TEXAS

Date: 2017-09-21 23:48:59
To: My Senator
From: Jill Bradshaw
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My daughter Elise is 4. She was born with a rare genetic condition, Charge syndrome. She is Deafblind with multiple disabilities, but incredibly smart and says she wants to be a vetrinarian when she grows.

Nobody in our family had ever had any major health issues up until Elise was born. We had never had any issues with private medical until she was born. We had what I considered good insurance. In the 1st months of Elise's life we learned what exclusions were- 3 different things she needed were excluded from my insurance policy.

Not long after that we had to make a huge family decision that we would pursue a surgery to help Elise over the course of her lifetime, even if it would put our family in debt so early on. We made similar choices her 1st 3 years of life because we knew we needed to make these investments in her early because over the course of her lifetime.

Then when Elise was 3, her name came up on a Medicaid waiver list, and it was a huge relief to our family to no longer being continuously going into debt every year trying to get her the care and therapy she needed.

Now, this proposed legislation not only concerns me for my daughter's future, knowing that she may never be able to find or afford a medical plan that allows her to grow and thrive due to her pre existing condition. But it also concerns me for all of the families out there that get told no and feel helpless to provide what they know their child needs or have to make choices to institutionalize their children because they can no longer care for them, when the outcomes for children are so much better when they are loved and cared for at home.

We are optimistic that our daughter, with the right early intervention during childhood, can have a strong foundation to some day contribute in society, however without a path to healthcare that considers her and other medically dependent children.

If health insurance I have been enrolled in my whole life really did just "insure" that when I had a daughter with a rare and complex health challenges that she got the medical coverage she needs, then we know we have a working system. Anything less is something our nation shouldn't settle for. And my concern is at this point that everything being proposed actually is moving in the wrong direction.

Please take the time to fix the issues with healthcare and not push through legislation that is actually very harmful to the citizens who can't speak up for themselves.

Date: 2017-09-22 09:57:53
To: My Senator
From: Margaret Jackson
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz,

I agree that the ACA must be revised or done away with. But including Medicaid cuts in this bill will affect the 10 million people with disabilities who live and work in our communities.

How can you who have not been out in the field decide which part of Medicaid to reduce.

For the person with a disability with a contributing job, transportation needs should continue. If clinical home therapy is improving quality and ability, reducing it results in regression, a greater drain on the taxpayer pocketbook. We may be hard pressed to find home therapy agencies still operating. Recent cuts have reduced pay and affected travel ability. Years of schooling and dedication for what. Some agencies closed, and therapists have left the field, as they can no longer make a living. It is not an easy life. Therapist must change course on the fly, work through mishaps with the consumer, while fielding questions from the family.

Also please consider carefully what cutting aide and attendant hours will do. In this urban society there is often no family support. So taking away the attendant help means that now the parent who is currently working and is a contributing taxpayer, may have to quit to stay home. Which means taxpayers will be supporting not only the person with a disability, but are also now supporting the parent who had no other care options.

I now want to speak to my personal journey. As 60+ citizens and taxpayers, my husband and I know everything from Military to Medicare needs review, but these proposed cuts are drastic.

Putting home therapists out of business is a real possibility, and not for the public good.

I grew up with the "institutional model", only vaguely aware of children or adults who were "different". A few, if high functioning, lived at home. Some lived on the grandparent's farm. But many lived in institutions, supported by tax dollars, with only basic care. For someone with ample funds, there was home care after an accident or stroke, and therapy, albeit controversial. Few thought of extending even basic therapy to the institutions. Sister Kenny polio treatments opened a lot of eyes, and my brother was a fortunate recipient. But it took years to realize that many mental or physical handicaps could be addressed with physical and mental patterning. The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential, founded 1955 is a testament to that. I was an MBI kid, and because of the "Patterning" program they brought to Texas during my college years, (1969-71) my problem was eradicated.

The big change came in Nov1981, when President Reagan asked "By what sense do we have a regulation in government that says we'll pay $6,000 a month to keep someone in a hospital that we believe would be better off at home, but the family cannot afford one-sixth that amount to keep them at home?" Thus the Katie Beckett Law opened up home care for children and saved tax dollars at the same time.

In 2001, Our grandson was 15 month old when the Global Brain Anoxia happened. In his journey he has seen ICUs, in-hospital therapy, other in-house therapy, campus outpatient therapy, educational therapy at school, clinical home therapy. From bed to kit cart to wheelchair to walker to walking alone with the aid of AFO's. He went from home care to school care, then to a class where he is mainstreamed for some activities. Home is where he learned to be empowered most. Being non-verbal, clinical (home) ST is invaluable. Using his AAC device, he lets needs be known, asks questions, greets visitors, expresses feelings, orders dinner, types school spelling words, sings along with programmed songs, tells programmed jokes, which he find hilarious. PT and OT skills include bathing, finding and fixing a snack, playing basic games, strengthening muscles, balancing, and much more. And because of home PT, he no longer needs a side walker at horse therapy, a goal he is most proud of.

He has also experienced the need for more home care in 2008 he was deemed medically fragile while enduring Chemo for stage 4 Ewing Sarcoma Bone Cancer.

In one generation we have moved from rural to urban . We learned know that "aging in place" is more cost effective. And more special needs people of all ages are a part of the landscape. I am constantly amazed at the technology and therapy skills now available. My grandson is fortunate. Please help him maintain a dignified lifestyle, and not lose ground by losing the therapy that benefits teachers, parents, and society.

I also ask that if you really want to reduce care but still protect our citizens, that you withdraw federal and state support from non-citizens, as legally there is no reason why U.S. taxpayers should continue to support them. This is a serious consideration, based only on logic. Can we, the taxpayer, support non-citizens as we have, and still give the support needed to our Special Needs Nationwide Community. Of course not. If the non-citizen is LTC,(long term care), and or medically fragile, then inform their governments, so they can be supported by them, as we are supporting our own.

Sincerely,

Roy and Margaret E (Peggy) Jackson

[redacted]

Dallas TX [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Date: 2017-09-22 20:14:51
To: My Senator
From: Rosanna Armendariz
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My 9 year old son with autism depends on Medicaid for his therapies and doctor visits. He has significant developmental delays and will most likely need support throughout his life and after I've passed away. If Medicaid is decimated what happens to people like my son who can't care for themselves? Does America become a heartless nation that leaves the disabled to die?

