave Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:30 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: the Better Care Reconciliation Act

We have a daughter that is developmentally disabled and living in a group home in Greensboro, NC. We keep reading about 750 million dollars being cut from the Medicaid program that will affect millions of people like Diane who can't take care of themselves.....how can you Senators be so heartless? We are in our 80's and worry about our daughter every day – we hope things will get better, instead they get worse and we worry more. These cuts will affect Diane's group home and day program. Surely you can find another way. ~~Also, we watch what is happening in Washington and government just isn't working – and people are getting mad.~~ Instead of Congress working together, you tear each other apart. Shame on you!

There is a saying that goes this way – “the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way the elderly and disabled are treated”. Doesn't say much for the United States of America if cuts are made for these people.

Mary and Dave Cook

Nicole Jorwic

From: cherie morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:09 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: NC

I am the parent and primary caregiver of an adult disabled son.Ivory relies on medicaid to pay for life saving medications and services.Cuts to this program will be devastating I wouldn't be able to care for Ivory.
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Nicole Jorwic

From: Lisa Cummings [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 10:50 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: North Carolina

I am writing today to voice my opposition in the proposed cuts to medicaid. I am the parent and full time caregiver to my 28 year old daughter who is severely affected by the disease Tuberos Sclerosis. With this diagnosis also comes autism and epilepsy. Deborah has grandmal seizures which require medical tests and medication that is paid for by medicaid. She has to have yearly brain scans, kidney scans, therapies, neurology appts and routine Dr. visits to monitor tumor growths related to her Tuberos Sclerosis. Her heart is affected so she is on both seizure and heart medication paid for by medicaid. I am paid to be her caregiver and i thank god for that because i only trust myself to care for her since she is limited verbally and medically fragile. I implore you to please do not support these medicaid cuts. I would never chose to have a sick child but Medicaid is the only affordable solution for someone in our situation.

Thank You,
Mrs. Lisa Cummings
Parkton, NC

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nellie Galindo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:27 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: NORTH CAROLINA - My Medicaid Story

*For the Emergency Weekend Medicaid Matters to Me Letter Writing Campaign:

Dear Senator,

I am a public health social worker living in Durham, North Carolina. I have worked with the disability community in some way, shape, or form for the past 5 years of my life. I am asking you to please vote NO on the Better Care Reconciliation Act. I ask this because the bill continues to cut billions of dollars out of the Medicaid program, which will have a direct and devastating impact on people with disabilities and seniors.

I am also asking you to NOT repeal the Affordable Care Act, but to instead apply amendments to the act that will help fix some of the problems you have seen in the law.

While I don't reap the benefits of Medicaid directly, I have seen time and time again how it has helped Americans with disabilities participate in community life. This includes helping people with disabilities find and maintain employment through things like supported employment and personal care services. Keeping people with disabilities out of institutions, in the community, and in competitive employment (all made possible through programs like Medicaid), helps the economy.

Currently I work for a for-profit company that provides online training for health and human service providers. Many of these providers are Medicaid-billing, including direct services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If these individuals lose their Medicaid benefits, it directly impacts the organizations my company serves. If they are concerned about their budgets and their reimbursements, they are less likely to purchase the training products my company makes. Therefore, the proposed cuts to Medicaid are not only hurting people with disabilities and disability service providers, they are also hurting companies like the one I work for. We are all connected, and at the end of the day, Medicaid is helping the business community, not hurting it. Medicaid creates jobs, and affects the business community in ways that I fear most representatives have not taking into consideration.

Please consider the business community, the economy, and (most importantly) the individuals who depend on Medicaid services to live independently. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nellie Galindo

Durham, North Carolina (native of Glendale, Arizona)
[REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Phyllis Marshall-Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Letter for Senator Richard Burr, NC

I am the mother of a special needs son. Jack Rice is 19 and has Down syndrome. I am an educated professional. My husband and I both work and have good jobs. We are also Registered Republicans. I cannot support this healthcare bill. My son Jack is one of the lucky ones – he has 2 parents that care enough to do all that they can for him. He has a CAP slot and receives roughly \$54K of services and has Medicaid. My husband and I make up the difference. ~~Even as parents with "means" cutting his programs and services would cost us~~ tens of thousands of dollars we don't have. I have gone back and forth over the years, debating on quitting my job to care for Jack, but we couldn't afford to do without my income. Getting the CAP slot was a miracle for us. It was only after Jack became severely delayed that our income became less of a concern. He would be higher functioning if we had gotten help sooner!

If we are struggling, I can't even imagine what other parents in similar circumstances are doing. At 18, I had to pay \$150 to keep my son (filing fee at the courthouse for incompetence hearing, sheriff to serve him papers). If I did not love my son SO much, it would have been very easy for me to say "so long". As a ward of the state, he would need around the clock supervision and care. If you "save" yourself his CAP fee and Medicaid supplement (it's only used after our primary insurance), that might be \$75K or less. If I relinquish my rights, my guess is you'd be looking at \$250K to \$500K a year.

