

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sybilla Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Americans have always been strong because they have worked together to improve lives for everyone. Your health affects me: disease knows no boundaries, the sick and infirm and drug-addicted all add to our social costs, and prevention is always less costly in the long run.

Even the senate must know how opposed their constituents are—except for the wealthy who couldn't care less.

Why keep on beating a dead horse?

Sybilla Cook

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Dell Hemphill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

This bill sucks! Please do NOT continue to kill us poor people!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Tokar [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

From everything I've read about the Graham-Cassidy bill, it is a bad bill that will hurt Americans. Please do not endorse a bill that will remove necessary protections for those with pre-existing conditions, will cut Medicaid for those most in need and once again, let insurance companies dictate who is worthy of adequate coverage for an affordable rate. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Tokar
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Click here to go to my website.](#)

[Click here to download my free mobile app.](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Kerlick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SAVE Health care, Do NOT repeal. Millions will be hurt.

My friends rely on Medicaid. It is quite literally a matter of life and death. Is the GOP so beholden to billionaires that they will harm or kill Americans for the sake of a few billions more???

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When in the future humankind has harnessed the power of LOVE it will have for a second time discovered FIRE. -- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Graham [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments

I have friends and family who rely on the Affordable Care Act to obtain health insurance at a price they can afford. Some of these are people who have obtained health insurance for the first time since they were covered by their parents' insurance. In addition, I know people who've obtained healthcare coverage through Medicaid due to their state's accepting the Medicaid expansion. Some, myself included, would not be able to afford healthcare insurance if insurance companies charged those with preexisting conditions more for coverage. And I would be at risk of losing health insurance if companies could impose an annual or lifetime cap on what they would spend to provide coverage to me.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thanks,
John Graham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorraine Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I'm very against this bill. My husband died of brain cancer in 2010, so I'm a widowed mother of two sons, 13 and 18. One is on the autism spectrum. Being a solo parent is not easy, and healthcare has been one of the things that has helped me support my family after my husband's death. If the ACA is repealed, we would lose coverage.

Both of my sons have chronic conditions that require medication. They are traumatized by their father's death, so we go to therapy regularly. I don't know how, as a widowed parent, I would be able to provide doctor visits and medication for them without health insurance. Medical care would be completely out of reach.

I'm heartbroken. We are forgotten and overlooked. Families like mine will suffer. I can't believe that in the United States, I have to worry day and night about how we will be completely devastated financially and emotionally if we don't have coverage.

It is cruel to make families like mine suffer so that you can give tax breaks to people who have more than enough.

Please vote NO to this inhumane bill.

Lorraine Hamilton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda henning [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Vote nay.

Sent from my HTC


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ginny Koslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have two autoimmune diseases, which are pre existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Ginny Koslow-DiMola

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teri Brown [REDACTED] 
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Enough of Repeal and replace!

To whom it may concern, (And is anyone in Washington really concerned?)

The Graham/Cassidy bill is irresponsible and plays Russian Roulette with people's lives. People like my cousin's son, who is severely disabled and suffers from seizures. People like my mother, an eighty two-year-old woman who worked her entire life at menial jobs during a time when opportunities and education for women weren't the norm. So many Americans will lose their coverage or have it severely limited by this bill. This is not who we are as a country. We are better than this. Please fix what we have. Don't repeal it, fix what is wrong with it in a compassionate bi-partisan manner. That is what we the people really want.

Thank you for your time,

Teri Brown

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robertou Gomez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments

I am against this bill, Graham & Cassidy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Travis Stratton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Hello Senators,

I never thought I would have to email the Senate, and ask for you not to kill Americans. However, today I find myself doing exactly that.

I cannot understand why you would spend 7 years campaigning against ACA, but have no plausible plan to replace it. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not improve the health or wellbeing of the American people, and to say it does is gross negligence on the part of the Senate.

I understand that a 400 million dollar pledge from the Koch brothers to repeal ACA is appealing for the GOP, but that equates to \$12.50 a person that is on ACA. Are we really only worth \$12.50? When will you actually work for the American people instead of corporations and extremely wealthy individuals? How can the GOP be pro life, but against ACA? For 7 years you told your constituents ACA was horrible, and they believed you. The GOP went as far as saying things like death panels. Using scare tactics is something to be ashamed of, and a tactic I would expect from countries like Russia or North Korea, not America.

Now that you have politically back your self into a corner you expect the American people to accept this horrible bill. I understand that you feel attempting to pass the bill without the votes will be seen as trying to keep your word, but it actually comes across as insincere.

I go to work, pay taxes, obey laws I disagree with, volunteer in my community, and vote. I do these things because they are benefit to American society as well as to myself. Now I ask you to do the same for the greater good of American society and vote no on this bill. We used to be first in the world to do things that would benefit our people regardless of cost, but now we are the last. We claim to be a Christian based society, but rarely do our politicians act as such. This bill is something I imagine Jesus would be ashamed of, and you should be too.

While you are considering how to vote please think about the Declaration of Independence passage Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Would passing this bill violate those inalienable rights given to us by our creator, and for which the government was created to protect? In my opinion passing this bill would violate that creed. Please protect life, and vote this bill down.

Thank you for taking time to read my ramblings.

American Citizen Travis James Stratton

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare Bill

I am contacting you to ask you to not go forward with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. It is hugely unpopular even among Republicans. The majority of Americans now believe that adequate and affordable healthcare is a fundamental right.

Please show your love for our great nation and do not go forward with this bill.

Sincerely,
Brian Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Repeal

I have lived quite a few years and never in those years have I seen elected representatives care so little about Americans. The healthcare bill the Senate is trying to inflict on us Americans is so deplorable. The fact that these horrible senators (who will keep their Obamacare) would vote yes on this bill, give billionaires a tax break with it while taking insurance from millions of Americans who put them in office breaks my heart.

I can tell you from personal experience how financially devastating a serious illness can be. Cancer, a life threatening autoimmune anemia and an accident all within a short period of time nearly bankrupted me. There will be millions like me out there who will be faced with bankruptcy or death. Passing this bill has nothing to do with helping Americans or even keeping a campaign promise (they've certainly not kept any of the other promises). It has to do with making sure the black man doesn't have a legacy. So vile.

This bill should be flushed. Obamacare might not be perfect but it could be fixed so that all Americans have insurance.

I hope all responsible people vote no on this bill. I truly feel if is passed, it will be the end of the GOP..

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Fiander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy Bill

When the ACA passed, I viewed it as an important, yet flawed, legislation that was nevertheless - necessary to bring us closer to a healthcare financing plan to begin to allow all citizens to have coverage. Common sense would indicate that our current legislators would work with one another to improve what we have. The current bill proposed by Senators Graham & Cassidy is a poor attempt at that. It appears to be a move to get something done for the sake of getting something done, no matter the impact. As my family and I know too well, there are major healthcare curve balls lurking nearby, regardless of whether or not you live a healthy lifestyle. We owe it to our US family to be a beacon of light and hope - especially when it comes to caring for one another in times of illness. Please banish this recent initiative, avoid the negative vortex of "settling scores" and making bad decisions, and put in the hard work you were expected and elected to do, and make Obamacare better - for all!

Thank you

Steve Fiander

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Steve Fiander
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Goreti [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am contacting you regarding Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to ACA. This is not a good bill and i am totally opposed to it.

Please do not hold a vote on this bill that will adversely effect our economy without a CBO score. How can you justify a vote on legislation without understanding fully what it will do to Americans?

A great concern that I have is the language in the bill which allows states to loosen protections on pre-existing conditions. Many of us would be affected by this provision. Although my husband & I are fairly healthy, we still have conditions that may greatly increase our premiums. We may not be able to afford healthcare depending on the price increases.

I am also concerned that the monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically making costs for seniors & disabled to skyrocket.

From all my research I do not find that the proposed bill will help Americans but instead cause millions to lose their health insurance. People without health insurance do not seek medical help until it is too late. This will cause many to die or go bankrupt in order to save their lives. This bill is cruel.

Please, please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Let's work to improve the existing law with bipartisan committees and I would like to see women on the committee also. I think women's health issue are really overlooked in this bill.

Thank you.

Goreti Pavao

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Bosko [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TrumpCare Round 2

Dear Senate Finance

Please help our country in this current state of crisis between right and wrong including life and death. Millions of Americans are at the mercy of their leaders voting on what is probably the most crucial decision of their lifetime. Without ones health there is nothing in life but suffering. We are scared. We are desperate to keep our lifeline..our health insurance.

The GOP view this as a matter of winning and pleasing their party/base. How can our President and leaders we rely and depend on only think of pleasing a campaign promise which is turning out to be a lie? This is not what they promised! They promised a better plan! Graham/Cassidy is not better! America did not vote on the assumption and promise that protections for pre existing conditions would be taken away. Stripping healthcare away from Americans is unconscionable, heartless and criminal. They know people will die. What govt/society does this to their people? What other country actually votes to take away healthcare? What President openly discusses his plans on sabotaging a law to fail because of his own agenda?

It is his responsibility to keep his citizens safe. He should be doing everything possible to help the millions on the ACA to stay healthy and by deliberately trying to encourage it to implode and threaten funding etc he is intentionally causing harm.

Senators and Mr President...please just fix the ACA so people won't die. For Gods Sake..just fix it! This is what 69% of Americans want and need!

My husband is self employed and we have paid for our own health insurance for over 27 years without missing a payment nor ever a lapse in coverage. Our 20 yr old son, almost 5 years into remission from Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma, is depending on his insurance with the ACA and he's depending on a NO Vote on this deadly and disastrous Graham/Cassidy plan. America cannot be victim to being stripped of its current healthcare protection. That would be UnAmerican.

Sincerely
Deb T Bosko

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Dunlap [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I have Multiple Sclerosis; my medication costs about \$6,000/month. I worked 35 years in one hospital; I'm retired. I A health care plan that allows insurers to charge more for pre-existing conditions would bankrupt me quickly. Since the leading cause of personal bankruptcies is medical expenses, that wouldn't be unusual.

The richest country in the world should be able to guarantee health care coverage for citizens. We are the only developed country that doesn't. Why not?

Oppose this bill that has not been investigated and is clearly not in the best interests of the U.S. citizens.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelli Perrault [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a citizen of the United States, I oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Kelli Perrault

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holley, Christopher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy health care bill

Vote No on this bill. Bad for all!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Barnett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please stop this atrocious bill. This is NOT an improvement versus the ACA and just demonstrates the GOP's desire to destroy anything associated with President Obama, no matter how beneficial it might be to US citizens.

Please stop this atrocious bill and ensure the people can retain insurance for pre existing conditions, without making it a state by state decision.

Thank you.

Lori Barnett

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

The proposed Graham/Cassidy bill is heartless and mean. It is really just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Rather than helping our fellow man, it will hurt the most vulnerable in our population.

Please do not pass this law. Instead, work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together for a solution.

Regards
Sheila Jones

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Sheila Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tisa M. Anders [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No! to Graham Cassidy Bill

I am highly concerned about the proposed Graham Cassidy bill. I plead with Congress to NOT pass this bill. It will detrimentally affect millions of Americans, including my husband and me.

My husband and I only make about \$2500 per month (small business income for me; Social Security retirement for him). He was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in Jan. 2016. ACA saved his life. Even with the health insurance subsidies, the \$215 monthly premiums and \$2,200 deductible for 2017 are burying us in medical bills. We still have about \$5,000 from 2016 and \$2,000 from this year. Soon, we will have the 2018 deductible expenses to add onto this already stressful situation--stressful emotionally but also financially. One hospital recently sent their bill to a collection agency even though we have faithfully made monthly payments for over a year. When the 2017 bills started rolling in, we could no longer pay the \$67/month. We had to decrease the payment to them to \$25/month as we had to begin paying on the new bills to the cancer center (about \$2000 before the deduction was met). My credit rating will now be detrimentally affected.

We are both over 50. I am 56, my husband, 63. With his pre-existing condition and our ages, I have no idea how we will meet the new monthly premiums and the deductions if Graham Cassidy passes. It will be hard enough under current ACA; it will disastrous for us under Graham Cassidy.

Yes, ACA has problems. We need to tweak it, not gut it. Please, let us do that and vote NO! to the Graham Cassidy bill.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns and my situation.

Tisa M. Anders, PhD
Activist, Author, Editor, Grant Writer, Consultant
Founder/CEO
Writing the World, LLC

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy bow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is horrendous and should not be passed under any circumstances. This may be a "win" for Trump & the GOP but would be a huge loss to Americans.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I believe in healthcare

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My mother died in late July. She drowned in a horrible accident at her apartment swimming pool.

After sitting beside her in various hospitals in VA and TX (as she battled health conditions brought on by childhood scoliosis) it was a shock for her to die this way. She had gotten out of a hospital stay in May and was slowly but surely returning to a better state of health. Through each of the previous hospital stays and recoveries my younger sister (who lived near my mother and was her frequent companion) and I became acquainted with many wonderful doctors and nurses. Each illness, they would do everything in their power to restore my mother back to a healthy state.

My mother hated hospitals and so did we. But I cannot express to you how thankful we were not to be saddled with an enormous medical bill each time. Thanks to her insurance; the procedures, stays, tests and supplies were decreased to a reasonable amount.

The last time I saw my mother alive, she was hooked up to a ventilator. Paramedics, then nurses and doctors tried valiantly to save her life and were able to bring back a slow heartbeat. When I rushed into the hospital room, after flying across the country I knew this would be goodbye. There was no wan smile at seeing me or grumbles about not being able to eat. She was just shaking, with her eyes closed. My sister had been with her the entire time and now sat by herself knowing what we would have to do. The nurse calmly explained that it was her brain sending signals that we not being processed and that my mother was brain dead. My sister and I stayed by her bed for hours, talking, screaming, crying and repeatedly telling my mother how much we and her grandchildren "sweeties" loved her.

Then, with the help of the ICU nurse, we said goodbye. Pulling that plug was the hardest thing I have done in my life. Watching her take her last breaths was the worst pain I have experienced.

Through it all- we had the nurse and other staff assisting us, guiding and comforting us. Not only did they allow me to say goodbye by prolonging her life by a few hours, they assisted my sister and I every step with compassion and humanity.

I know the hospital bills will come soon. And I will pay them, gratefully. With thanks to her insurance company. To go through this was a terrible thing but to go bankrupt because of a horrible accident that robbed us of our mother would be cruelty.

That's why I believe in healthcare.

Sincerely,

Courtney Pippin-Mathur

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Feldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding the Graham-Cassiday bill

To Senate members:

As a family physician, my patients rely on quality affordable healthcare, including Medicaid. I have seen the physical devastation patients experience when changes in health care result in higher costs to those who are already sicker and poorer. The potential for higher patient costs for pre-existing conditions, a cap on Medicaid, less funding and widely varying restrictions on coverage or funding for people on the individual markets is likely to have acute and profound effects on diabetics, cancer survivors, cardiac patients, families struggling with mental health or dementia. People will suffer. Our emergency rooms will become more crowded with patients whose needs could and should have been met elsewhere.

I am also writing as a mother of child with disabilities, who has fortunately survived a spinal cord tumor. He will need ongoing, life long services, and would never be insurable under the conditions that existed prior to the ACA. Not that far in the future, he will be an adult, and someday, I will not be there to help him. He will need a fully funded Medicaid system, a system that does not increase premiums based on pre-existing conditions, or place caps on payment. He cannot make this fight on his own. I am fighting for my son.

Do not pass this bill. Put your efforts into a bipartisan Congressional effort to solve the real problems that do exist in the ACA; it is possible.

Sincerely,

Jamie Feldman MD, PhD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda McConnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Objection

Passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill repealing the ACA would result in great harm to an economy that its supporters claim to want to grow. I am retired from 25 years of service for the Social Security Administration. I know that your offices have staff who are kept busy as a liaison with the SSA office on matters relating to disability benefits. I primarily interviewed disability applicants and recipients (as opposed to retirement and survivor applicants) from rural and urban areas of all ages for the last 10 years of my employment. I did this in a state that did not have Medicaid expansion. I found the following factors related to a lack of health insurance that negatively impact both government spending and growth in employment.

There are many people applying for disability benefits who would like to work but cannot because they have a chronic condition like diabetes, arthritis, seizure disorder, bipolar or Crohn's disease, just to name a few for which they need medication to function. Without health insurance, they cannot afford the medication on a regular basis. They are dependent on non-profits to supply them or they are taking less than the dosage needed. These same people are turned down for disability benefits because their condition is not considered severe enough to keep them out of work for a year because it could be alleviated with the medication. You can also substitute the words "surgery" or "physical therapy" or any form of ongoing medical treatment for a chronic condition in place of "medication" and the result is the same. Because they can't work, they appeal their claim denial and are usually turned down at the first level of appeal, the reconsideration. At that point, they request a hearing which very often takes a year to happen because of the nationwide backlog. While they are waiting for their hearing, they often get worse so that their condition is now severe enough for them to qualify, costing the trust funds a monthly benefit check equal to the amount they would have received at full retirement age. They still don't have Medicare because they have to be on benefits for 24 months before that happens. They have called your office repeatedly while waiting for that hearing to occur and, if they are turned down at the hearing, they will continue to call your office as they start the process all over again.

Meanwhile, there are beneficiaries who have been approved for benefits and, because they were fortunate enough to have health insurance or have been on benefits long enough to qualify for Medicare, they have seen their conditions improve enough that they can re-enter the workforce. All beneficiaries have a medical re-exam date that is established when they are approved so that their records can be reviewed and their benefits ceased if they have experienced this improvement. However, resources to work on these medical reviews usually disappears early in the fiscal year or is deferred to the current workload so who knows how many thousands of people receive benefits who shouldn't. There are people who return to work and report it and assume, since it was reported, that they are allowed to both receive their disability check and their paycheck. These folks end up overpaid and screaming both to your staffers and Social Security.

My point is that if people could take care of their health with subsidized coverage or something approaching single payer health care, they could be kept in the workforce, contributing to the tax base both for the good of the country and the Social Security trust funds. This would be much more effective long term than the short sighted, harmful Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Healthcare costs consume many people. More than once in my life, I chose to go without health insurance because of its expense. One time, I ended up in the emergency room with unbelievably high bills that drained what little savings I had, and left me in debt. I was lucky to have a job that kept a roof over my head. (Btw, still havent recovered savings). The vulnerability is real and affects millions of Americans, with stories way worse than mine.

Rather than trying to destroy Obamacare you should be looking for ways to better fund it. Indeed, I think we are way overdue for a national health system like the UK and Canada has, but Obamacare is the closest we could get. Don't wreck it. Especially if you cannot guarantee every person on American soil as good healthcare coverage as every member of Congress has, as affordable to us as it is to you - then don't you dare touch ACA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

How many times is the GOP going to try to pull a fast one? How many times does the public have to rise up and say NO before the GOP understands NO means NO? The Graham-Cassidy bill offered as a repeal & replace of Obamacare is the most callous and cruel plan yet.

Yet the GOP is pulling its usual transparent tricks to get the bill rammed through. It has not been vetted. It has not been debated. It was drawn up in secret by a select few. This is NOT how law-making is supposed to work.

I'm sick and tired of my Congresspeople putting loyalty to party before the wishes of their constituents. I'm sick and tired of the GOP trying to take away healthcare. I'm sick and tired of the petty vindictiveness that leads our Congress to oppose something simply because the other party is for it. Congress is paid too much to act like a bunch of spiteful kindergardeners. Congress needs to remember they work for the PEOPLE of the USA, not the party they are aligned with.

The world is watching. History is watching. The people of America are watching.

NO NO NO on Graham-Cassidy.

NO NO NO to ramming bills through instead of dealing honorably.

NO NO NO to tax cuts for the rich.

NO.

NO repeal and replace in any form ever.

NO.

Michelle Spencer Davidson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggys Aol [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham/Cassidy

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peggys Aol [REDACTED]
Date: September 22, 2017 at 7:09:45 PM EDT
To: GHCcomments@finance.senate.gov
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Future generations (if we do not destroy the planet before they are born) will look at this entire era, and this horrible proposed legislation, as a low point in our country's history. Shame on all of you voting for it. You are representing only the rich and powerful (and only the worst of them) over the American people. You are abasing American ideals. You are consigning us to the very bottom of the list of developed nations.....and, really, many third world nations as well.....in our health care. You are sacrificing our status as the leader of the free world.....indeed it is a stretch to call the crass plutocracy we are forming any manner of democracy at all. I applaud the few brave souls going against their party. They will be able to hold their heads high for all their days. Those supporting the bill? Not so much (not at all).

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear sirs

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to Graham-Cassidy. It's passage will make millions of Americans more insecure medically and financially.

The process is also undemocratic: The CBO needs to cost Graham-Cassidy before any legislative action is taken.

Thank you
Stephen Danyo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Beauvais [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please stop the politics, and worrying about your rich donors and do what is right for all Americans.

Linda Beauvais

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Kominsk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill is an affront to my personal liberty

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to register my strong disapproval of the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill or any "block grant" healthcare legislation.

I am a scientist, an academic, currently funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development under a National Research Service Award. In the next two years, I hope to get a job at a research institution in the US to further support America's global leadership in science. However, I was also born with asthma, anaphylactic allergies, and mental health conditions that are all commonly classified as "pre-existing conditions". I am married to someone who is self-employed, and has her own set of "pre-existing conditions".

As I am trying to continue a career in public research, I can only go where there are faculty openings. That already restricts my options, but the Graham-Cassidy bill would restrict them further: I could not take jobs in any states that took their "block grant" and allowed employers to deny coverage to spouses and restrict coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, as the bill would allow states to do. My ability to seek employment in my own damn country is threatened by this bill. It is not an exaggeration to say that I would probably have to leave the US altogether if it passed, if the only jobs that could guarantee my healthcare were in countries with sensible universal-coverage solutions.

Therefore I strongly encourage the finance committee to treat this bill according to its merits, and save the taxpayers the cost of congressional toilet paper for a couple of weeks.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Kominsky, Ph.D.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ljdubs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Even without a CBO score, the Graham-Cassidy Bill is clearly not a solution to the problems with ACA. Unlike this bill, the ACA helps millions of people everyday. The proposed bill will harm 32 million people, just for the sake of tax cuts for the wealthy and for the sake of passing anything as a GOP "achievement". Does the GOP really want this to be their legacy? Does the GOP truly care so little for the people they promised to serve, that they are willing to take responsibility for the deaths of 32 million people? Really?

All members of Congress, irrespective of affiliation, were elected for the greater good, to serve the American people even at the potential detriment of themselves. Now is the time to stand up for what is right.

Senator McCain took the heroic step of saying no to the bill today. We live in truly desperate times when a Senator becomes a hero simply because he is the only one brave enough to do the right thing. Congressmen and women, we are counting on ALL of you to do the right thing. Do what you were sworn to do - protect the American people and serve the greater good.

Respectfully,
-Leslie Wechling

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Grieshop [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

My adult daughter depends on Medicare to cover her medical expenses for her bipolar disorder. As a retired schoolteacher, I do too. I am opposed to the repeal of the ACA because it threatens our ability to receive treatment for the course of our lives. Both of us paid our share into Medicare when we were able to do so and we are deeply afraid that we will lose our benefits when we need them. Pat Grieshop

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Attn: Senate Finance Committee - Statement for the Record on the Graham-Cassidy hearing

Importance: High

Attn: Senate Finance Committee
Statement for the Record
Graham-Cassidy hearing Sept. 25, 2017

Aloha to the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a registered voter, in Honouliuli, HI 96728, and I definitely VOTE.

I am writing to implore you as American patriots to DEFEAT, BLOCK or otherwise NOT ALLOW TO MOVE FORWARD the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal" that your committee is scheduled to discuss on 25 September 2017.

Do not allow the racist, partisan politics of late to continue.

Work WITHIN the Affordable Care Act to fix its shortcomings.

All you people have to do is stop calling it Obamacare - the only reason you keep trying to REVERSE THE LAW OF OUR LAND that was enacted by your predecessors in Congress is to satisfy the racist rantings of ignorant people.

Surely, all of you are better than that. Don't feed the hatred.

Do right by your constituents - STOP the "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal" in its tracks and get on with the business of government in the here and now.

With all due respect, from a US Citizen; registered, active voter

Sonia R. Martinez
Free-lance food writer, columnist and cookbook author Keep up with my adventures in food and gardening

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: plasterpro [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care reform

My husband and I already pay one thousand dollars a month and 25% of every charge after a 3 thousand dollar deductible. We are 57 and 62 years old, with chronic health conditions that don't have to interfere with quality of life if we receive regular medical care. Please do not repeal the ACA and destabilize the whole system.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional

effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you.

Lauren Johnson

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 8.0, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My nephew relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill.

Tyler has struggled since his early 20s with erratic behavior and self-destructive actions. Through family efforts, he finally was able to get on Medicaid in Washington state. He was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and is now is getting counseling, medication, and is getting his life back together. If he is thrown off this medical coverage, who knows because he can't afford the medication or counseling on his own.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, not repeal it. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, please. This is a beg you are reading.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Adkins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Seefeldt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Passing something that impacts 1/5th of our economy and millions of people without the CBO score, bipartisanship work or regular order is wrong.

Republicans say they "promised" and want to keep their promise to repeal. Guess what, Americans don't want you to keep that particular promise. Society has evolved regarding healthcare and so should Republicans.

Healthcare is a right.

It appears Republicans are only interested in doing what their wealthy donors want. Sorry, you work for ALL of your constituents, not just a wealthy few.

Start working with Democrats. Stop destroying all the norms in Congress. It's not about your party getting a "win". It's about coming together and working for what's best for the entire country. Stop the "us against them" mentality.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joyce DuPree [REDACTED] ✉
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy Bill

I currently have health insurance through my employer. I have several pre-existing medical conditions and if I were to lose my job for any reason, with this bill, I could become uninsurable.

I have worked hard since I was a college student. I have paid taxes in a country that I thought to be the greatest on earth. However, this GOP leadership is making it embarrassing to be an American. Everyone in this country deserves quality health insurance. It's a right, not a privilege.

They hate Obama so much, that they have gutted the ACA, and still blame him for the problems with Obamacare. This legislation was a giant step forward for our country. Republicans and Democrats should work together to improve the ACA.

I'm sure President Obama doesn't care if his name isn't on it. He just wants quality health care for all.

As a woman, I am appalled that men with wives, daughters and mothers, could come up with a plan that strips women of essential care. I don't see how the women in the GOP can support this legislation.

We must do all we can to defeat this bill. President Trump is clueless, he doesn't know what's in the bill, he just wants a win. Well, this would be a great loss for our country. Let's not let it pass!!

Joyce DuPree

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gael Schaefer [REDACTED] ***
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: URGENT re: your vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate,

Healthcare is one of the most important moral and human rights issues of our time and one that I feel most passionate about in my voting for the past decade of American elections. It will surely guide my future voting until healthcare is ethically resolved....

Please reject this new Graham-Cassidy bill you are putting forth.

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, not to mention radical change to Medicaid, diminished funding for every state and higher costs for those lucky enough to have insurance through employment. If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits.

Reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Your very concerned citizen

Gael Schaefer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zion Greenlee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In support of preserving the Affordable Care Act and blocking the passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill

In support of preserving the Affordable Care Act and defeating any “Repeal and Replace” effort, I wanted to share my story. I am an American citizen and my life is completely dependent on the outcome of this legislation. As a type I diabetic, married to a woman with Crohn's disease, I am directly impacted by the horrifying changes to healthcare that Republicans are looking to pass hastily and heartlessly. Because both of us have serious pre-existing conditions, we would not be able to afford our healthcare costs if insurance providers were able to deny us coverage.

I am completely opposed to the idea that a debate over ensuring the health and wellbeing of every American has turned into a despicable way to pass tax cuts on to the wealthiest Americans and corporations, or simply cut any spending that benefits other American citizens. I truly hope that the ACA will remain the law of the land and that our elected officials can come together to make the necessary improvements.

Zion Greenlee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy KILPATRICK [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed healthcare bill

I am ashamed and embarrassed that Senator Graham and his cosponsor has proposed a bill that is not only detrimental to his constituents here in South Carolina but is a veritable death sentence to millions of Americans, taking advantage of those who can least afford to pay and those most in need of healthcare insurance SUPPORT. The Affordable Care Act wasn't perfect. Rather than complain for years about the ACA, consistently doing everything possible to undermine the good it has done, the Republican Party - MY party - grumbled and moaned and denigrated the ACA at every turn. The time would have been better spent working with those across the aisle to make the ACA better. To make it stronger to protect our people. Give money to the states to determine what will be covered? Bollocks! How many of your constituents will fall through the gap of 'pre-existing conditions'? You should be ashamed to even consider putting to a vote a bill which is detrimental to tens of millions of Americans. American VOTERS! Rest assured that if this bill is passed, it is a death knell to not just the poor, the sick and the elderly, but to the Party, whose apparent 'let them eat cake' attitude tells us all that, unless we are the privileged and the wealthy, we do not deserve affordable health care. Shame on you for even considering such a misguided and mean piece of legislation! I am vehemently opposed to this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara L Kornblau [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy bill is horrible for my family

To the Senate Finance Committee,

Like Jimmy Kimmel's son, to no fault of our own, my daughter was born with a congenital heart defect. She was born in fetal distress and spent 2 week in the neonatal intensive care unit. To make matters worse, when they repaired her heart in open heart surgery when she was 18 months old, they gave her contaminated blood, giving her hepatitis C, which we did not discover until she was 16. At age 16, she underwent the available treatment for hepatitis C at the time, and we were told she was cured. By the grace of G-d, we did not reach her lifetime cap, because there is no way we could have afforded the medication to treat hepatitis C, despite my husband and I both working as professionals.

Because of her medical history, we stressed to her while she was growing up, that she would need a good job that provided her with health insurance. She worked hard and graduated from law school in the middle of the great recession. There were no jobs to be had in the legal field. However, Obamacare came into existence at the same time. Obamacare meant that despite her pre-existing conditions, she could buy health insurance, and I could sleep at night instead of worrying.

My daughter has a legal job now, however, this job does not provide health insurance. If you repeal Obamacare, my daughter will die if she gets sick. We cannot afford coverage with her numerous pre-existing conditions under the uncertain, nonspecific language of the Graham-Cassidy bill, that does not guarantee access to premiums that do not skyrocket beyond what she can afford. None of us can afford another heart surgery should her valve require replacement. We cannot afford treatment for hepatitis C, should the treatment she had prove to not really have cured her. We cannot afford a liver transplant should she require one from the damage from the hepatitis C. Please do not give my daughter a death sentence and let me continue to sleep at night so I don't get sick. Thank you.

Barbara L. Kornblau
A mom of a now adult child with a congenital heart defect

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Kofsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I am a disabled and rely on Obama Care ! I don't want anyone touching my health care that I rely on.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gene Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill Graham - Cassidy

I'm against the Graham Cassidy bill. It leaves senior out in the cold!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Piecara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Americans are very tired of the constant games that the GOP are playing with our lives. Why are Americans lives a lower priority than the ego-driven desire to one-up Barack Obama? These games are transparent, immature, and deadly. The Graham-Cassidy bill is the latest in a long line of terrible, ill-conceived, shocking pieces of legislation that members of the GOP have thrown out at their constituents. Like its predecessors, this bill scares the daylight out of anyone brave enough to look at it. These so-called "healthcare bills" are not good enough to stand the test of regular order, so they are all kept secret until the very last second hoping few will notice that they are cutting millions of sick, elderly, disabled, children and untold others off their healthcare plans. The Graham-Cassidy bill just like all the disasters before it makes huge and callous cuts to Medicaid which provides care to our elderly, our children, and our disabled including our veterans. Millions of others will loose their healthcare including those with pre-existing conditions who is basically everybody. This bill crafted in secret lacks any input from citizens, from medical professionals, from the insurance industry, and from medical organizations. The Graham-Cassidy Bill has been opposed by every major health organization. The National Association of Medicaid Directors has this analysis of the Graham-Cassidy bill, "Taken together, the per-capita caps and the envisioned block grant would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history," And in regard to the irresponsible decision to vote on the bill before Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score, Medicaid directors said, (the CBO score) should be the bare minimum required for beginning consideration. With only a few legislative days left for the entire process to conclude, there clearly is not sufficient time for policymakers, Governors, Medicaid Directors, or other critical stakeholders to engage in the thoughtful deliberation necessary to ensure successful long-term reforms." This bill is reckless. This bill is frightening. This bill threatens my life, my disabled children's lives, and my elderly father's life. Why are the GOP blind and deaf to the life and death suffering of Americans? Other countries pay far less on healthcare than Americans and have better outcomes. Other countries don't have to live in fear of having the choice of bankruptcy or death. We could have this, too if only America had representatives that actually represented us. It is past time Americans demand better...demand better healthcare, demand lower costs and demand better representation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please no

Can you guys just focus on fixing the healthcare as it is? Toss red ties and blue ties aside and stop sabotaging a fantastic opportunity to provide healthcare to all of our citizens. Please stop the insanity of this repeal bill.

Justin

Sent from my TI-83, please excuse brevity and errors

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Buck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy proposal

@SenJohnMcCain says, "I cannot in good conscience vote for the Graham-Cassidy proposal."

I am afraid. It is difficult to stay positive and hopeful.

I have a preexisting condition called cancer. I have had chemotherapy and radiation and have lost all of my hair. I still ache and am afraid with each pain in my body that I am not yet in remission. I have private pay insurance and my income is social security + husbands social security disability + savings and caring for aging parent. And I am much better off than most people facing loss of ACA. It is hard to heal and stay calm with leaders who vote political line to keep their jobs rather than what is right and good for the American people.

Thank you John McCain.

Wish anyone else, someone else had a good conscience. I wish someone would listen to me.

Anne Buck

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Please save the ACA, many people depend on this program for healthcare. Please stop trying to hurt the American people, fix the ACA!!
Lynn Schneider

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a nurse who has worked in health care for over forty years, and I am totally opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. There is an enormous economic cost - in addition to the human cost - of people not having reasonable access to health insurance or to a healthcare system like Medicare or Medicaid. Chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and asthma are manageable with relatively low cost - IF patient have access to care. When they don't, their diseases progress faster and give rise to complications that could have been prevented. Please do not take away access to reasonable-cost health insurance for Americans by passing this bill. Coverage for pre-existing conditions, maternity care, and Medicaid coverage is cost-effective and needs to be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Josh Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Bill

Hello, I am emailing you in regards to the GC healthcare bill currently being proposed.

This bill does not address the needs of Americans in a meaningful and honest way. I am a nurse, and I see the impact that not having access to affordable healthcare has on my patients every single day. This bill does not address pre-existing conditions, lifetime limits, or improving access to healthcare. There is not one single major healthcare organization that supports this bill. That should be a giant red flag for our senators.

We do not know the full financial impact that this current bill will have- and impacting 1/6th of the US economy is serious. Bills of this magnitude should not be partisan exercises in extremism.

The ACA is not broken, but there are issues. I implore our leadership to come to the table and attempt to address the issues in a meaningful and honest way. The American people deserve it.

Joshua Turner RN-BSN, CCRN, SRNA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Womsley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Mental Health and Medicaid

September 25, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Finance
Rm. SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 205110

Submitted by: Name / Organization Name
Street Address
City, State Zip

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of (fill in name of your organization), I submit this testimony to the Senate Finance committee, in regards to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2017.

It is known to every policymaker and every public health official that the opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on all Americans, and Illinois is no exception. The Affordable Care Act, and the Medicaid expansion that accompanied it, has been a boon to substance abuse treatment to the people of Illinois. Not only would this bill put Medicaid expansion in Illinois at risk, but the reforms proposed to the Medicaid system would be outright disastrous to the substance abuse and mental health treatment communities. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to stem SUD services, as vast multitudes of your constituents will lose vital coverage, leaving them susceptible to addiction and overdoses. It is also a vote to terminate life-long mental health care for citizens of less means, denying them an opportunity to be productive members of society that can contribute to our collective growth and well-being.


Health care economists Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied estimate that 1.3 million people with serious mental illness and 2.8 million people with SUDs — including 220,000 people with opioid disorders — could lose health coverage under ACA repeal. Both chambers of Congress have spent the past several years expressing its concern for these populations, and support of this bill would be nothing short of a slap in the face to these vulnerable populations, at both a fiscal and emotional level.

As a result of zeroing out block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill is essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act without replacing it, and at least **965,000 Illinoisans would lose coverage by 2027**. The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 2,201,841 Illinoisans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036. Finally, allowing states to opt out of the Essential Health Benefits coverage means that insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care one receives, even impacting people with coverage from their employer. Up to 1,195,000 Illinoisans with employer-sponsored coverage would lose these protections- and as you may be aware, addiction is a chronic disease, requiring a lifetime of care.

We hope your colleagues in Congress are aware that a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to decimate the progress we have made in fighting substance use disorders, as well as mental illness, over the past several years. However, we must not let our progress be stunted, especially as we stand upon the precipice of true advances for our most vulnerable populations. Medicaid plays a vital role in providing behavioral health services across Illinois. Although the CARA act, as well as the 21st Century Cures Act and its mental health provisions, were a great boost to our mission, they pale in comparison to the contributions made by Medicaid. Illinois simply cannot afford for this bill to be passed, at a fiscal or a moral level.

The opioid epidemic, unfortunately, is just a scratch on the surface. When we take into account the costs of all substance abuse, including alcoholism, we see how dire the need for quality care really is. We are well aware of the political stakes involved in this vote, but the stakes in real life are even higher. Lives hang in the balance. Substance abuse treatment saves lives, and a vote in favor of this bill is a vote to curtail these services. We urge you to vote against this bill, so that you may consider yourself a true champion of our cause.

Sincerely
Mary Womsley

Mary Womsley


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Bowman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I am begging you not to vote yes on this healthcare bill. Listen to the American people. We don't want it. Why can't they just work on the present ACA and fix it instead of denying healthcare to so many. Why do we have to let people suffer when America is so great. I am praying that you do the right thing and do not let this bill pass. I am sure you already have your minds made up, but I am begging you to listen to us. Do what will make America great again!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Danko [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose GCH

I am writing because I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal for healthcare reform in the United States. I, along with millions of other Americans and, as far as I can tell, every major organization providing or facilitating healthcare, have serious concerns about the proposal's effect on Americans in low-income brackets, Americans with pre-existing conditions, and our senior citizens who would find it anywhere from much more difficult to basically impossible to afford healthcare. I feel the proposal is not bipartisan, has not been considered thoroughly even by its authors, and will not succeed in its alleged goal of making healthcare easier to obtain for all in the United States. I will lend my support wholeheartedly to a bipartisan effort to accomplish healthcare reform for American citizens. The Graham-Cassidy proposal is no such thing and I urge all members of the Senate to oppose its passage.

Best,
Eric Danko

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SConway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I have a friend whose child has Cerebral Palsy and this bill would create a frightening situation for this family. I have another friend who has had a heart transplant whose life will be put in jeopardy with this bill.

A doctor takes an oath to "do no harm." I believe the Senate should add that to their oath. This bill is the exact opposite. Please do NOT enact this legislation.

Sharon
Hope Courage Action

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy a Life or Death matter

Greetings,

My names Kim Moore.

I am a 53 year old female with 2 children, 2 grandchildren, and one on the way.

In 2 weeks 'm having back surgery to remove a 7 mm cyst in my spine.

After that I will have open heart surgery to replace my aorta valve. (this will be my 2nd time. The first was open heart surgery was in 1968).