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 11:44:06
To: My Senator
From: Cecilia Navarro Tanner
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My son, Nathan Tanner, is 28 years old but functions more like a 2 year old. He needs help with all is daily activities like bathing, shaving, cooking and laundry. Nathan has autism and can't speak, read or write but he is a loving human being who deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

He needs Medicaid to be cared for at home and in the community. Please don't destroy the decades of bipartisan support that has built up this support for our most vulnerable citizens. What does America stand for if not caring for those who can't care for themselves.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:42:10
To: My Senator
From: Isela Ramos
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

I am an enrollment broker with Texas Medicaid and help families enroll with a medical plans; in my 18 yrs. of assisting families and doing home visits to help these families, I have found that most Medicaid clients are single WORKING mothers, and families in the poverty level that need medical attention.

This reduction of funds to Medicaid would affect the most defenseless population of our society. Children and adults with disability under medicaid would be in danger of losing their life-giving medical services.

As a nation we must care for this population no matter what political view we may have, and it becomes a matter of life or death for some families if this reduction is approved.

Date: 2017-09-22 10:49:15
To: My Senator
From: MARISELA RUIZ
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

Hello my name is Marisela Ruiz,

I have a 34 year old daughter with Autism. She was born like this, so of course this is a pre-existing disability. She didn't choose to be born this way, rather this was the Lord's will. And that's how most pre-existing disabilities are.

I plead with our government not to do away with Medicaid, our disabled need and count on it.

Not only for medical health but to provide agencies that help our disabled to live a productive and some what normal life.

Without Medicaid our disabled will not be able to afford medical bills or pay for Day Hap Agencies to provide their most basic living amenities. Most "normal" people that have regular insurance have regular jobs. Some of our Disabled not only are not able to work because of their disabilities but are not hired to work because companies do not want to take the time to train and see the disabled a non-productive employee because they do not work as efficient or as fast as a "regular" employees. Yes, it is against the law to discriminate because you are disabled but companies still do it, in a very diplomatic way, but they still do it.

So I urge our government to REALLY analyze what is at stake here, put yourselves in their situation and THINK before you start doing any kind of cuts that will affect the lives of millions of disabled persons.

THE DISABLED IS ONCE AGAIN BEING KICKED BELOW THE BELT.

Date: 2017-09-24 09:50:00
To: My Senator
From: Blanca Serrano
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc®

I am a widow of a Gulf War veteran with a disabled adult son. Medicaid has been the cornerstone for my son's mental health treatment, especially when his Dad passed away. Medicaid provided him with so much needed mental health and by attending a daily place where he learns how to integrate to the community with his disabilities. Please keep Medicaid intact.

Date: 2017-09-22 02:47:08
To: My Senator
From: Martha Moyer
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

Physical address [redacted] Elmendorf, Texas [redacted]

I have a son who is age 44 with IDD, autism, OCD, Bi-polar, intermittent explosive disorder, and paralyzed bowels due to institutional neglect. I have been a pioneer in Texas and he was probably the first to receive the Home and Community Based Funding after he left an institution. He depends on Medicaid for his treatment,behavior therapy, and home host.. He has an LVN and RN involved. Without the HCBS program he would not have the therapies he needs, the dentist and no nurses to oversee. An LVN does his bowel cleanout therapy, which saves his life but, in-this-case, we have to pay for his supplies costing $475 out of the tiny administrative funds. We have a one person support system called a microboard so he can have the care he needs to live. We have tried to get Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance to pay for this equipment to no avail. Group homes don't want to take him because of the $475.

Without medicaid I don't know how he could be taken care of. He has lived in his own apartment with Home Host for over 15 years. It has worked well. I am nearly 80 and in poor health. I don't know how I could manage with him at home, especially if the medicaid programs were not available.

I don't support any program that is political and takes aware important care for those who need it the most. Consider the individuals first and not just a desire to please President Trump.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:08:23
To: My Senator
From: Michelle Dooley
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

I'm Michelle Dooley I live inFort Worth Texas. I have a 32 year old son Morgan who lives in a HCS group home. He has been there for 14 years and it's his home. He has no Speach and he has lost his eyesight in one of his eyes. He just last week had to go the hospital to have surgery on his good eye so his retna does not detach. When the Doctor got to really see his eye he had to fix more than one hole. Now we will have to go every 3 months to have his good eye checked. If we loose his insurance and his one good eye I'm not sure what we will do. Please save Medicaid and affordable care act. My family does not have the money to do that I wish we did. Don't take his health care away from him.

Michelle Dooley on behalf of Morgan Dooley

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-22 19:28:43
To: My Senator
From: Lisa Lucas
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

I know our representatives have much on their shoulders when it comes to balancing our budget, but gutting programs such as Medicaid will harm vulnerable people. Before you sign off on the Graham-Cassidy bill, please consider the people who REALLY need Medicaid! I'm not talking about people who don't want to work and are sponges of our system. I'm talking about families with medically fragile children . The capable need to get jobs and be drug tested to receive benefits. But please don't deny access to the programs medically fragile children and the disabled need to thrive and survive. How do we, in good conscience, claim to care about the unborn or the abused and neglected children in our country while neglecting another vulnerable demographic (the disabled & fragile CHILDREN) and their families who are trying to do everything right for them?? These families, who would never consider institutionalized care as a viable option for their child, are now TERRIFIED they will be forced to go that direction to get the care their child needs. Without community based services from Medicaid programs, these fragile kids will become more dependent and parents won't have the care necessary to get to work to pay taxes. Their other children will also land in "the system". We understand there is a deficit in our budget but jeopardizing tiny lives isn't the solution to that. In Texas, we've come to understand cuts already made here were quietly slipped in right before the legislative session; the Texas House admitted to oversight. Meanwhile, those cuts have been devastating to fragile kids in our state! This is when our federal government should step in! There are now hardworking American families fearing they may have to institutionalize their child to get the life sustaining care & therapy they need. It's reported to cost over $300,000 annually to institutionalize one disabled child. That child could get community-based care for much less and live at home with their families who love them and CHOSE LIFE!! "Disability justice and fiscal conservatism, in this case, have a lot in common" yet our state gutted Medicaid Waiver programs that provided services for the most vulnerable. Our state seems more interested in funding big business and suing the federal government (39 times) than caring about these tiny lives, and in the same breath, claim to be Pro-Life. More people than ever are paying attention to how our representatives vote on the floor instead of believing their campaign promises. The families I stand for, aren't families who don't want to work and they do not want to milk the system. They are families who work hard and pay taxes but happen to have a medically fragile child or disable family member!!! Please don't jeopardize the lives, dignity, and family units of fragile children or the disabled in our country!!!