Community-based support is key in keeping our children and adults with disabilities in their homes and with their families as well as at a lower cost. Lack of Medicaid services would leave one of our most vulnerable populations out on the street. Community-based support is a win/win for everyone. Shifting money and responsibility from federal government to states is a joke and we all know it. Fund these programs and work on a bipartisan solution that doesn't penalize and devastate special needs persons, as well as the elderly. And while you're at it, come up with a plan that you would use. If it's not good enough for you, it shouldn't be good enough for your constituents. I have an elderly mother and a 21 year old son that will also be affected by your decisions.

If this healthcare bill can't be a bill that doesn't take away these vital services, you'll manage to do what no politician has ever been able to do – change me to voting democrat for the rest of my life. I have never missed an election by the way – it's my duty and honor to vote. It needs to be your duty and honor not to let the most vulnerable in our society down.

Phyllis Marshall-Rice
[REDACTED]

Clemmons, NC [REDACTED]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kathryn Lariviere [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me - North Carolina

Medicaid Matters to Me

Last evening, we had a representative from Partners Behavioral Health Management, our local Managed Care Organization, conduct a SIS assessment on my 12-year old son Cam. A Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is defined as "a unique, scientific assessment tool specifically designed to measure the level of practical supports required by people with intellectual disabilities to lead normal, independent, and quality lives in society".

What does that mean? It means that it's an opportunity for parents and other support people for a child with intellectual disabilities to be asked a series of questions about how well your child thrives in the community, at home with personal care, and at school. It's designed to help the assessor create a picture of what supports are needed by that individual.

In my case, it was also an opportunity to brutally face a long list of things that a typically developing 12-year old should be doing – that my son with Down syndrome is not doing. It hurt my heart. It was even harder because Cam was nearby for much of the discussion and my intelligent son absorbs everything that is said around him like a sponge. Cam also heard the long list of tasks that he's not yet performing without assistance – and he understands what he hasn't yet achieved.

I say "yet" because there is no reason to believe that Cam won't one day be functioning in the community, achieving every home personal care goal, and mastering school tasks – as independently as possible, with supports when needed.

As if it isn't difficult enough as a parent of a child with an intellectual disability to go through that SIS, after it was completed, I faced a heart-wrenching question. Who is going to teach Cam those tasks and provide that support?

Of course, my husband, daughters and I all work on goals with Cam. We have extended family and great friends also very dedicated to helping Cam achieve his full potential. And we benefit from programs and services provided by the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte. We are also fortunate to have some hours provided by the North Carolina Innovations Waiver to have support staff work on community and home care goals, although those hours were drastically reduced this year.

Out of this list – that is full of an incredible village for Cam – the Innovations support staff is the one who has been trained and is most focused on the constant reinforcement and exposure that Cam needs in order to master tasks. Neither my husband or I can afford to quit our full time jobs to provide Cam with the support that he needs. And neither of us has the knowledge or training to provide the teaching and support that will enable Cam to be as independent as possible.

So, what happens when the Medicaid budget is cut, first by the federal government and then eventually by the state? What happens to Cam's dream of being independent when there is no budget to hire the support staff to first teach him and then provide assistance when needed? Do you think my intelligent young man wants to stay home with Mommy and Daddy forever? (Does *any* 12-year old boy want to live with Mommy and Daddy forever?) Do you think that Cam wants to live in an institutional setting?

#SaveMedicaid #NoCutsNoCaps

Medicaid matters to me. And more importantly, Medicaid is essential to Cam.

- *Kathryn Lariviere*

Nicole Jorwic

From: Barbara Abbott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 1:35 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid Matters to Me and my Family in North Carolina

I want to be certain that my representatives in Washington DC know without a doubt that Medicaid matters to me and my family!

The Health Care Bill under consideration is going to be very bad for us. I am 72 years of age and my 52 year old son is a disabled adult and depends on Medicaid for his housing in an ICM-MR group home, for his health care and overall well being. Having those services is essential and has made it possible for me to work full time and thus be a productive, tax-paying, voting Citizen.

Please vote against the Health Care Bill and the devastating effects it will bring to so many elderly and disabled Americans.

Barbara Abbott
Cary, NC
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kerry Levin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Cc: Kerry Levin; Alice Weldon
Subject: Vote NO on the Senate's BRCA

North Carolina Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis,

Next week will be another important week for the United States healthcare especially for those who need Medicaid to survive. My developmentally disabled 45 year old daughter is one of those that depend on Medicaid to live a mostly independent life and to have the health insurance necessary to support her independence. If she lost her Medicaid support, she might be relegated to an institution. Everyone has worked hard to help the developmentally disabled to live as normal a life as possible and many have been able to move out of warehoused institutions to either group homes or supported living. They are much better off than they were before. Medicaid also helped my father-in-law to stay in a nursing home when he had terminal cancer. Without Medicaid he couldn't afford to stay in a nursing home and we weren't capable of caring for him. A majority of the elderly require Medicaid to be able to stay in a nursing home to get the medical care they

need. What would happen to them if there was no Medicaid. It is unthinkable to imagine their fate.

Please vote NO on the Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act. Not only will the developmentally disabled population and the elderly be hurt by this bill, but millions of others will not be able to afford adequate health care insurance and be forced to use emergency rooms as their prime medical resource. Which will tax our hospitals to the breaking point.

Thanks for listening.

Kerry Levin (a North Carolina resident)

Kerry Levin

Asheville, NC