If Graham-Cassidy passes I'm afraid I won't be able to afford the life saving open heart surgery.

I've worked hard to serve my community since I had to retire in 1995 sue to a disability.

I have so much to live for. I shouldn't have to be scared of dying because I can't afford healthcare.

Graham Cassidy is inhumane. We The People are sick and tired (literally) of the insurance industry being propped up.

The fact that people die for the sake of profits by the insurance industry is unacceptable.

Patients suffer and healthcare workers have become slaves of the system in order that a few overpaid CEO's can sit on their proverbial assets waiting for their next private jet flight to their overpriced luxury conference where they hobnob with others raping the American people.

Enough is enough!

I refuse to continue to support any political representative who supported Graham Cassidy.

That's not a threat; its a promise!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Moore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bekkipatzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom it may concern,

In 2012 the age of six, my daughter Cassia was diagnosed with Anomalous Pancreaticobiliary Junction (APBJ). This means she now has a pre-existing condition, pec. Data shows that Cassia has a 50% chance of getting cancer by the time she's 50 because of her APBJ. Twice a year, she's screened for cancer markers in her blood, has an ultrasound of her abdomen, and a physical exam with her specialist. This will need to happen for the rest of her life.

Under the current ACA law, she can't cap out on lifetime benefits, meaning they can't kick her off for USING our insurance as it's intended to be used. This newest bill WILL allow your insurance to cap you out and kick you off FOR USING YOUR INSURANCE. This is wrong and can't be allowed to happen.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rebecca Patzer

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: As A Physician I Urge You to Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a physician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is just as bad as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years.

Any physician knows that when it comes to our patients, coverage doesn't always mean care. By overturning protections for patients with preexisting conditions and by slashing coverage of essential health benefits, this bill would leave too many patients between the cracks – especially the most vulnerable.

Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy. Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Sincerely,

Kathleen F. Thurmond, M.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I'm a brain tumor survivor. Both of my sons have pre-existing conditions. If Graham-Cassidy passes, we will not be able to afford health insurance/health care.

Not everyone lives in a state that can be trusted to protect its residents. We're in FL and have no confidence our government will ensure people like us can afford health insurance.

Graham-Cassidy with either bankrupt us or kill us.
Please vote against it.

Lisa Green
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Geoghegan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a concerned American, I am asking and pleading with the members of your committee to please vote NO on the G-C bill.

Please put the citizens of the great country above politics and above financial gain.

We expect all our leaders to put party-politics aside and work in a bi-partisan manner to improve and enhance the ACA.

Our lives and that of our children and our future is not a bargaining chip to be used in a game of chicken. No more insults; no more self-serving rhetoric; no more back room deals!!!

Please do the job we voted for you all to do!

Cindy Geoghegan
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathi Duffy [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing in regard to the Graham/Cassidy bill proposal for ACA replacement. This is an attempt to repeal ACA without an adequately prepared bill. Based on the lack of a CBO score one can only presume the numbers will be as bad as we fear. They don't want the public to know the impact on the American people: numbers of loss of coverage, loss of pre-existing condition coverage either directly or indirectly through prohibitive costs, loss of the Medicaid safety net for those without adequate income or coverage, loss of coverage through annual and lifetime caps, etc. This bill is anti-female and an attempt to push a social agenda rather than a healthcare based one as it attempts to interfere with access to reproductive care, even childbirth.

We need to return to due process in Congress with committee work, greater transparency, allowance for hearings with experts and citizens testimony, and certainly cost analysis which seems only to be accepted when it supports the underlying agenda of the bill proposers. Please, kill the Graham/Cassidy bill. I, for one, am a user of ACA and feel it is a poor system because of inflated costs for the value of the insurance you receive. For me, it is an attempt to prevent medical bankruptcy in the event of a big medical problem. So, I am not wedded to whether the solution is called Obamacare or Trumpcare. I care about finding something that meets the need of Americans which can be best achieved by bipartisan efforts within the traditional bill process. Shockingly, many other civilized countries have successfully managed to make healthcare accessible for all their citizens.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Duffy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JEFFREY RILEY <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

Every major company and organization that has a stake in our healthcare system is against this bill (including the insurance companies) as they see the severe financial ramifications that it will have and the chaos that it will cause. Americans should not have to beg for money on "GoFundMe" or other similar sites to afford care. People get sick, babies are born with preexisting conditions, and people are involved in accidents through no fault of their own. This bill is being jammed through Congress without bipartisan support, hearings, regular order and without a CBO score. Yet, the members of Congress exempt themselves. If it is to be good enough for us regular Americans than it should be good enough for Congress. Congress should not have special treatment and should be given the same "healthcare" that they are trying to impose on us.

I am totally against this bill. I want to see the ACA stabilized and expanded so that all persons have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

J. Riley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda McWilliams <[REDACTED]@gcloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy bill

This bill is horrific! I am asking that you do not support this bill.
Thank you!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Lanzarotta [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is cruel and does not serve our citizens

Respectfully submit my comment that the graham Cassidy bill is a desperate act of vindictiveness on the part of the Republican Party that will cause suffering for our county's citizens. Do not pass this cruel bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Kill it before it kills many Americans! Too many of us have pre-existing conditions.
Geri Roth

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica McArdle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable care act

I write in support of the affordable care act. I rely as does my family on insurance, having been without it after my father died. I was a teenager and it was difficult and scary, especially when I was injured and without healthcare. I ask for a bipartisan effort in improving the affordable care act, not repealing it.

Regards,

Rev. Jessica McArdle

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Mueller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not do this

Please do not pass this horrible bill that will strip millions of the care they need.

Thank you,
Ellen Mueller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Weintraub [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I appeal to your conscience: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare")

Dear Graham Cassidy Hearing,

The Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") provides tremendously needed health care services to millions who would not otherwise receive them.

And WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE THEM under the Graham-Cassidy repeal. Repeal of the ACA is wrong-headed and outright cruel.

I appeal to your conscience: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare").

I would like to see a Bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA (widen coverage, extend benefits), NOT repeal it.

Thank you,
Steven Weintraub

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shirley Clayton <shirleyclaytonone@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the Affordable Care Act

My family and I need Quality affordable healthcare that does not penalize pre-existing conditions. We do not have an employer paid healthcare and therefore appreciate the ability to get healthcare through the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shirley Clayton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carmen Whitmire [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Carmen Whitmire [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 1:23 PM
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill
To: gchcomments@finance.senate.giv <gchcomments@finance.senate.giv>

Please help the American people to keep the ACA which protects so many millions of people with pre-existing conditions. We can't go back in time where people can't afford healthcare because they didn't have the means to pay for it. As Americans we have the right to have great healthcare which will not be provided by the Graham Cassidy bill, there is no guarantee that states will not take away healthcare from millions and in 2026 as many as 32millions will be without healthcare or affordable healthcare. I have a pre-existing condition Crohn's disease and I will be one of the people who will be affected by this bill. Healthcare needs to be a bipartisan bill to make sure that everything possible can be done to protect the American people and their healthcare.

Thank you, Carmen Whitmire

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Flynn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy will harm millions of people, and it will not even have the benefit of a Congressional Budget Office analysis. Passing this bill would be cruel and irresponsible. Please do not take healthcare from people who are already sick, with pre-existing conditions or from children, whether under 18 or those under 26, covered by their parents health insurance. The hospitals will be overwhelmed with people in need of basic care. Please consider taking your time and drafting a bill that will work to the benefit of all of us, (we the people.) Those of us who vote honestly care.

Thank you,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bronwyn Harris [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass Graham-Cassidy!

It is a draconian law that will hurt millions - tens of millions - of Americans. We just want health care! Why do people keep trying to take it away!

Bronwyn Harris

[redacted]
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shirley Stoll [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

I am writing to oppose the current health care bill developed by Graham Cassidy. My family plus friends of mine depend on affordable health care that covers pre-existing conditions for cancer diabetes and many other concerns. If given block grants every state will be different depending upon the power of the governor and legislature. This is a time for both parties to learn to work together as the founders of our constitution envisioned.. Please vote no. Thanks

Shirley [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Cynthia Anderson

Sent from my iPad.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

Every major company and organization that has a stake in our healthcare system is against this bill (including the insurance companies) as they see the severe financial ramifications that it will have and the chaos that it will cause. Americans should not have to beg for money on "GoFundMe" or other similar sites to afford care. People get sick, babies are born with preexisting conditions, and people are involved in accidents through no fault of their own. This bill is being jammed through Congress without bipartisan support, hearings, regular order and without a CBO score. Yet, the members of Congress exempt themselves. If it is to be good enough for us regular Americans than it should be good enough for Congress. Congress should not have special treatment and should be given the same "healthcare" that they are trying to impose on us.

I am totally against this bill. I want to see the ACA stabilized and expanded so that all persons have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

M. Riley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Johnsen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For the record

This bill is awful. Do not vote for it.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

As a widow with a pre-existing medical condition raising 2 kids on my own, I implore the Senate to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. I cannot afford to lose medical insurance or pay higher premiums.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Register [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. The United States needs to take a bi-partisan approach over the next year to uphold the goals of both cost cutting and affordable care for all Americans.

Linda R. Safyan

Sent from my iPod

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Sadowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ohri-Vachaspati, Punam (Gillibrand); Brand, Morgan (Schumer)
Subject: graham cassidy "health" "care"

I am beside myself when I think that this horror may come into law.

For years, I didn't think I could afford health care. Luckily, I did manage to get a high deductible, Health Savings eligible plan whose premiums went up a ridiculous percentage over the years. I was lucky to have insurance, as frighteningly inadequate as it was. It's laughable to me, in a not at all funny sort of way, that Health Savings accounts are touted as wonderful, workable solutions. They are ridiculously inadequate. A joke, but that is another story. I was lucky to have insurance because I got cancer and had surgery and radiation. (What's the rate now of people who get cancer? Something like 1 in 3?) And at least I could pay the deductible, the premiums, and the out-of-pocket for non-participating providers (like the anesthesiologist and the lab who did the biopsies). Who knew that you could pick a hospital that was a provider, but be stuck because the people they employed wouldn't be and therefore you could add thousands more to the cost of a procedure?

Then came ACA and I could stop being afraid when I opened the mail. Cancer is scary enough, but adding the fear of financial ruin is brutal. Bankruptcies for medical reasons have declined under Obamacare, they will rise again. So more foreclosures, more homelessness.

Now I have Medicare, which is even better. But I feel for all the people this atrocity of a bill will impact. I was over 60 when I first got cancer. Premiums for people in that age group will rise astronomically. Poor people will be hit disproportionately. Hospitals will close or be seriously hurt—who will pay for the emergency room treatment that will be what is left for the uninsured, or the unpaid medical bills the hospitals will have to eat? Or will we leave people to die in the street? Nursing homes will be driven out of business with these changes to Medicaid. What happens a sick and/or elderly person becomes too much for their children and relatives to take care of them; will all the caregivers be so much "collateral damage"? My sister took care of my mother until she couldn't do it any more. Luckily Medicaid paid for the last few months of my mother's care. No one wants to send their loved one to a nursing home, but it often becomes necessary.

Words cannot express how disturbed I am to consider this atrocity being perpetrated on the American people in the interest of greed and vindictiveness. The hypocrisy is overwhelming. I'll be interested to see if Senator Murkowski's vote can be bought by keeping Obamacare for Alaska while letting the people of most of the rest of the country suffer. I hope not. I am grateful to Senators Collins and McCain for their courage, but have little faith that the rest of Republican Congress will stand up for the people of this country. I can't imagine that they don't know all this; that they don't know they are hurting not just poor people, sick people, and people of color, but most likely eventually (and soon) sending the health care system into a death spiral. What insanity is this? What unbelievable allegiance to greed and power has created this situation?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Hackman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC HC Disaster
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

This is Ashley. Ashley is a single Mom of 2 young and amazing boys, Haven and Easten. They are ages 7 and 10. Ashley has Lupus, End Stage Kidney Failure and right sided heart failure. The ACA is why she is still alive and why she is still able to disconnect every morning from her dialysis and take her boys to school.

Please save the ACA!! These 2 boys need their Mom!!

The ACA saves Ashley everyday!

Kate

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Hoverman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

32 Million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, 90 seconds of debate? If you want to keep your campaign pledges start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits. Reject this bill.

And then grow a heart.

Best,
Matt Hoverman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Shackelford [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Why on earth would anyone in good conscience vote to deprive millions of healthcare?

And especially the weakest and poorest among us?

This bill is ONLY about politics – it is utterly shameful that Republican leadership so callously ignores the needs of millions to score political points.

We will remember this vote at election time.

Betsy Shackelford
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Leonard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Please stop with your horrible HC R&R crap and fix the ACA. Period. Full stop.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Holder [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill trumpcare/Graham-Cassidy healthcare

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you do whatever is in your power to please see to it that the Graham-Cassidy legislation does NOT pass.

This would be devastating for women's health & for people with pre-existing conditions. Senators Graham & Cassidy can say otherwise, but the waivers available for insurance groups to opt out of covering conditions is plain to see.

Please work with each other to fix the issues with the ACA or to offer universal healthcare. Save the people of this country. But passing the Graham-Cassidy bill won't do that. You'll kill millions.

Please make us proud to be Americans again, to know that you are working for OUR benefit.

Thank you,

Dr. Laura L. Holder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlesanna Ecker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I fear for the lives of my sons if you repeal ACA and replace it with Graham Cassidy. Both of them have serious pre-existing conditions.

My 25 year old is a two time cancer survivor who spent a total of 5 years undergoing chemotherapy. He worries every day that his cancer will return and it breaks my heart that with everything he has been through he now has to also worry that in the future he may not be able afford the care he needs to detect a relapse, or the lifesaving care he would need if his cancer returned.

My 18 year old son struggles with mental health issues. Thanks to regular psychiatric appointments and a complex regimen of medications he graduated high school and has just started college. It is a struggle, but if he is unable to afford treatment and medications he will not be able to navigate his life independently.

I know that many senators claim that Graham Cassidy does provide protections for those with pre-existing conditions. But from what I've read, it will be up to the states (who will have less funding to cover insurance costs) to decide whether to request a waiver allowing them to not provide the inherently expensive coverage for pre-existing conditions, or to provide it at a cost and with a deductible that it is out of reach for most people. I feel like the talking points being used to support this bill are dishonest. The language is vague enough to allow them to claim that there is "affordable coverage", but every one knows that when it gets to the states, many many people are going to be worse off. It's very convenient that the senators can then claim it's not their fault.

It is absolute malpractice to try to rush through a bill that is so consequential for so many people. This is something that requires careful study and planning. This is why 'regular order' was created. So few of the American people support this plan. It is clearly being done for political and financial reasons and not for any attempt to improve the healthcare of the American people.

I beg you to reject this bill. Please work together in a bipartisan manner to come up with fixes and improvements to the ACA, that improve healthcare and reduce costs. This is challenging but so so important for our country.

Thank you,

Charlesanna Ecker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerry DeWitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Healthcare Bill

Dear sirs:

The Senate healthcare bill is in abomination! It does nothing to improve care for Americans in fact it does the opposite!
You know this so you should not pass this bill!

Jerry De Witt

- It pays for transportation to doctor's appointments outside the city of residence.
- It pays for surgical procedures
- And so much more I can list.....

Government is in a uproar about abortion, how wrong this and that is, but when it comes to capping/cutting the biggest insurance coverage for America's most vulnerable in the name of saving money and give tax breaks to the America's wealthy is disheartening, and is post abortion that no one talks about. Without going into details here, this debt/Medicaid problem is the government fault, and now the big wigs think capping/cutting Medicaid will save money.... The reality is, it will only add to the debt...

**Thanks,
Richard**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

[REDACTED] #1
[REDACTED]
Disability: Cerebral Palsy

The new Healthcare bill that the White House is trying to sneak though will have a devastating effect of we the people with disabilities. Already scratching to get what we can get to assist us to live an independent lives that we can, this cruel, unthoughtful bill would do nothing more except for spiral our lives to death in institutions and nursing homes while costing Governments three times more to take care of us.

Medicaid for me personally means:

- It pays for my Personal Care Assistant which they cook for me, grocery shop, laundry, assist with house cleaning, shaving, gives me a shower, cut my finger/toe nails, dresses me and range motion therapy. Without a Personal Care Assistant, I'd have to go to an institution or a nursing home.
- It pays for my power wheelchairs, without a power wheelchair I'd have to go to an institution or a nursing home.
- It pays for my Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, in which these therapies helps to keep from having to go to an institution or a nursing home.
- It pays for my dental, which without dental can cause discomfort and can lead to death.
- It pays for my doctors (a general, a gastroenterologist, and a pain management, which without these doctors, it can cause discomfort and can lead to institution and nursing home and eventually, death.
- It pays for medical procedures I need to help me keep healthy and moving. Without these procedures, it can cause discomfort and can lead to institution and nursing home and eventually, death.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JoyC [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop monetizing people

This latest "healthcare" bill is not a plan to provide Americans with healthcare. let's be honest: it;s another attempt to take from us what gains we have. It is inconceivable that this government can't come up with a plan to make healthcare available to all. Stop monetizing us and treating us like cost centers, and for go's sake, stop saying we can't afford it. We can afford 17 years of war; we can afford to take care of our people. Why fight a war when you let us die of preventable illnesses?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

Vote NO on this obscene proposal that would KILL millions of Americans, to benefit a greedy few.

Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Weibel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no!

This bill will kick millions of Americans off healthcare, please vote NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

Vote NO on this obscene proposal that would KILL millions of Americans, to benefit a greedy few.

Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

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Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Campbell [REDACTED]@com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

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Kathy Campbell

[REDACTED]m
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
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Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

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Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

Vote NO on this obscene proposal that would KILL millions of Americans, to benefit a greedy few.

Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nina menkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alaskan initiative

It is our understanding that you will allow Alaska to NOT fall victim to your bill, in order to get her vote. Anyone who is insane enough to vote for this cruel and unanalyzed disaster will never be re-elected. Human lives are at stake and all you care about is tax breaks for the wealthy.

WE LOVE ACA.

Nina Menkes

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Fulbright Fellow

Film Faculty, California Institute of the Arts

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO! on Graham - Cassidy!!!!

Vote NO on this obscene proposal that would KILL millions of Americans, to benefit a greedy few.

Kathy Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D Mechura [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Amendment

As a stage 3 cancer survivor and mother I feel that the above referenced amendment is a blatant attack on my right to unbiased healthcare. If ANY new healthcare law is going to allow states to waive coverage for preexisting conditions then ALL preexisting conditions MUST be included (including erectile dysfunction) meaning ALL preexisting conditions that effect the male population as well as the female. I wonder who then will be left to buy health insurance?
Short-sighted, ill-conceived, biased: that is the Graham-Cassidy amendment!

Donna Mechura

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Hopkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I am a 60 year old woman who has custody of 4 of my grandsons because their mom died from heroin overdose. One of my grandkids is Autistic and one has PTSD. If this bill goes through you are leaving myself and my grandchildren to the hands of the Ins Co. My state didn't even expand Medicaid so I doubt they care whether we have any insurance. I implore you to do away with this bill and do what is right!

Cindy Hopkins
Foley, AL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Madarasz Coppersmith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Senate Finance Committee/ Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal/ September 25, 2017

On Sep 21, 2017, at 5:19 PM, John Madarasz Coppersmith <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to urge every US Senator to vote NO, and NOT consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

As a Father, Husband, Citizen, and contributing member of the great society and country of the United States of America I am urging all Senators to strike down this ill conceived and heartless legislation up for consideration.

My wife and I are both adults with pre existing heart conditions. If it weren't for the ACA our family would be bankrupt and destitute, and our 2 children would be doomed to a life of struggle and hardship to become contributing members of society as they grow into young adults.

The evidence is compelling: This is the wrong road to improve healthcare in this country. The Affordable Healthcare law has over 150 amendments written by Republicans. I urge the Senate and the House to continue to work in Bi-Partisan fashion to improve the existing law, and the public option, and help save the lives of millions of people in our great country.

Please do not do this to our country, my family, and millions of other people who will suffer. This is a worst case scenario... YOU CAN DO BETTER.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Madarasz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliann Stanis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy proposal

Dear Members of the Senate,

Please vote NO to the healthcare bill proposal by Senators Graham-Cassidy. I write to you as an American citizen, a parent of disabled children, a nurse, and human being who is very concerned about the vast consequences associated with this proposal. I agree that the ACA passed by former president Obama has some flaws, however, I urge you to come together as humans of this great nation and tweak away at the specific evidence based flaws to make it a strong piece of legislation. One that grants us all the right to good health. Under the current proposal, my 8 & 11 year old sons will lose vital access to funding for the autism treatment that has allowed them to function every day. Right now, they have a strong chance to continue to grow into productive, happy adult American citizens. With out this care, that potential decreases exponentially. Please make a stand for what is right for our country and our people, and not simply vote for a political agenda.

Sincerely,

Julie Stanis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Piotr Sliwka [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do veto Cassidy-Graham bill.

Do veto Cassidy-Graham bill, because if this monster is passed by the Senate, it will cause horrible damage to millions of low income and disabled Americans relying on Medicaid. Do watch a seven minute video with Jimmy Kimmel on devastating bill by Cassidy and Graham. Instead, do beef up the Affordable Care Act by full expansion of the Public Option, or do insure all Americans by Medicare Single Payer. Medicare is the most cost efficient health plan on the U.s. market, because Medicare runs its administrative costs at very low 3%. However, all other private plans run their administrative plans in 20% to 30%, so private plans waste far more money. Do veto this zombie bill by Cassidy and Graham.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Morrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

Every thing I read states that this bill would impact negatively on American citizens bi fear individual stages making decisions about those, including my son, with pre existing conditions. Why not let the bi partisan committee keep working to come up with a better plan

And I abhor how supporting senators are trying to jam this through Congress.
The American people's showed this summer that they do not want this hasty repeal of the ACA. Doctors don't want it, medical organizations oppose it. Even insurance companies decry it. How can you possibly pass this bill to n the face of such overwhelming opposition. It show no regard for the lives of your constituents

Judi Morrow
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin mackinnon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal

This repeal is reprehensible. I pay for my own insurance, with no help. Because I was denied insurance when I was pregnant 5 years ago, I wound up using government assistance until I gave birth. I believe everyone should have the ability to get insurance. The "waivers" to deny preexisting conditions being proposed will prevent people close to me from obtaining insurance if they lose it. I have a friend who pays over \$500 a month for insurance, and if for any reason it gets cancelled and he can't regain a policy right away, he will likely be denied because he had cancer at one point. If it comes back, his death is on the heads of people who don't care enough because their insurance is taken care of, regardless of the outcome, regardless of how every other citizen of the United States is affected, simply because they work for the government. A great majority of private citizens are willing to hold up our fellow man and make sure everyone is given a chance. Do what we want you to do. Keep the current health system intact and work on improving it. Stop wasting our time and time that could be spent on the betterment of our country trying to repeal this. The people have spoken. It's high time you started listening.

Robin MacKinnon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debby Bright [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please keep ObamaCare

This new Graham legislation is a disaster. We don't want it. Millions of people will be denied health care and people with pre-existing conditions will suffer.

Debby Bright
Broker-Associate
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

program was very well known as a horrible option, one that winnowed out all but the most well off (like me) who were able to afford the monstrous COBRA payments and then the very high Risk Pool rates; it is *no solution at all* for those who are less well off than I am.

I'm facing another uncertainty. I go under sedation on October 12 for a test that will determine whether or not I have uterine cancer. If it's detected, I'll need a full hysterectomy, radiation, and chemotherapy ... all stretching into a new year where I have no surety, no certainty, and no hope if Graham-Cassidy is passed, because suddenly an insurer will not be required to cover my treatments.

You'll often hear the stories of those who are more unfortunate than I am, and those are vital and important, but please also think of the creatives, freelancers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, and those forced by the "gig economy" to operate outside of traditional business lines. We are your brain trust. Your pool of initiative and drive and American innovation. *We are the dream that workers in those companies aspire to reach!*

You are going after us, too. And we will suffer.

I'm one story. There are millions more, every one of them heartbreaking on some level.

Please do the right thing for ALL of us, because being healthy is always a temporary condition, and inevitably, the healthiest person in the world will become sick and require care. We should not punish the human condition. We should plan for it.

Thank you for considering my words for this hearing.

-- Roxanne Conrad, writing as Rachel Caine
New York Times bestselling author of over 50 novels

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roxanne Conrad [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Creatives and entrepreneurs NEED coverage

I am a 55 year old full-time novelist and writer. I left my day job 7 years ago to write full time, and I earn a very good living doing so, in addition to doing what I truly love.

But I had two strikes against me in this venture: first, prior to leaving my well-paying day job, I'd survived breast cancer 5 years before.

Second, I was, well, middle-aged.

Actually, I had three strikes: I also lived in Texas.

I went in search of insurance coverage in 2010, only to discover that there was virtually *no* private medical coverage available ... and what there was, was extremely high priced. But worse than that was that every plan I applied to *turned me down*. Not because I couldn't pay, but because I had "risk factors" that caused them to reject me.

You know: surviving cancer and being pronounced cured. That risk factor.

After trying every company providing private medical insurance, and trying to find group policies that I could join (there were none that covered Texas), I turned to the Texas Risk Pool ... only to discover that if I was *eligible* for COBRA from my day job, I was required to *use that COBRA insurance for the full 18 months*, regardless of premium cost, before I could apply to the Risk Pool.

My COBRA insurance cost me \$2200/month. Most people couldn't afford that. I could. So I bit the bullet and told myself I'd have better, cheaper coverage at the end of it. (I should also mention that I support my mother, who has advanced Alzheimer's, and pay the total cost of her care of over \$3600/month, plus being the sole support of my immediate family as well. On the uncertain income of novels, this was quite the balancing act.)

I did it. And when it came time to sign on to the Risk Pool, guess what? Almost \$2000/month, and *worse coverage*. I had no real choices, either. It was my only option, other than no insurance at all.

Imagine my relief and delight when the ACA became law the following year, and suddenly I could get insurance from major insurers! I got to return to my favorite doctors! I paid in \$1400/month because I elected the top flight coverage and didn't qualify for discounts, but it was still WONDERFUL to have the choices and that reduction in rates overall. For the first time, I relaxed.

Now, that's all in jeopardy again, just this short time later. I'm back looking at a very dark future where insurers can deny me coverage (or price me completely out of the market, which is the same thing; I have "access" to a car dealership, doesn't mean I can drive a \$100k car off the lot).

State-based insurance is not an answer for those of us who cannot fundamentally trust our states to look after us. Texas has a record number of uninsured, and still refused federal money simply for partisan reasons. I have zero confidence that it will treat its own residents well under the G-C state-based system, either. The Risk Pool

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Lujan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

It's terrible. It will hurt many, many people including children, seniors, the poor, pregnant women and people with pre-existing conditions to name but a few. This bill should not pass. It's is only good for the insurance companies' profit margins, not for the American people.


Judy

"We tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing, and what a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization." Gaius Petronius Arbiter Roman General, First Century A.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Burrows [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Claudia Burrows has shared a OneDrive file with you. To view it, click the link below.

 Graham-Cassidy.mov.zip

Attached is a very brief video testimony detailing how the cuts to Medicaid proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill would affect me and my family. I have shared my story (in writing) with my US Senators, but I will include it below for you.

I can't begin to impress on you how much Medicaid block grants and per-capita caps will decimate my family. We need this care to live! Please, vote for a bill that doesn't hurt the most vulnerable among us...the disabled.

Thank you for your consideration,
Claudia Whelchel Burrows, RN

My written comments on Graham-Cassidy's affects on Medicaid for people with disabilities:

I'm Claudia. I'm a 55 year old, medically-retired flight paramedic and RN. My career was cut short when I was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in 2005. Without Medicaid and the waiver I would be institutionalized. Medicaid pays for my attendant care, my ventilator, my doctor's visits and medications. It pays for the durable medical equipment that I need to function on a day-to-day basis (i.e. my wheelchair and shower chair, etc). Because of the things Medicaid covers, I am still able to be a mother to my (adult) disabled son with the help of a dear friend who lives with us.

All three of my (adult) children have a genetic disorder and rely on Medicaid. My sons are more affected by this disorder and are diagnosed with autism as well as intellectual disability. They are charming and delightful members of society, but they could not function independently without caregivers 24/7. My older son lives with his father and step-mother. My younger son lives with me. Both receive attendant care services through Medicaid waivers. My younger son also gets music therapy which helps him cope with extreme anxiety related to his genetic diagnosis. Both guys take medications that allow them to function and participate in life. Without their medication and other supports, they would have to be institutionalized.

My daughter has earned advanced degrees and was an adjunct professor. She also has a diagnosis on the autism spectrum and struggles with debilitating anxiety and panic attacks. Thankfully, through the miracle of pharmacology, she's able to hold down a 28-hour a week job. She lives with me out of economic necessity.

There's no way that my disability income would suffice to meet my family's medical costs without Medicaid.

For two decades, I was the person who came to the aid of others...for that, I was awarded a "Lifetime Paramedic Certification" by Governor Mitch Daniels. Now, I am the one who needs the help. Please, don't fail me or my family now.

Without Medicaid, our family will be destroyed.

We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love. ~Mother Theresa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: William Mims [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahm/Cassidy

If you people can't do your jobs and start passing legislation to undo the insane ACA and start allowing free, interstate commerce for health insurance policies, you can guarantee I will vote for people who will. Very soon.

William E Mims CPA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blake Emmanuel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because as the parent of a child with disabilities healthcare, and meaningful access to it, is crucial. In addition to being on my husband's primary private insurance my son also receives supports and services through Medicaid. He falls under pre-existing conditions, certainly would exceed a lifetime limit, and our family saves significant money because of Medicaid. These areas are severely threatened by the proposed bill and I urge you to follow proper protocol (getting cbo estimates, allowing for meaningful public engagement, etc) and to stop this reckless fast track of this bill. Ultimately, I ask that this bill NOT be passed because in it's current format it is very harmful. This bill would hurt our most vulnerable; the young, old, and disabled. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Blake Emmanuel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Albert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal ACA

Dear Senators,

Please do NOT repeal the ACA! This bill is wrong and immoral and will take away health care from millions of Americans. It will devastate lives. It is also wrong you are doing this without any committee hearings and bipartisan input.

Republicans may callously be trying to pass this to assuage their donors but when people lose their health insurance they will blame Republicans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Diane Albert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please don't vote for a 'win', but for something you believe in. I can't- or don't want to believe that gutting health care for millions, including babies, the vets, our sick and our elderly is something anyone with a conscience or heart thinks is a good thing. Please ask yourself why you are doing this. Are you then able to say it out loud?

Ann Romanello

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sylvia Catello [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
I cannot afford the changes made to my healthcare, already. We are a family of four. We are middle class. My husband works two jobs and makes decent money. It still is not enough. These decisions hit us the hardest. Please.

Sylvia Catello

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marley Dowling [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT PASS GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Members of Congress and the committee:

Please put the needs of all Americans before whatever it is this dreadful bill has been designed to do.

My friend Maria Scherzer died because of the preexisting conditions under health care before the ACA. She waited to get officially diagnosed for breast cancer, even though she felt the lump, until she was sure her insurance company wouldn't drop her. Her cancer went from treatable and curable to Stage Four while she was waiting in fear. This should not have to happen to anyone in what is supposed to be the greatest nation on earth.

Pregnant women need prenatal care, people with diabetes and cancer shouldn't lose their care because they can no longer afford it. And what about a lifetime cap? Does that mean our streets will be filled with the sick and the dying because they've used up their allotment of healthcare?

What kind of country are we becoming? And how can we have "representatives" who no longer represent their constituents? Who bullheadedly march forward with a bill so universally condemned by every stakeholder who will be involved or affected? And who do so with no apparent fear of the ballot box? Are we actually a functioning democracy any more?

The people of the United States of America demand the same health care as members of Congress. You represent us. The majority of Americans do not want Graham-Cassidy and all Americans will not want it once it passes...except those who are utterly shielded from its terrible consequences by cushions of unlimited cash. Is that who you represent, cash and the handful of people and foreign powers who can give it to you? Because it seems that the GOP members of congress are doing all they can to break all that's humane and thoughtful in our institutions. Please stop now. Please. Restore our faith in a country governed by "we, the people."

We are watching. And history will tell the tale of what you are doing now. Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

With hope that there's someone still listening who cares,

Marley Klaus Dowling

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Kronengold [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care, Vote NO

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

Please vote against the Graham/Cassidy Bill. I am begging all of you to think of your fellow man and vote your good conscious.

Personally, I rely on medication to control my Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. This is a condition that has been made light of in many t.v. or movie stories, but I can assure you it is no laughing matter. Without coverage, my medications could be ruinously expensive. With them, I am able to lead a normal life, care for my family and participate in society.

I didn't ask to have OCD. I didn't make a bad life choice that resulted in my condition. It is completely beyond my control. I have never applied for or received federal or state aid for a disability, although OCD is considered a disability.

I am a mother, a daughter, a wife and a friend. I am a human being. Please do not support a bill that would allow states an option regarding preexisting conditions. My well being depends upon it. My story is not unique.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Katherine Kronengold
Connecticut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Langdon Kane [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I do not believe that any proposal that systematically discriminates against certain populations is any solution at all. Placing disproportionate, read FULL, financial responsibility for all maternal related health (be it prenatal care, labor and delivery, or "pre-existing conditions" stemming from pregnancy or delivery) allows half of our population to shirk all responsibility for a medical situation that is impossible to create in a female vacuum; I'm sorry but immaculate conception is not scientifically possible in the human species. Moreso, to allow prescribed discrimination against aged populations and those with chronic illnesses falling under "high risk" pools (often one and the same) ignores the fact that in time we will ALL (hopefully, if we're lucky to live that long) find ourselves in that pool. And while the counter argument that this would allow states to customize their budgeted services according to their specific issues is great on paper, in reality 1) without certain mandates we have failed the greater portion of our population and b) this will only encourage intra-US medical tourism. The US has already begun losing income from medical practice to other countries that can compete due to lower costs; is it really a good idea for this competition to extend to within our country on a state to state basis - NO! Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Langdon Kane

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Longfellow [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO!

My health insurance is not subsidized by the ACA but my neighbors' is.

Vote NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Devaney [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This is not a valid piece of legislation, nor will it resolve the many issues with the ACA that do not work for most Americans or the economy. Most importantly, it will do great damage to the service delivery systems for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who rely on Medicaid funding for their quality of life...not just medical (and in many cases, not medical in any significant sense) but for the programing that contributes to their productivity, independence and sense of self-worth. It is time that our elected officials sit down, work together, and come up with a valid plan that considers the needs of every American, not just those in power and with unlimited financial resources.

Barbara Devaney [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Defeat Trumpcare

I was a healthy person until 5 years ago. I never had to go to the doctor. Then my health fell apart. I am now 62 years old and fighting every day for the energy to work and survive. 2 years ago I moved onto the Michigan Medicaid program...when I lost my good health it became a godsend. I eat extremely healthily, no processed foods, all real foods. I'm fighting thyroid cancer. I have no energy but am struggling to work from home, so I can work at all. I can't imagine what would happen to all of us who have worked our whole lives, contributing to the insurance pools, if Medicaid is gone. Please don't let this horrible bill pass.

Thank you,
Carol Buckel

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Randall Rick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

affordable healthcare is a right that all citizens should have. Affordable healthcare does not discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions or limit charges an insurance company has to shoulder in a year or a lifetime. The bill you are attempting to shove through at the last minute discriminates against people with pre-existing conditions and allows for insurance caps. Both of these things are antithetical to the idea of affordable healthcare.

This bill should not be forwarded to the Senate floor for approval. It should be forwarded to a paper shredder. The Republican party's love of big business and hatred of the common voter is simply astounding and sad. Please vote NO against this bill.

Sincerely yours,
Randy Rick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: April Kilbourne [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I have cancer. I can't afford insurance without help.

We all know with Toomey in office, the state will never have extra money to help with insurance.

I'm afraid I'm going to die.

April Kilbourne

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Trish Hannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I have read the Avalere report on the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill in current form will create disastrous results for those who are the most vulnerable in our country- the working poor, children and those who are disabled. Think of the number of children who will be affected, as so many receive care today under the Medicaid program.

Hospitals, nurses and physicians will also pay a dear price as government continues to underfund care delivery. Today, our hospital loses money on both Medicare and Medicaid payments. If this bill passes, services for Medicaid patients in our state will have to be slashed due to the loss of funds.

To redistribute billions of dollars of support, in this case from states which expanded Medicaid to those which did not, is misguided and bad public policy. Listen to Republican governors, Charlie Baker, John Kasich, and the 50 Medicaid program directors across this great nation.

The best solution is to modify components, not repeal and replace, the ACA. The basic tenets should remain in place.

Do not let this bill move forward to a floor vote in this form.

Thank you,

Trish Hannon
President and CEO
New England Baptist Hospital

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alia Khayat [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear Senators,

I have had a serious health problem since early childhood and if your bill is passed, it is likely that insurance companies would be able to refuse care to me or put a cap on how much money they have to pay per year or per lifetime. Republicans are the party of pro-life, but this bill would be the death of me and others like me. I urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely yours,
Milouda (Alia) Khayati

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Mitrakis <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy!

I am strongly opposed to the passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. It is unconscionable that we as a country go backwards in terms of healthcare coverage for our citizens. It is the exact wrong direction.

If Graham-Cassidy is pushed through, the politicians — and party — responsible will certainly suffer clear repercussions in the next election cycle, and rightly so.

Sincerely,

Kristen Mitrakis
Born and raised in Texas, currently living in Connecticut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Shanahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

There are plenty of problems with the ACA that need to be addressed, and there are still millions of Americans without access to quality and affordable health care. But attempting to pass a bill, that upends 1/6th of the American economy, overnight, without a chance for debate or amendments, is wrong. It will hurt people. People will die.

I understand the GOP has run on repealing the ACA for the last seven years, and there is a lot of pressure to do something, anything, to get this across the line. But its time to think about the real consequences of the vote, and not just the political outcomes. Think of the millions who will lose insurance, the thousands who will die. It's time to put the health and well being of people ahead of a campaign promise.

Please reject this bill, and restore normal order.

Kevin Shanahan
Boston, MA

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Kean [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Justice in Aging's Statement for the Record
Attachments: Justice in Aging_Statement for the Record_9.25.17 Senate Finance Hearing on Graham-Cassidy.pdf

Dear Finance Committee Staff:

Attached is Justice in Aging's statement for the record on the Monday, September 25, 2017 Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy Heller-Johnson Proposal.
We would also like to submit this short video that illustrates how services provided by Medicaid enable older adults to remain at home and connected to their family and community.

Thank you,
Natalie Kean

Natalie Kean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Join us for a special reception in Washington, DC on October 3. We're honoring Senator Ron Wyden and celebrating our 45 years of advancing justice for low-income seniors!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sasha Akhavi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record for SFC Hearing Monday

As a voting citizen I am appalled that the Senate would be considering passage of a bill that affects 1/5 of the US economy and life-or-death matters for millions of my fellow Americans with only one ridiculously limited hearing and no full CBO report. This is a disaster for American health waiting to happen.

Shahpour Akhavi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: O'Melia James [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Adult Child with developmental disabilities

I adopted a child at age one who was born drug addicted. He is now 22. He needs and is in residential housing that is funded by Medicare. He is not the cause of his disabilities. Please do not cut the funding or put it in jeopardy. O'Melia V James [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindall Morrison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments

As a nurse-midwife I have witnessed first hand the benefits of the ACA. While not perfect, it has expanded access to health care to many women helping to lower the unplanned pregnancy rate.