Respectfully-

Lisa Lucas

(My daughter now resides in Heaven, but I worked a professional job the entire time she was on a Medicaid Waiver Program called Medically Dependent Children's Program. I will always be thankful for that coverage. MDCP made it possible for me to work so my healthy child never depended on any services through the state. I now work beside adults with special needs and see daily that they have great meaning and purpose). I have also always considered myself a Republican; now leaning another way, though State Representatives such as Matt Krause give me hope that some in the Republican party still care about people! I wish I lived in his district! I hope the Senate & the Congressmen from our state start acting like men who care about people! On the fence and paying close attention.

Matthew 25:40*

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:59:44
To: My Senator
From: Teena Shipp
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

We are parents near retirement age with a 21 year old son with autism. We applied for 2 Medicaid waiver programs when our son was 3 years old. We were on a wait list for about 8 years before we received services on our first Medicaid waiver program. At the time my son received Medicaid my husband lost his insurance due to losing his job with the county and becoming self-employed . We could not obtain private health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. Another 6 years after that (a total of 14 years) we waited to receive the current Medicaid program we now receive. After receiving the last program a few years ago we were able to place our son in a group home in a local community. Our son will need a long-term placement because some day we will not be able to care for him. He needs multiple Medicaid services in order to live a healthy and happy life in his group home. It would be devastating to him and us if those services are cut.

Without the Medicaid wavier programs we received through the years our son would not be doing as well as he is and we his parents would not have be able to financially provide for all of his needs.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-21 20:54:49
To: My Senator
From: Mary Clark
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Please take your hands off of Medicaid! You can find dollars other places. There is so much waste in so many other areas.

My 20 year old son has an intellectual disability and wants to be a participating member of our community. To do so, he needs the supports in place to help him do so.

Do NOT take us back to the era of institutions! How would you feel if you, or your loved one, was placed into an institution, and treated at a sub par level? My answer is not only No, but heck NO!

My son has VALUE! My son is full of JOY and LOVE! My son IS able to be a working member of our community! Do NOT institutionalize him! The Medicaid Waiver programs have 11+ year waiting programs. We are STILL WAITING! Give us the funding, don't take it away!

Help us help him!

We follow the rules of our country. We don't want to hv to ask our government for help because our government isn't helping care for the marginalized in our midst.

Hurricane Harvey recently hit the Houston area. Don't add insult to injury. Also, don't sneak this through while everyone is distracted by the natural disasters occurring. Your office has prestige, treat it so.

Keep Medicaid! Protect those that are not always able to speak for themselves. Get those not working (& can work) with their hand out BACK to work.

I was raised to be God fearing/God loving. How about you?

And the King said to him in reply Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me (Matthew 25:40)

(Read the rest of Matthew's chapter 25 - don't be counted as the accursed.)

Thank you.

Date: 2017-09-21 16:59:41
To: My Senator
From: Gina Pepchinski
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Our son is 27 years old and has diagnoses of autism and Lennox-Gastaux Syndrome which is a complex seizure disorder. He needs 24/7 supervision. Since the age of 12, he has received services through a Medicaid waiver program called Home and Community based Services (HCS). This program has helped him to remain living at home and has provided much needed respite care for his caregiving parents who are now in our sixties. Providing my son with these services is a lot cheaper than institutional care. The changes proposed by the Graham-Cassidy bill will allow the state of Texas to eliminate this program. I am very afraid for my son's future if this were to happen. Please continue to support families like ours through the existing Medicaid waiver programs and vote against this bill.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:04:01
To: My Senator
From: Geoffrey Estrada
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

To all the U.S. Senate Finance Members: This note is being written by my mother, Phyllis Hanvey, for me, Geoff Estrada, because I can't speak these things or read these things or write these things, but please know that she speaks for me who cannot. I'm 46 and she's now 70 and takes care of me every single day.

My brain was injured at birth because of a medical mistake and I have spent my whole life with disabilities and special needs. Medicaid has been the lifesaver to help me get through many challenges and it remains a lifeline for me, along with Medicare now that my Mom is retired,

Please stop, and think, for a moment, what you would do if you didn't have the money for private insurance and for other necessary services to just live your life and you had so many needs that you couldn't get by without help.

This can happen to anybody. I'm glad it didn't happen to you, reading this letter, but it could have! It still could ! We never know from day to day what Life will bring, and so having gratitude for what you DO have, along with compassion and help for those who DON'T have the necessary supports in this life, that's what I'm asking you to help with.

Please : Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy death of healthcare bill. It will hurt millions of people in the United States, not just me. Please, please, please. And thank you for reading this, and thank you for your service to our country. I wish you all well and many blessings to come in each of your lives.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Estrada

Date: 2017-09-23 16:19:32
To: My Senator
From: Christian Jordan
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My oldest is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. Starting in Pre-K, age 4, it was pointed out that my son presented ADHD and autism behaviors. When he started 1st grade and actually had to perform in school, it became vital for us to see a specialist and have testing, get a diagnoses, etc. Without Medicaid, we would have not been able to do all that. My husband is a contract worker and 1. Not offered insurance or 2. It is unaffordable for our family if he is. Without Medicaid, we would have not had testing and he would be struggling in school or we would have been out thousands of dollars and possibly homeless due to having to pay medical expenses versus rent. Without Medicaid both of my children would not get the healthcare they need and deserve.

Date: 2017-09-23 14:37:46
To: My Senator
From: Jocalyn Briggs
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

Sharing the story of raising my daughter is always a little hard to do. I have a short version for social events and work dinners saved for people I just meet. I have a medium length version for medical professionals, therapists, moms on the playground, and teachers. The long version is usually saved for other moms who get it, family and anesthesiologists. But this one is for the policy makers and those who should be representing me and families like mine in Washington DC and Austin. Its purpose is to open their eyes to our reality.

I remember looking at the old alarm clock in our dark room in 2008 when my daughter was just a week or so old. Through sleepless nights, it would light up in green neon the date and time. I'd think to myself, "Ok, she's 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks. These nights will end soon. They must. Everyone goes through this."

But they didn't end. My daughter is now 486 weeks old. 9 years. We still have sleep issues, I still change her diaper, feed her, bathe her, get her dressed, transfer her, lift her, carry her to bed...I still rock her when she hurts and wipe her tears from her face as they soak her thick, brown healthy hair. I still go to work some days in a sleepless haze.

But that's the easy part.

Ensuring daily that one human error does not result in a grand mal seizure, diabetic ketoacidosis, or aspiration pneumonia is stressful. Refilling and pickup of her 18 monthly prescription drugs from five DME companies and pharmacies is daunting. Managing the family schedule to include the 15 specialist appointments required to maintain her physical wellbeing takes the most time. Juggling the hours in the day to include enough time for transportation to and from school with the nurses who assist her while she's there, and the parade of home health therapists that come and go after school hours in our home is also time consuming and challenging. But the worry I have deep in my gut because of the complex medical needs my daughter was born with is the hardest part.

