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**UTAH**

Date: 2017-09-22 22:17:31

To: My Senator

From: Trevor Buit

State: Utah

Email: [REDACTED]



Hello,

My name is Trevor Buit, currently living in Provo, Utah. The specifics of why Medicaid has been important to me are going to require some backstory, so please bear with me. I was born with cerebral palsy. Growing up, I had access to military health insurance, so Medicaid didn't become important to me individually until around 17 years old. At that time I was diagnosed with a severe mental illness. My military dependent benefits were reluctant to cover the related expenses, such as medication, counseling, psychiatric consultation etc, so I applied for, and received Medicaid and SSI.

Because of the complications from multiple disabilities, I was unable to work in any meaningful way, something my treatment teams agreed on. Also, as I got older, I lost the ability to use my crutches to walk, necessitating the use of a power chair to get around the community, and in home care to help me keep up my apartment (which was on a local mental health campus). All these things were covered by Medicaid, and without it I wouldn't have been able to afford to continue my recovery.

I did get better. I was in recovery for eighteen years. As the symptoms of my mental illness improved, I began to volunteer in the disability community, and enrolled in Vocational Rehabilitation in hope of finding a job and ending my dependence on state and federal assistance (Vocational Rehabilitation is also threatened if Medicaid goes to block grants). I became a strong voice for those with both disabilities and mental illness, and in so doing I found my voice. My work meant a lot to me, but in large part because of the stigma of both mental illness and disability, and my own lack of experience...my job hunt was six years long (despite having worked to obtain a double bachelor's degree...which nearly killed me) Even now, I work as a Peer Support Specialist part time. I'm working hard to be able to return to school, get a Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling, and become a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

I'm still dependent on Medicaid for medications, medical care, in home care, counseling and my power chair upkeep and replacement. Without these, it may as well be as if my recovery never happened. My journey isn't done...but I'm trying...as I know many others are.

Please...I know Health Care is a hot topic...as polarizing as any topic I've ever seen...but I'm dismayed by how people on benefits are portrayed. The vast majority of us want something better, but this takes time, effort, and each case is different...just as each person, disabled or not...is unique. I ask that you vote NO to Graham-Cassidy. In so doing, you will preserve the independence, spirit, and hope of people like me...and our families. No Cuts...no Caps. Nothing About Us Without Us.

Date: 2017-09-22 22:17:31

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Email: [REDACTED]



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**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Dave Crocker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 15, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** Utah

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 68 year old mother of a 37 year old Down Syndrome man. Mathew lives in our home, and we provide for his needs. In the past two months, he has had two lithotripsy surgeries, 3 x-rays, a swallow test at the hospital for choking, and a doctor appointment trying to find a medication to control his severe behavior problems with anger and aggression. Medicaid helps us with his prescriptions and also co-pays on medical expenses. I also have an Autistic 9 year old grandson who goes to speech twice a week that my son pays for. He also has several medical bills that will be impacted if the new health care bill passes.

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This health care bill will hurt both my family and my son's family. Please Vote NO. The most vulnerable people in our society are the ones who are being hurt with inadequate services. Vote NO.

Thank you,

Kathleen Crocker

[REDACTED]  
Sandy, Utah [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Jorwic**

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**From:** Mary Jo Green [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** Nicole Jorwic  
**Subject:** latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act and Impact on Medicaid Wisconsin and Utah

My granddaughter was born with cytomegalovirus (CMV) which has caused her to be completely deaf. She has had to have cochlear implants to help her speech development and to have the chance to hear. Other complications include the possibility of development and intellectual disability, vision problems, seizures, lack of coordination and problems using her muscles/cerebral palsy. She currently is 18 months and the medical community is monitoring her carefully for growth and development. She will need to attend a deaf school for at least the first two years in her state, then hopefully be able to transition to public education.

My son and his wife both work full time jobs but the high cost of medical and developmental resources is out of reach without some financial assistance to get her the treatment and resources she needs due to her disabilities.

My mother worked all of her life and eventually needed full time nursing care. When her financial resources ran out the only resources she had left was Medicare and Medicaid.

My husband still works full time and I recently retired after working the last 55 years. We have tried to plan financially to be self-supportive for the remainder of our living years but with unexpected medical issues and raising cost of health insurance we too may need financial assistance through Medicare and Medicaid at some point in our lives.

Our family has worked very hard to contribute to the federal and state resources through earnings and taxes so please vote against any cuts to Medicaid and Medicare in the latest version of the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

Mary J Green