The Graham Cassidy replacement would hurt women, those with preexisting conditions, the poor.....

Let's fix the ACA, not axe it.

Thank you

Cindall Morrison, CNM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Chapin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am AGAINST this bill. Before the ACA, I was only able to get a catastrophic policy. There were 3 policies offered in my county. 2 had lifetime caps of \$250,000. 1 had a lifetime cap of \$1 million and given my middle age I had to take this. This policy cost \$1400/month for an \$11,000 annual deductible. As my doctor said this is not insurance.

Since the ACA I now have a policy that costs \$350/month with a \$3000 annual Deductible and no lifetime caps plus it covers my pre-existing condition.

Improving the ACA in a bipartisan way makes more sense than repealing it. I do not understand the heartless rush to take away health care from people like me.

Christine Chapin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bobby Keeland <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

I was born in a poor family in 1953. We did not have an indoor toilet until I was in the 4th grade. I studied hard and graduated from college. I joined the US Army and then served as an infantryman and then as a combat engineer. After leaving the service I got a job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. My group became a part of the USGS in 1994. With this combination of service I was able to keep my BC/BS Federal Employee Program health insurance.

I was a lucky one. Millions of US citizens are not so lucky. Please do not support the Cassidy-Graham health insurance bill. It will strip health insurance from millions of people. Many of these people are poor, elder or young children. Many are veterans like me, but they did not have the luck to have good insurance that they can keep in retirement like I was able to.

I find it hard to believe that an actual doctor, my senator Bill Cassidy, helped write this horrible bill. Thank you for your attention.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jon Jon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding: Graham Cassidy bill

I'm writing you as a concerned parent. I believe if this legislature that Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy have put forth should gain the votes necessary to become policy. This Bill threatens the lives of children born with pre-existing health conditions. It is unfair to allow insurance companies to charge the families an impossible rate to insure their children born with pre-existing health conditions. The Graham Cassidy Bill will cause great detriment not only financially to families but could possibly cause death to innocent children. If their parents are unable to meet the financial needs for their child to be covered. How could you in clear conscience put legs to this bill when it is clear your constituents are against it.

Thank you for your time
John Buchanan Fink

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D. Mara Lowenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Planned Parenthood Experience

When I was in college (1985-1989), my college did not provide gynecological services to students. I was in college on financial aid (my father, an architect had a deep and severe stroke when I was 16 and went from being an award winning solar architect to an invalid. My mother was 40 years old when this happened and she juggled taking care of my father, a job as a part-time luggage salesperson for a luggage company (she had to quit working as a full-time teacher), and raising my 12 year old brother.)... so when I experienced a urinary tract infection, or felt pain in my pelvis, or anything "down there", I went to Planned Parenthood. It was a safe place where I felt cared for and where all of my questions were answered. I could not afford a private doctor - and our student health insurance did not cover it. I imagine that times have changed at the University of Michigan - but times have not changed for many other low income women who rely on Planned Parenthood for gynecological health needs.

D. Mara Lowenstein, Esq.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vercellino, Mary [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: As an RN, I oppose Graham-Cassidy

To the Finance Committee:

I am an advanced practice nurse who works with patients with diabetes. Patients with Type 1 Diabetes need insulin to live. Patients with Type 2 diabetes need medication and sometimes insulin to prevent heart disease, foot wounds, gastrointestinal problems, and stroke.

Graham Cassidy will keep many millions from getting health insurance. This means:

1. Patients will come to the ED for care
2. The hospital will not get paid
3. Hospitals will close, or severely limit their services

By allowing the states "Flexibility", it gives states the options to severely limit care. I wonder how agreeable the southern states will be to providing Medicaid to its poorest (and often black) citizens?

By allowing states to disallow people with pre-existing conditions from getting insurance, you will get thousands more without insurance. Who doesn't have a pre-existing condition anymore.

This legislation is cruel and will cause sickness and death.

I work in health care, to TAKE CARE OF ALL PATIENTS, and I oppose this legislation.

Mary Vercellino, MSN, APN, ACNS-BC, BC-ADM, CWON | Clinical Nurse Specialist Edward Hospital [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Garnier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Thank you for the unneeded stress

To whom it may concern,

It confounds me as to how any of the Republicans in office these days believe that they are serving the public. You have been trying to repeal The ACA for seven years now with no real fix. Is this the way our country is really supposed to work? Are you not sent to office to do the people's work? A small percentage of our public favor the repeal of The ACA. The majority want it fixed yet you continue to try and destroy a system that has helped way more people than it has hurt. You lie to the American public daily. How do any of you look at yourselves in the mirror? How do you live with the fact that you know you are actively doing your very best to take healthcare away from millions of American people? How????

Please stop this insanity and do what is right. Please side with true Christianity! Please follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Please do this if not for us but for your own immortal soul.

What else can I say? Find your heart! Find you conscience and do the right thing! Please!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Bassick [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because not only has there not been sufficient time to review and assess the financial impact of the bill, it promises to take health coverage away from 32 million people and reduce the available coverage to millions more. By not protecting people with pre-existing conditions the bill will make healthcare out of reach for many of the people who actually need it to save their lives and manage chronic conditions. By not guaranteeing maternal and pediatric care, it lowers the bar for the level of care that even insured people can expect. By reducing federal support of healthcare, it makes the costs untenable for even more people.

If you can't come up with a program that IMPROVES healthcare and access and costs, you can not inflict subpar options on the American people.

Please vote NO on this cruel and unacceptable proposal.

Kristen Bassick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rev. Fredrica Meitzen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

- 1) this bill will cut medical care for over 30 mil. people
- 2) Women need Planned Parenthood care!
- 3) this bill will not help those with pre-existing conditions

Rev. Fredrica Meitzen

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson proposal comment

Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson proposal
Monday September 25th 2017 2 p.m.
215 Dirkin Senate Office Building

Kim L. Bennett
30 Fowler Street New Haven
Connecticut 06515

I am writing in reference to the current attempt to repeal and replace the affordable care act.

I am one of those people that have greatly benefited from finally having affordable health care for the first time in my life. Several years ago I broke my ankle and if it hadn't been for the Affordable Care Act known as Obamacare I would have lost my home or spent the rest of my life trying to pay off the medical debt.

But what I really want to talk about is my deceased 35 year old friend Steven. Steven had always worked hard but he never had a job that gave him insurance. In 2011 a mole on his back started changing but he couldn't afford to go to a doctor. fast forward five years later. His easy to cure melanoma had metastasized to the spine and then to his brain and in 2016 he passed away. Had that mole been removed in 2011 Not only would Steven be alive right now but thousands and thousands of dollars would not have been spent to save his life to no avail. As with every attempt by the Republicans to kick 22 to 32 million people off health insurance I am asking that you reconsider this abysmal attempt to repeal Obamacare. Maybe it's about time the politicians in this country start working for the people and make it a bipartisan effort to repair the things that are wrong with Obamacare. I think we can all agree it's time to move forward in this country in regards to health insurance as a right.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin Wheeler [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the lack of consideration, data on impacts, or CBO score prior to vote. You had 8 years to come up with something better, and plenty of opportunity to craft thoughtful, meaningful, well-debated legislation. On principle alone you should vote no on such a pathetic "Hail Mary" move.

Justin Wheeler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Dimperio [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Do not pass this bill. It harms millions of people. Stand up and do the right thing. A promise to hurt people is non-binding.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Cunningham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Here we are again. Parents of ill children begging Congress to do the RIGHT thing and NOT punish our children for being ill. They did not cause their illness, and neither did their parents. GOP Senators should be ashamed of themselves (though I know they are not). I can promise one thing, if this bill passes, most of the GOP will NEVER see the inside of a government building again! I cannot understand why you are not listening to the PEOPLE you were elected to represent.

My story is simple. My daughter was diagnosed with ADHD at around 7 years old. ADHD turned into anxiety and depression. The cost of therapy for these was unaffordable. Insurance would only cover a few visits per year and then the Therapist's Office wanted payment out of pocket. She went without treatment for years. Then at 13 she was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis. Just one of her treatments for this disease costs a whopping \$35,000.00 per month (that does not include the other medications she is on). Her depression got worse. She attempted suicide twice and was hospitalized both times. We started therapy again. Thank God for Obama Care, by that time the preexisting condition and lifetime cap protections were in place. Then we went to a specialist who diagnosed her at 15 with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This new diagnosis means more therapy and Social Skills Groups.

I finally have answers and hope and now I fear Republicans will tear it all away. I am a single mother. Her father does not help. I cannot afford lifetime caps and pre-existing condition regulations. Simply put, my daughter will die without healthcare, either by her own hand or from a bleeding and inflamed colon.

I am begging you. Please do not vote this cruel bill into law. Imagine if this was your child.

Thank you
Laura Cunningham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abigail Tessmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Congressman Mark Pocan; Csontos, Flora (Baldwin)
Subject: How Medicaid benefits me
Attachments: medicaid.jpg; abby medicaid.jpg

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal,

September 25, 2017

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Congress,

Medicaid benefits me and others in a variety of ways. For me personally though, it provides me the ability to live independently as an adult with a disability. I rely on Medicaid for support workers, supported employment, shelter, daily needs - groceries and personal care. However, if you and your teammates across the aisle together decide to decrease the Medicaid funding across the USA or state(s); I suspect I will end up moving home to live with my parents or a shelter of some kind and with that mentioned my ability to function on my own as an independent will decrease.

Thanks for reading my memo and please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal,

Abigail Tessmann

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Cruz [REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Obamacare repeal

I have heard many people commenting concerning pre-existing conditions that they are healthy and why should I pay more to help sick people. Well, just about everyone is healthy until they are sick. Currently, my aunt is battling stomach cancer after having to deal with ovarian cancer. She had been healthy as well until three years ago. She is lucky to have a job that is understanding of her current health problems and has been allowed to keep her job which provides her with her health insurance. She has undergone many surgeries as well as having to endure different radiation and chemotherapy sessions to deal with her cancer.

My mother is in her seventies and has had various ailments as she has aged. She is a veteran and is retired from the work force. Her current insurance program is through Medicare along with Tricare for Life. She also has dealt with cancer. Again, she was healthy until she became sick. My father had diabetes as a result of exposure of Agent Orange. During the last few years of his life, he was going through dialysis three times a week. If it weren't for Medicare and Tricare, my family would never have been able to afford the treatments that prolonged his life. My sister works two part time jobs. Through expanded Medicaid in the state of Arizona, she was able to get health insurance that she otherwise couldn't afford on her own.

It is reprehensible that Republicans in Congress are constantly trying to take away health insurance from hard working Americans. I will read comments in various social media outlets from conservatives that say people should get a job, to buy their own insurance instead of relying on the government. I work at Wal-Mart and most of the job positions that people hold are part time positions. It is very difficult to find a job that offers full time status that will provide benefits. Instead, most jobs are now part time with no guarantee of benefits. Medicaid has been a life line for many Americans to get health insurance.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is not the answer to fixing healthcare. Instead, it appears to be that last chance effort for Republicans to erase Obama's legacy. Quit trying to hurt everyday, hard working Americans and vote no.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Ellingen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing you today in regards to the Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller bill. I'm 32 years old and live in Oshkosh, WI. I have a Bachelors of Arts degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Advertising from UW-Whitewater. I live by myself in an apartment and am able to handle my own finances. I started my own business doing freelance graphic design and social media. I'm also independently contracted with In Control Wisconsin and work as their Online Community Network Manager.

This probably doesn't seem like anything out of the ordinary until I share that I have a severe physical disability. Due to complications at birth, I have Athetoid Cerebral Palsy. I rely on an electric wheelchair to get around and use a communication device to communicate. I need assistance with all of my basic needs such as bathing, toileting, dressing, and feeding. I rely on Medicaid services not only survive, but thrive.

I've been in my own accessible apartment for over six years now. With support, I'm very proud that I live on my own in my community.

I've been in the IRIS program (which is a Medicaid program) for over six years. I self-direct everything from my personal cares to my finances. Having control over everything and being able to self-direct my cares has made me as independent as I can be. Being able to have choices about which service providers we want to use and decide where and how our funding is used is critical to our independence. Having independence is so important for people with similar situations like mine.

Due to my condition, I've also had some serious medical issues in recent years requiring major surgeries, hospitalizations, and medications. Without my Forward HealthCard services, I would have no way to get the medical care I need to survive.

Cutting Medicaid funds would significantly affect the lives of people with disabilities. We, as human beings, should have the right to the care we need so we can lead as successful lives as possible.

So, I kindly ask you to vote no on this bill while keeping people with disabilities in mind. We're not asking you to move mountains; we just want to have the appropriate supports so we can live our lives to the fullest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sylvia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Sylvia Scharf
Wakefield, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terri Nickerson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello,

As a widowed and retired woman with a fairly low income, I am very concerned about the effect that passage of this bill would have on me and on others. I believe that all citizens of the USA should be able to afford health care, and it seems that this bill would cause many millions of Americans to lose their coverage. I don't think that it is responsible to vote on this provision until the anticipated costs and effects of the bill are known.

I strongly feel that our senators and representatives should be working together in a bipartisan way to resolve issues regarding The Affordable Care Act and health care.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Terri Nickerson
Duxbury, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Kenah [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Barrasso, Senator (Barrasso); senator_menzi@enzi.senate.gov
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee and Senators,

I am writing you to please vote no on this bill, and more to the point, to please stop trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act without any responsible replacement. The ACA has a lot of room for improvement, but how can you simply repeal it when you hear from MILLIONS of Americans how it will hurt them? Of course there are many people who've been "hurt" by the ACA - my premiums went up annually like many others. But were any hurt by receiving health insurance? Did anyone die? Because that is exactly what will happen under this law, without any hyperbole.

Claiming that there will be "access" to healthcare for people with pre-existing conditions is disingenuous at best, when you know that this law would make it vastly more expensive for them. Those are children born with leukemia. Students coming to grips with mental illness near the same time they leave their parents care. And my cousin with Down Syndrome. And it's important to note that, according to most insurers, simply being a woman is a pre-existing condition. Not being able to afford their "accessible" care will truly hurt them. This is not acceptable.

If you (Senators) call yourselves fiscal conservatives, what is the financial sense in passing a law without knowing what it costs? If you call yourselves social conservatives, where is the compassion in passing a law that would put healthcare out of reach for a young family whose son or daughter is born with a heart disease, or cancer, or any number of other conditions that affect millions of Americans?

And I have no qualms in bringing up the fact that BOTH of your wives, Senators, were thankfully able to overcome cancer because of the healthcare that you receive from us, the taxpayers. Not their employer-based plan, not one that they paid for out of pocket, but precisely because of the rules that you are trying to do away with.

This is wrong, and you know it. Work with your colleagues, listen to the American people, and fix the parts of the ACA that need it. Do NOT repeal the ACA without knowing the cost, the number of people affected, or how you will work to make health care in this country work for ALL Americans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dan Kenah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Gotter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

To whom it may concern,

My son Spencer has Autism, Asthma, severe allergies, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Anxiety, Depression, and chronic stomach migraines.

Currently (for 14 year old Spencer) his Children's Long Term Support Medicaid waiver funds services for him that we could not otherwise afford. Equine therapy offers a way for him to practice daily living skills (being on time, dressing appropriately for the 'job', following instructions from an adult, working as a team, learning the chores that go along with caring for horses). Later this fall Spencer will also start respite care at a center-based Autism treatment center in our town. This will allow us (his parents) to have a break from being his caregivers while he goes on fun and educational day trips. These trips are chaperoned by trained adults and also allow Spencer to practice his social skills with peers and in the community. Also, we have primary health insurance but this waiver covers the co-pays for his medications and doctor visits.

In the past this waiver provided services that changed Spencer's life for the better. Starting at age 6 through age 11 we had autism line therapists in our home 20 hours per week. They worked on varying skills with Spencer such as toilet training, how to appropriately interact with his siblings, how to follow simple two-step instructions, dressing himself, bathing himself, desensitizing his sensory issues, safety awareness, redirecting inappropriate or unwanted behaviors (some of which were self-injurious), schoolwork, and how to be part of a family.

In 2026 my son Spencer will be 23. He will be an adult who very likely will depend on home & community based services to live a fulfilling life.

What would you want for your child, family member, or friend? This is my family's future but it is also YOUR future. If this health care bill is passed home & community based services could go away. We (his parents) can't be Spencer's caregivers forever. So then our choices for him will be what? Nursing homes or institutions?

I ask you to please consider this:

We are all just one life event away from needing Medicaid. The birth of a child with a disability, a car accident that leaves you or a family member disabled, or maybe a sudden unexpected illness.

Many people have said things to me like 'It's not my kid/family member. Why is it my problem?' To that I say-- Remember, we are all just one life event away from needing assistance. ONE.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Gotter
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Swanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because people should come before profits please vote no to this horrendous bill

Jacqueline Swanson

Jacqueline Swanson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: john dunphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

In releasing a revised version of their legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Senators Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham, along with co-sponsors Dean Heller and Ron Johnson, claimed that their bill isn't a "partisan" approach and doesn't include "draconian cuts."

In reality, however, the Cassidy-Graham bill would have the same harmful consequences as those prior bills. IT WOULD CAUSE MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO LOSE COVERAGE, RADICALLY RESTRUCTURE AND DEEPLY CUT MEDICAID, AND INCREASE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR INDIVIDUAL MARKET CONSUMERS.

Cassidy-Graham would:

- Eliminate the ACA's marketplace subsidies and enhanced matching rate for the Medicaid expansion and replace them with an inadequate block grant. Block grant funding would be well below current law federal funding for coverage, would not adjust based on need, would disappear altogether after 2026, and could be spent on virtually any health care purpose, with no requirement to offer low- and moderate-income people coverage or financial assistance.
-
- Convert Medicaid's current federal-state financial partnership to a per capita cap, which would cap and cut federal Medicaid per-beneficiary funding for seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children.
- Eliminate or weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions by allowing states to waive the ACA's prohibition against charging higher premiums based on health status and the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health, substance abuse treatment, and maternity care.
- Destabilize the individual insurance market in the short run — by eliminating the ACA's federal subsidies to purchase individual market coverage and eliminating the ACA's individual mandate to have insurance or pay a penalty — and risk collapse of the individual market in the long run.
- Eventually result in larger coverage losses than under proposals to repeal ACA's major coverage provisions without replacement. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has previously estimated that repeal-without-replace would cause 32 million people to lose coverage. The Cassidy-Graham bill would likely lead to greater numbers of uninsured after 2026, however, because it would not only entirely eliminate its block grant funding — effectively repealing the ACA's major coverage expansions — but also make increasingly severe federal funding cuts to the rest of the Medicaid program (outside of the expansion) under its per capita cap.
-

By attempting to push this bill forward now, Senators Cassidy and Graham are reverting to a damaging, partisan approach to repealing the ACA that would reverse the historic coverage gains under health reform and end Medicaid as we know it — even as other members of Congress, with the help of governors and insurance commissioners of both parties, are making progress in crafting bipartisan legislation to strengthen the individual market.

john dunphy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

I am strongly opposed to Graham-Cassidy. This bill removes protections for pre-existing conditions, especially patients with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and those with disabilities. It will also end Medicaid as we know it. Millions of people will lose healthcare coverage because they will not be able to afford rising premiums. Republicans should be working with Democrats to strengthen the ACA and make it affordable for *ALL AMERICANS*. *Lenora Meaux, Lafayette, Louisiana Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaclyn Dean [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC hearing comment submission
Attachments: Senate Finance Hearing Natl WOC groups fact sheet.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a joint submission for Monday's hearing from the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, and the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Thank you,
Jaclyn

--

Jaclyn Dean, MPP (she, her, & hers)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Guida [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will take insurance away from 32 million Americans and bring back the pre-existing condition. This violates every promise that even President Trump made. Please work on bipartisan health care reform instead.

Jack Guida
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gerritt and Elizabeth Baker-Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We are concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because :

It will do away with Medicaid expansion.

It will do away with the essential health benefits as we know them.

People with pre-existing conditions are almost guaranteed to be priced out of the health insurance market.

Seniors could face astronomical premiums.

States could refuse to provide payment assistance for low-income families

This bill will harm 32 million Americans and their access to health care - that is immoral, unethical, and simply wrong.

People of faith and conscience must not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to pass. The ACA can be improved - but to repeal it is just nasty.

Gerritt and Elizabeth Baker-Smith

[REDACTED] 5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: L R Pearl [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the Affordable Care Act

As a Maryland voter and the mother of a 36 year old daughter with autism, I know first-hand how important medical coverage is for adults and children with disabilities. Please continue bi-partisan work to fix the Affordable Care Act. Better still, please create a Medicare for All option. If other nations can provide coverage for all, so can we.

Regards,
Linda Pearl

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty Hinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

To whom it may concern,

I have grave concerns regarding the repeal of the ACA! I have a very personal story. My sister has severe schizophrenia, late onset and very debilitating. She and her spouse were spending literally thousands of dollars a month in health insurance premiums before the ACA was passed. They would have had to sell their home eventually. If this bill is passed and the ACA is repealed there will be grave consequences. Most likely they will not be able to afford to buy the insurance if she is covered at all because of the "pre-existing condition". I will do everything in my power to vote out of office anyone who votes to repeal the ACA. It is inconceivable that any decent human being would do such a thing and leave hundreds of thousands of citizens without health care. It is down right criminal as far as I'm concerned. Mary P. Hinger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Rappaport [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy

I urge all senators to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will mean the end of health care for millions of Americans. People will die because they can't get treatment. People with pre-existing conditions won't be able to be covered. It's just **PLAIN WRONG, MEAN-HEARTED, and ANTI-CITIZEN. NO TO THIS TERRIBLE BILL.**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darla Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Darla Brown
Ojai, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley Barbour [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

....

I need my health insurance with out I can not afford my meds please dont pass this bill thank you Ashley Barbour

Ashley Barbour

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Tannenbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on TrumpCare

Trump care is good for nobody.

If you believe it is I suggest you give up your healthcare plan and join the one you are trying to push on others. Try it for a year then if you decide that it's good enough for you present it to the people.

Susan
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Faith Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,
I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Faith Hill
Groton, MA

--

Faith Hill

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Institute of Technology
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 5
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 8
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Baro [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment

Please, please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to pass.

I am self-employed, and put most of my discretionary income into my business and health maintenance, because I have a disability but earn too much for Medicare. I am 46 now. Three years ago, I started having burning in my neck and numbness and tingling in my hands. Since I am a myofascial therapist and treat people with repetitive strain injuries all the time, I knew what to do ... and what I knew did nothing. It turns out I have *severe* stenosis - narrowing of the central spinal canal and narrowing of the openings both right and left brachial nerves. My function depends on regular treatment, and I could need delicate surgery any time. I rent in one of the most expensive housing markets in the country. Over half my income goes to rent. The Affordable Care Act means that my health expenses do not mean I have to choose between healthy housing and health care.

There is something wrong with a government that wants to take health care away, rather than provide it, especially when it can be done for so much less money.

NO GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

Thanks.

Beth

[REDACTED]ment
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*You deserve to feel comfortable, strong, and at ease in your body.
There are many ways to get there.*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meghan O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: SFC hearing

I want a statement entered into the record for the SFC hearing on Monday.

Thank you,
Meghan O'Brien

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angkiss del Rosario [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

While the passing of the Cassidy-Graham Bill does not genuinely address what is faulty in the US healthcare system, it is important to truly show what are the impacts of this bill to American society in general.

With this said, I would like the Congress to allow time for the Congressional Budget Office to release information regarding the impacts of this bill, show that there is bipartisan input when it comes to voting and require Congressional delegates to truly set aside differences and emotions and work on the healthcare issue with every American and our values truly reflecting

MARIA DEL ROSARIO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jamie Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

I strongly oppose any attempt to repeal or replace the Affordable Health Care Act.

It is morally reprehensible that the most powerful nation on earth can find money for war but not for its own citizens and their well being. The current Republican party will not fare well in history, but will be recorded as among the most callous and criminal in modern history, wrested away from decency by a fanatic fringe right and recklessly normalizing violence against its citizens.

Sincerely
Jamie M. Haines

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Ditekowsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear GOP,

I used to believe we had two political parties, both of whom wanted the best for America. One thought smaller government was the key and that a lower budget deficit was important. The other party thought government could solve all problems and doing the right thing was more important than just minding the budget.

Since Trump has been elected. I saw the House GOP try to gut ethics enforcement. Minor secretaries, like the secretary of Agriculture have "motorcades". Minor secretaries charter private airplanes instead of saving taxpayers money. Every weekend, Trump spends my tax money at clubs that funnel the money directly into his own pocket. The GOP is spending money wildly on things that they personally can enjoy, but which increase the budget deficit and have no benefit for ordinary Americans. Democrats do spend more money on programs..... but they spend money on programs that help ordinary individuals. Democrats do favor taxes, but they seem to favor taxes that do not target the poor and the lower middle class. Democrats have been much more effective over time at reducing budget deficits.

Graham Cassidy is an example of what the GOP has become since Gingrich's "Contract with America". Actually, it has been a Contract ON America. It has been a desire to ignore the fact that Republicans do NOT have all of the answers and to treat Democrats as if they hate America. The effect has been that the GOP has done more to harm America than Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Russia and all of our enemies combined.

I urge you to look into your hearts and decide if you Hate America or if you are merely acting against America's best interests because you are following Gingrich's lead and Trump's lead. The greed you show is harming OUR COUNTRY. Please look into your heart and do what is right for America. Vote No on Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ditekowsky
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey Kallem [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am a pediatrician and this proposal will negatively effect my patients. It will allow higher charges for patient's with pre-existing conditions and lifetimes limits for patients care. Many of my pediatric patients are essentially born with pre-existing conditions. Furthermore, my patients who are born premature or or with congenital conditions may go through their lifetime limit in only their first few years of life. This proposal will also results in a decrease in funding for Pa and cuts will have to come somewhere. Over half of Pa Medicaid enrollees are children.

Stacey Kallem

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan DeMelio-Cremonese [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I think this bill is terrible for people with disabilities and preexisting conditions. Republicans will be dead to our family if this passes. We will never forget, and will blame all Republicans. This is way too personal to me. I think you have lost your way. So disappointed I thought you were going to use a bipartisan approach. No on this bill!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie and John [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing proposal feedback
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt; image2.JPG; ATT00002.txt

Hello, my name is Leslie Connor and I am writing regarding the Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal on 9-25-17.

I live in Verona WI with my husband and my 31 year old daughter Katie. Katie is developmentally disabled, she works two jobs with the support of a job coach, paid for by Medicaid.

The proposed repeal to the ACA would have detrimental affects on my family. Without medicaid supports, I would need to quit my job to support Katie. My job provides the health insurance in our family. Not only would my family lose its health insurance, without my income my family would lose its ability to spend money eating out, shopping, etc. The trickle down effect would negatively effect the economy.

There are many families just like mine. Please do not pursue this harmful bill.

I am attaching two photos of my daughter at her jobs, she works at Pasqual's restaurant (13+ years) and Four Winds nursing home (10+ years).

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Roberta Philson [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because block grants will run out, there will be lifetime caps. States will be able to charge more for pre existing conditions. Millions of Americans will lose coverage. I have always carried my husband's health care coverage through my employer, because his employer does not provide it. I will retire next year and be Medicare eligible, but he will have 6 more years before becoming eligible. He has several pre-existing conditions including strokes. How would we be able to afford his health insurance on our fixed income? Please consider a bipartisan bill that provides AFFORDABLE health care to all.

Roberta Philson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Lofton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate becausequite frankly, your obsession with the prior administration needs to end. As in be done. Never in my life have I seen such a waste of taxpayer dollars than each of you continuously obsessing over getting rid of a system that is immensely popular. The sheer cruelty of this bill and your ignorance of it is one thing, but the fact that you have nothing in the works to replace, and would rather see people sick or dead just to sock it to a prior administration is downright depressing. To watch the senators who draft this bill have a back and forth with a comedian through the media, and not with other senators on the floor is proof positive that you are more interested in appearance than you are substance. I hope my voice is heard, I hope you come to your senses and do some legitimate work for us, and I hope that we can actually do some good for this country. Because focusing on Barack isn't it.

Kevin Lofton

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sabine Whaley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate. One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill! There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the millions of American's healthcare.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people! Graham Cassidy does not achieve this goal.

Please pause and think. Are the American people being well-served by this rush to fulfill a campaign promise?

Sincerely,
Sabine Whaley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K. Stephens [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it may concern,

It is profoundly immoral for the richest country in the world to be the last major country to refuse to guarantee healthcare for its citizens. Asking people to choose between bankruptcy and death is a repugnant state of affairs. We should follow the example of the rest of the industrialized world and implement a system of universal healthcare in the United States.

Kyle Stephens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Bo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Monday's SFC hearing

If Graham-Cassidy passes, my parents will lose their healthcare soon in California.

I also won't be able to afford to have my first child with my fiancée.

And my brother won't be able to afford treatment for alcoholism.

Essentially, Graham-Cassidy will take years off my family member's lives, and make it near-impossible for my family to grow.

The livelihood for me and millions of others are at stake, and Graham-Cassidy would rip it away from us.

Thank you for your time and concern,
-Joe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Niederfrank [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

To Whom It Concerns,

Our daughter, Margaret, is 36 years old. She has a disability: she is on the autism spectrum.

She works part time at two jobs, one with a job coach through Portal Industries here in Ozaukee County.

She lives mostly independently, supported with assistance from Balance, Inc. located in Grafton, WI and Family Care of Ozaukee County.

Her health care is covered by Badger Care. She pays for dental work herself.

Her independence, and the contributions she is able make to her community through her employment, have been made possible due to Medicaid. Medicaid contributes to the organizations that support our daughter and the children of many others in our area.

We are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal being considered in the US Senate this week.

We are aware of a bi-partisan group working in the Senate to make changes to improve the Affordable Care Act. We would be very interested in what that bi-partisan group proposes.

Thank you for attending to our worries for our daughter,

Susan Niederfrank
[REDACTED]
Port Washington, WI 53074

PS I opened this letter with To Whom It May Concern, but I believe all of us should be concerned about this issue actually, because healthy people contribute to stronger, more vibrant communities and make life better for all of us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dmb laz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill should NOT pass because:

- It is not bipartisan. Take time to work TOGETHER. What is the rush to change?
- It removes coverage from people who currently have coverage. I personally know of over a dozen people.
- It reduces funding for Medicaid, used by the most needy people. Estimates are that it will cost my state \$4.9B Where will the money necessary come from? I pay taxes to support the needy as well as myself!

I am in favor of a change, but only if it is a change for the better.

Sincerely,

Deb Blaz
Angola IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Scoggin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re Bill

I hope that you do not pass this unchristian, discriminatory, tax-break-for-millionaires bill which targets people who are already sick, pregnant, mentally ill, old, or poor. It is disgraceful and a shame for any of you to vote in favor of it. It will not improve anything for ordinary people – the 99%, and it is a clear and obvious attempt to continue the income inequality as well as to tear down anything that might have affiliations with former President Obama. Shame on all of you who are considering jamming this through. You are all supposed to be doing your job, which is responding to the needs of your entire constituency, not just those who fill your campaign coffers with dark and dirty money.

Yes, this bill would impact me – I am low-income, subsequent to a divorce after 31 years of marriage, I have pre-existing chronic conditions, I am a senior citizen who is not eligible for Medicare or Social Security, and my income barely covers my monthly bills, which include \$650/mo for health insurance – which would be \$950 if I didn't qualify for a tax credit. Your bill should be renamed "Be Rich or Die" which is what the effect of it will be. You are all so out of touch with how expensive real life for real people is – this bill is an awful, vicious killer of 99% of your constituents.

Joan Scoggin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ellen Goldfarb [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it is being pushed through without proper oversight and would create many problems. The Congressional Budget Office has not enough time to analyze the proposed bill. Healthcare is too important an issue to be politicized. I am so sick, sick of health care being used to score a point for the offense or to be blocked by the defense. Congress is elected to work together. Health care is of vital national and economic interest. Don't go backward on a healthier America, do make informed decisions that don't just kick the problem to the states. PA is an "old" state, Philadelphia is at the same time the economic driver of the state and home of too many people living in poverty. For Pennsylvanians and for all citizens, do not rush this flawed bill through.

Mary Ellen Goldfarb

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace Hammond <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill, September 25,2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This cruel bill will deprive millions of children and adult citizens of the health care they need.

I am a senior citizen with many pre-existing conditions and limited resources. If I were to lose my supplemental insurance, I would not be able to afford new insurance under this bill, nor would I be able to afford the costs of my care which are not covered by Medicare.

Please work to strengthen Obamacare rather than giving us a health care system which is basically uncaring about the needs of Americans. This proposed bill offends all my moral and ethical values and convictions.

Grace Hammond
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPadf

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Porter, Susanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the new health bill

I want to register my strong opposition to this badly thought-out, last ditch effort by the Republican party to save face. Unless and until we have an improved, evolved version of Obamacare to replace the current law—and everyone agrees it is a first attempt that can be improved upon—do not destroy it so that Republicans can appear to have achieved something. Every American knows that's what this pathetic bill is about, and millions of low and middle income people will suffer the consequences.

Sincerely,
Susanna Porter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. The new GOP ACA repeal and replace bill is no better than previous efforts that you rightly opposed. The new bill holds the same provisions that you opposed this summer: deep cuts to Medicaid and a temporary elimination of federal funding to Planned Parenthood. The bill is being rushed through before the end of September to allow simple majority passage. There is no CBO scoring, no committee involvement, no bipartisan contribution to the final bill. Please oppose this face-saving rushed attempt to mollify Trump. Our goal must be to do right by the American people, and this last minute bill does anything but!

Peter Shaw

04105
207-650-3694

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacie Ritter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

....
I have two children with pre-existing conditions. They reached the cap on their care 14 years ago. The PPACA protects them from being discriminatory insurance practices. We can't go backwards! Improve the PPACA! Don't repeal it!

Stacie Ritter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Horwitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

diverse state conditions result in sick poor residents moving to states with better protections, penalising those states that support their residents better; a bad way to run a country.

Chris Horwitz

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A Aita [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca repeal

How can you even consider the Graham Cassidy bill? You are sentencing hundred of thousands of people to death, destroying lives and putting money in rich peoples hands instead of caring for those in need. Shame on you. Shame on all of you. May God have mercy on your souls

#AshamedToBeAmericanin2017

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allan Wysocki [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am strongly troubled by the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. I urge you to reject it-- because it is so obviously biased in favor of the affluent, the powerful and corporations. It is clearly biased against the poor, the disadvantaged, the sick and the vast majority of our citizens. We deserve much better. You can do much better. Please reject this proposal.

Allan Wysocki

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Suarez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please stop trying to repeal and replace the ACA and simply work on improvements. Please.

Thank you,
Maria Booker Suarez

Spaulding for Children. We have employer-based health insurance. We also pay for a Medicaid supplement to provide Bridget with the schooling, medication, therapies, doctors and surgeries needed to continue to defy expectations.

Bridget has a rare genetic syndrome: PACS1. She was born with a thin (now resolved) corpus callosum, dysmorphic features, laryngomalacia, cardiac defects, tether spinal cord (now resolved), hypotonia, reflux, hypermobility, neurogenic bladder, vasomotor instability, communication delay, autism and an intellectual disability. She is (thankfully) now only on two medications, that without our health insurance and Medicaid would cost us almost \$2000/month. Her therapies would bankrupt us.

We do not know of those diagnosis's what are caused by the PACS1 mutation and which ones are caused by Bridgetitis. We do not know who our child would be without the surgeries, hospital stays, therapies and medications.

We do know that all of the above are considered preexisting conditions. Our child is the definition of a preexisting condition. We do know that without Medicaid and the ACA our child would not have survived her first 8 years of life. Our family would not be as whole, because our child would not have been given the building blocks and then use them to break down any barriers imposed on her by ineffective healthcare.

Medicaid has made our lives easier, not perfect, but easier because our child has been given the needed services to excel to any goal. Be it walking, talking, reading or simply living.

To the members of the House and Senate, I implore you to look at the faces of preexisting conditions and the disabled Americans who depend on the Medicaid system to survive.

Parents have fought school systems, doctors who put limitations and therapists who said we were doing too much too soon. We have been fighting every day of our child's life to allow them not to survive but to thrive.

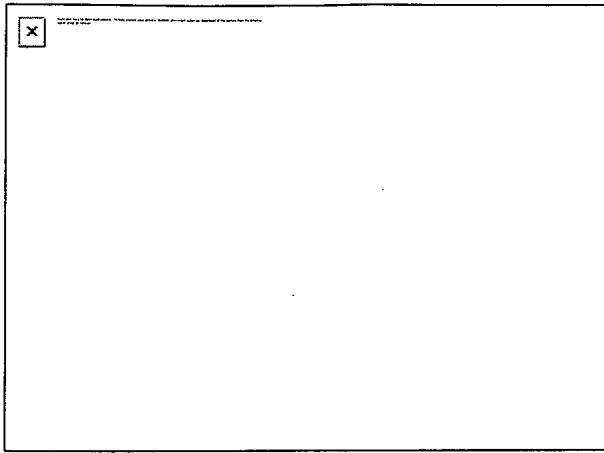
Since the moment of my child's first breath I have been fighting for her survival.

Trust me, we are willing to fight you if needed, but we would rather work with you. This is Bridget, a child with a rare genetic disability and preexisting condition. I've been fighting for her survival for eight years. I'm not going to stop.



I Demand that they not repeal the Affordable Care Act and that they work together to fix it. Our preexisting children's quality of life depend on it.

Kerri

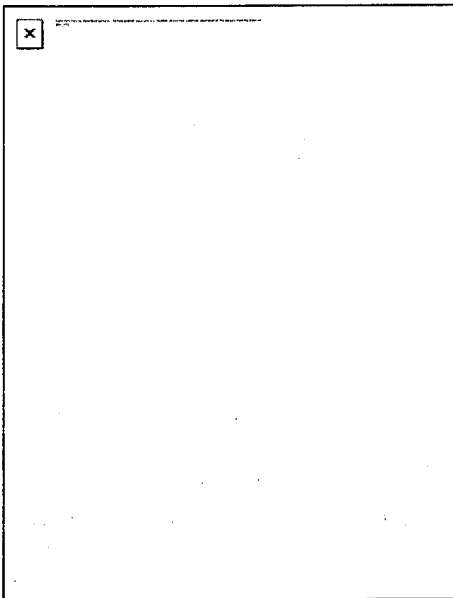


This is the back of my courageous daughter. A back that was born with a preexisting condition, tethered spinal cord. Not yet three years old, this back had just learned to walk after a year on a pediatric walker. This back had been without blemish or scars. This back would be cut into, the spinal cord surgically repaired and then healed



These legs and ankles would perfect the art of toe walking. A preexisting condition, would try to constrain the legs that were told would never jump, or run or sit crisscross applesauce. Currently not wearing her "boots", we are thankful for the stability and strengthening they provided.

From her vibrant red hair to her feet that will not stop trying to work the balance beam, my child is preexisting condition.



Without the Affordable Care Act, without our State Medicaid system, this child who at less than a year old would be told she would never roll over, crawl, walk or talk has defied every barrier put placed upon her shoulders. Do the ACA and Medicaid systems need fixing? Yes.