My husband and I are fortunate to come from loving families that paid for our undergraduate educations at reputable Universities. We started our careers debt free and extended our graduate work on our own to maintain our competitiveness in the workplace and grow as individuals. We are involved in our community and our kids' schools. We both share a drive that pushes us to find answers when they are not readily available. We support each other in a true partnership. And contrary to my Instagram account's appearance ... our life is not always sunshine and rainbows. But we make it work.

The ONLY reason this works, and the ONLY reason I can sit down on a Saturday afternoon to type this is because we have great support. Thanks to the Medically Dependent Children's Program, we have Medicaid secondary to our primary insurance. This is everything to our family. It helps cover things where our insurance leaves off. It allows respite services, nursing services, personal care services that improve our quality of life so we can get up and live it each day. It allows us to go to work, do homework with our son, attend extra-curricular activities for him, and at the same time give our daughter all the experiences she deserves.

Because of Medicaid, I am not alone in this. Our family isn't in debilitating debt from medical bills. Our daughter lives in her home instead of an institution. Because of Medicaid we have a bright, happy, compassionate, and very social fourth grade little girl in a general education 4th grade classroom with resources support in our neighborhood school. She loves driving her power wheelchair on the playground, listening to Imagine Dragons with her brother, swimming and dancing (often times a combination of the last three!) She participates in Special Olympics swimming, adapted ballet, therapeutic horseback riding, Miracle League baseball, church activities, trips to the library, and she attends birthday parties with her classmates.

We know we are fortunate. We know families with medically complex children that don't have the same financial privileges we have grown accustomed to. There are people struggling to feed their families. For those families, when Medicaid is their primary source of healthcare, these supports and services are a matter of life and death. We also know that everyone is just one car accident, natural disaster, or cancer diagnosis away from joining our circle. The elimination of lifetime caps and eliminating denials based on pre-existing conditions eliminates some of that deep in the gut worry that I have found to be the hardest part of this journey.

This isn't "fear mongering" This is our reality. This is personal.

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 23:32:50
To: My Senator
From: Barbara Bustos
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My sister is 43 years old. She has down syndrome and has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We wound not survive with the medical assistance that we receive. Its easy to say cut the benefits but when you don't live in our shoes you don't really don't understand. Please think of all of the individuals that is will effect. Please don't cut the fund's.

Sincerely

Barbara Bustos

Date: 2017-09-24 10:44:23
To: My Senator
From: Dawson Perry
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My foster son depends on this! Any senator who votes for this plan to pass , I will. Make it my mission in Texas and everywhere to insure their defeat in every election they are in!

The Arc.

Date: 2017-09-23 09:42:20
To: My Senator
From: Linsey Ponfick
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

P.O. Box 311865

Linsey J. Ponfick is 25 years old and has Spina Bifida and relys on Medicaid for all her medical needs. She sleeps on a Bi-Pap machine with oxygen. Her vital signs must be monitored all night and twice during the day by a Pulse/Oximeter. She has lung diease for which she takes breathing treatments 2-3 times a day. She is dependent on Medicaid for these medications.

Linsey has a superpubic placement and has a catherter in her bladder that runs into a bag that is fastened to her leg. This requires attention about 3 times a day. Medicaid supplies all the catherters, bag, and gauze needed to take care of this life saving medical need.

Linsey is depended on Medicaid for all her medications:

Fluoxetine (Prozac), Loratadine, Clonazepam, Clonidine, Oxybutynin. Plus we give her Vitamin C and Cranberry Capsules twice a day for the bladder.

Xopenex and Pulmicort for her lungs.

Linsey has to be on antibiotics and is prone to sepsis.

Linsey is in a wheelchair and needs all the assistance she can get...

Linsey is a paraphylic who is incontinent and has to have diapers. She also has to have a bowel treatment done every day by a procedure called The Ace Procedure/Malone Procedure. She is dependent on Medicaid for the diapers and anything related to this.

As I said at the beginning of this "story" Linsey J. Ponfick is dependent on Medicaid for everything from doctors services, medications, and equipment to be able to live.

Sincerely, Walter and Sue Ponfick, Guardians for Linsey Joann Ponfick

Date: 2017-09-22 11:58:47
To: My Senator
From: Sylvia Surber
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

We owe the Medicaid Program our gratitude. Without it, our daughter would not have the healthcare she desperately needs. Our daughter was born at 25 weeks, weighing less than two pounds. Her hospitalization was a lengthy one at five months. She finally came home with a heart monitor and oxygen. After four months we no longer needed them. However, she has had therapies that include: physical, occupation and speech therapies. After a year, our little miracle was diagnosed with autism. This means we will have to continue with these therapies long-term. Medicaid has helped her throughout her life and hope it will still be there for her. Without it, she would not have been able to walk, stand, eat on her own and begin school this year. Everyday, she makes progress with the help of these therapies that we could not afford nor would be able to provide to her without Medicaid. Please do not make any cuts to this vital program needed by special needs children.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:47:50
To: My Senator
From: Deanne Cox
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My son has Autism and IDD and relies on Medicaid to keep attendant care. My husband's job does not offer insurance and we cannot afford it, He works long hours driving a trash truck while I care for our son. Please keep your #handsoffMedicaid.

Date: 2017-09-21 19:23:11
To: My Senator
From: Jimmy Davison
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My 45 year old son works at a grocery store. He will never be able to work a full shift. That will never be available to him because he is a bagger and cart pusher.

He's healthy, happy and productive. Without healthcare, where would he be? I hope I never know the answer to that question.

Date: 2017-09-22 23:33:19
To: My Senator
From: Debbie Heinsohn
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

My son was diagnosed with Autism in 2005 . He has anxiety, depression, asthma, allergies, needs glasses and in 2015 he had to been seen at Clarity Hospital for severe anxiety and depression. He was treated with psychotic medications, has been hospitalized 4 different times with medication algorithms resulting in terrible side effects. He is stabilized but his condition is set to decline even with medication. Some symptoms are gynecomastia, weight gain and extra pyramidal symptoms which requires another medication to counter but this also has its own side effects. He needs to see his doctors, therapists on a weekly basis. I am a single mother needing health insurance and I could not even begin to afford health insurance for my son. It frightens me for him to be without Medicaid as he now is diagnosed with Schizophrenia and bipolar d/o. He has not had a normal childhood and what will his life be like without medial assistance. We need immediate intervention..

Date: 2017-09-21 21:43:43
To: My Senator
From: Brenda Hagen
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

My son has downs and autism. He has a severe intellectual disability. Without medical insurance he will not be able to have any quality of life. Without Medicaid he will not be able to have access to the work force that would allow him to thrive in his community. He would have no opportunity to progress as an independent citizen, or engage in society or with his peers

A lot of us parents are or will be senior citizens when our children become adults

We would not have the resources or the stamina to continue long term of giving our disabled child a quality of life

Which is every persons right. Please do not steal that from them or from us. We pay our taxes to ensure these programs remain.

Date: 2017-09-22 15:05:33
To: My Senator
From: Tabutha Weaver
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

The Arc.

Our Son was born with permanent brain damage associated with FASD. This is a Lifetime Disability he is high functioning but can't take care of himself and needs constant care and supervision. He lives at home with his Dad and I receiving HCS Services. The small amount of SSI he receives isnt enough to pay for his living expenses, clothing, etc and he hasn't been able to get a job which he desperately wants and needs. If Medicaid receives devastating cuts it will gravely affect every Disabled Adult and their families.

Date: 2017-09-22 14:32:58
To: My Senator
From: MEL HOCKEr
State: Texas
Email: [redacted]

Medicaid helps me be a part of my community and helps keep me healthy by allowing me to see my doctor. Please don't cut my Medicaid services.

Nicole Jorwic

From:	Nicole Jorwic
Sent:	Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:38 PM
To:	Nicole Jorwic
Subject:	Texas

Casey Hertel

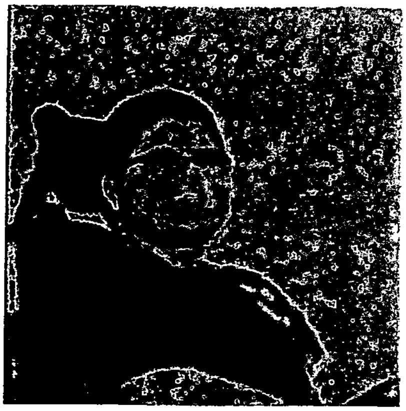
[redacted]

My name is Casey, I am 37 years old. I was born with Spina Bifida, which left me unable to walk and confined to a wheelchair. I was also diagnosed with Hydrocephalus, leaving me with a shunt to drain fluids off my brain. I have been on Medicaid since I was 18 years old. Without my Medicaid I would not be able to go to the Dr. for the health problems I have encountered throughout life or even live my life... with out the shunt I would not live as it help relieve pressure from my brain from too much water. I have had 3 shunt revisions in my lifetime, without Medicaid I wouldn't have received those revisions. So Medicaid means "life" to all who receive it. Medicaid means "Independence" to all who receive it.

Leah Beltran

[redacted]

This is my son Ian who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This disease is progressive and fatal. Because Medicaid was privatized, his specialists will no longer see him. Ian cannot see just any doctor. He must see doctors who know about his disease. We have one last chance to see a doctor in another city who is gracious enough to accept Ian's Medicaid. What happens when no one will see him? How can we do this to the very people Medicaid was created for? Why don't our legislators understand that providing community care in community settings, benefits everyone? It has been proven through many community programs, over and over again. We can't let this happen. I am the Executive Director of a private non-profit who sees the successes of the community based programs and I see the sad failures of a Medicaid system that is becoming a sham. This has to stop now.



Nicole T. Jorwic, J.D. | jorwic@thearc.org
Director, Rights Policy, The Arc
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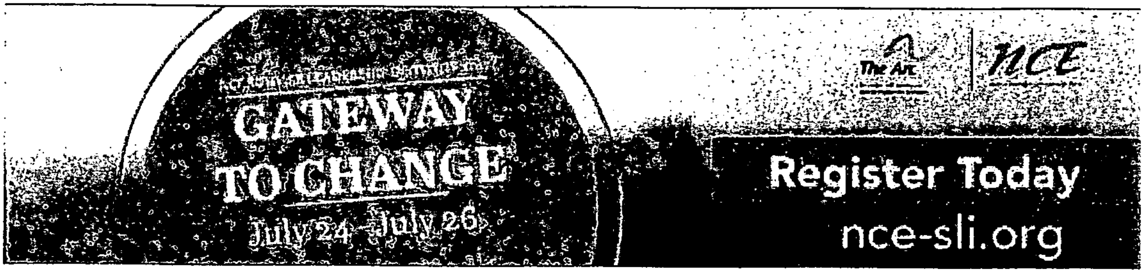

Nicole Jorwic

From: Nance S. (Sykes & Son) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: MEDICAID LETTER--pls confirm receipt--thx

Hello,
Please know, all our Legislators, that Medicaid for our persons of all ages who NOT BY CHOICE, but my BIRTH, are disabled with lifelong conditions DO NOT HAVE A CHOICE about whether they "get it together" and become useful citizens--they are the people of our Texas society who today, tomorrow, and ALWAYS will NEED--many of them 24 hours a day!--Medicaid coverage at a minimum, and 24-hour-a-day care at a realistic maximum! Many persons and families, such as mine, which is now a 2-person family consisting of my son, age 21 who has lifelong autism which creates barriers to social interactions (which prevent him from having and keeping whose relationships required for employment as well as the more FUN relationships of friendship) and me, his mom, in her 50's. I am healthy and stay fit so that I can be here for him everyday--I teach him life skills, how to be less dependent, and we work together towards the POSSIBILITY of him working for or MAYBE having a small business so that he can supplement his SSDI which we did NOT even apply for nor start getting until he was 20.Needless to say, the elderly who have worked their entire lives and now may have an age-related condition ALSo need our protection--they have EARNED it!

We are not, he is not, one of the many society freeloaders who burden Medicaid with preventable conditions such as obesity and diabetes type 2---nor did he bring on his condition by reckless choices such as those who are now covered by Medicaid because they took drugs and made themselves into burdensome vegetables--my son is trying to become a useful citizen DESPITE a condition he will have for life that was ZERO FAULT OF HIS OWN. And I dedicate my own life to the promise and CHANCE that he may one day have the JOY of being a tax-paying citizen, even though he will always be disabled and always NEED MEDICAID. To take AWAY his Medicaid coverage would create another HURDLE to the possibility of his even attaining more independence because it would take ALL of his SSDI to even begin to pay for any of the Obamacare choices that are astronomically unrealistic to expect my son, or another on SSDI, to be able to pay for any given month. It is not that he DOES NOT work and earn money, he CAN'T.