But to repeal ACA and defund or underfund the State's so they cannot support Medicaid for has a direct and detrimental effect on our children. Our family was one of the lucky ones. We live in the State with the #1 Children's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital. We live in a town with the top pediatric therapy centers,

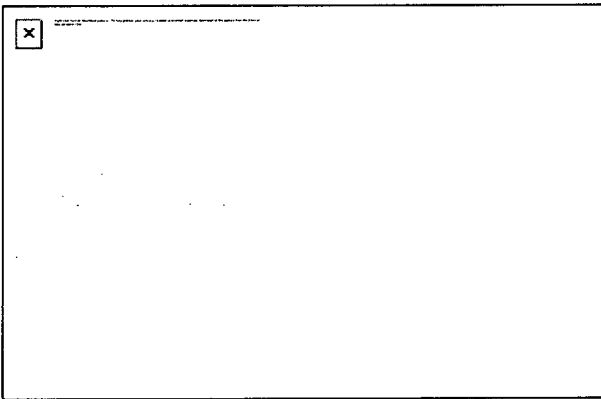
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kerri Ames [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I would like to speak on ACA vote

This is the face

1 Reply

This is the face of a preexisting condition:



It's a pretty face. I think it is the most gorgeous face in the world. I remember looking at this face and thinking how beautiful, simply beautiful my child was. What you do not see at first glance is this picture was taken at Children's Hospital. This was Bridget's third month of life and third hospital admission, after five ER visits.

This picture represents the face of a preexisting condition.

This is the picture of of just a pair of hands



This pair of hands, the one that holds my heart in their palms, taken during another hospital visit, six years later. This pair of hands that turned blue at 9-months old when another preexisting condition was discovered. A vasomotor instability that will haunt her through winters (too cold) to summers (too hot) that overpower her ability to regulate her body temperature.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Sweet [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because pre-existing medical conditions and essential health benefits are not GUARANTEED by the legislation. The bill would allow States to decide to drop these protections which in no way improves the healthcare of people.

PLEASE VOTE NO on this bill.

Brian Sweet
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan LaVelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preexisting Condition

In regards to the Bill introduced by the honorable Senators, it isn't good for the PEOPLE of the U.S. and your job is to yield to the will of the people.

Sent from my iPhone

2 years later – graduate school – the best cognitive therapy, according to the **neuropsychologist**.
2 years after that – teaching college part-time, living independently. Driving again!

Guess what? This all took an incredible group of health care professionals. Her **“Doc Flock”**! And a great group of friends who learned to manage her wheelchairs and walkers, who helped drive her around for four years.

And a great family including parents (me and my husband) who paid for her insurance payments. She couldn't work so **her insurance was going to stop WHILE SHE WAS IN ICU!** We paid. And for the **co-pays**. And the **medical equipment** that insurance didn't pay for. And the transportation back and forth to Phoenix. And my hotel for 2 months. And her house payment. And we still provide much of her support. 8 years later.

Most families couldn't have provided the financial support that we did. She says so many times now, what would have happened to me if you couldn't have helped? What would my life be like?

But, life is pretty good. She's a happy person. She manages her disabilities. She works part time and volunteers and contributes.

And our only child is alive.

It all starts with having the health care you need when you need it.

Don't pass this cruel bill. It's tax savings for the rich. And hell for the poor and (suddenly) sick.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Penny York [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: York, Penny
Subject: Health care/a brain tumor story

Senators

Please do not pass the bill before you. I don't believe you have enough information about the financial and human consequences.

I'll briefly tell you one family's story. (if you want to skip it, **this is the bottom line: Physical Therapy after a brain tumor and stroke can mean the difference between a life spent sitting on the couch and a return to meaningful work and a pretty normal life. That requires health insurance. It can happen to anyone.**)

In 2009, while ACA was being debated, my 36 year old daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was a teacher and single mother of an adopted child. Independent. Healthy.

A few hours after surgery at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, she began to bleed in her brain. She was in ICU when the monitors picked up the spike in her intracranial pressure. **A neurosurgeon on the floor at the time called for a drill**, and drilled a hole in her skull to relieve the pressure so they could keep her alive and get her back into surgery. A few days later I would notice a drop of dried blood at the base of her ICU bed.

3 more brain surgeries that week. After **3 weeks she could be transferred out of ICU**. She couldn't sit up. Couldn't use her left arm or leg. Could talk a little. Couldn't swallow so she had a feeding tube. Was seeing double. Was hallucinating. Had a shunt in her brain to manage her brain pressure. On so many meds!

Then the **physical and occupational therapy** started in earnest. 2 more weeks in the hospital. Learning to swallow again. Learning to tell time (an elementary teacher who used to teach this to her Kindergarteners!) Learning to use a spoon to feed herself. Creatively using her good right hand to teach her weak left hand how to fingerspell.

3 weeks in skilled nursing. Learning to use her wheelchair. Learning to throw a bean bag. Learning to use the toilet. Learning to help with a transfer from bed to wheelchair to toilet.

Then home (my home, she couldn't care for herself). **Home therapy** for a month. Learning to crawl. Starting to learn to use a pick up walker. Learning to open food containers.

Then **outpatient therapy**. Walkers and canes.

And doctor appointments.

Ophthalmologist – seeing double was permanent due to nerve damage so a series of new glasses while her eyes adjusted.

Neurologist = nerve pain on one side of face, so trials of meds. No sense of pain or temperature on one side of body. All permanent.

Neurosurgeon – regular MRI to monitor what was left of the tumor. Checks on the shunt. A couple of relapses, back to Phoenix, more tests.

ENT – hearing loss on one side was permanent – lots of tests, hearing aid.

All docs and therapists – almost no balance, lots of falls, tests to figure it out. PT helped her get better at managing it. No balance - permanent.

Speech therapy – numb on one side of face so needed a lot of work on articulation – and not biting her cheek and tongue when she talked and ate.

Learning to get around the community – the bus, route maps, Dial-a-Bus. Walking one block then two, then a mile.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Callahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your "healthcare" bill

My name is Lisa Callahan and I have a 15 year old son who was born with a peanut Allergy. He could go into anaphylactic shock and die. If preexisting conditions are not covered or they are cost prohibitive how will he continue to get his epi pens and god forbid he goes to the emergency room it could bankrupt us. Fix the ACA don't do this.

Lisa Callahan
Los Angeles, CA

--

Lisa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Nathanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Rachel Gandell Tetlow
Subject: ACOG Written Testimony: 9/27 Graham-Cassidy Finance Cmte. Hearing
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Finance ACOG Testimony FINAL.pdf

Hello,

Please accept the attached document as the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' (ACOG) written testimony for Monday's Senate Finance Committee Hearing regarding consideration of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you might have.

Best,
Becca

Rebecca Nathanson
Federal Affairs Manager
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: keith and alice pailthorp [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Gentlemen,

This bill must not be allowed to pass. It would not survive the normal order. The Monday hearing does not constitute normal order. I strongly oppose both the contents of the bill and the process of its consideration. You must not advance this horrendous assault on the American people.

Keith Pailthorp

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Phelps [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy will take my healthcare away

I am a 62 year old disabled woman, a constituent of Senators Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy. The Graham-Cassidy bill will act directly to remove any access I have to healthcare for several years. I have several very painful orthopedic conditions that will require surgery in the near future, and a pre-cancerous condition that requires frequent monitoring. With out any access to healthcare, I could very well die. Please do not let this bill get to the Senate floor for a vote. Thank you.

Jacqueline Phelps
Louisiana 70506

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amelia Williams [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassady

Hello,

I'm 36 years old and I have lived with a chronic illness for over 20 years. I'm lucky enough to be in remission, at two years I'll be considered cured, but I will always have a preexisting condition. Graham-Cassady would strip people like me of the protections the ACA has afforded us and increase the likelihood of medical bankruptcy for many Americans. We deserve to live happy, prosperous lives despite the fact that we have medical issues. Insurers should not be allowed to profit from our misfortune.

Sincerely,
Amelia Williams

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Makowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham-Cassidy bill

The proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill would be devastating to millions of Americans living with brain injuries. I urge a no vote on this bill.

Eric Makowski
Vice President of Advocacy Affairs and Business Development Mentis Neuro Rehabilitation
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information, including patient information protected by federal and state privacy laws. It is intended only for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender at [REDACTED] and destroy all copies of the original message.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debi&Pete Ellertsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Amendment

Please record me IN OPPOSITION to the Graham-Cassidy amendment. If enacted, it would hurt me personally. My wife has PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, and before the Affordable Care Act became law, she COULD NOT OBTAIN health insurance in our state at any price. Going back to the status quo ante, through state action or otherwise, would be a death sentence as she is still too young for Medicare. The second reason concerns the integrity of US Senate procedure. Before Graham-Cassidy came along, Sen. Alexander and Sen. Murray were beginning the legislative process of creating equitable, bipartisan solutions to the very real problems with ACA. Both the amendment and the way in which it is referred to the Senate floor VIOLATE THE REGULAR ORDER and handling legislation this important without hearings and/or adequate deliberation UNDERMINES THE INTEGRITY OF THE US SENATE. I urge all members of the committee to vote no on this travesty of a bill.

-- Peter Ellertsen

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Wingfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

The Graham-Cassidy bill will hurt millions of Americans, removing an estimated 32 million of them from coverage. In addition to constituting a continuation of the GOP's war on women, the bill will harm the elderly and the poor. For members of the GOP who consider themselves Christians, they are incorrect. This behavior is cruel, even unusual.

Many of us with insurance would like to see our less lucky friends and neighbors have the same peace of mind those of us with insurance have. Nobody should ever have to choose between food and medicine nor fail to see a physician when one is needed.

The GOP appears happy enough to spend billions on the military, while being too miserly to provide medical coverage for all American citizens. Is being intellectual authors of a bill that will surely kill your some of your fellow citizens how you want to be remembered, Senators Graham and Cassidy?

I am saddened to live in a country where members of one party appear to be unmoved by the plight of the poor and those with existing preconditions.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Wingfield

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Metzger [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
I consider this a kill bill. Many people will die because they will not have access to the health care benefits that they need to survive. At this point, I am pleading for your understanding, empathy, and compassion for others.
If you and your families were impacted by this bill, would you still vote for it?

Janet Metzger

18020
6107598296

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keri Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop this bill

If this bill does not protect against preexisting conditions, bar insurance companies from setting lifetime caps and doesn't make things like prescriptions and maternity care requirements then this bill does not benefit the American public.

My daughter was born death from a viral infection passed to her during my pregnancy. This virus also caused brain damage and delays in her physical development.

This virus, called cmv, is very common. 40% of all American adults are carriers.

Without the protections put in place by the ACA our daughter would more than likely reach her lifetime cap by an early age or not be able to get insurance.

She has also been receiving needed therapy provided by the Medicaid expansion in our state (Utah).

We're lucky enough to have insurance through my employer, but we've met many families who have children with disabilities that rely on the ACA.

All children and people with disabilities or other health issues really on the protections afforded by the ACA. Putting forward a bill that doesn't guarantee them does not protect the most vulnerable among us.

Please put the lives of people who this bill will hurt above a campaign promise.

Thank you,
Keri Green

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elana zee [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid saved me when no insurance would take me

When I turned 22 my parents' insurance immediately dropped me. Because I didn't have a job that offered benefits, I turned to the private insurance market only to find out they wouldn't cover me. I had asthma, a pre-existing condition, and that disqualified me from obtaining private health insurance. As a result I spent much of my 20's without health insurance. When I was 29, I was let go from my job, and discovered I was then eligible for Medicaid. I was able to access the care needed to get my asthma completely under control, which also helped me advance my capabilities as a fitness instructor. Unfortunately, I had to limit my income potential as I knew if I earned too much I would lose Medicaid coverage. This seemed like a ridiculous system to me. As a working, tax paying citizen I couldn't access healthcare, but once I was unemployed and making very little money, I had great access. I loved the care I got under Medicaid, and to this day believe we should all be able to access this type of quality healthcare, regardless of our employment status. For the past two years I have been fortunate to be working at a medical center that provides great health insurance benefits, and I no longer rely on Medicaid. The medical facility in which I work, provides services primarily to Medicaid/Medicare recipients. So, ironically, cuts to Medicaid will threaten the ability of such medical centers to stay afloat and I may be facing unemployment once again should this new Republican healthcare bill pass. We are moving in the wrong direction with healthcare. This direction will cost many jobs and countless lives. We need to keep expanding access, not taking it away.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louanne Ellingsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because My husband and I have chronic health issues and are low income and we are on disability. It disappoints us because we voted for President Trump and now acting like Hitler!!! I feel that he is trying to kill off the sick & low income people that he acts like they are a drain to the system!!! Not everyone on Government aid doesn't want to work! There are people who do but get punished for working by taking their needed medical benefits away or charge high co-pays for insurance that is needed to stay well to work. This system needs to be revamped so that the disabled can work and feel a sense of worth without being punished!!! I disappoints us because you promised to make America Great Again! You can't do that by attacking your own people of America!

Louanne Ellingsworth

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Shapiro [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a citizen I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill slated to be voted on Monday September 25, 2017 at 11am.
Mary Shapiro
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jerry belcher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

We live in Alabama and if this bill becomes law my 62 yr. old wife will lose her healthcare. She is a 10 yr. cancer survivor and was un-insurable until the passage of the ASA. Alabama has fought healthcare from day one and there is nothing to indicate they are going to do anything that the healthcare and corporate death panels do not approve of. Every dollar sent into this state ends up as tax breaks for the people who do not need them. They do not go to schools, fire or police, road repair or anything else that would help the voters. Nothing indicates that Alabama will begin doing the right thing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Todd Garfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

Please do not support the current health care repeal initiative, known as the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

The proposal dramatically restructures and cuts Medicaid spending, putting seniors, low-income, people with disabilities and other vulnerable Americans at risk. The proposal could allow insurance companies to dramatically increase costs for people with pre-existing conditions. And the proposal could harm millions by eliminating health insurance subsidies.

Please protect constituents like me. Vote no on the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Thank You

Todd Garfield
[REDACTED]
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Butz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Americans deserve better than this!

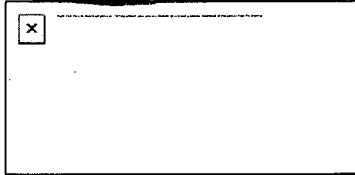
Older American, Americans with Disabilities and lower income working families all are potentially impacted by these decisions.

In many cases it is a matter of life or death or in the case of seniors and people with disabilities having a life worth living.

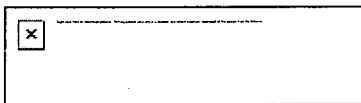
B.

Barbara A. Butz

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



Workforce Innovation and Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC)

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Copeland [redacted]@gman.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

The Graham Cassidy bill does not address any fundamental issues of the American health care system. I am a health policy consultant employed by an extremely large private insurer working on public health insurance projects across the spectrum of health care so I see all sides.

First of all, health care is not something that can be changed in a few months, a few years, or even over several years. It will take a generation to change. With this Congress and White House, the skyrocketing uncertainty of the health care market as made it unstable. You did this to yourself and have moved us backward on this evolution of change. The Affordable Care Act was and is not a perfect solution and you have the opportunity to improve it. I know you are all afraid because people call the law "Obamacare" and you hate the word "Obama", but rise above that and show that you care about your constituents. Help them understand what exactly you are doing for them, not the budgets, better yet **show them how you are helping them with this bill**. I have not seen any evidence as to how this bill is going to improve the health care system. **Can you please explain how this bill would move our vision of a great American health care system forward?**

Your tunnel vision of insurance prices is unsustainable. The health care system needs more than just some price and budget controls on premiums. Work on understanding consolidation of care, of insurance companies' administrative and marketing costs (why are insurers advertising anyways?), on the complexity of coinsurance/deductibles/copays/out of pocket limits, on network adequacy, on health information technology- **why aren't you focused on any of these issues?**

Please speak to Medicaid directors across the states and understand their viewpoints on these changes. You are hastily and wrongly fast tracking this bill without proper research or understanding. The majority of people on Medicaid are children or pregnant women.

What do you think our government is for? I get the sense that to you our government exists to have a military and to assert your rights on women's bodies and health. In my humble opinion, the government exists to maintain a sense of order in our society and to provide necessary services. Health care is a necessary service. Do you want to have a productive, well educated, competitive American society? The great equalizer is health care. If everyone is healthy, they can work and contribute. Let's not lose focus here. It is understandable that you are worried about premiums because that is what your constituents care about. That's what on the front page and what people see every month taken out of their pay checks. But, the focus is to rebuild. To determine a method of delivery of high quality care that works for most people because not everyone is going to be a winner. Let the losers be the insurance company executives (which I would like to be someday) or the military budget not pregnant women and children and the disabled. We need to lift each other up.

Patriotism is not flying an American flag over your house or wearing a pin on your lapel. Caring about your country is thinking about each other's fight in life and it means you might have a little less so someone else can be ok. I think most of us are can sacrifice for that. If you aren't then I would go talk to your constituents and see how they feel about it.

Thank you,
Rebecca Copeland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teri Vanore [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

My sister is dying of bone cancer. She's in hospice now because she was able to join the Medicaid expansion provided by the ACA.

If the Graham-Cassidy bill had been in place this year, she wouldn't have been able to afford her treatments, or have any insurance, or get the hospice care she needs.

Graham Cassidy is not a healthcare bill. It's simply a way to transfer millions of dollars of wealth in the form of tax breaks, by taking from the poor and giving to the rich.

Graham Cassidy will cause the loss of lives, bankruptcies and unimaginable hardships, not only for the poor, but for working families with children, veterans and older Americans. It is the last thing a responsible government should consider, and it should never be put to a vote.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Schoenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

Please accept these comments from a concerned citizen.

I understand the urge by the GOP to make good on a campaign promise. The pressure on the party is no doubt intense. But stop, for just a minute, to consider the impact on households across the country. Consider the parent who has to empty a retirement account to pay for a child's treatment for cancer, or an elderly couple forced to choose between medications and food.

Consider the countries around the world who have determined that health care is a right and not a privilege afforded to the wealthy few. Why has the United States fallen behind on this?

Do NOT support this bill. It has not been vetted. It has not been scored thoroughly by the CBO. History will judge the process harshly, as well as the senators who support this travesty.

Sincerely,

Susan Schoenberger
West Hartford, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shiva Sarram <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

This bill is cruel and rushed. Please reconsider. We are better than this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Hiller Design [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

9/22/2017

re:Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

I live in the state of Arkansas. A state which chose to accept the medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Your plan will decimate the lives of myself and my fellow Arkansans. You will punish us because our state because its leaders chose to reject the fear mongering and help its citizens.

In 1999 I was diagnosed with cancer. I BEAT the crap out of it and am today a health active 60 years old woman. I have not had any health problems since that time. I became a vegan and in the intervening years left a desk job and became a hiker photographer. One health issue made it impossible for me to afford health coverage until the ACA. I have not had the need to use my new coverage but it is a blessing to know it is available to me.

I strongly recommend you send this bill back to committee and await a CBO score. Voting prior to the score means you already know the catastrophic effect it will have on the lives of those you know will lose coverage.

Are you Americans or Republicans? Your actions will be my answer.

Most Sincerely,

LE Hiller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I find it unconscionable that anyone would vote for such an important bill without having it thoroughly vetted by the CBO.

Have the Senators even read it from beginning to end? On the face of it, it seems that the long-term consequences would be dire for those with pre-existing conditions and the elderly. How will we know until we have a thorough examination?

Republicans complained that the ACA was pushed through too quickly. How about this one?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill as it ensures neither health nor care for the public. It's a cynical document claiming to give more power to the states, while at the same time preventing states from providing universal, single-payer healthcare. Its scandal is that politicians who have been voted to serve the American people constantly strive to undermine us. I stand by the professional medical boards, all of whom oppose this legislation, as it will be detrimental to public health and to the American people. One would think we have enough battles to fight to protect ourselves from foreign enemies and Mother Nature, than to have to constantly protect ourselves from national representatives. Enough is enough: kill the bill, and work to finding real healthcare solutions than carrying on with this nonsense.

Sincerely,

Sarah Winge-Sorensen
Registered voter in Hamilton County, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy proposal

This is just plain wrong. The CBO does not have time to evaluate this. It will harm so many Americans.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel fournier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to come out strongly against the Graham Cassidy bill. I've been living with metastatic breast cancer for two years. There is no cure, but with treatment most days for my young family in Cherry Hill, New Jersey look pretty normal. I work, have a Girl Scout troop, am room mom for my son's class. My husband has a job as a senior leader at a hospital system with excellent private insurance.

I can't tell you how terrifying it is to have terminal cancer at 38. Then to have a brief respite from crisis by finding a treatment that is allowing me to live a normal day to day life, even if it only gives my children a few extra years of normalcy. Only to have the worry of being denied affordable treatment. I will stop treatment before bankrupting my children's future. Thank you for doing your part to maintain preexisting condition protections so that I don't have to make that choice.

Last week I was in New York with the actress's Eva Longoria promoting and raising funds for metastatic research. New research advances mean nothing if people can't affordably access care.

Rachel Fournier

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daryl W [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't pass GrahamCassidy healthcare bill

This bill will not only destroy lives, it will throw the entire healthcare industry into chaos. And if that happens, no one wins.

Removal of the requirement that pre-existing conditions cannot prevent a person from getting health insurance is unAmerican. Why? Because it opens the door to death and bankruptcy for something over which the person had no say in. No one wants to be born with a health issue. But if God creates you that way, you have to cope as best you can and healthcare is part of it. Why should a health insurer be allowed to penalize you?

Congress needs to recognize the American people need healthcare they can afford.

Please, take all steps to prevent the hideousness of the GrahamCassidy bill!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Dungee [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because you truly have no idea of the impact of this bill. Return to regular order and fix the ACA.

As a practicing RN, I am terrified about what this will do to my patients. As the daughter of a mother in a long term care facility, not having Medicaid for her would put her on the streets. As a woman with several pre-existing conditions, I'm afraid my premiums are going to be unaffordable.

Do not pass this bill. It will reorder 1/6th of the economy. How can the party of fiscal responsibility do such a thing? Truly abominable.

I do not have any hope that my words, and the words of every single major entity involved in healthcare carry no weight. The AMA, ANA, AHA, Blue Cross, AARP, American Cancer Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, every Medicaid administrator, etc., have denounced this bill. You know who supports it? The Kochs and the Mercers. You should be terribly ashamed. But you aren't, and that's everything that wrong with the GOP in a nutshell.

Kelly Dungee

Kelly Dungee
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Weigle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare

To whom it may concern

The ACA has given us, we are self employed, health insurance that was unaffordable without it. The provisions for preexisting conditions and no lifetime caps are indispensable for our personal healthcare. The Graham Cassidy bill is the worst one the Republicans have tried to pass. And it actually gives the federal government more power than the states over our healthcare. In that ultimately Congress controls the money not the states. Please do not let this horrible bill become law.

Christy Weigle

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Press <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I implore you to reject this bill outright. It not only will result in millions losing their health coverage and effective "kicks the can" down to the states to figure out, but represents, again, a horrendous breach of protocol and public trust: no attempt to obtain and consider input in a bipartisan manner, no hearings, no CBO score, no expert testimony, nothing! This does our society a grave disservice in the name of trying too hard to "keep a promise" regardless of method or results.

This bill must be rejected and I ask you to join me and millions of Americans in doing so.

Respectfully,
Gary Press
US citizen from NY State

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Malinowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: McNiece, Jessica (Durbin); Kanner, Max (Durbin); Villanueva, Josie (Duckworth)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Vote is Irresponsible

Reports are coming out that many Senate Republicans have no idea what is in the bill. For example, Sen Chuck Grassley is quoted:

“You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn’t be considered, but Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign. That’s pretty much as much of a reason as the substance of the bill.”

No campaign contribution or campaign promise is worth endangering the lives and health of at least 1/10th of the country and creating turmoil in 1/6th of our national economy.

Senators should have a full analysis by your committee and the CBO before a vote. Every player in the healthcare industry has said that this bill would destabilize the market and that Americans would either lose coverage or lose the ability to afford coverage. It is irresponsible to consider a vote before understanding the full effects of this legislation.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Malinowski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Robinson [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
I believe that it is WRONG to deny health care to sick or injured people. We need Single Payer for ALL Americans. Stop with claiming we can't afford it....it should be a first priority.

Nancy Robinson

[redacted]
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanette Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH CARE

PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA. It could be better, especially since the insurance companies have been panicked by congressional actions. A one payer system (you pay, it is not social medicine) would be best.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaon N [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My protest of the Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask this entire Senate to follow procedure on this bill and give it the time for necessary debate. I've read this bill and cross-referenced it against sections of the IRC and to my understanding, this bill will impact far too many seniors and poor people who have medicaid as an only option for healthcare.

Instead of worrying about proving a point re: "campaign promise", prove to the American people that you all intend to do what's best for the American people. This bill, in its current form causes far too much harm to far too many. Please don't let ego stand in the way of empathy. Take the time to FIX the PPACA.

Thanks,

Kaon Nelson
A concerned citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allyson Wendt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a terrible bill

About a year ago, I got a migraine. It never went away. Instead, it got worse and worse, and turned into what is called a hemiplegic migraine. These migraines look and feel like strokes, but are 'just' migraines. I started having seizures soon after that; they would later be diagnosed as psychogenic nonepileptic seizures. I have also had rheumatoid arthritis for five years.

The saving grace in all of this has been Medicaid, made available to me through the Obamacare Medicaid Expansion. I have not had to worry about affording the care I've needed (probably close to \$100,000, plus \$80,000 in prescriptions), which has taken one huge worry off my plate. I could go to the seizure monitoring unit at DHMC for a week without stopping to wonder how I was going to pay for it. I could fill my --- prescription (\$4,000 a month) without worry, and continue to walk around and look after my kids. I could try several medications for migraine to try to get better. And I could get good, solid therapy for mental health treatment.

Without these things, and the Medicaid that pays for them, I would be far sicker than I am now. I would not be able to care for my children, or work even a little bit. I would likely die young. Instead, I am making it through, spending time with my children, and healing.

Under Graham-Cassidy, I would likely not be eligible for Medicaid in my state of Vermont (where 87,000 people would lose coverage). I would not be able to afford my medication. I would get sicker, and would not be able to care for my children.

This bill will hurt people. Real people, like me and my children. People who need accessible, affordable health care to survive. PLEASE don't pass this bill.

-Allyson Wendt
Brattleboro, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Brindle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate, and I'm not alone. I'm a generally very healthy 46-year-old woman. But my many years of good health, during which I've subsidized the sick (gladly, because that's how insurance works), have been interspersed with times when I'm the one in need of care.

I've had melanoma twice, and I've had three pregnancies and C-section deliveries (which, by the way, resulted in three healthy children, who are now subsidizing the sick, because that's how insurance works). My healthcare is provided through my husband's small business. Graham-Cassidy would permit states to allow carriers to base their premiums on a person's medical history, sell policies that don't cover the ACA's 10 essential health benefits (including maternity and newborn care) and re-institute caps. For someone like me with a pre-existing condition, that means the cost of premiums would likely become prohibitive. I would not be able to afford the routine preventive care I need to catch any recurrence of melanoma while it's easier (and cheaper!) to treat. I would not be able to afford treatments. And again, I'm one of the lucky ones. I've been fortunate to have been generally very healthy my entire life. This bill would be **devastating** for those who are disabled, chronically ill, or in need of regular medications such as insulin.

This bill is opposed by the Children's Hospital Association, by VoteVets, by all 50 state Medicaid directors, and by more patient advocacy groups than I can name. If you won't take my word for it, please take theirs. Please reject Graham-Cassidy. Thank you.

Elizabeth Brindle
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alida Van Pelt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ...It does not seem to be better for all of us. I worked my whole career as a school teacher. I retired in 2011, couldn't afford the Cobra plan that could have followed so didn't have health insurance for two years. I was so relieved to be able to buy health insurance through the ACA, both because the cost was reasonable and there was pretty easy online access. It has served me well. I am fairly healthy, but am also 60 and not yet eligible for Medicare. But why change a system that works for many, has relieved much financial and physical stress for many for some political promise that was largely inaccurately based from the beginning? If high percentages of people surveyed disliked Obamacare but appreciated the ACA then there was some inaccurate political spin being taken advantage of back then to confuse constituents. People seem to understand better now, most like having affordable insurance through the ACA, and where there are problems, fix the problems. Do not take away something that is mostly working.

Alida Van Pelt
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stefanie Meers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I wanted to voice my objection to the latest draft bill that threatens to take healthcare away from millions, remove EHBS, and put those with pre-existing conditions at risk.

I have personally used Obamacare. I did not receive a subsidy, but I was grateful to have a plan that covered me and could not charge me more based on my healthcare history or status.

Obamacare is not perfect, but it's a great start. I beg you not to vote for the Graham Cassidy bill and work to improve healthcare in a bi-partisan way.

Please put the healthcare of Americans before any campaign promises made. Rich people don't need tax cuts. Everyday Americans need access to affordable healthcare.

Thank you, Stefanie Grieder

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Edward Schuchardt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Hello,

I am writing to ask that Congress not hold a vote on Graham-Cassidy without a thorough analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

Healthcare is not a matter of "keeping good" on campaign promises. It's not a matter of choosing between "buying a cellphone or healthcare".

This is a matter of financial ruin for many Americans. It's a matter of life and death for many Americans.

Attempting to pass legislation that impacts tens of millions of Americans and 1/6th of the economy without fully understanding the ramifications of the proposed legislation is something I never thought I'd have to tell a group of adults is a horrible idea. The ramifications of this are incredible and potentially disastrous if not thought through.

Please return to regular order and focus on improving the Affordable Care Act through bipartisan solutions to increase coverage, lower costs, and stabilize the markets.

Remember who you work for: The American people who pay for your family's health insurance while you work to try and take access to healthcare for many of us away.

Sincerely,
Edward Schuchardt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dina Payne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am completely against this bill. I want the GOP and Democrats to work together to draft a bill for all of us. Why pass a bill that will knock millions off of their healthcare, which will only be repealed when Democrats are in majority? Why do it anyway? Please take a look at Bernie Sanders bill, maybe there's a way it can save money, it could work. Just look and listen, that's all you have to do. If it won't work, then work together to draft a bi-partisan bill. I'm a school counselor, these are the basic skills we teach our children and you are not being very good role models.

Sincerely,
Dina Payne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christopher Marchand [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Do Not Support the Graham Cassidy Ammendment

Hello,

Please listen to the enormous number of leaders and organizations voicing opposition against the Graham Cassidy Amendment that threatens to take health insurance away from millions of Americans. We need a bipartisan effort to move healthcare forward in this country. This Bill is nothing more than a reactionary, punitive attempt to undo an ACT that has helped millions of people and the United States move forward.

Thank you,

Chris
Marchand
Killingworth CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Marriott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO ON GRAHAM/CASSIDY BILL

ALL americans deserve quality healthcare and this bill will deprive many from that right.

This bill is worse than any of the others that were brought to the Senate by this administration and they were defeated due to the lack of coverage and high costs to US!

Healthcare in our country needs to be a bipartisan discussion and bill, one that will take care of ALL not just the wealthy and healthy few.

We are ALL affected by this bill, DO NOT PASS IT!

Lisa Marriott
Norwalk, CT 06855

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators

Please do not support this New effort to repeal and replace the ACA. This bill will devastate health care in many states and cause millions to lose health care. Work together to fix the ACA! Regular order must return.

Ann Reed

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Block6 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Dear Senators,

I write to you today on behalf of my entire family. There are nine of us. We are middle to upper middle class economically. Out of nine of us, all nine have pre-existing conditions. One has multiple sclerosis, one has a genetic bleeding disorder, one has Tourette's, one is in long term recovery from drug use, two have had heart surgeries and three suffer from severe anxiety disorder/depression that have required hospitalization. Our family will not survive the re-instatement of life time caps or the return of block grants for pre-existing conditions. Either of those two things will doom one or more members of my family to a certain death for not being able to pay for appropriate care. I am begging you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy act in its current form. Thanks to the changes brought about by the ACA my family has been able to afford care without making life threatening decisions like whether or not my son can go to rehab or I can get see a neurologist for my MS.

We want access to the same kind of affordable care that you have as members of the Senate.

Please listen to all the experts like the AMA and Blue Cross who have said this is not the way to reform healthcare. There is little support from your constituents nationally for this bill. I urge you to listen to the experts and the American people and vote no on Graham- Cassidy.

Thank you for your time,
Caron Block

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alyson Grigoli [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Alyson Grigoli
Providence, RI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Proctor [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

You need to stop with seeing everything through your Republican only lens. You will cause real harm to American citizens if this passes but, will protect yourselves from the effects.

You all have all of the wealth and power, another tax cut won't make a bit of difference to you all that already have amassed enough money for generations.

Please first do no harm to average Americans for a change, vote NO.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlene Pinckney [mailto:charlene1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

The government should not be allowed to take healthcare away from the American people just to appease the Republican Party's hateful donors - the Koch Brothers. The racism that is inherent in all that has been done since Donald Trump became president is not my America. Please do not allow this bill to pass. It is a death sentence for millions. It is in fact, genocide.

Sincerely,
Charlene Goldberg

Sent from my iPad
Our apathy became anger. Our anger became action.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maija Harrington <maijah@...>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy

The Senate's new "health care" bill is a travesty! It sentences many poor people to an early death.

--

Maija Harrington
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Woldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

I have 2 children on the autistic spectrum. This bill jeopardizes their future ability to get affordable health care. The assumption that state government and insurance companies will do the right thing by people with preexisting conditions without laws to make them is laughable. It's a redistribution of wealth and responsibility that rewards the rich and healthy at the expense of the poor, aged, or sick. No elected official who supports this bill would have my support on Election Day.

Jennifer Woldman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne Downing [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ...I am a nurse and have patients on both ACA and Medicaid. My husband and I have preexisting conditions and are fearful if we need insurance until Medicare age the copays will decimate our savings. We have worked consistently hard and paid our taxes and deserve better.

I have two brothers on Medicaid. I have a nephew with psychiatric issues. The 26 year old on parents insurance was extremely helpful to my children. Having a child should not cost a fortune. Every other developed country has dependable affordable health care. America is certainly capable. Koch brothers should not dictate their warped narcissistic ideas to America.

Jeanne Downing
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liza Bingham [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opinion

This is a cruel bill to save your own hide while jeopardizing the health of millions of the most vulnerable among us. Shame on you for putting people through the stress of worrying about whether or not they can receive care, let alone finding out—due to high costs, they can no longer afford what they had. Fix the Health Care system that ACA put in place, don't go backwards!

Sincerely,
Liza Bingham

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryan Kroeger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Unacceptable

Hello,

The cost to rural hospitals, women, children, the elderly, the disabled, veterans, and pregnant women is far too great. Please do not pass this bill. If nothing else, please read the bloody thing. This is awful.

Best,
Ryan

Please, think long and hard about what a vote to repeal the ACA and to block-grant and reduce Medicaid would mean for the most vulnerable of your fellow citizens and their families.

I urge you to imagine the greatest good that could be achieved here instead if you put people first, and ideology and foolhardy campaign promises to the side.

Sincerely,

Kate Lauderbaugh

Evanston, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Lauderbaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

September 21, 2017

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

In your hands rests the most important decision for children and for people with disabilities in all circumstances: whether or not to vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I write to ask you to **oppose this bill**, but not because I believe that the Affordable Care Act is perfect. Far from it—I believe that the ACA can, and should, be reformed and improved upon if people of good will and conscience come together to work sincerely to do so.

In my family of 4, we are relatively healthy, but both my kids have allergies and asthma and one is on the autism spectrum. I don't know of any family that doesn't need medical care, or if they don't, they are grateful for good help and just as they buy car insurance for a new car that runs great, they are willing to buy health insurance, because honestly none of us knows what tomorrow brings.

I ask you to oppose this bill because it will decimate Medicaid, the single most important health insurance program for children and adults with disabilities in our country.

I ask you to oppose the bill because it will also threaten the health insurance stability—and access to critical care and supports—of all people with chronic illness and disability who currently have private insurance.

Because the ACA requires that—no matter what pre-existing condition our children have—they have access to health insurance, our families do not face the impossible financial burdens that their medical bills would otherwise cause. Should the states be left with the option to be waived—or to waive insurers—from this requirement, many of our children and their families would be faced with terrible choices and outcomes.

The ACA and a stable Medicaid system have given my family and the families I know peace of mind—release from the constant anxiety about whether the next procedure, or the next piece of equipment, or the next critical therapy, will be accessible to our beautiful, loved children (whether little ones, or adults). Instead of managing this worry, we can concentrate on our children and their well-being.

Across the country, Medicaid keeps children with profound disabilities in their homes, with their families, rather than in nursing homes. It allows parents to maintain their employment and contribute to society because our children are able to receive the supports they need for healthy home and school care. It offers important secondary insurance to fill the gaps left by inadequate private insurance.

In my state of Illinois, the projections suggest that in 2020, we are looking at an 11 percent cut to Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals and other medical providers; by 2030, that number is 34 percent.

Such cuts would be simply devastating to the free-standing children's hospital where my medically complex child gets all of her specialist and primary care: neurologists, neurosurgeons, gastroenterologists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and therapists.

Fully 50 percent of our hospital's patient population relies on Medicaid, and thus, the hospital's ability to provide care for ALL children is directly linked to a robust, healthy system of Medicaid for our most vulnerable children.

The Graham-Cassidy plan to "equalize" Medicaid funding across the states who wisely expanded it under the ACA, and those who cruelly prevented their citizens from getting those benefits is really just stealing from Peter to pay Paul—and we know that this is a terrible way to invest in anything that is meaningful. For governors who refused to participate under the ACA to now take that funding out of the hand of children in another state under the name of "repeal" is cynical in the extreme.

It is nothing more than a political shell game, and our children's lives are worth more than that.

There is work to do to make the ACA better, to make insurance and pharmaceuticals more affordable, to improve the efficiency of our systems. But this does not require us to act inhumanely, or to fly in the face of what we know to be the honest, good gains of the ACA.

I may not be your constituent, but today, all Americans are your constituents.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vickie Vandernoot [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill. This is a horrible bill that will leave tens of millions of Americans without health insurance and gut Medicaid.

Congress must not vote on this bill without a CBO score. Without the CBO score no one can cast an informed vote.

Do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Return to regular order and work in a bipartisan fashion to improve the existing law.

Thank you.

Vickie Vandernoot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: TrumpCare - opposed

It is ludicrous that this proposed legislation is not getting a full and proper vetting in the Senate. Proceeding in this manner is irresponsible especially given the provisions of this proposed law, which will financially ruin Americans.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Clemens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 AM
To: gchcomments

Our family relies on health insurance. We have 3 family members getting regular medication to stabilize mental health conditions. We have listened to and read reports about the Graham-Cassidy bill and beg that you **not support** this effort that seems much more likely to undermine stable health insurance than address the issues of the current system.

Sincerely,
Angie Clemens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Showalter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

....

I have elderly parents who have pre-existing conditions and will most likely require nursing care in the near future. My husband and son have ADHD and I have pre-existing conditions myself, as well as a 74% higher chance of getting breast cancer than most people due to my family history. I take medicine to reduce my risk. I cannot afford to pay more than I do now for health care and I have employer coverage. And that's just my story. There are 32 million people who are worse off that would lose their coverage completely as you gut medicate over time. Doesn't a healthy America make a strong America???? Vote no on this bill for all of us!