MEDICAID for our family means being able to use his SSDI for clothes and nutritious food and shelter to help himself as he strives towards independence---he does NOT even HAVE heavy medical needs--he has NO ongoing medical needs that put an unavoidable strain on Medicaid---he only needs to have coverage by Medicaid in the event he HAS an illness. AUTISM is not (effectively) treatable by medication--it is best treated with food and therapy as is the case with my son--and with the promise of health care via Medicaid in the event he has medical needs. Since he cannot (note it is not that he WILL NOT because he is obese or ruined by drugs!!) work and earn money everyday, he NEEDS to rely on the less than $500 he fairly receives from SSDI to keep TRYING, and not be forced to give it all to an Obama policy every month. WE NEED TO KEEP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIFELONG DISABLING CONDITIONS UNDER THE CARING WING OF MEDICAID--and take the persons who abused themselves with lifestyle choices--ie reversible diabetes type 2 and obesity--OFF of Medicaid after 2 years of supporting them while they transition to worthwhile lives BECAUSE THEY CAN!--
OUR DISABLED PERSONS who are/were BORN THIS WAY cannot reverse their lives--as their conditions are NOT a choice. REMOVE THE PERSONS WHO ARE THE BURDEN TO SOCIETY BECAUSE of unhealthy choices, from MEdicaid after a 2-year period of lifestyle alteration!!

LET US CONTINUE TO PROTECT our needy, vulnerable disabled persons with UNINTERRUPTED care through Medicaid. Like my son and our family.

Thank you,

Ms. N Zamek and son, C.

[redacted] Austin TX [redacted]

[redacted]

Sincerely,

NW Zamek, CPT, AAS/OTA

Your Life Skills & Health Education Coach

Kids', Seniors' and Women's Wellness & Fitness

Austin, TX [redacted]

Be Well!

Nicole Jorwic

From: Colleen Badders [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 10:22 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: My letter that I wrote and sent to Senators Cornyn and Cruz of Texas

July 16, 2017

First, I congratulate you on your leadership in the Senate on behalf of Texas. I voted for you and I voted for Trump. So, I tend to be fairly conservative, except that I strongly oppose the new HealthCare Bill proposed by the Senate.

My special needs adult son, Ross, is 36 years old. Ross is profoundly autistic with brain damage, non-verbal, and self-abusive. At the tender age of 10 years, I was forced by the school district to place Ross in residential treatment because they refused to hire or train a skilled teacher that was highly trained in how to teach him. For 7 years, I drove from Pflugerville to Manvel, TX. (and later to Giddings) every weekend to visit him. I was the only parent to visit every week.

He returned to the district at 17 years of age and even with state monies, the Pflugerville school district (...where I also worked...) did a lousy job of serving Ross. He also had to live in group homes because Texas (DADS) did not have a Consumer Directed Option in his Home & Community Services (HCS) program at that time. We waited SEVEN long years to be eligible in Texas for the HCS federal waiver program that is funded by Medicaid.

In January 2012, I discovered that I could bring Ross home as DADS finally offered the Consumer Directed Services option. He has lived at home now as a Level of Need 9 with two caregivers 24/7 to redirect/prevent his self-abuse. In the group home, even with caregivers, he was able to detach the retina in his left eye. Many other negative situations occurred, but I will not detail them at this time.

Living at home, Ross slowly began to trust his environment and his caregivers. He was so terrified in group homes and could not express his feelings except through self-abuse and tantrums. Currently, his caregivers are excellent and were well-paid until DADS (now Health and Human Services of Texas) instituted StarPlus , which I consider a complete waste of Medicaid funds as it is the 'middle man.' Shame on the Texas Legislature for allowing this.

Anyway, Ross is completely dependent on his Federal Medicaid Waiver program (HCS) in order to live at home. PLEASE, PLEASE do not allow the cuts in Medicaid that have been proposed in the new Healthcare Bill. We are not ripping off the federal government, nor are we attempting to take advantage of Medicaid. I do not collect food stamps and I am highly offended that StarPlus in Texas is using Medicaid funds to provide cell phones. IF the waiver programs are cut in order to fund an incompetent bill (as written), all of the agencies involved in keeping Ross at home and retaining excellent caregivers will disappear. If Ross has to return to a group home, I fear that he will provided awful care (as before) and will be injured (as before) and die.

Please understand that I know Ross is an expense to taxpayers. He, however, did not voluntarily become an opioid addict or any of the challenges that face Health & Human Services. His biological father, a well-educated veterinarian, left us when he was six weeks old. I have tried to 'give back' to society by teaching Science for 24 years in Texas public schools without being allowed to pay into Social Security. My daughter is also a public school teacher in Texas.

I agree with repealing Obamacare, but I believe that rather than Congress creating a HealthCare Plan, Dr. Ben Carson and other medical personnel , economic experts, medical insurance experts, and individuals such as me that have multiple experiences with the insurance industry must collaborate on a proper, workable policy. My experiences with insurance companies is problematic to say the least. This is a multi-billion dollar industry that should be regulated. They and the pharmacy industry are playing havoc with people's lives in our great America.

Please do not use the disabled population nor the geriatric population to fund this bill. Think of Ross and the others like him that would be devastated by voting for the bill as written.

Thank You for your time and efforts.

Respectfully,
Colleen Badders Moore - Mother and Legal Guardian of James Ross Humphries

From: Gail Dalrymple [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas

My son is deaf blind with autism and low IQ. Inspite of these disabilities, he is able to live in his own place with two other young men. He is only able to do this because of medicaid funding for staff to help him with the activities of daily living and help him participate in life outside of his house. If he lost that support, he would have to move into an institution run by the state at a cost of more than twice what his support costs now.
Please don't reduce medicaid payments.
His life depends on it.
Gail Dalrymple
Austin, Texas 78731

Nicole Jorwic

From: carolyn lewis [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas

Medicaid matters to me because I volunteer in nursing homes. If it were not for medicaid paying for the people who can't pay then many of these people would be cast out on the street. I am not exaggerating their families have no way to take care of them and it would be a tragic result for some of these elderly people with no resources. I appreciate your support in this matter.

Carolyn Lewis

Nicole Jorwic

From: Patricia Bowlen [redacted]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas - Medicaid Matters to me

I have a daughter with autism that receives services within the HCS waiver program funded by Medicaid. Because of this program I am able to keep her at home and meet her 1:1 needs better than if she were in a state school or group home. Without these funds to support her in our home I would end up having to place her in a much more restricted setting that would cost taxes payer double what it cost to keep her at home. Please continue to support all Medicaid waiver programs that support people with disabilities. Thank you!

Nicole Jorwic

From: Mary Beall [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:54 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas Medicaid Matters

Dear Senators,

Please consider the impact your proposed Medicaid changes will have on people like my daughter. Laura is an adult but because of her intellectual disabilities she will never be able to work to support herself, or to live in a home without assistants to help her. These assistants are paid by Medicaid. You can cut Medicaid, but even if you do, she and the many people like her will not just disappear or stop needing help. Actually, they would need to move to institutional care which would cost the government even more. I have been a Republican voter for many years but I am changing because of the many proposed cuts to services of the poorest and least able people in our country. The cuts in the current "Better Care Reconciliation Act" are devastating and not even close to "better care".

Your actions today matter very much to my family, Medicaid Matters!

Sincerely,

Mary Beall
[redacted]
Garland, Tx [redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Rita Treckman [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:43 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Why Medicaid Matters to Me Texas

Please Senators do not cut funding for Medicaid. Our disabled children rely on this for their health needs. Many elderly persons are not able to get vital meds and dr services on very limited income. These people are our innocents. Do not let them fall by the wayside. Do not forget them. Thank you for listening.
Rita Treckman.

Sent from my iPhone

Nicole Jorwic

From: wwill139 [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:06 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas Medicaid Cuts

Dear Sir,

I ask with all my heart that you do not allow cuts to Texas Medicaid during the repeal of Obamacare. I am the mother of a young man with multiple disabilities.

My son was on a wait list in Texas for 10 years before he received Medicaid waiver benefits. It was such a long wait for therapy services we use to supplement those for which our insurance will pay, and improve his physical health.

We rely on his Medicaid benefits to pay for attendant care, so he can live in our home. This benefit is paramount as he grows and we (his parents) age. We also rely more on Medicaid for his medical care and seizure medicines as he ages out of our private insurance.

As you may know, in home care for a person with disabilities costs a fraction of what institutional care costs. So while it may seem to save money by cutting Medicaid, you will actually spend more on institutional care that people with disabilities will need if Medicaid is not available.

Please do not make cuts to Medicaid. This will not improve health care.

Sincerely,
Wanda Williams
Texas

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kjmoffitt [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:51 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas

One of the scariest things for parents of an individual with disabilities is their care after you are gone. As long as you are around; you can work to find a way. Losing Medicaid benefits takes away that safety net that you thought was in place. The changes proposed are so drastic that the medical community, the nursing home community, the disability community, governors, and other agencies/communities are sounding the biggest alarms that I have heard in the 45 years that I have been a part of the disability community. The cuts will be devastating. Texas would see reductions upwards of $100 billion. Texas is already cutting everywhere. Cash-strapped states won't be able to make up for the losses in federal funding. States would be forced to cut enrollment, benefits or provider rates. The cuts are brutal. This is morally wrong.

~~ MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ~~

Nicole Jorwic

From: Sean Pevsner [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:50 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: State of Texas
Attachments: Message to Representatives.docx

Please see attached.

WHITBURN
&PEVSNER, PLLC

Sean E. Pevsner, Esquire
Whitburn & Pevsner, PLLC
[redacted]
Arlington, Texas [redacted]
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Dana Sabbagh [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:28 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: How Medicaid impacts our life/from Texas

To whom it may concern,

My son, Omar, is a 20 years old young man who was born with a rare genetic disorder that manifests itself as severe seizures. He is severely intellectually disable, developmentally delayed, non-verbal, fully independent on parents, sibling and a nurse for all his daily needs: showering, eating, grooming, toiletting , and all the basic necessities and skills an adult young man his age might need. He suffers from seizures, and he is on three different medications to keep them under control. Through Medicaid and Medicaid waiver programs, we could afford his medications, medical supplies and other related therapies that help keep his health condition under control.
His quality of life has changed for the better since he started receiving the respite and habilitation service. Without having a care giver for Omar, I would not have been able to work and look after my other kid while taking care of Omar and his medical needs since Omar has to be watched 24/7.
With the help of the waiver programs, Omar started receiving OT, PT and Speech therapy after being denied for a long time.
Next year when Omar turns 21 he will be out of high school. He will need help during the day. Through the Medicaid CLASS waiver program, he will be able to receive the care he needs. We have private insurance that does not cover for some of the medications and the cost of care givers as well as therapy and a lot of other services.
Please do not make cuts to Medicaid. People like my son have the right to live in dignity, and their loved ones should have the choice to keep them at home with their families where they are loved and taken good care of instead of being forced to put them in an institution.

Thanks,

A concerned mom of an amazing young man

Sent from my iPhone

From: LuAnn York [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: TEXAS

My son receives critical support from the Medicaid Waiver programs in Texas. Through the Community First Choice program, he receives training in life skills that he will need to live in a group home when his father and I can no longer care for him. In addition, he receives the services of a Behavior Analyst who has been vital in helping him develop appropriate social skills in order to function in the community.

However, the most important service is Supported Employment. My son is employed at our local YMCA on the member services desk. Last year an incident with a co-worker almost cost him his job. The job coach has worked with my son and been on the job site to help him retain his job and improve his work performance.

Medicaid is so much more than medical care. It provides essential services to help those with disabilities become full participants in our society and contribute through employment. Thank you for passing this message to our Senators.

LuAnn Marshall York

Nicole Jorwic

From: m [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: medicaid letter - Tx

My son is IDD, PDD-NOS and ADHD. With all that to deal with he is still a sweet and helpful kid who knows everything about football and has lots of friends at school and church. He's been accepted into the 18+ program at his high school for job training, but he'll probably never drive and will always need some job coaching. He's been on the Tx medicaid waiver list for 12 years.

I'm a older mom, his dad is older yet, his brothers live in other states. My son won't have family support after his parents die. In the old days kids like my son were stuck in State Supported Living Centers - at a current cost of $360,000/person/year - and left to rot in boredom, or dumped on the street. And even that isn't free. A recent report estimates that a homeless person costs a Texas city about $39,000/year.
With supports totaling perhaps one 10th of SSLC cost, my son can live in an apt, have a job, volunteer, go to church, do things with friends... basically contribute to society and have a pleasant adult life.

There are thousands of kids in my son's shoes. The incidence of Autism has increased dramatically in the last 20 years and the 1st wave of those kids are just now maturing out of the public school system. Texas needs to get its head out of the sand and prepare. You can bet this life long Texas Republican is going to vote against who ever votes to cut Medicaid without a decent permanent alternative.

From: Vera Balcom-Boone [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Medicaid

Dear Senators,
Please do not take away the supports that Medicaid provides my daughter, who has Cerebral Palsy, and will never be able to be self sufficient or live on her own. Medicaid in Texas keeps her at home, becoming the best she can, and a intricate thread of the fabric of her community. Why would anyone, not help those least able to help themselves?
Sincerely,
Vera Balcom-Boone

Sent from my iPad

From: Jackie Zamarripa [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: medicaid impact

My name is Jackie Zamarripa I live in Maryland I am on the community first choice services waiver which was passed as part of the Affordable Care Act. This waiver pays for my aides which provide me with the means to stay at home. There is no other program under which I can have my aides paid for. If the Affordable Care Act gets repealed the community first choice waiver goes away. With the Community First Choice Option waver I get 56hours per week. Without the waiver my aides cost $20000 for six months.