Megan Showalter

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: maria.similton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY DEATH BILL

Thank you for accepting and reviewing comments from the very people this awful Graham Cassidy Bill will impact. To have politicians presenting such a horrific bill while maintaining thier own Obamacare is insidious. Having GOP offer Alaska the ability to keep Obamacare while most other states suffer just to get her vote is an obvious bribe. What has become of US democracy? Yje GOP regyses to work with Democrats to fix Healthcare. The GOP isn't even trying to hide that this bill isn't about quality healthcare. It's reported and not denied that it's a huge 400 million dollar bribe from the Koch Brothers.

Voting before a CBO score goes against everything the GOP fought for in the last 8 years. Why is it okay now? Reducing hearings and debates is dispicable.

Please step in to ensure constituents are protected.

Thank you.

Maria Similton
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Mehlbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham Cassidy bill.

My husband has FnHL lymphoma that is not considered curable but patients today, with treatment can live many years. Rituxan, which he needs every couple years, can cost tens of thousands in the US. In other countries the same drug is much cheaper. But, it is so expensive that it means financial devastation if you don't have insurance. Please, please do not pass this very flawed bill.

Deborah Mehlbaum
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Bonner [REDACTED]n>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because so many people will suffer. My daughter has Type I Diabetes through no fault of her own. Without insulin daily she will die. My husband is retired and on disability. I am a school teacher. We can barely afford to pay our bills and keep food in the refrigerator. This is a BAD BILL. If you care anything about the people of this country VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Laura Bonner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: margaret mcguinness [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM/CASSIDY BILL

Please do not take away, amend or change the Affordable Care Act, do not take away my right to affordable healthcare as a female, with pre-existing conditions.

--
Margaret M. McGuinness

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Lombardo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Gravely-Catastrophic Bill

Please vote no – the Graham Cassidy bill is just one more step backwards. 34 states would lose federal funding. But of course, you know this. While our health ‘care’ system needs an overhaul, this is not the way to do it.

Neither is keeping Americans in fear about their basic needs.

Thank you,
Linda Lombardo

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ramy Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I expect the federal government to take responsibility for our healthcare..... not pass it on to the states without the proper financial backing to continue to make affordable healthcare available to all Americans. The medical and financial health of all Americans is being compromised with this proposed legislation..

There is no place in today's world for the political rhetoric that this bill espouses, and all politicians involved in promoting this mean spirited legislation should be held personally accountable. That means anything from their losing their job to criminal prosecution.

I personally will vote... and will do everything in my power to cause others to vote... to remove from office those responsible should this legislation pass.

Each and every one of you on this committee needs to take a long hard look at the repercussions your actions may cause and vote against the mean spirited bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary HallRayford [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Saving Lives

The Graham Cassidy Bill will do more to decimate lives than any other bill republicans have conceived.

Healthcare should be a right--accessible and affordable for all Americans, not just the rich and the famous.

Instead of wasting time and effort on voting for this bill, I strongly implore all to Fix ACA and be more concerned about people than party politics.

A promise to destroy lives is not a promise worth keeping, especially since most people want to "keep ACA" not get rid of it.

It's a shame republicans created the animosity against ACA by deeming it, "Obamacare" to ignite automatic hatred. But even those who were once fooled by it, now know--it is ACA and they want to keep their healthcare.

There should be a very loud "NO" vote on this bill so over 30 million people will have access to healthcare.

Bribing senators to vote for it, is the lowest form of corruption existing in Congress and elected officials who do so, should lose their seat in the next election.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Hilliard [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Hello.

The Affordable Care Act, Obamacare, is the best compromise with our current capitalism-based healthcare system. It can be made better, primarily by holding the Insurance and Healthcare Industries to the highest standards of care.

Do not pass Graham Cassidy, which will only serve to release insurance providers from their civic obligations as millions are denied life by this elevation of greed.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hilliard

Clinton, Massachusetts
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Welsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

This can not happen. So many will have no options on healthcare.
Friends and family that depend on care from ACA will be ousted or financially harmed.

Cathy Welsh Connecticut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Altchiler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To Committee Members,

Letting states decide what is appropriate regarding pre-existing conditions is unconscionable.

When almost every single medical related group comes out against this bill that means you need more time to make it right. In a bipartisan manner.

Regular order is mandatory for a bill this significant. One finance hearing rushed into the mix isn't regular order. You didn't get it done in time. Period.

Our sister districts are working on upcoming elections and we are keeping a close eye on who acts in the public as best interests.

Nancy Altchiler
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Schofield [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is a transfer of wealth to the rich and does nothing to help the healthcare system.

It is time for elected officials to do their job and lead from the front instead of cower from behind.

Daniel Schofield
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shirlee Keithley [mailto:shirlee@shirlee.com]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare fiasco

NO. NO. NO. Do NOT replace ACA with the deplorable, disastrous, ineffectual debacle that is currently before the senate!

Shirlee Keithley: American citizen who knows that Congress works for the people...not for themselves or their parties!

Sent from my iPad
Shirlee Keithley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care in America SUCKS! Fix it!!!

I have Crohn's Disease. In case you don't know, this disease can be devastating not only to the sufferer but to those around them too. Take a look at the website <http://www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/>.

Do you know that it costs \$100,000 a year to treat and manage this chronic diseases? Do they know that insurance pays very little of that cost (I'm in debt up to my ears right now)? Do they know that in flare up the disease could cost up to \$500,000 a year? Again, insurance covers very little. How are we to survive financially? Even Obamacare was not helpful to me, and my current employer's insurance plan bites!

Take a look at Kaiser Permanente in California. These guys have it figured out! I paid very little for health care when my employer had this insurance as a option. That's the way it should be. Another option is to make sure that employers give options of PPO, HMO, and what ever else is out there. My employer currently only offers PPO. Again, they don't pay squat!

Additionally, look at all the people who don't/can't work, who have chronic or devastating diseases. There are so many. Help them please! Let's make sure Americans don't go broke just because they are ill.

Rachel, a very concerned citizen and chronic illness owner.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Hickey [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy impact

To the Senate Finance Committee -

I am very concerned about the potential passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill, which I believe will be potentially devastating to many Americans like me. Not only will it pull funding away from important health resources, such as smaller local hospitals, it will enable individual states to make decisions that unfairly disadvantage Americans from one state to the next.

I was diagnosed in 2000 with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), an inherited disorder that causes a progressive thickening of the heart muscle. Over time HCM will make my heart less efficient. It can also cause arrhythmias that can lead to sudden and fatal cardiac arrest. HCM is also expensive. I need to see a cardiologist annually and have regular followup tests. I also have an implanted defibrillator. That costs \$25,000 for the device alone, and it does not last forever. The battery wears down after 5-7 years and it has to be surgically replaced (I'm currently on my third). My future likely includes daily medication and additional heart surgeries, maybe even a transplant.

Fortunately, my workplace provides good insurance; but until the Affordable Care Act I lived in fear of losing my job and being unable to find another one – and losing coverage of my pre-existing condition as a result. The ACA's elimination of lifetime caps also meant I could relax a bit about my financial future and hope to retire while I'm still reasonably healthy.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would remove that assurance, throwing me - and others like me - back into uncertainty.

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but it is what we have. Let's fix it and not trash it.

Thank you.

Maureen Hickey
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Jenkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will strip away health care from MILLIONS of Americans. Growing up, my family relied on Medicaid for our health care, and without this program, my sister and I would not have received the necessary health care we needed to keep us healthy, well and thriving. Our mother, who worked multiple jobs and raised us on her own, would have had massive debt trying to pay for health insurance without access to Medicaid. Thankfully, we did not have any major illnesses, diseases or disabilities, but where would we have been without access to preventive care like annual pap smears, birth control, flu shots. My sister and I were fortunate to graduate from college and graduate school, we have good jobs and employer-sponsored health coverage, but we know that doesn't make us invincible. What happens if we lose our jobs or are diagnosed with cancer, which will either lead us to quit working or cause us to reach some arbitrary insurance cap. Health care is a basic human right, and this country's leaders cannot continue to put politics before the health and well-being of its citizens. Please, please do the right thing - for me and my family, for your constituents, and for this country.

Angela Jenkins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cherie Hackworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Medicaid Cuts in Graham Cassidy Bill

We are writing in opposition to the proposed cuts to the Medicaid program in the Graham Cassidy Bill.

We understand the need to eliminate current laws regarding the individual and employer mandate as well as the employer reporting burden; however, cutting Medicaid funding will have a negative impact on some of America's most health challenged citizens. We work very hard to provide for our family and have had employer sponsored health insurance for quite some time; however, employer sponsored health insurance from a "for-profit" insurance company is not enough for our daughter who is 1 of 3 people in medical history with her chromosome structure. Over the last 13 years she has needed tremendous amounts of physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, surgeries, durable medical equipment, etc. The amounts of the previously mentioned resources she needs far exceeds what any private employer's insurance plan can provide; therefore, Medicaid is a necessity for our daughter. Medicaid is currently an important supplement to the continued growth and development of our daughter.

We are shocked that the Senate would consider cutting Medicaid funding for people with developmental disabilities in the United States. Please understand, just because someone is on Medicaid does not mean they are poor, non-working deadbeats. There are millions of children and families who count on the Medicaid program to provide the supplemental medical resources necessary to be a contributing member of our great country.

Please join us in opposing any cuts to Medicaid in the Graham Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dara McBee [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

To Our Elected Officials:

In response to the proposed Cassidy-Graham Bill, please put yourselves in the shoes of your constituents. Please allow me to give you my insight.

My six year old son is not to blame for his complex congenital heart defect, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. I am not to blame, and neither is my husband. My son has had, to date, four open heart surgeries. His first two occurred when he was six days and six months old. He has also had several cardiac catheterizations, CT scans, MRIs, and countless appointments. He would have hit his lifetime cap by now - at just six years old - and his condition requires lifelong care. He may face more procedures and operations, which a heart transplant being a distinct possibility.

We are very fortunate to have insurance through our employer. However, there will come a day when he will no longer be covered under our plans. This is essentially a three option scenario if he does not have employer-based insurance by then: 1) Medicare, 2) bankruptcy, 3) death. Given your current proposed plan, he would be down to two options, bankruptcy and death.

For those without employer-based insurance, those would be the only options if your plan is enacted. Filing bankruptcy will only take them so far in seeking proper healthcare... leading to the third, horrific, option.

If you can in good conscience allow these to be the options for him, it is obvious what is leaving your decision - personal greed. You will be letting down your constituents in the most inhumane way. Do not allow people to lose their hope in the future for themselves and their loved ones when they deserve better. We all, regardless of our pre-existing conditions and finances, deserve better. We deserve a future. We deserve healthcare.

Dara McBee
Pasadena, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lydia Bianchi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Dear Committee Members:

While I strongly feel the G-C bill is a horrendous idea which will harm so very many of our citizens, I know half of you won't even listen to my feelings. Most likely you think you have to do "something, anything" to get rid of Obamacare. You feel you need to do this for the GOP and your base. Unfortunately that reasoning falls extremely short of what your true goal should be: to help our country and its citizens move towards THE BEST healthcare system in the world. A system which sees us become the healthiest country ever, where NO ONE loses out because of their financial status.

But, since I know that is NOT your desire, I will point out a few things which prove my point:

- You are unwilling to take the time needed to hold hearings to refine this bill. Something done in a hurry is only something done in a hurry. It is NOT something done right.
- Despite Sen. Alexander's efforts to work in a bi-partisan manner on a piece of the problem, I have seen NO EFFORT from the majority of you to honestly reach across the aisle. Stop pointing fingers and DO THE RIGHT THING.
- There are reports of at least one state being offered exemptions from this bill in an obvious effort to buy a Senator's vote. If the bill is as good as you'd like us to think, such actions would be unnecessary.

I am disgusted with all of you and am ashamed of my Tennessee senators. What you are trying to do is pure politics and can only be done by people with cold, cold hearts.

You are all an embarrassment to yourselves and our wonderful country.

Lydia Bianchi
Franklin, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MAC BRACHMAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill is just the latest cruel and heartless attempt to do away with the guarantees to tens of millions of people for health insurance coverage provided by the ACA. It should be stopped and the Republicans should be deterred from their myopic and monomaniacal focus to overturn this and other achievements of the Obama Administration. We are voters, and we see the cruel, anti-people, pro-greed and enriching the already filthy rich agenda of the current Administration and its water-carriers in Congress. We'll vote accordingly.

Sincerely, Mac Brachman, Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I am a 52 year old woman with three children. All of us have pre-existing conditions. My extended family have pre-existing conditions, including my father who is now homeless post-hurricane Irma. This malicious legislation is an outrageous affront to all Americans, made even worse by the persistent lies that have been told by its sponsors and others. Do the right thing -- work to fix our health care system in a bipartisan fashion. "Regular order" as Senator McCain rightly proposed. Your job is to protect us, not to literally put us at risk of homelessness/bankruptcy/death because of politics.

Sincerely,

Kelly Downes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aisha Noble [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Info (Duckworth); info@durbin.seante.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Madame or Sir,

I write to you as a concerned parent and spouse. If it were to pass, the Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to my family of three.

My two year old son has a preexisting respiratory issue. I have an enlarged thyroid that needs routine monitoring and now my husband could potentially be dealing with a diagnoses that terrifies our family.

Stop this bill - lives will be lost as a result of the passage of Graham-Cassidy. It's not just the lives of adults but of our children. Innocent, beautiful children.

Best,

Aisha Noble
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Ann Viola Salazar [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I have always believed that those who we elect to represent us in Washington would have our best interests at heart. The Health Care Bill that is being introduced only considers the financial interests of private insurance companies.

Please do not allow this bill to pass. It would deny the coverage so many need by making it unaffordable. Would you want to live with this kind of coverage? Is this what you want for your children and other relatives?

I can only hope that you will do the right thing for the citizens you represent.

Respectfully,
Jo Ann Viola Salazar
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Rainone [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee, This bill cannot be passed. It will rob thousands of Healthcare insurance. I am a 57 year old male with Type 1 Diabetes that I have had since I was 13 years old. Between my age and my condition, my insurance rates are not crazy, and, I have very good coverage. I have read that most of the medical profession and many others are against this plan, for many reasons. A few include: not knowing who and what will be covered, and how much it will cost. Yes, the AFA needs tweaking, but not a repeal, especially for the wrong reason of former Pres. Obama having created it. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Joseph N. Rainone Jr.
Sent from my iPhone

2

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy Trovato [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Chicago

September 27 2017, possibly the same day Graham Cassidy could go the Senate floor for a vote, marks the 4 year anniversary of my husband's B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia diagnosis. He battled 6 months of aggressive chemotherapy and three years of chemo maintenance to make it this far. But for what? To be told when we re-enroll in his employer-sponsored insurance in May that we might have to pay \$70k a year because ... he beat cancer?

The ACA protected our family when he needed to treat his leukemia. It guaranteed we had no lifetime cap - we focused on getting him through treatment and back to work. We didn't worry about our insurance dropping us.

This bill is garbage: both in substance and process. It does nothing to protect patients and only empowers insurance companies to cheat everyone at some point in their lives. Graham Cassidy seems to solve ZERO problems that some families are currently facing with the destabilized market. It offers less protection and drives up costs.

The GOP and the Trump administration should feel incredible shame at the heartless and shoddy attempt at legislation. How dare you treat my husband - and every other cancer patient and survivor - as if their lives aren't worth it, in the name of federalism.

Garbage, through and through.

Tracy T. Trovato
Chicago, Illinois
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Tucci [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Record

My name is Richard. In 2015, I suffered a major concussion. I was struck in the head with a 2x4 while working on the Paramount Studios lot. My job denied me insurance, and my workman's comp. I suffered sever migraines, cognitive fatigue, and nausea. There were days and weeks that I was so mentally disoriented that I couldn't talk with my girlfriend for more than 5 minutes. Also, because of how the brain regulates the body, I had major issues with my gallbladder, kidneys, and ears, requiring me to go to the ER multiple times, which I was able to afford because of the ACA. It took me 7 1/2 months to recover, and I was only able to get coverage from Obamacare. Because of these health issues, if I hadn't had Obamacare, I'd literally be dead. But because of Obamacare, I'm fully recovered, alive today, and living happily with my partner. The experience taught me the importance of medical care, and healthcare for all as a right, not a privilege.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mati Romaniello [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

This bill must not pass! Too many Americans stand to be hurt or may even die if it passes. PLEASE do not let it go through.

Sincerely,
Mati Romaniello
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott and Susan Israe [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A story about Medicaid

On the first day of January 2006 my oldest daughter (25 at the time, with a one year old daughter), on AZ Medicaid, was admitted into the ICU with Meningococcal Disease. After 5 days in our local hospital she was airlifted to the Arizona Burn Center at Maricopa Hospital in Phoenix. Three months later, after multiple amputations (both legs below the knee, left hand fingers and right hand fingertips), skin grafts and a secondary life threatening infection, she left the hospital with her first set of prosthetics and a \$1,000,000 bill that Medicaid covered 100%. I can't even imagine being 25 and already saddled with medical bills that could make you homeless and poor. We were so thankful, at the time, that she was on Medicaid!! After her hospitalization she returned for several more surgeries to revise her amputations. Her medical bills will continue with all the problems that arise when one has amputations coupled with skin grafts over a large part of your body. Between Medicare, which she was eligible for 1 year later, and Medicaid her medical bills are completely covered. Being disabled (on SSI) she lives on a fixed income that she would never be able to live on if she didn't have complete coverage for all her medical bills. Being sick or disabled shouldn't force someone into the poor house or homelessness. Nobody should have to choose between medicine and food for yourself or your child/ren.

I urge you to vote no on the Graham/Cassidy bill and do what's necessary to improve ACA by limiting insurance company profits. Nobody should go broke because of their medical bills and nobody should be profiting off others suffering!! CEO's salaries from the big insurance companies are disgusting and should be regulated. Their greed is a part of the greed that is destroying this country!

Susan Israels
Yuma, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adriel Rose <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. This proposal will adversely affect millions of U.S. citizens: young, old, sick, and healthy. This is not a solution for our healthcare issues. A solution would involve bi-partisan work, and it would not slash medicaid. Now is not the time to throw people off of their much needed health insurance, especially after the devastation of the recent hurricanes and fires. Now is the time to work across the aisle to actually fix the issues with our current system, without causing more chaos and loss of jobs. If you care about state's rights, listen to what the state governors have been working on for healthcare instead of the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

The way that these Republican proposals have been rammed through the system has not put people at ease, but has made us feel less and less like we will be taken care of by our Republican senators.

I would also call to your attention what the Bible says about how we treat the lease of these. If we mistreat the vulnerable, we are mistreating Jesus himself. Please take some time to read Matthew 25:31-46 as you prepare to vote on this new proposal. These are eternally serious issues.

Adriel Rose

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sagvold, Kelsey [REDACTED] u>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Helller-Johnson proposal

To the Senate Finance committee,

I am writing this email to express my concerns with this proposal. If this bill passes I would lose my healthcare, I have a very serious condition called Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), which requires constant doctors appointments and medications. This condition is so serious that it is often referred to as the suicide disease, because of the debilitating pain it causes. The best way to describe the pain I feel is if you fell through the ice into a lake, then imagine getting out and the ice burn that you feel and than times that by 10 and you might get close to the pain. I have this condition in 1/2 of my body and will be having a second surgery in October to try and curb some of those pain signals from getting to my brain. This surgery costs 260,000 dollars and I am about to have the second one done. I have to have this surgery done every 9 years to replace the battery that runs the computer that is in my spine that allows me to live a productive life. I am a 25 year old Doctoral student studying communications at the University of North Dakota, do you think a I have that kind of money? As a college student I am a direct beneficiary of the medicaid expansion in the state of North Dakota. My husband lost his job and as a result in that I lost my healthcare coverage. Medicaid was my only answer. This being said the treatment of CRPS costs 20,000 dollars a year to treat. This is just including doctor's appointments, and medications. This doesn't cover tests that may need to be ran. All these costs add up quickly which means at 25, I have already hit what most private insurance companies lifetime limit. So, even when I leave school and join the workforce, I would be ineligible for health care. I am begging you to please allow more people to testify for this hearing and allow more than just the one. Your job as legislators is to protect the American people. How is this bill protecting me?

Kelsey Sagvold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Seg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #grahamcassidy is a travesty

Please senators, do not vote to approve this horrendous bill. It strips protections from people with pre-existing conditions. It sets back women's health rights. It's going to cause insurance companies to raise rates and price millions of people out of the market altogether. Moreover, it rewards states that didn't expand Medicaid and punishes those that did.

This -- healthcare -- should be about the people in America who need it. Not politics. Not partisanship. Not ego. Not "undoing" any legacy.

Save ACA and help strengthen it. Any healthcare legislation should be carefully thought out, fully discussed, debated and vetted and designed with all Americans in mind. Lives are at stake. For real people. In every state.

Vote no on #grahamcassidy

Thank you,

A California voter
And former Hoosier resident
With family in many states across this country

Kelly Seggo

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mhutch14 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am astounded that writing this e-mail is even necessary, but apparently enough of you are entertaining the idea of throwing 32 million people off of health care that it is.

Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy. As Senator Grassley said, there are probably 10 good reasons to vote no. For one, it is a financial death penalty for those with pre-existing conditions, and no amount of linguistic legerdemain about "access" changes that. A raft of medical organizations and, as of today, even the health insurance industry, admit it, although Senator Cassidy can't bring himself to.

And, a la Senator McCain, whatever happened to "regular order" in the Senate? A bill written in secret, with no CBO score and no effective committee debate, to be introduced as "reconciliation" (despite large portions not being directly related to the budget). Is that the kind of craven process you want to support? If so, you are making a travesty of the American democratic process.

It's your "profiles in courage" moment, Senators. Will you stand with the American people? I pray that you will.

Michael Hutcheson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Otanic [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Death Bill

CLEARLY, the only goal the thugs in the gop are pursuing is to repeal the ACA because they HATE Obama.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH MILLIONS OF LIVES AT STAKE. How can you even CONSIDER voting for a bill YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND? Just because your dirty sugar daddy's Koch brothers are OBVIOUSLY THREATENING you DOES NOT MAKE IT RIGHT TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE!!! If the graham- cassidy death bill is so great - why won't members of congress have it extend to your health insurance coverage?

Time to get out of your hypocrisy bubble and DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE!!! VOTE NO ON THIS MURDER FOR HIRE BILL. Don't let the kochs put blood on your hands.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Dianne Krikler
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I am totally against this repeal and replace bill. I think it will hurt Americans. I ask you to vote it down.

Paul Krikler
Krikler Consulting

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Aronoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Dear Senators:

My grandson, now 12, was born with a rare genetic ailment. This photo was taken of him in 2005, after surgery, in the NICU at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

This is what a pre-existing condition looks like. This is also what maxed-out lifetime benefit limits would look like if not for Obamacare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy and Mike Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill would result in many Americans losing medical coverage and the ability to obtain life saving medical care. Prior to ObamaCare, an insurer could apply annual and lifetime maximums, charge sick people more premium and refuse to cover pre-existing conditions. I received cancer treatment between 2012 and 2013 that cost over \$1 million. My out-of-pocket costs were \$20,000 over a six month period (I wasn't fortunate enough to incur all my costs in one insurance cycle, so I paid the catastrophic limit twice). I was fortunate to have had insurance and sufficient resources to pay \$20,000. However, if we return to the days pre-ObamaCare, my insurer could re-establish annual and lifetime maximums forcing me off insurance. If that occurred, I could not afford the insurance policy a private insurer would offer a cancer patient like me. Alternatively, my insurer could keep me on its rolls but hike my premiums to a point where I couldn't afford the policy. Leaving the definition of "access" and "affordable" to the states is a cop out and will result in loss of medical care to millions of Americans.

Why is it that citizens like me, who have worked all of our lives and paid our fair share (no, more than our fair share) of taxes, are treated by the Republican Party with such contempt? I have never begrudged the use of my taxes to pay for disaster relief to red states like Louisiana or, better yet, Texas- a state which keeps its overall tax load low and accepts more than its fair share of federal relief. Why is it that health care isn't considered a disaster when Americans die because they cannot afford medical care? Why are we more compassionate to people whose wealth is wiped out by hurricanes than to people whose very lives are threatened by unaffordable medical care? It's time we truly rise to greatness as a country by recognizing our common humanity and ensuring that all citizens are able to obtain needed medical care despite their lack of wealth.

Please fix ObamaCare and kill the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Judy Owen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susan bold [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not vote yes on this bill.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Hook [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy

Please vote no and represent the millions of Americans who will suffer if this plan goes through.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Ferreira [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: New healthcare bill

I adamantly oppose this offensive legislation that will deprive millions of americans access to healthcare. It seems the republicans are trying to dismantle everything Pres. Obama accomplished in his 8 years. it is vindictive and petty and will hurt millions of people needlessly. You will all be voted out of office in 2018 if this passes.

Suzanne Ferreira
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO to Graham Cassidy Bill

I used to think America's health care system was fine. I was single, with a teaching job, with good benefits. In fact, I wished that I had more money in my pocket as opposed to the health insurance I accessed maybe once a year. That all changed when I became a mother...

Despite doing everything right during my pregnancy, my child was born with two rare genetic syndromes. As she struggled to survive, my husband and I struggled to figure out how we were going to meet her long term needs. She was approaching half of our lifetime cap for private insurance before we even got to take her home from the hospital. And when she did come home, we still had out of pocket costs for specialized formula, specialized equipment, etc. Adding to our financial stress was the fact that I needed to quit my job in order to take care of Grace.

Fortunately, in her first year of life, a social worker helped us obtain the Aged and Disabled waiver under Indiana's home and community based services. It allowed her to access Medicaid Disability via Senate Bill 30, even though our income of one teacher's salary had made her previously ineligible. Medicaid paid for home nursing, enteral nutrition, assistive technology, incontinence products and many other services that our private insurance would not cover. The waiver provided much needed nursing-level respite for us. We still worried about maintaining creditable coverage so she had access to private insurance even with her pre-existing conditions. Any thoughts of my husband changing jobs were always dominated by what the private insurance benefits would be for Grace. We still struggled to pay for her other expenses...and we were lucky. Most families are still waiting for Home and Community Based Services. Indiana has waiting lists for most services. Middle class families find that they make too much money for many programs because the programs never consider the costs of raising a child with a disability.

I imagine many of you will read this and be thankful that this doesn't resemble your life. I am glad it doesn't...for now. Most of us will experience some level of disability in our lifetime, even if it's just through aging. We're saving the state money by caring for our child at home instead of placing her in a nursing home or institution. I'm also certain she's an asset to society because she's received the supports she needs to thrive.

The Affordable Care Act provides states with critical new dollars toward achieving a goal of supporting everyone who can live at home or in community-based living the supports to do so.

[REDACTED]

"The way you're different might be the difference that makes the world a better place" ~Bear in the Big Blue House

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Burton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: devastating impact

Dear Finance Committee,

There is no other issue that worries me more than the Congress' repeated attempts to repeal the protections in the Affordable Care Act. The impact will immediately harm my older brother, Jim, and eventually will harm my adult children.

My older brother, Jim, is autistic and is 50 years old. He is nonverbal, lacks the ability to deal with changes, and is completely vulnerable. Our mother arranged a system of supports for him before she died. Jim lives in a very small house in his community, with full-time support by paid caregivers, and he works very part-time at a Dominoes Pizza place, assembling pizza boxes and stacking them. He relies on Medicaid to provide access to his physician, psychiatrist, medications, and personal care attendants. The funding for his care allows him to live in the community and is far less expensive than placing him in an institution, which would be a terrible place for him. Jim cannot handle the slightest changes. His favorite caregiver just went part time and is about to retire, and it has set him back so much that he has had difficulty sleeping and difficulty controlling himself. He has gone into rages and has smashed holes in the wall of his home. Jim is a sweet person but when he becomes agitated, it is very difficult to keep him under control and safe.

When my mother became sick, I contacted a social worker near me to ask what it would take to move Jim from his home in Tennessee to my state, Minnesota. She said there is a long waiting list for residential placements and so he would first be placed in a crisis shelter for a time--it could be years--until his turn came up for an ideal place. I knew right away that I could not move him here. Jim would completely lose all sense of control. I can't even imagine what would become of him if he were to lose the stability of his current situation. I am a teacher and I can't afford full-time care for Jim. My job provides partial payment toward a family health insurance premium, but I pay \$1,200 per month toward my annual insurance premium of \$23,000.

One of my children is still in college and the other recently graduated and is working. Both rely on being able to stay on my health insurance for now because the employer of my daughter keeps her on short-call to avoid having to provide her with health insurance. One of my children has a pre-existing mental health condition and does very well with self-care, medication, and access to a good therapist. Without mental health coverage, however, things could be very different. I fear for my child's life if coverage were denied.

I repeat: I fear for my child's life. Not because of the illness, but because access to treatment is being threatened by our government's proposal to exempt coverage for people with certain pre-existing conditions. People with chronic health conditions need our government to protect them from the constant threat of financial ruin or worse--death from lack of access to treatment.

Everyone in my family works very hard and is as self-reliant as possible. I'm lucky to be extremely healthy at 50 years old, for now. But each one of us is only one cancer diagnosis away from financial devastation. I beg you to seriously consider the devastating impact of a repeal of the Affordable Care Act at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because as a cancer survivor the care I needed to survive will not be available if you pass this horrible bill. Healthcare is a human right not a political game to appease the Koch Brothers.

Michelle Parker
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

As your constituent and an AARP member, I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to dramatically overhaul our health care system. This bill would cut Medicaid, threatening access to nursing homes and the ability of seniors to live at home, and leading to millions of our most vulnerable losing health coverage. As a retired senior who spent a lifetime in education and the arts, I have modest financial resources to plan for life expenses and healthcare. I am a cancer survivor with heart and immune system complications. I am terrified of my future based on the cruelty of this careless political fight to sell our safety net to satisfy lobbyists, billionaires, and donors.

PLEASE HONOR SENATOR MCCAIN'S DEMAND FOR SOME INTEGRITY. ALLOW THE BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE A BILL THAT IS NOT TAINTED BY SELF-INTEREST AND POLITICS. Do not force your constituents to settle for less care and higher costs for older Americans -- especially before the CBO can conduct an independent analysis of the bill's full impact on coverage and premiums.

PLEASE VOTE NO on this legislation.

lifetime in education and the arts, I have modest financial resources to plan for life expenses and healthcare. I am a cancer survivor with heart and immune system complications. I am terrified of my future based on the cruelty of this careless political fight to sell our safety net to satisfy lobbyists, billionaires, and donors.

PLEASE HONOR SENATOR MCCAIN'S DEMAND FOR SOME INTEGRITY. ALLOW THE BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE A BILL THAT IS NOT TAINTED BY SELF-INTEREST AND POLITICS. Do not force your constituents to settle for less care and higher costs for older Americans -- especially before the CBO can conduct an independent analysis of the bill's full impact on coverage and premiums.

PLEASE VOTE NO and do not send this legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Tens of millions of lives and the financial integrity of our health care is at stake.

Thank you for for your courage.

Marilyn Roberts
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lala mendoza [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I HAVE A PREEXISTING CONDITION

and its not even that bad but with this crap bill everything can be grounds for our premiums to go sky high or for us to be denied coverage. All you GOP want is for people to die and only the ones who can afford it to live. This from a party who claims to be on the side of Jesus.

I fear for my mom, my aging dad and all my friends who also have preexisting conditions like ovarian cysts and asthma, but if your dickc can't get hard oh you'll cover that with Viagra no problem! HYPOCRITES.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Koval [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter of opposition to Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee Chairman and Senators,

I am twenty-six years old, and I was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. This condition affects both of my legs, and my arms. I have to use a motorized wheelchair in order to increase the amount of independence that I have. I am not going to let that stop me from doing what I need to do to live a productive life but I need help with almost everything that I do. For example, I need help with things such as transferring to and from my wheelchair, transferring to and from the bed, turning over in bed, transferring to and from the toilet, bathing and much more. I am living on my own with the assistance of caregivers. I have been living on my own for approximately eight months now. If my Medicaid waiver services from the state get cut and I can no longer live independently, I will be absolutely devastated.

The people who are in the disability community should be defined by what they are able to do for themselves, not by what they are not able to do by themselves. There are so many negative words that are used to describe the word disability. The negative words that are used to describe the word disability far outnumber the positive words.

The positive words that are used to talk about the word disability can include words such as extra, benefit, fitness, advantage, strength, ability, health, and help. The negative words that are used to talk about the word disability can include words such as injury, infirmity, impairment, defect, and ailment. The other negative words that are used to describe the word disability are inability, drawback, disqualification, detriment, and affliction. Lack, invalidity, inexperience, incompetence, incapacity, unfitness, and weakness are more of the negative words that are used to describe the word disability. Why are there so many negative words? Why are those of us with disabilities being defined in such a way?

If you take away the Affordable Care Act, there would be major consequences for the people who already have pre-existing health conditions and those who already have Medicaid and who rely on it every day. There are millions of people who are relying on state-funded services and programs. There are thousands of people who are on the waiting list for Medicaid waiver supports in Florida. There are people who are in the state of Florida who are still affected by the recent hurricane. This is especially true for the people who have developmental disabilities. What are these people supposed to be doing? Where are these people supposed to be going? These are all very important concerns, and these concerns need to be addressed. I am afraid that if you change the way Medicaid is structured that my health and safety will be severely compromised and I will not be able to continue to live on my own. Please don't let that happen to me!

I hope that you will take everything in this letter very seriously, and I hope that I hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheilawitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Gch bill

Vote no on gch bill due to concerns about losing pre-existing conditions coverage and access to speech therapy services.

Sheila moskowitz
Northridge California

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael D. Meloan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

Greetings,

In my opinion, and the opinion of many experts, the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill will have grave consequences for our entire country, negatively impacting the lives of so many, and our economy in general.

-Regards, Michael Meloan

Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Morgan R Sperry [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I vehemently oppose this "health care" bill and implore all to vote against it.

Thank you,
Morgan Sperry

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryan Osgood [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

This bill is wrong for America and only serves to divide Americans even more than they already are. If you wish to reform the ACA, please work in a bipartisan manner and make changes to the existing law that will allow for more Americans to gain affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,
Ryan Osgood
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Slomowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Auism

One in sixty eight children will have autism. Medicaid services are critical for Autistic children to receive many services. Children and families will go bankrupt providing needed services with Medicaid cutbacks.

Thank you, Cyndi Slomowitz

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MaryAnne LoVerme [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment regarding the Graham Cassidy Bill

If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

Please DO NOT pass this bill!

Sincerely,
MaryAnne LoVerme

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my full opposition and disgust at this so-called healthcare bill. My home state of California would be disproportionately hurt, with the \$78 billion in federal funding cuts, and the dismantling of the health care exchanges. Some of my children's teachers and caretakers who rely on the ACA would be devastated by this bill. Not to mention the 32 million Americans estimated to lose insurance. The federal protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps, and essential benefits are BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. This bill would decimate those rights, no matter what lies Senators can spew in the media. That one political party in this country wants to literally sicken and hurt millions of its citizens - all to fulfill some morally bankrupt campaign promise whose roots were arguably bound in racism against President Obama - is an abomination. Shame on Senators Graham, Cassidy, and all those who would vote for this moral monstrosity. I never thought my country could resort to such ugly, bald-faced evil.

Sincerely,
Jean Yu
South Pasadena, CA (91030)

Reducing federal Medicaid funding permanently will not help Wisconsin continue to innovate and meet the needs of our state residents. It will not protect optional services like therapies for children, autism services, Katie Beckett or prescription meds.

We have seen the impacts of what even minor decisions meant to cut costs in Medicaid that end up hurting people like me or reducing their quality of care.

Thanks for reading my letter and please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy Proposal.

Dean A Choate

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

" Today I close the door to my past. Open the door to my future, take a deep breath and step through to a new and exciting life. "

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dean A Choate [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Poposal

09/21/2017

Dean Choate
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I'm Dean Choate, I am turning 52 this October and have been disabled from very young. I tried to be a normal child growing up and when I was about seven years old I was diagnosed with Lyme disease and found out it was not detected when I was young. I became chronically ill and life was never the same. I spent most of my life dealing with chronic pain and illness. I suffer from fibromyalgia, diabetes, thyroid disease, and many other things. I have good and bad days. I use Medicaid services from the Wisconsin IRIS program to assist me with my daily life. I have caregivers to help me with my daily things and tasks. I'm a member of the community I live in because of these services. I'm the face of those this cut will hurt.

Medicaid benefits me and others like me in a variety of ways. For me personally though, it provides me the ability to live my life as independently as an adult with a disability. I rely on Medicaid for support workers, supported employment, help with my daily needs, and personal care. However, If you and your teammates across the aisle together decide to decrease the Medicaid funding across the USA or state(s); I suspect I will end up moving into a shelter of some kind and with that mentioned my ability to function on my own. My independence will decrease as well as my ability to be part of my community.

I have no idea where we would be without Medicaid.

That's why what is happening thousands of miles away in Washington, DC this week is so personal to families like mine. The debate over whether to call it a "cut" or a "slowing of growth" or "reduced reimbursement" does not change the fact that multiple non-partisan experts predict that Wisconsin and all other states will receive significantly less federal monies for Medicaid over the next ten years. Wisconsin specifically stands to lose \$2,909,000,000 (or nearly \$3 billion) by 2027 and \$29 billion by 2036.

We are tired of the rhetoric.

Wisconsin did not take the Medicaid expansion dollars, we have been extremely efficient with our Medicaid funding, we have eliminated the waiting lists for adults with disabilities (and propose to do the same for children in this state budget.) We are a leader in the nation with our long-term care programs and Medicare programs. Why are we being punished in the bill being pushed through the U.S. Senate?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: toni reid [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My son matters

My son can't speak or fight for himself. I am his voice. We need Medicaid in order to continue his services so that he can have a better quality of life.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy McKendall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose this bill

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

My sister and brother-in-law had to declare bankruptcy more than once because my brother-in-law had leukemia, rheumatoid arthritis, and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Even with good insurance through my sister's job, his medical expenses ran into the tens of thousands of dollars. Every year. Some of his medical issues stemmed from the work he did as a firefighter and emergency medical technician. This country repaid him for his service with crushing medical debt. He died last year, sadly. This bill would do nothing to help families like my sister's to pay for health care. I want Medicare For All. I want universal health care. I want a country where NOBODY goes bankrupt because of outrageous medical expenses.

This is the letter I just sent to the editor of my local newspaper:

The Republican administration is trying to get rid of the Affordable Care Act (also known as the ACA, or Obamacare) again. This time, it's the Senate, not the House, and they're rushing to try to pass the Graham-Cassidy health care bill before September 30.

Never mind that this hastily written bill would affect one-sixth of the country's entire economy.

Never mind that this bill could rip health care coverage from up to 32 million people over the next 10 years, according to some estimates.

Never mind that this bill would allow insurance companies to charge you more money if you have a pre-existing condition.

Never mind that this bill won't even lower insurance premiums. Some estimates show a 20% increase in premiums for next year if this bill passes.

Never mind that organizations like the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics all oppose the bill.

Never mind that the Senate is trying to force the bill through without waiting for the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office to estimate how much it will cost.

Never mind that Congress has tried, and failed, multiple times this year to take health insurance away from millions of Americans.