Nicole Jorwic

From: Kimberli Curtis [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas

Dear Senator,

i am a pediatric physical therapist with pre-existing conditions in the state of Texas. I work with children with disabilities and their families. I have listened to your case for healthcare reform. None of your arguments reflect the reality that I live in or the reality of the children I treat. You claim that your healthcare legislation is better than the Affordable Care Act. You claim the CBO is wrong in its analysis and that 22 million people will not lose their healthcare coverage. You claim that individuals with pre-existing conditions will be protected despite every major patient advocacy group stating this is not the case. You claim the $800 million dollar cuts to Medicaid are not really cuts at all. I understand that Americans like to win and I understand that we segregate ourselves into groups like Republican or Democrat, Christian or Muslim, etc but is it really winning when it comes at the expense of other human beings.

The reality is the Affordable Care Act WAS the compromise between Republicans and Democrats. Republicans like yourself have spent so many years arguing against your own policy and one has to ask why. I think Mitch McConnell said it plainly when he stated his main goal was 'to make Barack Obama a one term president'. Hidden within this statement was much more than Republican versus Democrat, it was white versus black. When you analyze the narrow-minded arguments made by Republicans in defense of this heinous piece of legislation, they are simply wrong. Perhaps Republicans like yourself can make the numbers look the way you want them to look but is that really how you want to judge legislation. It is mind-boggling how far removed you have become from being a compassionate human being. Do you really believe all children with special needs deserved what they got? Do you really believe all individuals with pre-existing conditions have been smitten by God? Do you really have such little faith in humanity that you fear someone you have never met nor will ever know is getting something you think they do not deserve?

Republicans also claim the states can better manage how to use Medicaid funding when you take away the protections of EPSDT by converting it to a block grant. Please, let me tell you how Texas is currently meeting their responsibilities. Texas has the highest number of uninsured people in the United States. Texas has the highest maternal mortality rate in the United States. Texas routinely denies and/or limits children with special needs access to therapy services. Texas has been routinely enacting pay cuts to Medicaid providers who already receive the lowest reimbursement rates. The Texas Department of Education has been in a legal battle due to denial of services to children with special needs in schools. Texas ranks 50 out of 51 states according to the UCP's "The Case for Inclusion". I am sure all these situations will be rectified when you decrease the amount of Medicaid funds given to the states. Are you kidding me? My aunt died of breast cancer largely because of the attitude permeated by the Republican party that Medicaid is charity and those that seek Medicaid services are 'takers'. People on Medicaid are not takers. They are largely, hard working families doing their best to live a good life.

One final thought, If your bill is so fabulous why have you exempted yourselves from participating in it? You should be the first ones to jump on your own bandwagon not that any of you have ever had to choose between medications or food. What you are doing may be legal but it does not make it ethical or right, a concept that has been completely lost in Washington DC as evidenced by our current President.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kimberli Curtis, PT, DPT
[redacted]

Nicole Jorwic

From: Cecilia Navarro [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 10:27 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Email from Texas

This is my son Nathan. He's 28 years old and is working on puzzles designed for 2 year olds. Nathan has autism and can't speak, read or write but he is a loving human being who deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

He needs Medicaid to be cared for at home and in the community. Please don't destroy the decades of bipartisan support that has built up this support for our most vulnerable citizens. What does America stand for if not caring for those who can't care for themselves.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Navarro Tanner
President, The Arc of El Paso

Nicole Jorwic

From: Arturo Hinojosa [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 6:56 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas - Austin

As the father of an autistic young man I am very aware of the importance of the support that MedicAid currently provides to people with disabilities like my son.

Somebody say that ***How a society treats its disabled is the true measure of a civilization***.

Families with disabled members heavily depend on the help that MedicAid provides. It would be a shame to sacrifice the weakest members of our society just to satisfy political ambitions.

I would ask you to reject any bill that cuts resources to the MedicAid program that are destined for disabled members in our society.

Regards,

Arturo Hinojosa

Nicole Jorwic

From: Sarah Meek [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Virginia (possibly Texas and Georgia too)

My Medicaid story:

Want to know what Medicaid looks like? It looks like my Uncle Jim, my dad's identical twin brother, who was born with a hole in his heart, developmental disabilities, and some mental health issues. He lives in Kerrville, TX. He worked and lived on his own for years but now at 67 just needs help managing his diabetes since his mother is 92 and his 95 year old father passed away last year.

Medicaid also looks like my husband's grandmother, Elizabeth Rogers, who has lived in a nursing home in Waynesboro, Georgia for eight years. She has an incredibly connected, supportive, and loving family but the care she needs is more than any of them is capable of providing.

Steven and I are ostensibly rich. We will pay more taxes. This is that important. It really is life or death. My uncle was just in the hospital this week with diabetic complications. If his direct care worker had not found him, he would actually be dead.

Sarah Meek

Falls Church, VA

Nicole Jorwic

From: Charity Smith Bartell [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic; Charity Smith Bartell
Subject: Request from Texas: No Cuts to Medicaid

I am a widow with two boys with autism, ages 9 and 12. We currently get insurance through the "Obamacare" exchanges, but we need Medicaid for when they get older or if something were to happen to their ability to get other insurance. My older son, Ben, has expressed suicidal thoughts since his father's death by suicide in 2015, and I need to be prepared to hospitalize my son on a moment's notice if his life is in jeopardy. Both of my boy are doing well due to extensive therapy in the past (speech, occupational, behavior therapy); however, I have been told that my older son may need more therapy in the future to treat his clinical depression. Please, please, please--leave Medicaid and the ACA alone.

--Charity Ruth Smith Bartell, mother of Heath and Ben Bartell
[redacted]
Austin, TX 78759
[redacted]

From: Barbara Fleury [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:21 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: Texas - Letter to senators on health care bill

Texas Senators:
I am the mother of a disabled son, Eric. I am asking that you not vote for the health care bill that includes the severe cuts to Medicaid. These cuts would have a detrimental impact on his health care services as well as many, many other elderly & disable people in Texas. These citizens are the least able to advocate on their own behalf, so it is morally our responsibility to assure that they are taken care of. Cutting services to Eric and those like him would likely increase costs of care as these individuals end up in hospitals & institutions. Please vote NO.
Thanks for your service.
Barbara Fleury

Sent from my iPad

Nicole Jorwic

From: Shamil Momin [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Nicole Jorwic
Subject: medicaid

please say no to cut medicaid from Texas