Never mind that the majority of Americans have shown over and over that they want Obamacare to be fixed, not repealed.

Never mind. Pay no attention to the health care bill behind the curtain.

Regards,
Cynthia McKendall
Champaign, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madeleine Igonn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTHCARE REPEAL BILL

We MUST vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. Health care is a human right!!!!

Madeleine Igonn
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sarah wenk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Hello. I am writing to implore you to do everything in your power to stop the Graham Cassidy bill from becoming law. This terrible legislation will harm millions of Americans, and for only one reason - so that its sponsors can receive the money they were promised by super wealthy donors.

Americans need healthcare. This shouldn't even be a discussion. The ACA isn't perfect, but it can be improved. To destroy it and leave states twisting in the wind while people literally die because they can't afford coverage - We're better than that as a nation.

I'm exhausted from making calls and exhorting my friends to get involved. You're the people who can stop this. Please do. The whole country is depending on your response.

Many thanks,

Sarah Wenk
Kingston, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathrine Bob [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill (and how it is horrible)

Please, have compassion. If the Graham-Cassidy repeal goes through 32 million people are expected to lose their health insurance. People with preexisting conditions will also be charged substantially more and no one can control if they or a loved one will get cancer, or a stroke, or depression. So I'm begging you please oppose the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill!

Sincerely,
Catherine Shin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: keran johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear Committee Members of the Finance Committee,

I am opposed to the proposed bill to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act, often called Obama Care. I feel as if the Congress of the United States of America is in a war with the American people. Perhaps the Congress is not plotting against the ultra-wealthy, the well-to-do, or even those employed where health insurance is offered as a perk of employment at little or no cost to the employee and/or family members. However, this Congress, especially the Republican members of this Congress seem intent on targeting the least among us. I do not understand how this can be happening in the United States of America. It is my understanding that this new plan still fails to provide adequate assistance to those who are least able to pay for needed health care through comprehensive coverage of infants, children, pregnant women, the underemployed, the unemployed, the elderly, the physically disadvantaged, the mentally disadvantaged to those who are homeless, our very veterans. It seems that all that is being considered is taking money that will benefit those in need so that those who don't need a dogged-gone-thing, have even more. If this is what is happening, then greed has replaced compassion in the Congress of the United States of America, and it does not sit right with me.

Further, it is my understanding that this Congress wants to continue to render the elderly to short and painful ends to our lives. I have heard Paul Ryan in particular, espouse his wishes to dismantle Social Security and Medicare. What a despicable plan originating from someone who likes to call himself Catholic. As a practicing Catholic, I reject him as a member of my faith, since he apparently craves money from the likes of the Kochs and the Mercers in his own pocket than caring for his fellow countrymen and women.

I find the likes of this Congress appalling at best.

Since this Congress was elected, I have set an alarm to sound every night, just to pray for my country. I mourn for my country. I pray and work to make the United States a better place. I pray that you will find this Graham Cassidy Bill a disgrace to the people of these United States and that you will do what is required to keep this from becoming law. The entire health care and medical communities are opposed to this bill because it would be so devastating to such a large share of our population. Please stand with the care givers, not the insurance lobby. Jeepers! Even Blue Cross Blue Shield is against this! It seems like only Republican Congressmen are for it.

In Prayer,
Keran Johnson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Savage, Susannah (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Health Care

Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing in regards to the Graham/Cassidy Health Care package. I had the opportunity to read the draft of the bill and to say that this is a disappointment. Congress once again is ignoring the will of the American People. We want Affordable Health Care and we want assurance that Preexisting conditions will be covered. I don't understand why both parties cannot work together to develop a plan that will work for everyone. We are in agreement that ACA has its problems and needs to be fixed. This bill is not a plan to help provide affordable care that meets the needs of each American, but is a plan to take away coverage for millions of Americans.

The real story behind this bill is to beat the group that has actually developing a plan. A warning to both parties worked together or you all will be seeing a change at he mid term elections.

[REDACTED]

"Till there's a cure there is a community"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care Bill

This bill is a disgrace.
It must be defeated.
Alan C Brown MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Krista Abbaticchio [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

How can you face yourself in the mirror in the morning if you take away healthcare from millions who need it. Take the time to improve Obamacare, don't stroke your own ego by "getting something done" and approving a bad plan that no one even understands! Don't repeal the ACA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cassie Schmitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: how Graham-Cassidy hurts me (and all)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing with short examples of my healthcare story and how the passage of Graham-Cassidy bill would be detrimental to my health. Please add to the record for the SFC meeting on Monday.

I suffer from Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. Under recommendation of multiple doctors I utilize birth control to dramatically lessen my symptoms. Losing access to this vital service will cause undue suffering.

In addition, I was born with a functional heart murmur. This defect has essentially no impact on my life as it is functional and I have never had to take any medication for it and do not need medication before surgeries or dental work. However, this is a pre-existing condition. Without guaranteed protections for pre-existing conditions in all states my future health is at stake.

One more example: My parents are aging and will do doubt need medical care in the near future. How can my family expect to take care of them without protections for pre-existing conditions and a robust medicare system?

I urge all the Senators to put the lives of their constituents as their priority and vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Best,
Cassandra A. Schmitt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Fitzgerald [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

No drama here. No life or death story. Plenty of people have those stories to share, and they are real. But my story is an average one and, yet, it's one that would be negatively impacted by the Graham Cassidy bill.

My husband and I own a small business. We buy healthcare for our family of 6 on the exchange. It is a blessing, and we are grateful for the subsidy which makes it affordable. We are grateful that even though I have an autoimmune condition, we are able to get coverage for our entire family.

Last year, two of my children had to have hernia surgery. Another child broke his arm. Without insurance, the two surgeries alone would have been a serious strain on our family and we would have had to incur debt in order to meet our modest living expenses.

Now think about this same family, my family, and how we would manage if we had no insurance, or we had the limited insurance we could afford, and one of our kids developed leukemia, or was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Think about the costs, which our family most definitely could not afford, and think about the difficulty for our child, as an adult, trying to obtain health insurance with a pre-existing condition.

I am happy, elated, really, to buy into a system in which families whose health circumstances are challenging can also gain affordable health coverage. That's the exact purpose of insurance, isn't it? To share the risks? Shifting the burden to those who are most vulnerable, to those in need, is antithetical to the values espoused by our Founding Fathers.

No, no, no on Graham-Cassidy.
Thank you,
Amanda Fitzgerald

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: James Combs [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Repeal the ACA!!!!

> My family needs our health insurance -- don't repeal the ACA!!!
>
> Thank you,
>
> James Combs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carole Basile [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please say no to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is not the healthcare America needs. As the mother of a son with a severe mental illness this bill creates a great deal of angst not reassurance.

Fix the Affordable Care Act, don't dismantle. The approach is partisan and not democratic...this is a complex issue that needs a more thoughtful approach.

Sincerely,

Carole Basile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Novak [mailto:john.novak@novakgroup.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not pass a bill that will hurt a large portion of the US population. Fix the ACA. It's not a perfect plan, but no one ever said it was, and there was always the goal of fixing it after it was in place for a while.

A bi-partisan bill combining the best elements of the ACA as well as fresh ideas from both sides of the aisle would go a ways to restoring some faith in our Congress. Right now, Americans feelings toward Congress are extraordinary low. Fix both with fell swoop.

Thanks
John R. Novak

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Varda [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My respect for ACA.

I am opposed to the proposed changes in national health care: the claim that this gives 'states' the option to create their own plans, really means that our national system is not equally protected or serving all citizens.

The MYTH that health care is the same as it was at the time of the Constitution or even 50 or 20 years ago must be broken.

ALL NATIONS - that claim to take care of their citizens - have increased health payouts. We can do the same, but it means shifting slightly to the notion that we protect citizens and not just corporations that give money to politicians campaigns.

MAKE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL A PRINCIPLE OF A NATION - not of the entitled.

I would not be able to afford health care as a woman approaching 60 with even minor pre-existing conditions. I would be broke, a strain on the government, and a liability to those around me.

Unless like Senator Cassidy you wish that you could let us die.

While you eat cake.

Brenda Varda

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care?

Hello,

This last ditch effort by the GOP to “repeal and replace” the ACA is truly one of the lowest moments in the history of the United States. Voting “yes” because this is the last chance to dislodge the ACA is truly criminal. Yes, many GOP were elected because they promised to repeal and replace the ACA. Their constituents expected improvement to the ACA. None of the previous GOP plans were acceptable to the constituents because they did not improve on the ACA. The GOP has not come up with a plan that actually benefits their constituents.

50% of Americans want a Single Payer system.

Reid Dalland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Hedeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: weighing in on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

Every other month I, and millions of other Americans, dedicate our time to calling, faxing, and emailing our elected officials begging them not to kill us through an ACA repeal. Ever since the first defeat of the repeal vote in the House through today, every other month has involved the American people working to persuade the federal government not to let them die.

I cannot put into words how phenomenally cruel and sadistic that is.

And here I am today. I am so tired and angered by the actions of Congress, and I have to fight my government to live every day.

Stop Graham-Cassidy, a bill that would gut pre-existing condition coverage and let States jack up the cost of health coverage for children born with birth defects, among other things. Stop this craven new ACA Repeal attempt and work to keep the federal government from working to kill its people by refusing basic health care.

Best,
Jackie Hedeman
Kansas (by way of Ohio and Illinois)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Antognoli [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!!!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my dissent concerning the Graham-Cassidy bill. This health care replacement would be detrimental to so many people I know, and several family members and friends will be dead within 5 years if the ACA is repealed and this sham of a bill takes its place.

I have been quite fortunate to not have any major health issues as compared to some. However, even I have had incidents or needed preventative care that, without a health plan would have put my family in a bad financial predicament. Who doesn't have some pre-existing condition in the grand scheme of medical issues? And who thinks it is morally acceptable to shut people out of health care because they don't want to cover certain pre-existing conditions or want to charge people a premium for certain medical histories? I believe health care is a fundamental human right, and I will gladly have my taxes raised if it means everyone can get coverage when they need it regardless of their ability to pay the inflated insurance company prices. If this is what it takes to be certain my husband, parents, brother, niece, or in-laws never have to be bankrupted by medical bills, then I support that plan. If it means I don't have to watch any friends choose between life-saving medications and rent or grocery money, then I support that plan. What I do NOT support is the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will be detrimental to millions, and doesn't seem to benefit anyone. My 20-something year old cousin in Ohio who has recovered from cancer will not be able to afford insurance under this bill. Will my elderly parents in Pennsylvania be denied coverage as their medical needs become greater? My father's side of the family has a history of cancer - will I be denied insurance in the future because I am too much of a financial risk?

Is the ACA perfect? Absolutely not. There are flaws, but those can be fixed over time with planning, collaboration, and careful implementation. But the Graham-Cassidy bill is NOT the answer. Anyone who supports this bill is vile and exhibits the most selfish and reprehensible side of humanity. This madness needs to stop. I was raised Catholic, and the Golden Rule applies to this situation: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I want to receive compassion and in turn, I am advocating that we show compassion to everyone who requires it. The Republicans who are threatening to strip health care from millions selfishly think only of themselves, because when 80% of the population wants to keep health care these Republicans can no longer claim to represent the people.

Erin Antognoli
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerri-Beth Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....
It will make healthcare unaffordable for the majority of Americans. People with pre-existing conditions will not be able to get coverage.
You should be working on improving the ACA, controlling costs of medical care and pharmaceuticals, not destroying healthcare for those of us on Main Street.

Jerri-Beth Scott
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ian Bassir [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject Graham-Cassidy

Think of the parents who are terrified of losing care for their sick children if you pass this. It's not why you're there. Go through a regular process to find ways to improve the system that experts support and that won't harm so many Americans. Vote down this bill.

Ian Bassin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mahwahva [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Sirs:

This bill is bogus. It's the Republican attempt to strip decent healthcare from hard-working Americans so the Republicans can pass along huge tax benefits to rich cronies. The Republicans are living in the past. Because they promised "repeal and replace" for 7 years, they are hell-bent on doing just that. They're not listening to their constituents who have changed their minds! If given the choice between ANY Republican bill or the chance to tweak the ACA, a huge majority of Americans want the ACA improved. Every major health organization, physicians groups, etc, have come out against the Graham/Cassidy proposal. Let's do as Senator McCain suggests and make a return to regular order and develop a bi-partisan bill that protects this Americans in need of good health care...and for heaven's sake, let's include some women in the effort to come up with a great plan!

Sincerely,
Valerie Perwas
Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Do not let this happen. This hurts too many people. It's short sighted and mean. I will not vote for anyone who votes in favor.

Christopher j Tack

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this bill does nothing to correct the problem. My husband and I will not be able to afford healthcare with this plan. It does nothing to protect those with pre existing conditions or those that face catastrophic illness. How is a diagnosis of cancer any different that a hurricane hitting your house? Both are things you are unable to prevent. Senator Toomey please reconsider your position on this issue. Senator Casey please continue the fight for affordable healthcare for all

Jane Bertone

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Cassidy/Graham

Dear Senators

Please do not rush laws that impact citizens' most sovereign and personal right: The ability to care for their body and health.

Sitting alone in a cold metal MRI machine, getting the test results you dreaded, losing physical abilities and capabilities that let you engage with life and achieve your dreams...that is more than enough hardship. There's no need to be bankrupted for a bum strand of DNA, denied necessary procedures or to put your loved ones through more stress and sadness.

Healthcare's not a commodity. It's keeping the people we love alive.

Please return to regular order.
Please do not pass Cassidy/Graham

Sincerely,

Georgia Andrews

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Fries
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

This bill is a moral abomination, and sets an abysmal procedural precedent. Vote for it and you'll be out of Congress, and we'll have single payer with 51 votes within 10 years. Vote no.

Eric Fries

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to state my absolute opposition to the Graham Casidy Bill, or to any further efforts by the Republican party to modify the Affordable Care act in any way. Their policies don't reflect the nature or the desires of the American People. If they attempt further theft from the American People, it will probably mean their end as a political force in this country.

Humanity has evolved to the point where we can put away the paranoia and rage which characterize the GOP. What may have been a survival trait in the past now constitute nothing short of cultural and social suicide. It's time for these cowardly, angry people to grow up to the extent they can, and to get out of any kind of governance in any case.

T. Harrisburg.
San Diego County, California.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

All I have to say about this bill can be boiled down to the following:

1) Whether its authors wish to cop to it or not, this bill brings back the inhumane insurance tradition of "preexisting conditions", which insure far too many of my fellow Americans who are already sick stay that way, frequently with fatal results. I have a student who had a preexisting condition who had to wait until the ACA was passed before he could ever get coverage.

2) Whether its authors wish to admit this or not, turning Medicaid into a series of block grants in the manner proscribed it is the policy equivalent of steroids for any state that--temporarily--benefits from it. I have noted that this process will punish any and all states that took the ACA's Medicaid expansion and give it those that did not. My mother has now lived in two such states that did take that expansion and has only been able to get healthcare at all because of the ACA as a whole.

3) Whether its authors wish to own up to this or not, any money given to those states that did NOT take the expansion (including my own home state) will only have it as a one-time deal. By 2026, the block grants will be exhausted and every state in the union will be even WORSE than they were before, 32 million uninsured Americans being the final collateral damage for such a brief temporary fix. My ravaged and poor small town will bear the brunt of such an operation, which could well make its sole remaining local hospital go out of business. Given that one such hospital a couple of counties over has started a Gofundme page just to maintain in-patient care services, this is less of an exaggeration than I would want it to be.

In summary, nothing good will come of the Cassidy-Graham bill. Any political capital gained will be as ephemeral as the financing of the block grants. Any campaign contributions will do little to nothing to blot out the anger of the voters so effected. And, worst of all, by voting for this bill, you own it and its consequences forever. No filibuster stands in your way, no opposition party has the upper hand. It's all down to you, your conscience and your vote. I would recommend that every sitting senator choose wisely. Thank you for your time.

JKH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Leave our healthcare alone.

If you can't make Obamacare better, leave healthcare the hell alone. Carving out existing conditions, which better than 50% of the 50+ population has; and mental health care, will disable the majority of Americans. You'll be going from a system that pales by comparison to those healthcare systems in the rest of the developed world, to one that could destroy the nation.

Sent from Gerry's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C Healthcare

To all concerned,

This is no time to kick the American public in the teeth over a truly political matter!

It is time to consider the health and wellbeing of our Nation, both poor, elderly, disadvantaged, middle class.

Find a solution that includes the helping, not hurting everyone.

We, as a nation can not afford to take a step backwards in the name of political gain.

Graham-Cassidy is just plain and simply the WRONG way to cure the healthcare plan for this Country.

Steve Hogle
Sonoma County CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments

I find this bill both morally and financially repugnant. The only goal of the Graham Cassidy 'healthcare' bill, if you can call it that, is to give tax cuts to the rich and make billionaire Republican donors happy. This bill would bankrupt hundreds of thousands of Americans, when they can no longer pay their healthcare bills. Republican members of Congress should not be actively working to kill their fellow Americans, just to stick it the first black President. Shame on every supporter of this horrific bill.

Diane Zero

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
I have affordable health insurance for the first time in years thanks to Obamacare. I'm self employed and couldn't buy insurance for years due to pre existing conditions. Thanks to Obamacare I was able to have a spinal fusion this year. I had excellent care and my medical bills were very affordable. I'm scared to death that I'll lose my affordable coverage if this bill passes.

Julie Goodenough

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gretchen
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is not a solution to our health care system woes, and moreover it will Be a disaster for people with disabilities and their families. As described below this proposal will end being more costly to our nation and our communities in the short and long run.

"For many adults with developmental disabilities, Medicaid (Maryland Medical Care Program), is their health insurance. It pays for care from doctors, specialists, and hospitals, as well as prescriptions.

Medicaid also helps pay for the cost of long-term supports for people with developmental disabilities. If you or someone you know receives services paid for by DDA, Medicaid most likely pays about half the cost. Thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities depend on Medicaid--or will need it in the future--to remain healthy, live in the community, and stay out of costly institutions."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the Graham Cassidy Bill that you plan on putting forth for vote next week. I believe that rushing something as significant as this is a very bad idea.

Passing a bill of this magnitude without a complete CBO analysis is wrong and unconscionable. For Congress to radically restructure one-sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

There is far too much vague language in this bill, which limits predictability of affordability and access for many of us. Just from what I have read in the language of the bill, I will be priced out of the ability to have health insurance because of the much higher costs for my pre-existing conditions.

Although I have employer based insurance currently it is clear to me through the language within this bill that if Graham-Cassidy becomes law, I will die.

The Republicans and Democrats need to work together through regular order to fix and repair the ACA so that it functions better rather than rushing this flawed legislation through reconciliation.

This bill is a death sentence for many of us. I hope you consider that before proceeding.

Katherine Sachs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal plan

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal plan. Any healthcare plan that eliminates Medicaid expansion, protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and hasn't been scored by the CBO is unacceptable. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

I am a fifth generation Californian, a constituent who votes, and an individual who benefits from the Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Please do not take my insurance away, I worked for the bulk of my career in a hospital setting, so know how important access to healthcare is to maintain quality of life. I am now entering my senior years, and the thought of not having affordable access to healthcare or to be uninsured at this time in my life is very distressing. Additionally, I am the primary caregiver for my elderly parents. I can't image them having to pay higher costs for access to healthcare and insurance. In fact, it is shameful.

It is my hope that this terrible plan does not get enough votes, it is not the wish of the majority of Americans. Please listen to the people! The American people want quality, affordable health care throughout our lives. We have all worked very hard to get the ACA. Please do not roll back the clocks, let's work to fix and make the ACA plan the best it can.

Angela Giacomini
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

true, non steroid-aided remission; a state that — since his diagnosis at the age of 13 — my now 40-year-old husband had never even dreamt he'd achieve.

Our joy, unfortunately, has been fully tempered by uncertainty and fear — remember, UC is still incurable, and even a few missed doses of Entyvio would bring the disease roaring back to life — not to mention render the drug impotent in his system, meaning he could never get back on it again. The reality that my husband's very survival (to say nothing of our hard-won ability to call ourselves middle class, as opposed to on-the-street poor) is regarded small exchange for a tax break for the rich — and let's be clear, Americans are well aware that's entirely what this is — is simply more than either of us can bear. So if there's anyone with a shred of conscience left in Washington, that still holds dear the unalienable rights laid out by the Declaration of Independence, they'd do well to remember that they include liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and most of all, life.

--

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alive Today Because of the ACA

When my husband and I met over 13 years ago, we knew, after three weeks, that we were destined to spend the rest of our lives together. Yet not long after proclaiming our love, he sat me down with tears in his eyes. Naturally, I panicked — had he changed his mind about me? Did he already have some other family, tucked away somewhere?

“I’ve had an incurable condition since I was a teenager,” he told me. “It’s called ulcerative colitis, and I won’t blame you if you decide not to be with me.”

I was so relieved that there was no secret family, that I immediately assured him that UC would never come between us, and I never, for a second, regretted that decision. But he was right to caution me, because there’s no doubt that ulcerative colitis has largely controlled the course of our lives.

A chronic disease of the large intestine, ulcerative colitis is treatable but not curable — save for total removal of the colon, and an ensuing lifetime with a colostomy bag — which means the sufferer is subject to an endless rollercoaster of remission and flares. When properly controlled with medication, a UC patient can lead a relatively normal life, but forget about finding insurance, when records of your pre-existing condition span back to the age of 13, and good luck finding or holding a job when you’re trying in vain to self-treat with chicken soup instead of pills — when you physically can’t leave the house for hours after waking, when your body is likely to betray you in unspeakable ways at any moment, when a colostomy bag at the tender age of 30, and crushing debt from uninsured surgery, starts looking like the best and only option.

When the ACA finally passed — in the midst of some of my husband’s darkest, sickest days — you can bet we were two of the very first people on board. Not only was he finally able to see a doctor, the head of gastroenterology for NYU Langone, he was immediately started on a course of infusions called Entyvio; the first and only product on the market developed for the treatment of moderate to severe UC. The cost of each infusion? \$58,000 per month — for the uninsured, that equals a heck of a lot of cans of chicken soup.

Dial forward a few years, and my husband’s self-owned business is thriving. He woke at 3am the first morning of our Maine vacation, and crossed three states without pulling over, before the sun even rose. And when the GOP pushed ever forward with their repeal agenda, his doctor called him in for an emergency colonoscopy, in the event that it would be the last time. The results revealed a perfectly healthy man’s colon — in other words,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: re-sending my family's story with header

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name : Christine Eubanks

[REDACTED]

To the members of the committee: I am sharing my story as both an audiologist and the parent and spouse of people with special health care needs. My husband and I had our only child in 1996. My husband left his teaching job to care for our son, as it became apparent that he had what would eventually be diagnosed as autism. He took him to doctors and therapists, and while our son improved, my husband started to have health problems of his own. He was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease in 2008. Because he had been out of the workforce for 10+ years, he does not qualify for SSDI. So I am my family's sole breadwinner.

We are fortunate to have health insurance, but passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill would end protections on discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions. Also, the current prohibition against lifetime limits on benefits would be lost. Insurers would no longer have to provide "essential services" like hospitalization (for example, Deep Brain Stimulation surgery that every Parkinson's patient eventually needs), behavioral health treatment (essential for autistic people), prescription drugs (that keep Parkinson's patients mobile) and rehabilitative services and devices. As an audiologist, I see the miracles that happen when children are diagnosed with hearing loss early and receive hearing aids and speech therapy.

Medicaid would be cut, particularly hurting poor children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Our son is currently on the Medicaid Waiver list, as we don't know what the future will bring for him. What if he can't get health care? I am not going to live forever.

This bill is opposed by the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, AARP, and on and on. Please work in a bipartisan manner to improve the system that we have, rather than changing for the sake of change.

Thank you,

Christine Eubanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Marsales <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy bill. This plan hurts Americans. It takes healthcare away from people who need it most. It also hurts our economy. Lots of hospitals & jobs would be lost. You should vote no. The majority of Americans oppose this bill and are paying attention to which congressman are listening.

Sincerely
Kay Marsales
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because ...it is bad for America. Our country needs affordable healthcare for all its citizens. This bill will make our country sicker and weaker. The healthcare of our people should not be a political tool to satisfy donors. The people will remember what was done when they go to the poles

Patricia Risser

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for the record: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

Re: Senate Finance Committee (SFC)/ Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal / September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to give my statement for the record for the SFC Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, September 25, 2017.

As a US citizen and a resident of Massachusetts, and as a mother, I am deeply troubled by the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal before the SFC. This bill will result in more than 30 million people losing insurance coverage, and it is blatantly partisan (it is astonishing that certain states are singled out for penalization based on their political party makeup (majority Democrat)).

Millions will face bankruptcy, my own family members included, if this bill passes. Many, many people will die. Needlessly.

It is clear from the last go-around with an ACA repeal attempt that the vast majority of citizens favor fixing the ACA rather than a repeal. And according to an article in the Guardian, the press to pass this bill is based on the Republicans being promised a war chest of \$400 million in campaign funding from wealthy donors. This is a clear conflict of interest and does not serve Senators' constituents. In fact, this bill THREATENS the lives and livelihoods of their constituents, and yet, unbelievably, it is up for consideration.

Please kill this bill. It is inhumane and unAmerican. It is hateful and should never have seen the light of day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Juodawlkis
Arlington, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

Please do not play politics with healthcare. Get your partisan win some other way, your constituents have spoken out on this, loudly. If you pass this anyway, not only will you harm your constituents' medical care, you will prove you care more about partisan politics than the people who voted for you. Do what your constituents have asked you to do. Vote no on Cassidy Graham.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will remove coverage for over 32 million Americans and drastically impact current coverage for those still able to be insured. Giving states the choice to allow Insurance companies to charge for "pre-existing conditions" will significantly and negatively impact millions of people.

It is a flawed bill and is being rushed through without following proper senatorial procedures.

Regards,
Ann Elise McLaughlin

Ann Elise C. McLaughlin

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cut to Medicaid

Hi,
I am a mother of Autistic boy. He has a lot of disability and most of the time he cries and I cry too. We suffer from this condition a lot and I can't imagine if I have to pay for his medicine and therapy andI couldn't afford . Cut to Medicaid's means a disaster for disable people. Please don't do this with us.

Thanks
Fatima

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I can only speak as an individual. I believe with all my heart that everyone should have access and availability to good, affordable health care. I am so disgusted with the games the GOP is playing. Everyone agrees the ACA needs improvement. That is what congress should be working on. Instead they are trying to sabotage it at every turn. I truly believe this is disgraceful and not what Americans want. We want congress to work together to improve the ACA and make sure that everyone gets health care. I am so upset that they will allow no control over pre existing illnesses. This is ridiculous. We should be going forward with healthcare. This new GOP attempt is a horrible step backwards.

Thank you,

Claire Adis

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: You must fund Planned Parenthood

After I got out of college, when I was working for Americorps and had no health insurance and no money and later when I was in grad school and had only catastrophic health insurance and no money, Planned Parenthood was my lifeline. I could never have seen a doctor to be tested for HIV, STIs, or cervical and breast cancer or have afforded my birth control pills. Thanks to Planned Parenthood I was able not to be burdened with an infection or a baby I couldn't afford to take care of.

If you bozos in Congress want fewer abortions--though, seriously, mind your own womb, and if you haven't got one, mind your own business--you should be throwing money at Planned Parenthood and similar health care providers.

As to this health bill, I honestly can't understand why you congressional Republicans are so anxious to metaphorically fuck regular Americans. What pleasure can you possibly get from ensuring that babies born with health conditions and people unlucky enough to get cancer will either not be able to get coverage for their conditions or will have to pay exorbitant fees for what coverage they can get? Surely, actually and literally fucking Americans would be more fun, though I'm not sure of your chances at getting most of our consents. I can't think of a single congressional Republican who'd get mine.

Honestly, I don't know how you people sleep or look your families and friends--or anyone really--in the eyes. You are terrible hypocrites, and I hope you are repenting up a storm because if not, the God many of you profess to believe in will make sure you go right to hell when you die. Good luck with that and with your reelection hopes should you succeed in passing this horrific legislation.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

P.S. I have a Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, so I know what I'm talking about in the God department. I hope you all start showing a bit more care for your souls because your cravenness and disregard for your fellow humans will catch up with you in the next life if it doesn't in this one.

--
I cannot hold my tongue nor my pen. As long as I live I must write. --George Bernard Shaw

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassady hearing on 9/25/2017

I am writing to ask you to consider my plea to not allow the Senate to put forward the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Plan. I am writing for myself but there are millions like me that count on the Affordable Care Act to protect our health and our family. I have a pre-existing condition (non of my own making). When I chose to stay home with our son, I was on my husband's insurance. His job now is overseas so does not offer insurance for me. I don't take any medication for my illness and only see a rheumatologist once every other year but I cannot get coverage without the ACA. I am so fearful of an accident or serious illness that would cause us to lose everything that we have worked for and more. My son's medication is very expensive and the insurance pays little for it but we know that if something serious happened to him, he would be cared for. Now, my husband also has a pre-existing condition so all of us could lose our insurance or be unable to afford it. This could devastate us. Please remember us in your deliberations. We need your help!

Sincerely,

Ann Plickens-Clark

PS One of my dearest friends just received a diagnosis of an aggressive and serious breast cancer. She is fighting it valiantly at the moment but is afraid that if it comes back, which this type of cancer is prone to do, she would run out of her lifetime allowance and/or be denied insurance because of this. No one as special as she is, who is fighting as hard as she is (for herself, her husband and her four children), should have to worry about not having insurance to protect her should the cancer return.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is a threat to all Americans and must be stopped

Dear United States Senators (and especially those in the GOP),

Enough is enough!

I am sick and tired of you playing politics with our healthcare. I am also old enough to remember being uninsurable for pre-existing conditions and it was terrifying.

Is the ACA perfect? NO! But should it be scrapped in favor of all 50 states having to create their own unique healthcare systems from scratch? NO! That would be disastrous folly as outlined today in the New York Times:

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/21/upshot/the-gop-bill-forces-states-to-build-health-systems-from-scratch-thats-hard.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fpolitics&action=click&contentCollection=politics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=5&pgtype=sectionfront

A few weeks ago I read that there was a bipartisan effort to work on solutions to fixing the problems with the ACA. I would encouraged, as this is the way it should be handled. But this would entail that senators actually do their jobs and compromise and collaborate, which the GOP seems unable to do. Instead they come out with this horrible bill—even worse than the one they failed to pass last time!

As a taxpayer, I would like to remind all 100 senators that they work for ME and my fellow citizens and they MUST stop politicking and do what is in the best interests of the American people. That is NOT Graham Cassidy.

On behalf of Americans everywhere, I implore you to return to regular order, come to the table in a bipartisan way and work on the common sense solutions that we know our healthcare systems needs.

Repeal with the shoddy “replacement” that is Graham Cassidy is not acceptable. You can do much better.

DO YOUR JOB. WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION.

Sincerely,

Sharon Gillenwater
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Other sales intelligence companies tell you who to talk to.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it would leave my disabled daughter without affordable insurance, while at the same time decimating Medicare, leaving her virtually un-insured and my entire family one health crisis away from bankruptcy. And that's just the tip of the iceberg of damage this would do to millions of hardworking Americans.

Shame on anyone who votes for this travesty!

Carl Aron

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal & replace... with tax cuts...

Once again, we have a tax cut, masquerading as health care reform. Repealing the ACA is pure spite against the Obama administration, and pushing bills through to reduce Americans' quality of life, to give tax cuts to the wealthy is not good governance!!

THESE CUTS WILL KILL PEOPLE SO DONALD DUMP AND HIS ILK WILL PAY LESS!!!

Want to save money? GET OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! DON'T CUT OUR HEALTH CARE!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Access and affordable are not the same thing

When doctors, insurers and patients all agree that Graham-Cassidy bill solves no problems related to our nation's health, the bill shouldn't be passed.

I don't see how coverage can be guaranteed when states would have the option to opt out of EHBs.

I do not support this bill and do not see how it would save \$- when people can't get the healthcare they need, we all end up footing the bill to cover later-stage illnesses and we also lose the individual's contributions to the economy.

This bill is designed to save a small group of rich people money- it does nothing to make people healthier or to save our nation as a whole money.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my 10 year old daughter, Alexa, was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis before birth.

She is currently utilizing the Medicaid loophole program in Pennsylvania, and she is thriving. The thought of her being denied coverage is horrifying, as is the idea that certain essential health benefits could no longer be required, such as prescriptions and hospitalizations. It is only because of these things that she is able to live the full life she does. She would reach a lifetime cap in less than 4 years. Are you willing to look my 10 year old in the eyes, and tell her that in less than 4 years, we may not be able to afford the medications that keep her alive?

I understand there is work to be done on the healthcare issue, but it needs to be a bipartisan effort, and this is not it. Having a healthy child is not a Republican or Democratic issue, it's a human one. I implore you to vote no on this bill, and work together to find something that works for all Americans.

Nicole Conley

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: statement regarding ACA repeal

Hi!

Below my signature, you will find my statement regarding the costs of living with type 1 diabetes. Please feel free to contact me for further comments and/or explanations.

Thank you for amplifying my voice.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"I've had type 1 diabetes since I was 11 (I'm now 25). I'm on my second graduate degree in Library and Information Science, and I'm working to become a teacher-librarian.

When I was in college, my dad lost his job and my family lost their health insurance. For several years, I rationed supplies and received insulin through Lilly Cares. Since beginning grad school, I can get my supplies at a highly-subsidized rate. But in three months, I'll be 26, graduated, and my husband (who works as an assistant director of a library system) doesn't have health insurance. He makes \$2000/month, which isn't a whole lot to live on to begin with. The treatment I have right now costs around \$55 PER DAY without insurance—which means we would have roughly \$300 to cover rent, utilities, other bills, food, transportation, and any medical costs for him.

Part of my graduate work has been a large research project creating research guides for teens with type 1 diabetes. The goal of the project is to bridge the educational divide between skills taught to teens in schools, and skills taught to teens with diabetes in doctors' offices. One of the guides is called "Navigating Health Insurance," but really, it should be called "What to do when you don't HAVE insurance or can't afford your medicine WITH insurance." It's less catchy, but more factual—and explains the depressing state in which we live, that we must prepare for medical poverty.

The reality is, most people with diabetes are normal people. They come from families on budgets, families with one income, families that get laid off or phased out. And these people, people like me, people who will change jobs and insurance, must pay to stay alive. We must pay rent on our bodies. Coming of age with diabetes means realizing these things, and with that realization has come panic. I panic when looking towards my future, with my student debt, my career as a teacher-librarian (not the most lucrative of careers). I panic when I realize my

husband and I could spend three times the total cost of living on my health care alone. I panic looking at my husband, realizing he's probably panicking, too.

But most of all I panic looking at those teens. Diabetes isn't an unmanageable illness with the right treatment and support. But we've created a system in the US where getting access to those things requires money and privilege. I know the hopelessness that comes with running out of insulin and trying desperately to explain why I need insulin. I reject the notion that youth with diabetes, who should be enjoying their youth, should come of age into that hopelessness. But many politicians don't reject that notion, and many (too many) seem to think that my life isn't good enough to ensure that I have access to good healthcare, regardless of my income."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cuts to Medicaid

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the impact of the Graham Cassidy health care bill on people whom I love. My brother John is a Medicaid beneficiary, who is living an enviable life with a job he loves, a comfortable home, friends within our community, a sense of belonging to his neighborhood-and he has Autism. Without the supports he receives through the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services, he would have none of this. He also has a seizure disorder and relies on Medicaid to get the medical care he needs to keep his seizures under control. I personally know probably a hundred other individuals with disabilities who would be similarly affected. Medicaid is a vital component to their safety, health, and general welfare.

It doesn't stop there! My daughter is currently covered under our insurance which we purchase on the exchange. She has Cystic Fibrosis, a dangerous condition which affects her daily life. She is 23 years old, and under the ACA, she can remain on our insurance until she turns 26. By then, we expect that she will complete her college degree and, hopefully, be healthy enough to find a good job with benefits. Her only other alternative is to become a Medicaid recipient, something that is fairly common among the CF community. Without a vibrant health insurance policy, she could die. She takes about a dozen medications a day, and is hospitalized a few times a year for lung infections.

I am afraid for her future.

Please remember that you represent ALL Americans, that we all deserve access to necessary care at an affordable price.

Thank you,
Laura Carr

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill prior to 9/25 Senate Finance Committee hearing
Attachments: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill_Isaacs.docx

Good afternoon,

Please find attached my comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
Lauren Isaacs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Please register this as a vehement voice against the passage of the Graham/Cassidy bill targeting Americans.

As I called Senators, I was sickened that as an American, I am reduced to literally begging my representatives not to condemn me and millions of my countrymen and women to lives of avoidable illness, unnecessary poverty, and unendurable bereavement. That they enjoy what they would deny us and make us beg for scraps.

I think about the people of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and out west who after a life and death struggle with a natural disaster, possibly losing their homes, may then be faced with health issues for which this bill would conceivably deny them coverage. Would allow them to die without even giving them a chance to overcome what was never their fault.

When my husband died, he took his employment and healthcare with him. Even with the ACA I have no health insurance because South Carolina is a state that didn't expand Medicare. I fall between the cracks, earning too much for help, too little for destitute. Still, I recognize that the ACA is the best deal Americans have received from our government in some time. It's not perfect but it's not nothing which is what the Graham/Cassidy bill will be.

Thank you.
Dawn Allen-Carlson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cutting Medicaid

Please do not cut Medicaid. We have two adult children who receive Medicaid benefits. Jim Jr. is 39 and is autistic; Sarah is 37 and has Down Syndrome. They depend on Medicaid for much of their care. I see that the Republican party often champions themselves as the being "pro-life." Well, limiting a program that some of the least of our citizens depend on, is not pro-life. The Pro-life movement does not end with saving a child from abortion. Being pro-life means being there for those who are born, and cannot always take care of themselves---and being there for them as they live out their lives, as best they can. Please have a heart for the least of our citizens. Please vote against the current bill. Thank you,
Judy Middleton [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Your bill means my death

I have had cancer three times. I have beaten it each time. But it is a shadow I must deal with. If your bill passes, it is a pre-existing condition, and even if it is covered, the price of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, or any other service dealing with it will be beyond our means.

We are middle class. We have no children or grandchildren. We have not wasted money on vacations, a fancy house (ours is 864 square feet), or expensive cars (we have two Subarus that are not new). We have a very little savings because I am a small entrepreneur and my husband is a museum director for a county Revolutionary War site, teaching people why America got started and what we stand for.

We are not what you fear. We are Christian, white and American-born. Yet you would let me die, because with your bill we cannot afford my care.

Have you ever had cancer? The fear, the feeling of your body being taken over by malignant cells? Never knowing where they will go next — your brain, your spine, your bones? Can you really, consciously choose for me to not even be able to afford to find out what's wrong with me because I can no longer afford insurance?

That is what you are condemning us to. Me, and tens of millions more Americans will die because you wanted to prove you could wrestle a bill into being without judgment, without hearings, without information — and without the approval of dozens of health organizations and insurance groups.

No matter what spin you put on this, you are telling me, and millions more like me, your political bravado is worth more than our lives.

Do not pass this bill. Be human. Be the Congress you were sent to Washington to be. Protect us, don't kill us.

Joellyn Kopecky
[REDACTED]

This message was sent using IMP, the Internet Messaging Program.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a professional in the benefits industry and the aunt of a child born with a genetic condition I am writing to decry the mess of the Graham Cassidy bill. My niece received a liver transplant at the age of 2. At 6 she developed lymphoma due to immunosuppression. People with conditions like this, or type 1 diabetes, or cancer or a million other conditions should not have to worry about whether a preexisting condition will price them out of care, or whether lifetime or annual maximums will bankrupt them, or whether their state will provide any reasonable coverage at all with a block grant. Insurance is meant to spread risk and that's what it should do. Very few people can afford a catastrophic health event, and they shouldn't have to. We are the only "developed" nation in the world that doesn't provide healthcare to all of its citizens, to all of our shame. We can do better.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017"

- I object to the formulation of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C Bill

I am an educator, an active voter, an avid reader, a parent, and a taxpayer.

Of all the proposals put forth regarding health care, the Graham-Cassidy Bill is the most dangerous. It is a misguided shift of funds that ultimately devastates the most vulnerable members of our community. It is bad for babies, mothers, the disabled, and then, eventually, everyone. In the end, the people you are trying to protect WILL foot the bill, in an out-of-control system that you intentionally broke, if this bill passes.

Doctors have come forward and put on record that they oppose this bill because it violates their oath to Do No Harm.

I beg you to do no harm.

Do not allow this travesty to happen to our country.

Gayle Cole
Burbank, CA

--
Gayle Kolodny Cole

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

Vote no on the Graham-cassidy Bill. Do not strip millions of Americans of access to basic medicines that you know are thoroughly unaffordable without healthcare.

Do not vote to deny sick people relief from pain and suffering.

Your vote is NOT a vote about an economic issue. Your vote is about your morality, your humanity, and your Christianity. Senators, your vote on Graham-Cassidy is about you.

When Americans can't afford healthcare not only do they lead sicker lives, even minor illnesses can and will force them into bankruptcy, the effects of which can derail not only the trajectory of their own lives and ability to be productive in society, but also their children's ability to become productive members of society.

Lack of access to affordable insurance causes the needless spread of communicable diseases, gruesome suffering, needless deaths, defaults on bank loans, bankruptcies, in many cases our children flounder from lack of adequate parenting when parents suffer poor health.

Every way you look at it, Graham -Cassidy will devastate Americans. I never, ever, get used to the fact that those of you in Congress have the luxury of playing around with these decisions. Decisions that not one of you will ever feel the effects of.

Not one of you will see your credit destroyed, or go bankrupt from unpaid medical bills. Not one of you will ever have to watch your children suffer from lack of medicine and medical care. Not one of you will watch a spouse grow sicker and weaker simply b/c they can't afford to see a doctor. Not one of you will ever touch that reality. Not one of you.

Supporting Graham-Cassidy is an abomination. Supporting Graham Cassidy makes you nothing better than a snake oil salesman.

Voting for Graham Cassidy says everything Pennsylvania needs to know about you. You lack Christian values, your weak of character, your values and morality are for sale and you care for no one beyond your personal circle.

If you support this bill, at the end of your lives when you look back on what your existence on earth meant, you will know that you caused the suffering, sorrow and pain of millions, that you had plenty of opportunities to improve the lives of all Americans...but instead you turned your back on what you knew was right.

Vote no on Graham Cassidy. Vote to make the lives of Americans decent, and something to be proud of.

Sincerely,
Kristen Erwin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. As a person with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, I not only have a pre-existing condition, but it is an incurable cancer that I will have for the rest of my life. If the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal passes, citizens like myself could see their insurance premiums sky-rocket and possibly be denied future coverage. Not only that, states are ill-prepared to manage health coverage individually. This proposal is a last-ditch effort by politicians who want to salvage their political careers. We need a proposal that is not about politics, but about the long-term health of our country's citizens.

Please do not forward this proposal.

Sincerely,

Amy Binns-Calvey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I can't wait for Republicans to pass this bill so they all get voted out of office!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

This bill will end healthcare for so many people in our country. Allowing only the authors of the bill to testify is just wrong. Open hearings should be held on this and the public should be allowed to testify. We all need to see the CBO score.

Nancy A. Zito

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Dear Senators,

Please do not pass this bill. It will cause harm to millions of Americans. Children, veterans, seniors and women will suffer. Please vote no!!!!

Thank you.

Jackie Glass

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid and Planned Parenthood

I am a senior citizen living on \$737.00 a month from social security. I could not afford co-payments without medicaid, without which I would have no health care. I have no way of earning more money as a senior. My sister depended on Planned Parenthood at a time when she had very little money and they took great care of her!
Victoria Berdy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

For the love of all that's holy, please do not pass a bill that still has no CBO score, but has been estimated by other groups to force tens of millions off their health care coverage, and increase costs substantially for millions more.

Barbara Fillion

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Bill Is Inhumane

My name is Zachary Marlow-McCarthy, I am a citizen of the USA in the state of Oregon in the city of Portland.

I am writing today to add my voice to the millions of Americans who will lose healthcare if this bill is passed in begging the senate for mercy. Do not pass this bill. According to the CBO, as high as 30 million Americans will lose their coverage. The fiduciary clauses of the ACA are a life preserver keeping hard working Americans afloat. And to repeal them without creating a system that will guarantee higher coverage or better insurance is to intentionally create a catastrophe.

According to research done on the effects of insurance on the mortality rates in america following the passage of the ACA, an increase of 870 Americans on insurance decreased the death toll by 1 per year. This may sound insignificant, but multiplied to the scale of our country, that would mean that thirty one thousand Americans stand to die per year should they lose their insurance.

That death toll would place "government legislation" as one of the top 15 leading causes of death in the United States.

The ACA, while not without its flaws, does not suffer from over-funding, or overly-generous consumer clauses (ie pre-existing condition clauses). If anything it suffers from under funding. This criminal murder-by-legislation will be prosecuted in the court of public opinion, and will spell the death of the GOP. I and my fellow Americans will guarantee it.

At the moment, there is a train hurtling down the tracks. On one side, you have the increased life expectancy, higher rates of insurance, and a healthier, happier population brought about by the ACA. On the other you have 30 million americans losing their health insurance, and 30,000 of them dying. In order to save them, all you have to do is not pull that lever to divert the train to run them over. There is no ethical quandry, the moral and ethical choice is clear: do not pass a bill that would strip Americans of their healthcare.

Do the right thing. Vote no on Cassidy Graham.
Thank you for your time,
Zachary Marlow-McCarthy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern-

Please do not proceed with the Graham Cassidy bill.

I am a relatively healthy woman yet find myself terrified about my future healthcare if this bill passes. My husband and I both will be considered to have pre-existing conditions. We don't have children, and may decide not to have them given the costs that will be associated with childbirth and potential health issues for our child should this bill pass. My health is a gift from God that could change instantly from illness or accident. I've had too many friends suddenly need healthcare in their 20s or 30s when they were diagnosed with cancer or Crohn's.

I don't think the ACA is perfect, but the Graham Cassidy bill is not a solution to its problems. It's a cruel, greedy bill that is designed to benefit very few at the expense of the many. I implore you, if you have any decency or desire to do good in the world, please do not pursue this bill.

Sincerely,
Amy Bucher
Charlestown, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham/ Cassidy healthcare bill

This bill will hurt many. The ACA has made my life much easier since it's implementation. Please consider the voice of the people!!

Sean Prince

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments about Graham-Cassidy

Hi,

As a concerned citizen (from Portland, Oregon - zip code 97206), I'm writing in because I'm deeply, deeply worried about the Graham-Cassidy legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The ACA has problems that need to be solved, and until G-C, a bipartisan committee of senators were working to do just that. Graham-Cassidy does nothing to solve the ACA's problems - instead, it makes all of them worse, and adds new ones. Dismantling medicaid, putting protections for pre-existing conditions at risk across the country, and raising premiums for all Americans is unacceptable under any circumstance, but especially when Republicans aren't even willing to wait for a CBO score, hold actual hearings with witnesses and amendments from both sides of the aisle, and understand what they actually intend to do.

On a personal note, I can attest that repealing the ACA would be disastrous for my family and friends. My mother has Crohn's Disease, and as it is this forces my parents (both of whom are ready to retire) to keep working for health insurance. This means that there are two jobs being worked by people who don't really want or need them that could be worked by other Americans - but can't, due to our health care system. G-C wouldn't provide non-employment based health care options that we actually need. It would instead force millions of people into the same situation as my parents, weakening the job market. It would put millions more at grave risk of losing their hard-earned coverage. People will go bankrupt. People will wait to go to the hospital. People will die preventable deaths.

I implore the senators of this committee - and the senate at large - to reject Graham-Cassidy. Health care reform must seek to cover more Americans, not less. It must happen through regular order and in a bipartisan manner, not behind closed doors.

Thank you,
Sam Sexton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no

This bill is horrible and will jeopardize more Americans than help them. I have Type 1!Diabetes and this bill will cause me to go broke and die. Work on Bipartisan bill to fix the ACA, not simply revoke or repeal it. Millions of lives have been saved since ACA. Work on making it better. Please don't pass this version with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Lisa Dalton
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not approve this awful bill. It is not in the best interests of American citizens.
We need a plan that provides health care for every citizen.
Thank you.

Sent from my typo-prone iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy repeal bill

Good evening,

I am writing in fierce opposition to the Graham-Cassiday ACA repeal bill. I am a walking pre-existing condition. I have a rare disease and I am disabled. I see many specialists and take many prescriptions. Without affordable health coverage, I will die. Period. The GOP claims to be pro-life, but their healthcare bills prove otherwise.

Thank you for your time,

Monica E. Unseld, Ph.D.

"If the long arc of history bends toward social justice, it also bends toward environmental justice and ecological sanity."
— David Jaber

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." - Carl Sagan

"A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life."
— Charles Darwin, The Life & Letters of Charles Darwin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Gentlepersons,

This bill is immoral & repugnant and must NOT pass. The bill does not provide adequate resources to cover those with preexisting conditions.

The bill discriminates against women & removes services for them when they become ill. It does not cover critically seniors or children as well as ACA does.

We are a nation. We are human. We become sick, we bleed, we are injured. We are not corporations, devoid of heart & soul.

This bill is cruel & inhumane. Please do not pass this evil piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Eileen Farrell

--

Eileen O'Farrell

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

My name is Alex Christensen. I am a young person with a pre-existing condition; Crohn's Disease. My prescription medication allows me to work a full-time job and a part-time job comfortably. I turn 26 on Monday, September 25th. The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill guts the financial, physical, and mental security that allows me to participate fully in society. My personal situation aside, the fiscal merits of this bill are non-existent. Do not pass it. It will hurt Americans. It will hurt me.

Respectfully,

Alex Christensen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Cassidy/Graham

America deserves better than this travesty. Put America above partisan politics. Destroying healthcare in the name of Repeal and Replace is reprehensible. We are better than this.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT TAKE MY HEALTH CARE

I have heart disease and I cannot afford the higher cost of health care if this bill passes. Do not take my life away to provide tax cuts to the wealthy

Thanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please do not take up the Graham-Cassidy bill. Trying to force this thru at the eleventh hour is not how the Senate should act. It is a deliberative body by design.

Please consider a bipartisan approach. Yes, it will take longer but it will be better for all Americans.

Sincerely,
Mike M.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am totally opposed to this sham of a bill. It sets the states up to fail; appears to be a way to fund a tax cut; makes health care fragmented by states; leaves millions without care. The federal government does not have the luxury to kick their responsibilities to the states while leaving them without funding after 10 years. We r the only nation in the advanced world who has not figured this out. Please! Listen to the medical organizations opposed to this. Get bipartisan! Your great fear of socialized medicine does not become you. Care about people.
Jane kirkpatrick. Oregon.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No no no. Graham cassidy bill

Save the ACA please. The upcoming hearings themselves are a farce, not to mention the lousy, mean-spirited bill you have concocted. It is so obvious that the GOP are bribing Lisa Murkowski by allowing Alaska to opt out of #GrahamCassidy bill. You clearly know this repeal and replace is a hoax and you don't even care about HHS price spending cancer survivors' money...I am every day more disgusted by the lack of care. Please do not even bring this crazy bill for a vote.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham Cassidy

Millions of people would lose insurance, it would end Medicaid as we know it, there are no protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and people lucky enough to still have health care would see higher premiums.

Please for America please do not let this become law

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Just Say NO To The Bill!

I want to protect the thirty million people who would lose their healthcare. The children, the seniors, the women who depend on Planned Parenthood,

This Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill is ridiculously dangerous and irresponsible. It makes no sense to jam this through the Senate without seeing the CBO score, without the appropriate hearings!

If you really stood for this bill, and put your name on it you would be BRAVE and show it to the American people to let them bask in it--to see the good..

But this bill is anything but good. It will literally kill people. People will die. No one deserves to die because they are unable to afford the price. This bill will send premiums through the roof, this bill allows states to figure out caps. That is SCARY.

America deserves better. We are all the same and we all deserve to be able to afford taking care of our health and to live safely.

This bill is a disgrace and all the cowardly senators who vote "yes" on this bill will always be remembered for what they are--Sellouts. Cowards. Murderers. Traitors to the innocent Americans they promised to protect and to serve.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my outrage as the GOP yet again is trying to take away our healthcare plan with no replacement option whatsoever! This plan is cruel and a major step backwards for America.

Thank You,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 3)
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is a killer

You have the opportunity to save the lives of 32,000,000 Americans, do not waste this chance by following the petty obsessions of a failing President. I'm all for fixing Obamacare- no one bill is perfect- but the Graham-Cassidy bill is not the solution!

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy: A story from our family
Attachments: IMG_2488.JPG

This is what it sounds like at our house when our 13-year-old daughter Miriam has a seizure.

“Hey kiddo. I’m here with you. Take that breath when you can.”

She or may not be hearing me. I’m in my “calm mama” mode, the one that I engage when the seizure gets underway.

The first sign is noisy, labored breathing. Then come staring eyes and quivering all over. And then, if it’s going to be one of the scarier ones, the next breath doesn’t come on cue.

The skin on her face and neck turns gray-ish. Deep circles emerge under her eyes.

It’s hard to count one’s blessings while counting the seconds since the last breath. But, here in Wisconsin right now, we’re more fortunate than many.

The expensive medications that keep Miriam alive are covered by insurance. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, while she is on our insurance we need not worry about lifetime limits or the fact that her epilepsy is an immense pre-existing condition that she’s had since the age of 15 months.

“C’mon honey. Time to get breathing again.”

Medicaid is a crucial part of our lives too. Epilepsy is just one element of Miriam’s disability issues. She also has autism and a rare genetic condition called Linear Nevus Sebaceous Syndrome. Medicaid paid for hours upon hours of intensive autism therapy when she was younger. Her speech therapy and occupational therapy are Medicaid-funded at school; at home, we get help with co-pays and personal supplies and specialized respite-care.

When she reaches the age that we can no longer have her on our insurance, Medicaid will be the funding source that pays for the medications that keep her seizures mostly-at-bay, as well as for supports to help her live as independently as possible and work in the community.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal throws a great cloud of uncertainty over her future, and ours. The estimates from non-partisan analysts are dire: Wisconsin would lose nearly \$3 billion by 2027 and \$29 billion by 2036.

We’re already plenty scared and exhausted.

And right now, the expensive medications are what keep Miriam alive.

We urge the Senate Finance Committee to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday hearing on Graham\Cassidy Bill

Dear Madams and Gentlemen,

With respect to the Monday hearing on Graham\Cassidy Bill:

Paragraph 4(a) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

4. (a) Each committee (except the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget) shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the committee on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing **unless the committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.**

It is far less than one week until Monday. What is the "good cause" excuse for this short notice? The wellbeing of millions is at stake.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill, which would cut and cap Medicaid and repeal major portions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is an abomination. My brother has a brain injury. While trying to get him care, we have to worry about these awful attempts to repeal the ACA. My brother's doctors, caretakers, therapists, are ALL unified against this bill. Shame on those supporting this bill while people are suffering.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy bill

Please vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy Bill - do not send it to the floor - 32 million people will lose their Health Insurance and it will cost more and insure less - People will die because of this if you pass this bill

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham/Cassidy

Please do everything in your power to stop the horrible Graham/Cassidy attempt to gut ACA. This bad for America!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please defeat this bill! I have a pre-existing condition of hypo-thyroidism, and without my medication I won't be able to work. There are millions in situations like mine, or worse, whose livelihoods, whose very lives will be threatened by this bill. What kind of a government treats its people that way?

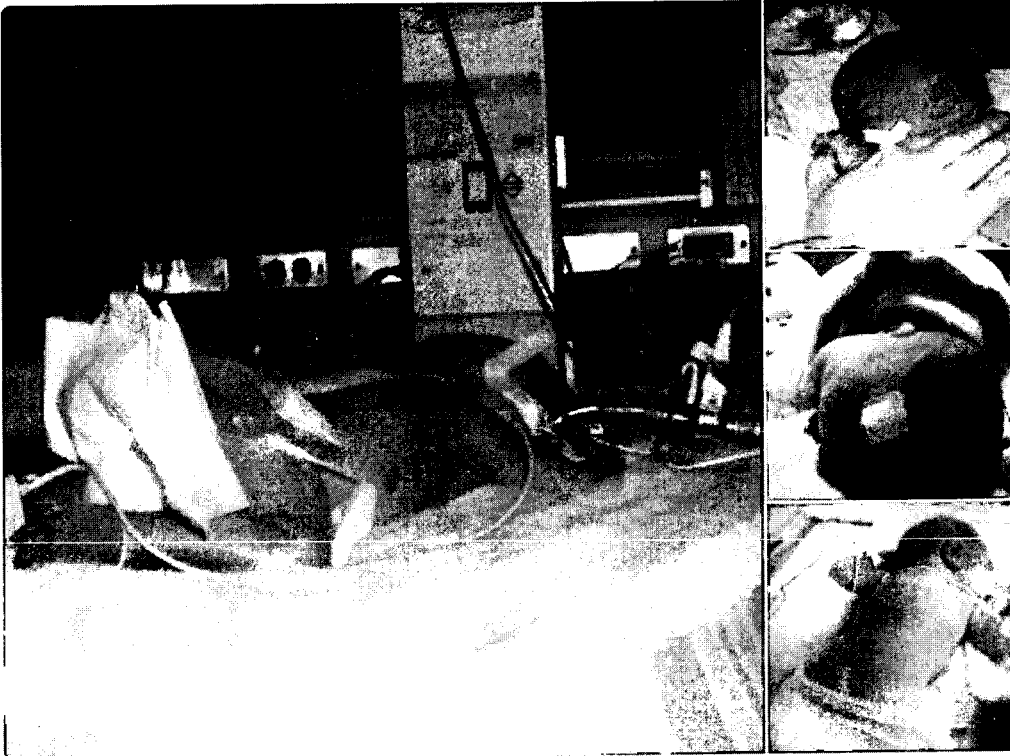
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: DO NOT TAKE AWAY HEALTHCARE. OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

In case you missed this on Twitter:

[REDACTED] · 18h

Hello, @LindseyGrahamSC and @BillCassidy. Look long and hard at these pictures. This is my friend Jake. Without ACA he will die.



239 1.6K 2.4K

On Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:46 PM, J Davis [REDACTED]

Funding and pressure from your campaign contributors Koch Bros is not a reason to take away healthcare. Republicans had 7 years to draft a humane, reasonable healthcare plan. They bragged they had it 'ready to go' for 7 years. This is pure greed, fueled with lies and deception.

Florida voter
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Please slow down this hearing and return to the regular order of business in the Senate.

One hearing prior to a vote does not allow for two weeks of comments on the bill. There is no CBO score on this drastic measure.

One sixth of the American economy will be affected -- not to mention the millions of American's healthcare.

We deserve a thoughtful and deliberative process as well as the best coverage available for the most people. Graham-Cassidy does not achieve this goal.

Please pause and think. Are the American people being well-served by this rush to fulfill a campaign promise?

You know it is not.

Sincerely,
Carrie King

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Americans vehemently oppose this latest proposal for a health care plan that will make it virtually IMPOSSIBLE for those with pre-existing conditions to afford the premiums. Why rob so many of your fellow Americans of a peaceful and healthy life in America? I, like most Americans, am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it's basically harmful to most middle class and impoverished Americans, it is not a well thought-out plan and republican John McCain says: "Let's do this the regular way, the standard way... the American way. The democratic way!"

You in congress have govt healthcare. Why are you so willing to block so many Americans from decent, affordable and comprehensive health care?

Honor your fellow Americans. Do not pass this thoughtless bill. Thank you.

RoseMarie Bauer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: victoriaelenapellot@gmail.com
Subject: Graham Cassidy

To whom It May Concern

Dear Sir/madam:

I am writing you today to state my opposition to the Graham/Cassidy health care bill.

The goal of any healthcare bill should be to extend more care not decrease care or coverage. I am a teacher I have health care but I have aging family members that only have care because of the ACA, I am worried about them and the many Americans like them.

Please go back to fixing the ACA not repealing. No one wants repeal.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Victoria Pellot

Citizen

Sent from my iPad

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information in this e-mail and any attachments thereto is intended for the named recipient(s) only even if addressed incorrectly. This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential and subject to legal restrictions and penalties regarding its unauthorized disclosure or other use. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action or inaction in reliance on the contents of this e-mail and any of its attachments is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via return e-mail; delete this e-mail and all attachments from your e-mail system and your computer system and network; and destroy any paper copies you may have in your possession. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please consider the environment before printing this message.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of ACA

To Whom It May Concern:

Jesus, who lives in MY heart, would like to ask you this:

Is it true that the GOP is determined to repeal the ACA, which will take insurance away from millions of people, while the GOP themselves will still have their own insurance paid for by the American people?

Note: Please picture Jesus on the ground drawing in the dirt as He waits for your replies.

Wow. Please don't call yourselves Christians. You hurt Him when you do that, for if you were Christians, you would not vote for this. Instead, you would have faith that in doing what is right and good and just, He would lead you to better answers as to how to solve the debt. Adding money to already full coffers is not the answer coming from Him. You are selling your souls to greed. Have you no fear of our Father whatsoever? Do you think He won't teach you this lesson about greed? He will. Go ahead- but know your day of humbling will come.

That's all. Good-bye.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote down Graham Healthcare bill

I am appalled that once again we have to put our lives on hold to beg Congress not to put our lives in danger. Our families rely on healthcare and yet here we are with another disastrous bill being rammed through without proper vetting, necessary CBO data. This is shameful. We shouldn't need a Jimmy Kimmel test for you to know stripping families of the financial ability to get critical care is a death sentence. No amount of doublespeak can cover over that reality. 32 million would lose coverage under this bill. Even GOP who criticize it as a lousy bill say they will vote for it because of party pressure. Gutless and disgraceful each and every one.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care repeal

The people of The United States of America need for the Republicans in Congress to stop sabotaging the ACA and work HARD to improve it. Single payer would give Americans a level playing field for comprehensive health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a travesty, and proof that the Koch brothers own The Congress of the United States. Do not allow this bill to pass and harm and kill tens of millions of Americans.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

"the secret of life is enjoying the passage of time"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 12:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please vote against this bill; I'm so afraid of the repercussions and increased costs.

Kari Volyn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

I am a 65 year old woman, recovering from knee replacement surgery, living on a fixed income of SS & a pension, totaling less than \$24,000 a year. I'll need to have the other knee replaced in the Spring, and I also have continued, chronic back pain from a lifetime of lifting disabled individuals in and out of their wheelchairs, for the state of CT.

If I have to pay more for medical insurance, which I will with this bill... if the state is able to put me in a high risk pool for pre-existing conditions, which this bill allows it to do, I will be priced-out of insurance. I won't be able to afford to treat the chronic pain I'm enduring, due to a lifetime of service to others. The chances are greatly increased that I become a burden to my family, and I die sooner, financially unstable and in pain.

I am BEGGING you to revisit improving the ACA, which while being a lifesaver for me in affordable health insurance, I understand needs improvement for others.

PLEASE, do not rush this bill through without even waiting for the CBO score, simply in a misguided, partisan to fulfill a campaign "promise". If you can't agree on a bill that can pass with bipartisan support and garner 60 votes, instead of 50, can it really be a bill that "benefits" the American people?

I believe you already know the answer to that in your heart-of-hearts. Please be on the side of the "little guy", in this. Please be on the right side of history.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not recommend passage of Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I urge you to NOT recommend passage of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

This bill will deny health care to millions of people. These people will be unable to pay cash outright for necessary health care, and many will die prematurely.

Please do not help to cause the deaths of millions of people to provide an unneeded tax cut for the wealthy. Do not recommend passage of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Testimony on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good evening,

I am writing to you in regards to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The bill's problems are numerous, and cannot be fully explored in a brief letter. Below are some of my thoughts on particular aspects of the plan, and while I feel it will be disastrous to the United States.

The major problem, of course, is the removal of regulations regarding pre-existing conditions. The majority of human beings have pre-existing conditions as insurance companies define them, especially considering that pregnancy is considered pre-existing. Even if somebody believes themselves to be perfectly healthy, a cancer diagnosis can come out of nowhere, as can an accident. Under Graham-Cassidy, insurance companies would even be allowed to raise premiums for conditions a patient incurred after signing up for the plan, which undercuts the entire notion of "insurance." The bill would also have disproportionate impact to women due to the higher premiums for pregnancy and birth control use.

This bill eliminates not only the individual mandate but the employer mandate. Without a law forcing them to provide health insurance to their employees, many employers will simply choose not to provide it. Most Americans are still covered through employer-based plans, and removing the employer mandate could cause a domino effect, as companies abandon health insurance en masse. There is no guarantee that employers would raise wages to compensate for the lost benefit, which could effectively mean a massive pay cut to Americans, possibly up to half of their salary.

Lastly, the part of Graham-Cassidy involving block grants is broken at its foundation. States that cover more of their residents will receive less funds than states that withhold coverage. My state, Oregon, will lose over \$2500 per citizen per year, more than any other state. Why should states that welcomed Medicaid expansion be penalized for it? Surely, it is not a coincidence that the states hardest hit by Graham-Cassidy are the states which didn't help Donald Trump win his beautiful electoral college victory.

If you have any love at all for your fellow Americans, you will not pass this bill. This is an issue which goes beyond party lines. Remember that "Obamacare" was adapted from a plan created by Mitt Romney, a member of the GOP. This bill will not lead America down the road of financial prosperity but toward a new Great Depression. It is opposed by every medical organization in the country, a bipartisan group of ten governors (with more to come), and even advocates for the medical insurance industry itself. Please join them in their opposition.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

As a disabled combat veteran, serving over two years between Iraq and Afghanistan, I use both Tricare and Medicare. This bill won't even directly affect me, but at least I understand the devastating consequences it will have. Yes, I'm taken care of (for now), but it's my blue collar family members and friends that will be hit the hardest. Most of them didn't even have insurance before the ACA--the law you are trying to repeal simply because it's named for the man who envisioned it.

America is on to you. Those of us who give a shit enough to write you know you're doing it for the campaign contributions from the Koch's. You're hurting vets who aren't medically retired or share the same benefits as me because they managed to escape the hell of war--only to be sold out by the government they protect who in turn bend over backwards to do the bidding of a couple of American oligarchs. We've got a term for people like you: 'buddy-fuckers' ('blue falcons' for those who don't appreciate reality.)

The people your screwing over aren't just a few people from your unit either, it's ~30 million people. (Don't worry, I used as high estimate because I know you cowards aren't going to wait for the full CBO score to vote.) You could be great men and women by fixing the ACA. Call it whatever you want to help you sleep at night. Just know: if we weren't a nation of laws, you'd be tarred and feathered by now.

Go ahead, hold your sham hearing, but at least do the right thing afterwards (even though I know you won't.)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Ret.)
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect affordable health care for all Americans!

Please use regular order before attempting to pass such a significant law.
Gail Conners

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

It is very clear to me that the majority of “we the people” and so many professional health organizations are against this latest attempt to repeal ACA and replace it with an utterly disastrous bill that has nothing other than accomplishing a 7-year old Republican promise to get rid of anything that has former President Obama’s name on it. Please do not pass this bill in a fit of passion and work across the aisle for solutions. Thank you.

Harry Chancey
Calais, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter from a citizen that you work for

Senate Finance Committee:

Hopefully, at one time you knew this, but I'd like to remind you: You work for us, the citizenry. We, the citizenry, are up to here with being ignored, minimized, and cast aside. Our voices are the only voices that matter, whether we are late-night comedians, sports figures, actors, farmers, or dime-store cashiers. When we speak to you, we ARE in our lane. We speak as people who live, work, and serve in this nation. The fact that your first consideration is votes versus doing the right thing is most telling about who you really are. Dismissing our voices shows that you have lost your way and perhaps no longer belong in Washington.

Since you are still there, please hear this: We see what you're doing, and we see through your haughty charade. What you are proposing to do with the healthcare insurance of the people who pay your salary is nothing more than a total and complete abdication of moral and ethical responsibility.

It's not too late to choose character and selflessness. You must stop Graham-Cassidy.

A citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy, the quickest read you'll see

Hi.

The bill will hurt people.

Knock it off.

Thanks.

Your neighbor,

Jamie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Healthcare

If it wasn't for ACA I would of died. If you think people can get care at an "ER" think again. They are only required to "stabilize the condition" and do not treat anybody. If you have a serious illness or accident, you are on your own. If you think that all people can get insurance think again, I was turned down repeatedly for having gone to a dr. for 'acne.' And another time never any insurance until Blue Cross where I was only covered from the "waist up" dr. I went to asked to show my policy to his colleagues he couldn't believe that ppl had to pay 10x more and only be insured from the 'waist up.'

If you think everybody just gets insurance where they work, think again. Millions will never get any insurance where they work.

We don't need insurance corps or employers ever in healthcare. We should have what Australia has. Had tonsillitis there and just walked right in and got penicillin and saw a dr. because they want all their visitors to have a great trip, and they never worry, everybody always can go to a dr consequently their hospital ER's pretty much empty. ER's should be for emergencies not because someone is dying like I was w/o any care. In NV no dr. will see anyone w/o money up front.

Trying to kill ppl just for the Koch Bros is beyond horrible. Why should any Gov of any state have to make Sophie's Choice on who lives or dies. Everyone USA should be covered birth to death, take a look at Sweden go visit & OZ everybody is healthy, a healthy workforce and citizens is productive. No one should die like they do USA w/no treatment, nor should ppl have to go bankrupt because they had to go to an ER, which they will bill you 10k, you don't pay, a collection agency sues you, Chp 7 bankruptcy, never get a job, a place to live, credit, buy a car for 10 yrs.

Don't kill us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@mccaskill.senate.gov; senator@blunt.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern (and it concerns all of us!)

We are writing today as residents of Missouri to state emphatically that we are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill that threatens the health and welfare of all Americans, but particularly threatens residents of Missouri who have pre-existing conditions and those who need pre-natal services, family planning and access to women's health clinics. We have a son with a pre-existing condition due to an accidental fall and he is currently covered for health insurance under the ACA. If he loses this coverage he will not be able to afford the health care that he continues to need. Countless Missourians and Americans outside of Missouri face this challenge if pre-existing conditions coverage can be eliminated by the states; in some instances this would be a death sentence. No rational person would argue that the ACA is perfect, but allowing states to decide whether or not this crucial coverage would continue is cruel and counterproductive to the future of an equitable and just American society.

Sincerely, Sharon and Philip Stahl

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No

No to this Graham Cassidy BS. This is bad for America. I oppose.

Sent from my iPhone.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee,

Hello, I noticed a call for comments from Senator Blumenthal, so I wanted to register my disgust with Graham-Cassidy. It is clearly unfit for the benefit of the majority of citizens, it is opposed by just about every reputable health association, and it stands to disadvantage or flat-out harm a great number of us. Further, it seems to misuse funds. It is so grossly irresponsible to proceed at such a pace on a bill this important, let alone if you're doing it just so you can skate it by on the bare minimum of votes this month because you know you'll never be able to do it otherwise under regular order.

Look, I shouldn't have to tell you this stuff. You know it's wrong to proceed on this bill for a myriad of reasons. Just do your duty and shut it down. Focus on improving Obamacare. It is so painfully obvious that is what you must do. Stop the Republican majority from bending over backwards to attempt to harm or threaten to harm us regularly. Do your duty.

Thank you,

Reuben

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy plan

Please do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy plan. ACA has provided affordable insurance for my son and me. Before it, we could only afford catastrophic insurance. Thanks to ACA, my son was able to have surgery to correct nighttime breathing problems that could have caused brain damage or death. Because of my age and preexisting conditions, under new plans my rates could skyrocket thus making it unaffordable. This, as you know, would leave the burden of payment for major medical issues on other patients, which inevitably costs the taxpayers more than it would if you fixed the ACA. Voting on a plan that is being kept secret and without hearings shows a level of corruption that won't be easy to erase come election time. Do not vote for this plan.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Layne

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health is wealth but the Cassidy bill isn't

Respected Congress members:

Our constitution says that this country exists for liberty and justice for all and to protect the pursuit of happiness. How can people be happy and free if they have to work 3 jobs just to have a roof over their heads and food to feed their families let alone pay medical expenses? This bill takes away insurance from those who have no other means to get it and will make paying medical expenses extremely difficult if not nigh impossible. Because the people who are now on the ACA are the ones who need it most, and nationally, employment still isn't paying quality wages, the ACA at least takes one burden off their shoulders.

Your bill would put that back on them and still not contain costs. The health of the nation is the wealth of the nation. Health is one of the safeguards of freedom and happiness. This is a fundamental bedrock of democracy.

I can't believe that you would be so callous and heartless.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Before ACA, I was only able to afford catastrophic health ins. with \$10,000 deductible. With ACA I have insurance with manageable out of pocket expenses. Last month I had emergency back surgery. I would have suffered with the pain for much longer before calling an ambulance which would have caused more missed work & probably more extensive damage requiring a more difficult & urgent surgical procedure. Because of ACA, I will be able to make payments to reimburse all parties involved. The catastrophic ins. wouldn't have allowed me to pay everyone which would cost all involved more & eventually pass the cost to society. ACA saves money, & allows me the dignity of paying my own debts. Under the new plan my costs could go up significantly because of my age and pre-existing conditions. I WON'T be able to afford insurance. My small business employer doesn't provide ins. but allows me to work from home, which is a blessing for a single parent. Do NOT vote to take away my safety, health & financial security. NO ONE wants this plan except the wealthy who benefit from tax relief, ins. companies who profit, & corrupt politicians.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please say NO to GrahamCassidy

Please do not pass this horrendous bill. This will only cause pain and suffering for many people and families who desperately need healthcare, but may not be able to receive it or afford it because of the stipulations included in this bill.

It is unfortunate that our country has come to the point that it is at now, so divided, and in such turmoil. Can't we find a solution that benefits the many, and not just the wealthy or corporations? Please try to see through the eyes of the less fortunate & try to improve on the existing system, not totally abolish it in favor of some rushed legislation that will only divide our nation even more.

Thank you for your time,

Danielle R.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I have adequate health insurance for myself. It is my friends and neighbors and my beloved state of Maryland that would be hurt by this atrocity of a bill. It is shameful!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy NO!

Please stop this new horror of a bill from getting through. I don't need to tell you how many people will lose desperately-needed healthcare. I don't need to tell you that Trump lied about pre-existing conditions still being covered. The ACA isn't perfect, it needs some tweaking, but it's the best thing we've had and has helped so many. Including me.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family's reliance on the ACA

I and my spouse were able to retire last year because of the ACA. I've been under treatment for severe asthma for years and it is well controlled. Not being Medicare eligible I would not have survived medical underwriting without the ACA. My family is in the unsubsidized individual off-exchange market. We pay about \$780/month for a high deductible policy currently.

Please make adjustments to the ACA as needed but don't burn down our health insurance system.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] et>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Do not repeal ACA. Taking healthcare away from people is evil.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy

APPRECIATE ALL SENATORS READ/FULLY UNDERSTAND BILL...CBO SCORE NEEDED BEFORE CONSIDERING. PREEXISTING CONDITIONS WOULD MAKE HEALTH INSURANCE UNAFFORDABLE FOR MOST. WE NEED A HEALTHY COUNTRY, NOT A LESS-WELL COUNTRY. PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS AFFORDED BY U S CONSTITUTION IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE FOR EVERY CITIZEN. PLEASE CONSIDER KEEPING AND IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT...CALL IT TRUMPCARE WHEN DONE AND HEALTHCARE WILL BE BRANDED AS NECESSARY WITH PREZ 45. THAN YOU. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FW: Graham-Cassidy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators:

Graham-Cassidy is bad for the country. Ocare not given a fair chance to work, as it could with a few tweaks. This argument of federalism vs socialism is histrionic; why shouldn't the federal government be involved not only with the single most important issue confronting the country – the health and well-being of its people- but with 1/6 of our economy? It certainly becomes involved with items of less importance and magnitude.

Shoring up Ocare is what makes sense. Let's kill Graham-Cassidy and come together to protect our healthcare. People before GOP doctrine.

Respectfully,

Joel

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

I'm appalled. This bill is the opposite of creating healthy competition in the markets or protecting constituents. It abdicates federal involvement in the wellbeing of our citizens and tells insurance companies they can do what they want.

* The partisan politics need to stop. Republicans aren't going to retain party members (like me) by simply undoing "what the black guy did".

This bill hurts my daughter and her ability to live and work where she wants.

It hurts my mom who has congestive heart failure.

It hurts my son and husband with preexisting conditions.

It hurts my small business because I have to drain cash from investing in growth and put it into increased premiums to insure my family.

This isn't fiscal responsibility its insurance company profitability. Unhealthy constituents cost the country more money. Insurance companies back political campaigns.

Disgusting.

Karrie Sullivan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on bad healthcare bill

I am/was a republican and am shocked by this terrible bill. This isn't leadership, it's incompetence. If this passes, get ready for the great American pendulum shift in the next vote. Junk healthcare plans for pre-existing conditions are unacceptable

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I do not support this bill.

I feel like all the efforts thus far to repeal Obamacare are petty partisan politics. The goals have been to erase his legacy and finance tax cuts the the ultra rich. These are not goals that serve human beings.

Obamacare can be improved but not like this. The goal should be to serve the health needs of Americans first. This will take a lot of hard work and we will all need to do it together. Republicans, Democrats, experts and citizens. All the efforts so far haven't done this. They only want tax cuts.

The disturbing details of this bill are that pre existing conditions can be denied but the messaging does not say this. We are being misled.

The other is how It appears that votes are being bought by saying vote for the repeal for us but you can keep Obamacare which was offered to Alaska. This is a new low I did not think was possible. It sets a dangerous prescient in lawmaking. Frankly it makes me nauseous.

No Graham Cassidy!

--
Thanks!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not pass this bill!! It will be a disaster and we WILL remember who voted for this!

Block grants are a horrible idea! And equally allocating these to states is even worse given differences in state population demographics! Premium increases will hit almost all of us, and only the very well off with extra income can contribute to health savings accounts. How hard-hearted and mean are you all? Why continually give breaks to the well-off and not the general population? Are you so out of touch with how the average person on an average income lives?

Wake up and start to work on a bipartisan basis to STABILIZE health insurance.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my father is currently battling a rare blood cancer and will undergo a bone marrow transplant next month. I am concerned that this preexisting condition will affect the future care he will inevitably need. I am also concerned that caps on insurance will be reinstated, leaving him virtually without insurance when he may need it most. Please do not pass this bill, which will hurt so many of us.

Tammy Rex

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

This was supposed to be a government for the people. Taking away healthcare will cause people to die. Show us you care and vote no on this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the GCH proposal

Hello,

Thank you for taking in comments regarding the proposed healthcare bill. I have many concerns about it. I'm sure you will receive many comments, so I wanted to address the issue of defunding Planned Parenthood. Federal dollars do not go to providing abortions, which appears to be the major issue that many conservatives have with Planned Parenthood. What Planned Parenthood does is provide health care and contraceptives to millions of Americans, including myself. They provide service to anyone, regardless of gender, religion, orientation or ability to pay.

For many, many years, I was struggling as a full-time student balancing multiple part-time jobs, since many employers are cutting hours to avoid giving benefits. As such, I had both little income and no health care prior to Obamacare. Many years later, I'm happily married to a husband who works at a place which does offer benefits, but I still go to Planned Parenthood because they provide excellent care to all. When I was flat broke--one of the millions of working poor Americans--Planned Parenthood still offered me health care and the birth control pill I requested. They were the only doctor I could afford, and they open their doors to all. I waited in the clinic alongside new mothers who wanted follow-up care for themselves and their child. I sat next to pregnant women who wanted to learn about prenatal care. I sat next to women like me, who wanted birth control because they did not want children. I sat next to men looking for an STD test. Others looking for a health exam. I remember the numerous times I sat reading a book in the waiting room, while young teens quietly crept in and took advantage of the supply of free condoms. Many people, including millions of families with young children, utilize Planned Parenthood for their excellent and low-cost health care.

Planned Parenthood serves rural areas, which are often in need of any medical service. Defunding Planned Parenthood is a serious disservice to Americans across the country. For that reason alone, I ask that you do not consider the GCH proposal. Of course, defunding Planned Parenthood is just one issue of many with this bill. It burdens pregnant women with higher health care costs, it removes protections for the disabled, and it saddles millions of Americans with the cost of 'pre-existing conditions.'

Numerous countries, like Canada, Switzerland and Denmark, all enjoy the benefits of universal health care. Millions of Americans are so indebted due to medical bills they go bankrupt. Impoverished parents of children with cancer have to debate treatment, medicine of food, because of the astronomical cost of health care. If the goal is to "Make America Great Again," universal health care should be on the table. If nothing else, please take the GCH proposal off the table.

Thank you for your time,
Rahima Schwenkbeck, Ph.D.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy bill

Gentlepersons and honorable Senators,

The Graham Cassidy bill cannot be allowed to become law. Please make sure you understand its consequences. It is not a bill that is good for the American people and that is whose interests you are elected to represent. It is not well thought out.

The bill is not what the Republican party has promised since 2010, as it does not repeal the ACA and replace it with a plan that is cheaper, better, fairer and more comprehensive.

Millions will lose coverage.

And Republicans will lose in the 2018 elections.

This bill is not fit for a hearing!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I do not support this proposed bill. It is a craven and hypocritical political move that will take away care from those who need it most. As a Catholic and ethical and moral person, it violates everything I stand for and believe. I find it amazing that in a country as great as ours that we have not been able to find a way to provide guaranteed health care for all our citizens. It's immoral. I am absolutely happy to spend my tax dollars keeping those less fortunate than I am healthy and alive. I am so disappointed that Sen. Cassidy from Louisiana--a very poor state whose citizens benefit from the ACA-- would want to sell his constituents down the river to win political points. But I guess that's what we've come to in this sad day and age.

Please do not vote for this bill.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Stop trying to destroy healthcare. Graham-Cassidy is dangerous. We need hearings and return to regular order. ACA can be improved. I'm scared. I can't sleep. My husband is sick and I cannot even afford the medications. I will not be able to afford insurance. Please stop this. We deserve better. Where is the CBO analysis?

Jaye Clinefelter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC

Please work toward strengthening the ACA. The GC Repeal would be a disaster for so many Americans. Preexisting coverage, if available, will be unaffordable for most of us. Voting for this without a CBO score would be simply irrational and irresponsible. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO

This bill is being pushed through too quickly. I am one of those that has insurance through the marketplace and still can't afford to get sick! VOTE NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I have had epilepsy for 15 years, and my son is autistic. This places our family at a disadvantage, even though we have great employer-provided healthcare.

My son receives PA Medical Assistance through the loophole (Medicaid). Because of this, he has been able to receive therapy at the John Merck Autism Clinic in Pittsburgh, as part of UPMC. Even though we have the Assistance, wait times to see his psychiatrist reach up to 6 months. I can't imagine what it would be without that safety net, and I don't want to, especially since he has been in a time of crisis in the last month.

Families like ours are lucky. We can afford our own safety net, but having a child who needs to experiment with different therapies, benefits from special education services in school, we see how those benefits affect his friends as well. Not everyone is so fortunate. His school could lose funding.

Not only that, but I as his mother have a chronic illness and am at risk of being discriminated against by insurance companies. I will take prescription medication for the rest of my life. If all of our family's money is going toward our healthcare, how will that affect my husband and daughter?

What plans are in plans for children with autism, adults with lifelong disabilities, and how will children with Medicaid be taken care of?

Melinda Wedde

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE vote against Graham-Cassidy

To whomever it may concern,

PLEASE PLEASE vote against this travesty. Enacting this plan and killing the ACA will be devastating for my family. So many people I know rely not only on ObamaCare, but also upon the rules it has created that allow us coverage. Please, please do not enact Graham-Cassidy. Thank you

Vince Napoleon
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee :

Please do not support this bill. This bill will raise my premiums as a person with pre-existing conditions. This bill will make it impossible for me to access mental health treatment that currently keeps me alive and non-suicidal. This bill will make it impossible for me to do so even when I am working as a full-time therapist to access physical and mental health care due to the raising of premiums that are allowed in this bill. I am one of those who benefited from the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act and is alive as a result of the mental health treatment that I have received. Please don't kill me and others like me.

Sincerely,
Karen Streeter

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

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

SHAME on GOP Senators for trying to pass such harmful legislation and blatantly LYING about what it covers. You all deserve to lose your next elections!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment about my healthcare situation and pre existing clause and new health care ideas to save money

I am in my early 40s have had multiple surgeries and many set backs in life due to a chronic illness that I have never had a remission from but will not kill me either going back to 9 medical drops in college. I have done my best to get educated and have a career I have never had anything else. I know I cost a lot of money and I know healthcare will get worse and worse for me. I am coming to a point in life that I cannot work anymore and really don't see much point in being around to be sick and broke/homeless. I realize things will get worse and I just ask that as you make your cuts have mercy on people like me. Allow us to have access to assisted suicide for those who would rather that then stop working and suffer more due to loss of healthcare on top of it. It can't cost that much and would save a lot of money would be cheaper than any other gov. Programs. There comes a point when quality of life isn't there anymore and if I can no longer work I would choose this choice. Please consider making that an option for those of us who would chose it. You could have us prescreened for depression or competency. As far as I am concerned when I can no longer work and support myself there isn't anything to look forward to and if I will suffer without healthcare that is a much kinder option. Please consider it should be a choice/option for competent adults like myself that have poor quality of life with no options to get better. Age only makes it worse.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Senators,

I'm an RN who has worked for 20 years in the ICUs and ERs of inner city hospitals. I've seen first hand the tragedy of accidents, death and serious illness. Even worse, many of these could have been prevented with proper healthcare. The ACA gave me hope that I would see less "emergencies" because people could afford a doctor before they became seriously ill.

And more personally, I lost my employer subsidized healthcare when I was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and subsequent life threatening auto immune disorder. I would be dead without ACA.

Please vote no on this terrible bill. It will cause so much harm including bankruptcy, death, permanent disability. This bill is opposed by every major healthcare and medical association in the country.

We can and should do better.

Thank you,
Samantha Sinclair RN, BS, CCRN

Namaste,
Samantha Yoshime Sinclair 🙏

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I vote NO to this proposal

This proposal will be harmful in many ways to folks with disabilities, several of the clients that I work with here in Wisconsin. It will negatively impact the lives, health, and independence of all people with disabilities. I vote NO!

Molly Linn-Miller
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it eliminates coverage for pre-existing conditions, the block grants distribution model does not address cost discrepancies for healthcare throughout the United States, and it will eliminate the mandate for all Americans to have health insurance, thus destabilizing the single payer insurance market.

Healthcare is an enormous and vital issue for the U.S. A bi-partisan committee must be formed to address our health deliver system and the costs incurred by Americans to have access to the healthcare that we should be able to provide to all.

Thank you for your consideration of taking the time to fully explore this issue in a bi-partisan manner.

Pamela Costanzi

Pamela Costanzi

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Correspondence (Duckworth)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Testimony

Graham-Cassidy Hearing
Monday, September 25, 2017

Dear Honorable Senators,

My name is Kara Kapp. I am a woman. A 33-year-old woman. I am also a constituent. Your constituent.

As I understand this bill, it would permit states to allow insurers to discriminate against those with **pre-existing conditions**. As we know, pre-existing conditions have been defined in the past to include such conditions as, among others, having been **raped** or **sexually assaulted**, or having had a **c-section**. Even being diagnosed with and treated for **postpartum depression** could place a woman a risk of being discriminated against. These conditions all have one thing in common--they disproportionately (if not exclusively) impact **women**. Simply put, this is nothing more and nothing less than blatant **gender discrimination**. And as a woman, a 33-year-old woman who has many friends and loved ones who have experienced at least one of the above conditions--though I have not yet experienced any myself--I am outraged. Outraged.

There is nothing kind-hearted or freedom-loving about allowing states the freedom to **make women less free**.

This leads me to wonder--how many of the Honorable Senators who will read this believe that they arrived on this Earth by a stork delivery service? Statistically speaking, roughly 30% of you who so proudly claim that states should be free to **permit insurers to discriminate wholesale against women** arrived on this Earth by the miracle of a c-section. Yet you would proudly vote to let your own mothers be discriminated against in the name of "states rights". How is that fair or honorable?

And before I get off my soap box, I will pose just one more question that I ask that every Senator voting on this bill try to answer in good conscience before casting their votes: if this Amendment becomes law of the land and states can make being a sexual assault or rape victim, or even one who suffers from postpartum depression, the law of the land, how many more victims will choose to **suffer in silence** out of a fear of otherwise risking higher insurance costs? How many more **rapists will never be caught** because their victims **fear being taxed by insurers for reporting these heinous crimes**? If you can answer these questions in good conscience, then you know what you must do. You must vote against this immoral bill that **perverts** the sacred and honorable notion of **freedom** as a cloak for **permitting discrimination**. There is no honor in that.

I thank you for considering my testimony. I plead that you vote against this immoral bill.

Warmly,
Kara Kapp

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Graham/Cassidy health plan!

Kill the Graham/Cassidy health plan!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

How can you justify disrupting 1/6 of the economy to give tax cuts to your rich donors? Aren't you suppose to represent the interest of the constituents of your state?

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Committee:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While I do not pretend to understand the nuances of block grant restructuring, I do know that this bill will cause millions of people to lose the healthcare they are able to obtain under the ACA. This is obviously unacceptable.

I strongly believe that any healthcare bill worthy of passage must protect those with preexisting conditions. The imposition of benefit caps must be prevented. And essential health benefits which must be covered include preventative care, women's health including maternity care and contraception, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that something so vital to the needs of all Americans as health insurance should be negotiated in a bipartisan manner through the regular order of Congress. The attempt to shove this bill through in a short timeframe using the reconciliation process is not government for the people.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is publicly opposed by nearly every medical professional organization, many medical charitable organizations, the AARP, and the governors of all 50 states. It is also publicly opposed by the insurance industry. In short, nearly every possible stakeholder in this situation thinks this is a terrible proposal. This bill must be stopped.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Good evening.

I would like to provide my comments relating to the Graham-Cassidy health care legislation.

Currently, I am fortunate enough to have health benefits through my employer. However, I am concerned for my fellow Americans who do not have this privilege. As Americans, we pledge allegiance to our flag which represents liberty and justice for all. If Graham-Cassidy passes, the 115th Congress will deny financial liberty and healthcare justice to Americans who are priced out of care because of a pre existing condition.

Do the right thing here. This bill doesn't work, you know it.

Thank you for your time.

Alli Bosquet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please do not move this bill forward. To vote on and pass something that affects the lives of millions and hasn't even been scored by the CBO is reckless and not how government should work. GOP has had plenty of time and chances to repeal Obamacare. Don't rush this through now out of desperation.

Best Regards,
Crystal Kovach

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please don't let the bill pass or go to a vote! It will deny millions of people coverage.

Richard M. Frank
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy, do not repeal ACA

Hi,

Please do not repeal the ACA, which millions of Americans rely on for affordable health care and patient protections such as protection against lifetime caps and denial due to pre-existing conditions. The Graham-Cassidy bill would deprive 32 million Americans of access to affordable healthcare, and endanger my health and the health of my family. Even health insurance companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield are against this horrific bill. Americans are literally begging for our lives. Please work to strengthen the ACA; please do NOT enact *any legislation* that would deprive any person of access to affordable healthcare.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because having a health population is critical to keeping America strong and well-functioning.

John Wesner

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I would like to state clearly that I do not support the passage of this wreckless and evil bill borne out of partisan politics and greed. Take of your constituents. All of them!!

Juliet Mancino

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy Heller DeathCare Bill

This bill is a death sentence for millions! PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!
We are NOT political pawns. We are living, breathing, and dying human beings!!

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate for several key reasons, including the following:

It will impact 1/6 of the US economy, yet it is being precipitously voted on, without true hearings, without debate or expert testimony, without any bipartisan good-faith efforts, without even being scored by the CBO, and in spite of the clear and unwavering opposition of key stakeholders and most Americans.

It will destabilize insurance markets and cause premiums to skyrocket, pricing many people out of insurance and again forcing them to face medical bankruptcy or to go without care. It is clear that up to 32 million people will lose their health insurance, with catastrophic consequences.

There is no real protection for those who have pre-existing conditions regarding coverage or affordable coverage, nor is there real protection for those who have insurance that their premiums won't dramatically increase if they become ill. Those with complex and chronic illnesses also face the terrifying likelihood of rapidly reaching lifetime caps, leaving them again unable to afford care, which will likely cost many their lives.

Block grants to the states means that states will have to either cut services or impose new taxes to continue to provide services. My state, PA, currently faces a \$3 billion deficit. How is that gap going to be bridged? The answer is that it's not, and services and care will be cut.

My husband is an emergency physician at a Catholic hospital. Legally, he is obligated to treat everyone who comes in the door, and this is ethically correct. But it is an unfunded mandate, and Medicaid is critical to his hospital's financial viability. The Medicaid expansion has meant that there is far less uncompensated care. This is vital not only for his hospital but for academic centers like Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia or Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where I worked as a nurse for nearly 10 years. And rural hospitals, which are often the economic lifeblood of their communities, are also dependent on Medicaid to stay financially viable. The suggestion that people can "just go the emergency department" is nonsensical - it means that care will go uncompensated, and if the hospital closes, there will be no emergency department to go to. And what will happen to those communities if those hospital related jobs are gone?

I'd like to remind Senator Toomey in particular of the case of Sarah Murnaghan, a child with cystic fibrosis who needed a lung transplant and was near death, but who was too young to be eligible for an adult transplant list. Senator Toomey championed Sarah's cause. Sarah received not one but two transplants because the first one failed. Her life was saved, but she still has multiple chronic illnesses, not only cystic fibrosis but also diabetes. She will need costly ongoing medical care for the rest of her life. It is unimaginable that she and her family will not face devastating medical expenses - and unthinkable choices - if this bill passes, whether through loss of Medicaid funds, lifetime caps, shortfalls in state funding, and so on. And so I ask - what is the point of saving her life if it cannot be sustained? What of all the other Sarahs across our state who rely on affordable health insurance, who rely on subsidies to pay for that insurance, who rely on Medicaid for special needs services at school so they can not just live but thrive and reach their potential?

This bill will not do anything that Republicans promised health care reform would do - expand coverage, make coverage affordable, protect pre-existing conditions and so on. It is unconscionable to pass legislation that will impact everyone in this country in a way that is irresponsible and rushed - for what ends other than partisan politics? Millions of lives hang in the balance, and millions now fear receiving a veritable death sentence if this bill passes.

The Affordable Care Act needs to be improved, not repealed. The solution lies in good-faith bipartisan efforts, as was happening in recent weeks before the work of Senators Alexander and Murray was abruptly terminated. Congress needs to work in a bipartisan, thoughtful, and open way to achieve reform that maintains coverage and does not threaten the federal commitment to Medicaid nor sabotage the ACA exchanges, as threats to cut off the cost-sharing subsidies has done.

This a matter of life and death. It is immoral to act on such matters without regard for the enormous human consequences.

Rosalind Holtzman



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not enact Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate:

The Graham Cassidy bill destroys Medicaid, eliminates protections for pre-existing conditions, allows unaffordable premiums for people between 50 and 64, and permits states to eliminate coverage for women's health. This bill is a disaster and should be rejected.

Kelly Kleiman

[REDACTED]g
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]er

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill impact

I worked hard all my adult life and recently retired. My COBRA insurance from my last position will end on December 31, 2017. At that point, I will need to get insurance through the ACA or whatever is available at that time. I have had breast cancer and am currently taking medication daily. My insurance pays for most of this drug but the total cost is about \$300/month. I know that many people are on medications that cost much more than this amount. If I have to pay a much higher premium because I have a pre-existing condition and if I have to choose a plan with lesser benefits in order to afford the monthly premium, I don't know how I will be able to pay for it without using up my retirement savings. We need to make healthcare and pharmaceuticals affordable by taking all the exorbitant profits out of these industries. Please consider the citizens of this country who need healthcare - which is almost everyone. AND IT COULD BE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE who needs healthcare and doesn't have insurance provided by their employer.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

To The Committee:

I am a U.S. citizen and a resident of the District of Columbia. I have no right to elect Senators or Representatives. Therefore I must speak directly to the Committee and you must serve to represent my interests. I am your constituent until and unless D.C. obtains the right to elect our own Congressional representatives.

I oppose this legislation because it fails the Jimmy Kimmel test. Improve the Affordable Care Act instead of taking health care access away from millions of people. Do your job.

Thank you.

Barbara Geffen
Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Varney [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My family depends on the protections of the Affordable Care Act. My husband was diagnosed with cancer in 2014. He was able to get treatment that would have been out of reach prior to ACA. It's saved his life.

My daughter was born with several chronic health conditions. Until you have a sick child you cannot possibly understand how stressful it is to find care without affordable insurance and essential benefits. The Affordable Care Act has allowed her to receive medical care that she can not live without.

If you vote for Graham-Cassidy you will be responsible for her death. There are millions of others just like her that depend on access to affordable medical care.

Do not vote for this monstrosity of a bill. Work on a bipartisan plan to improve ACA. That's what America wants and needs.

Michele Varney
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill

Chairman Hatch, Senator Wyden, and members of the committee,

I'm writing you with regards to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. Like everyone, I am getting old.

I was born female, which already predisposes me to healthcare discrimination based on my gender. I never had any children, though, so I spared everyone the costs of pregnancy and childbirth. Now I am going through menopause, and I'm dealing with the endless hot flashes successfully with herbal products I buy with my own money from the health food store.

Long before this menopause happened, I had an elective hysterectomy for fibroids (my ovaries were left intact), which gratefully was paid for by my health insurance. The elective surgery meant I didn't leave blood clots all over the office where I worked and didn't make every public restroom I visited resemble a murder scene. Quality of life is important, even for those of us who don't fly around in private jets. My elective surgery is probably considered a pre-existing condition even though the problem can't possibly ever return.

I once suffered from depression, saw a psychiatrist and got some medication which helped. I think the depression was caused by trying to live on a low-fat diet. Once I stopped doing that, I felt just fine, but now I have high cholesterol. I refuse to go on medication. I can see now the whole situation is a complete and total scam. The pharmaceutical industry guarantees you'll be on either cholesterol meds or depression meds. Maybe both. Who wants to do that when being on meds can make you ineligible for health insurance in the future? Best to look for non-medical solutions, which is why I'm taking truckloads of niacin every day.

This is not how life should be in the richest nation on earth, you know. I eat my vegetables and skinless chicken breast, I walk several miles a day, I can squat with a 200lb barbell on my back. I do what I can to remain healthy and strong, but it will never be enough. You don't know when someone texting and driving will run you over while taking a walk. Eventually I will be very old and might find myself having hiked to the top of some mountain suffering from a heart problem like a lot of old men I know. You really can't exercise and eat right to get out of this stuff. I know because I observe these old guys as they age and die and have been observing this phenomenon of healthy people who eat right and exercise dying for 2 decades now. Everybody gets old, sick and dies, even the healthy and super active. We all will need some kind of really expensive health care eventually and not all of us have massive amounts of money saved up. I work at a university doing web programming. It doesn't pay a heck of a lot. There's only so much money I can save up, and believe me when I say I have far more money saved than the vast majority of Americans. It's still not enough. I need to know there will be medicare waiting for me when I get there.

Senators, please reject this bill. Its passage and implementation will cause irreparable hardship to people worse off than me. Eventually it will cause irreparable hardship even to me. It's cruel and bad policy and it is coming about without the regular order. It's being shoved through simply to score political points.

Please restore the regular order of Congress. Please reject this bill and instead, return to the bipartisan discussion that had been happening to stabilize the insurance market under the ACA. If you want to call this stabilization bill a repeal and replace to earn points with your constituents, do it. Most of them don't pay much attention to these details. What really matters is that people don't die because of bad policy.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I strongly oppose this bill which seeks yet again to limit the healthcare available to the Americans who need it most. What the states would get here is not enough. Block this bill!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

This bill is horrendous and is a literal death sentence for millions of people, including children! DO NOT DO THIS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!!

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO TO Repeal +Replacement of Obamacare

Please DO NOT TAKE AWAY OBAMACARE. TOO MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE. Fix Obamacare.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

How dare anyone work to destroy health care for even on person, let alone millions. If the system you propose is so good you should not be exempted from it. The fact that the GOP will not work in a bi-partisan manner to fix the ACA problems shows how little they care about those who voted for them.

Do not allow this farce to continue. Do not destroy but instead fix, what we have today. If there is even a chance one state will take away pre-existing conditions the bill must be defeated.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments re Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is a disaster, I strongly oppose it.

This bill is yet another product of a seriously deranged process that, if passed, will literally kill people. Where is the bipartisan process that is necessary to create a viable outcome? Like its predecessors, the intent here is to inflict terrible policy by any means possible.

Millions will lose coverage, here in Maine our rural health care system will be decimated. Many policies Republicans treated as make-or-break in the last ACA repeal bill are nowhere to be found in this one. This isn't about creating good legislation, protecting Americans, or even getting govt out of health care. It's ONLY about "scoring a win", repealing the landmark legislation of Pres. Obama because Republicans hate him. There is no money for the opioid crisis, no protection of essential benefits, and nothing to lower costs of the systems. The individual mandate is important, if it's not in place, two populations don't get coverage: the young and the people too well-off for medicaid, but too broke to buy insurance. The young subsidize the rest of the population, so we want them in there. The rest, well, they get sick, they go to emergency rooms, and rack up costs that result in high costs for everyone else. So we're all paying no matter what.

You all have not listened to a single expert on this issue. Pull up your britches and get to work on a bipartisan fix. If you don't, single payer will be right around the corner.

Emily Lesher, Maine

--

Emily Lesher

tumor. The ongoing partisan battle to strip her of her healthcare is slowly killing her. She shouldn't be thinking of calling her senator or member of congress while receiving chemotherapy. She should be focusing on battling cancer and yet, once again, she has to fight a party that is determined to repeal a bill they spent 7 years lying about.

The American people have spoken and they are demanding bipartisan solutions to fix the problems that exist in the ACA. Let us put an end to the never-ending partisan feuding and allow senators like senator Murray and Alexander to continue their bipartisan efforts to stabilize the ACA. The Affordable Care Act does have its flaws but it is not collapsing and insurers are not deserting the markets. In fact, Politico recently wrote in article about the last bare county having gained an insurer. Please, as someone that personally benefited from the Affordable Care Act, I implore you to do what's right for the American people and not your donors or for political gain.

"Our system doesn't depend on our nobility. It accounts for our imperfections, and gives an order to our individual strivings that has helped make ours the most powerful and prosperous society on earth. It is our responsibility to preserve that, even when it requires us to do something less satisfying than 'winning...Let's trust each other. Let's return to regular order. We've been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle." Let us return to regular order.

Thank you

Pegah Asgari
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing 10/25/2017

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Pegah Asgari and I am a cancer survivor. When I was 24 years old, my mother noticed a lump protruding from the side of my throat, however, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) had not yet passed therefore I was not insured under my mothers insurance in order to have it checked. I couldn't afford to pay out of pocket for a doctors visit, ultrasound, and all of the labs I knew I was sure to require in order to diagnose the problem. It wasn't until the following year that the ACA became law and I was able to get insured under my mothers health insurance. I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and scheduled for an emergency thyroidectomy immediately after. My oncologist later told me that if I had waited any longer the cancer was likely to have spread to my esophagus. As it was, it had already spread to both sides of my thyroid and thus requiring a full removal of both nodules. As a result of the ACA, I was able to receive all the necessary surgery, radiation treatment, and medicine to treat my cancer.

A few years later, I moved to Washington DC for graduate school and was worried about no longer being covered by my mothers health insurance. As a result of my full thyroidectomy I need to take thyroid medication everyday for the rest of my life or I can become comatose. I was able to find out that I was eligible for Medicaid from a Medicaid outreach coordinator. During my time in graduate school I was able to have an abnormal lump in my breast checked free of charge. Furthermore, I was able to continue regular visits with an endocrinologist all due to my Medicaid coverage. I now work full-time at a federal law enforcement agency in Washington DC and have employer based coverage. I was once someone that relied on government subsidized healthcare and am now someone who would happily pay taxes in order to ensure my fellow American never loses coverage. The Affordable Care act also ensured that I would never be denied health care coverage or out priced due to my pre-existing condition.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill is devastating for American's all throughout the country with horrendous cuts to programs like medicaid that saved my life. Redistributing funds from states that voted Democratically and had worked hard to lower their uninsured rights to Republican states that either worked to sabotage the ACA in their state or declined medicaid expansion is appalling. Cutting deals in order to bribe Senators for their votes as well as writing provisions in the bill that would steer extra federal funding to states because you are a co-sponsor is corrupt and immoral. People's lives are stake. My aunt is currently covered by Medicaid and is undergoing treatment for breast cancer as well as a brain

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposing Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Hello,

I am a nurse who works with pediatric patients who have urology problems. Michigan has no pediatric urologists in the upper northern lower peninsula or upper peninsula. For people with no insurance or who are underinsured, it is expensive for them to bring their children to see us. But following up with us is what is needed to ensure their kidneys are healthy and so that we can intervene should they have decreasing kidney function. I have seen a huge change in parents being able to keep their appointments since the Medicaid expansion and ACA have been instituted. The Graham-Cassidy will create a tragedy for our patients. This week we had a patient who was lost to follow up for 2 years. We will now have to remove his kidney due to this lack of follow up. This kind of thing will sky rocket without Medicaid and adequate insurance for my patients.

I am also very worried about my daughter who is in school getting a degree in occupational therapy. If she is not able to get insurance through the exchange, she will have to decrease her hours in school to work more to afford crappy catastrophic insurance. Then if she has any significant illness, she will have to drop out of school or declare bankruptcy And we know that 60 % of people who declare bankruptcy do so due to health care issues

Please demand a CBO score of the bill before allowing a Senate vote. This bill is a lemon.

Best regards,
Sue Hadden RN

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal & Replace of ACA

My grandson Rowan was born with gastroschisis-a severe case. He was not expected to live, although a pediatric surgeon who had performed the surgery to put intestines back in the abdominal cavity often, did Rowan's surgery. He ended up with 22% of his upper intestine being salvageable. Twenty percent and under is certain death. He lost his ileocecal valve between the upper and lower intestine. He was in the NICU for 10 months, with a feeding tube and central line in his groin. He had an embolus develop there which has continued to require monitoring. Bacterial overgrowth seized his body from the lack of the ileocecal valve and he was put on extremely high doses of strong antibiotics through intravenous lines. He was not progressing. All the while bills piled up one upon another. His father had coverage on him, but the coinsurance left nearly \$1.5 million for his parents. They paid what they could, but it was in the back of everyone's mind.

My daughter was a barracuda when it came to his care. She left her job to stay with Rowan in the NICU 24/7. There was no choice. Both sides of grandparents were not able to stay with him. Sarah began searching for specialists for him. She learned that Boston Children's Hospital and Cincinnati Children's Hospital had the best programs in the country and she was determined to get him there. Sadly, their insurance company stated they would not pay for care out of state. She appealed. Finally after one denial after another a representative from Cincinnati Children's Hospital asked her if she'd applied for Medicaid. She had not, thinking that she and her husband made too much money. The woman explained that under the ACA Rowan would be and should have been from birth. She got all the documentation she needed, and finally got the cooperation from her local hospital (who never once told her about this). They approved him retroactively and lo and behold his primary insurance approved out of state care after 10 denials.

Thanks to the ACA, Rowan was transferred to Cincinnati via ambulance and underwent additional surgery and treatments for another 4 months until he was discharged. He still had a g-tube, and requires to this day frequent visits to CCH and occasional inpatient care at the local hospital where he lives. He has special meds that often need to be made/mixed by the pharmacy and he requires special drinks that are heavy in protein since he lives with short gut syndrome.

Thanks to the ACA, my grandson is alive. His care by now has reached the multimillions. His parents and Rowan will never have to worry about lifetime caps, pre-existing conditions or lack of care. When the ACA was tried to be repealed by the GOP senators the last time, Sarah and I, connected via phone, watched the vote. I heard her quiet sobs with every yea vote. Then Senator McCain walked up and said Nay! Sarah and I both broke out in tears.

The ACA saves lives! Yes it has some things that need fixing but do it! Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater! Cassidy-Graham is not the answer. There are lifetime caps (which Rowan would have met the first ten months of his life). There is NO protection for affordable insurance for pre-existing conditions. Individual states will have different plans, exemptions, etc. There are provider associations like the AHA, AMA, who said they can't support this because it violates their vow as doctors to "First, do no harm," the American Academy of Physicians, the Nursing Professional Association are just a few who have spoken against this. Patient Advocacy and Informational associations have issued a joint statement against this too. Groups like the venerable American Heart Association, the American Lung Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the March of Dimes, and the ALS Association are just a few who have said the plan is terrible. Even AARP has put it's formidable voice to fight it, as have many Republican governors have banded together to say it was not something they would support. Finally, the insurance companies have all come out by stating the chaos it would cause, as well as the higher rates they'd charge for administering 50 different plans.

I am begging that Rowan's story is added to the Record to help speak for children like him, our next generation, to STOP this attempt to repeal and replace atrocity in a bully pulpit atmosphere. Because that's what it will be: it will cause the death of millions.

Mrs. Mary Powers
5409 Heritage Lane

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Every medical organization, and even Blue across Blue Shield, say Graham-Cassidy is worse the last iteration. It makes no sense to force this without scoring or suitable hearings. Kicking responsibility down to the states for insuring pre-existing conditions does not mean they will be covered, it is dodging blame for when states cannot afford healthcare costs thrust upon them. The red states will be the hardest hit.

It will be worse for the GOP if the bill passes than if it doesn't, because the Republicans will own it.

Why not give the bipartisan bill an honest chance? If something develops that both parties have ownership in, then the odds of healthcare being the political football it is now are minimized.

Passing ultimate financial responsibility to the states for healthcare, then not fully funding the states' needs is murder, pure and simple.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill comment

Importance: High

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to you to express my deep concern over the future of affordable access to healthcare and my opposition to the latest so-called "repeal and replace": the Graham Cassidy bill for which you are holding a hearing on Monday.

The present system, which varies significantly from state to state depending on the particular state's actions, is not perfect, but it would be a lie to deny that it has resulted in a very large reduction in the numbers of people without health insurance.

Unfortunately, leadership in both the House and now the Senate have chosen to take an entirely partisan approach to the ACA's problems. Excluding all Democrats from any discussions; skipping committee hearings; and, now, trying to get a vote on a bill that not even most of the Republican senators have seen much less had time to consider (or discuss with their constituents) is the antithesis of "regular order." It can barely be called "democratic."

It is quite clear that the leadership is intent on "repealing ObamaCare" whatever the cost to our healthcare system and the millions of Americans dependent upon it. What is completely unclear is what new framework will replace it – and when. From the statements from leadership and President Trump, it seems as though it doesn't matter. Just gotta get that "repeal."

I have two family reasons why this is more than a policy or political question.

First, the living: My daughter is 27. Five years ago, while she was in college, she began to have inexplicable intermittent bouts of severe arthritis pain in different joints (hip, elbow, ankle). She also began to have severe abdominal pain and bloody stools. These resulted in repeated emergency room trips and, eventually, a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis, an autoimmune disease that frequently begins in women in their late teens and early 20s. It is permanent, chronic and, if ineffectively treated, debilitating and possibly fatal.

She was treated with oral medications. They failed to arrest the disease. Within a year, she was admitted to hospital with hemoglobin level less than half normal. She was literally "bleeding out" in slow motion. Following four days in the hospital and multiple transfusions, she was released. Thereafter, she was placed on a different medical regime: Remicade (infliximab). Every eight weeks, she goes to an infusion center (it cannot be taken orally). Since then, she has been essentially symptom free. Truly a miracle drug.

The catches are these: if she is as little as a week late, her symptoms return full force. If there is too long a break in treatment, the medication becomes permanently ineffective. Finally, the "street price" (i.e. the bill to be paid if no insurance applies) is \$25,000 per infusion (\$150,000 per year, every year).

Fortunately, when her symptoms first began, she was still on our employer-based health insurance. Once she graduated from college, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, she remained on our insurance. Last year, however, she turned 26 and no longer qualified as an insured under our policy. Fortunately again for the ACA, she was able to purchase her own insurance (which could not deny, or overcharge, her because of her pre-existing condition). Like many in her generation, she is supporting herself through the "gig" economy – employer-provided health insurance is unavailable to her. (As an aside, I have long wondered why employers would want to cost and legal risks associated with having anything to do with providing medical insurance to employees.)

If the ACA is repealed (or sabotaged by President Trump), how will she be able to afford this medication?

Second, the deceased: My eldest son died 5 years ago at age 48 from lung cancer. He was self-employed but had purchased health insurance. The cost was significant, especially on his budget, but he paid it. When he became ill, however, it soon became apparent that this health insurance was more of a mirage than a reality. There was only one oncologist in the entire San Francisco Bay Area that accepted his insurance. The insurance only paid 30% of lab tests and hospitalization expenses were covered. The chemotherapy was not covered at all. Instead, the policy provided a one-time \$10,000 “benefit.” The “street price” of the chemotherapy was closer to \$20,000 a treatment. As a result, when he died, my son left behind \$150,000 in unpaid medical bills. The insurance for which had paid a substantial monthly premium ended up covering approximately 10% of his treatment.

I take several lessons from my family’s experience. **First**, access to affordable healthcare is not a luxury; for many, it is a life-or-death necessity. **Second**, not all health insurance policies are the same. Without minimum coverage requirements, many people will end up with expensive policies that do not provide the coverage they need. Most people are entirely unsophisticated by health insurance and are subject to victimization by an unscrupulous insurance carrier (or agent) if there are no clear minimum coverage requirements. **Third**, if insurers can charge extreme premiums based on a person’s pre-existing conditions, the result will be – again – many people effectively denied access to meaningful healthcare. **Fourth**, if provided with affordable access to healthcare, many individuals who would otherwise be unable to work and be productive members of the society (as well as their families who care for them) are able to live independent lives, hold jobs, pay taxes and be a boon to, rather than a drain on, the society. **Fifth**, when people don’t have reasonable quality health insurance, they will end up obtaining care through the most inefficient means (e.g. emergency rooms) with the hospitals left with unpaid bills. Those hospitals then increase charges for services to others to ameliorate those losses. This drives up health care costs for all..

The Graham Cassidy bill will dramatically and substantially reduce the number of people with health insurance (likely by many millions). It won’t just be today’s “temporarily” healthy young; it will also be millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions who still be priced out of the market but will still have ongoing medical needs. They will get sicker and ultimately rely on emergency room services the costs of which will be passed on to all by means of higher prices. ***Graham Cassidy is, in reality, a uniquely American form of socialism.***

I read the news out of Washington with real fear for my daughter’s future. If the ACA is repealed (or defunded, which will effectively mean the same thing) without an alternative in place, the insurance market will collapse at least temporarily. Will she be able to buy insurance to cover her ongoing treatment? Will the insurance she can afford be similar to the insurance that my son had – which will likely mean no or insignificant coverage for her medication? Will insurers be free to deny a policy because of her pre-existing condition? Or exclude treatment for that condition from coverage?

My daughter is not responsible for her illness. With this treatment, she lives an otherwise normal and healthy life, is not disabled, and can be a contributing member of our society. Without it, she will, at best, be severely disabled, unable to work, and dependent on others.

Multiple my daughter’s situation by millions and you have the reality that confronts the American electorate.

As I said at the beginning, the ACA is far from perfect. If Congress and the President want to change to another system more in line with their policy objectives and ideological values, I don’t really care so long as the real, on-the-ground, result is that people like my daughter will be able to afford, not just “access,” the health care they need to survive. Talking points and alternative facts mean nothing. Only the actual ability to afford this essential medication (in my daughter’s case) matters. It will be on those real facts that the actions of Congress, and individual Representatives and Senators, should, and will, be judged.

If all of the current Republican-only proposals fail, then – maybe – there will be an opening for Senators and Representatives of goodwill to set aside ideology and take what is good and effective in the ACA, fix the parts that aren’t working, and get us to a stable and secure means of providing affordable healthcare to all Americans.

One point that seems to have been lost in the debate, or at least the Republican approach, is that health insurance only works (and can be affordable) when the healthy buy it as well as the sick. Yes, the healthy and the young do fund affordable healthcare for sick and the old! Why that should bother anyone but the selfish surprises me. However, even self-interest should lead the young and healthy to want health insurance. How many people are healthy today and then sick or injured tomorrow? My daughter and son are both examples – as are, for example, the thousands

injured in motor vehicle accidents each year. None of us know what tomorrow will bring. Insurance provides all of us some protection from those uncertainties.

I hope you will take seriously the substance of my letter. Vote NO on all of the Graham Cassidy bill and force serious, good faith, bipartisan negotiations to improve our existing imperfect-but-much-better-than-before medical insurance system.

Sincerely,

James Parton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

1. 18-22 million Americans would lose healthcare.
2. Americans with pre-existing conditions will suffer disproportionately.
3. It punishes states that expanded healthcare under the ACA.
4. It will do nothing to control costs.
5. You are too impatient to wait for the CBO analysis. What's the rush? Either revise the ACA or take the time to get healthcare right. Republicans have relentlessly tried to repeal the ACA or gut its best provisions rather than do what's best for the American people. You should be ashamed.

Ana Kean

Anastasia Kean

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

You are hurting the poor, the elderly, children, babies, those with pre-existing conditions. Is your goal only to keep the healthiest people alive? Help pharma? By cutting out prenatal care most women will not be able to afford to see aHCP during pregnancy. What about children with disabilities? Are you going to institutionalize them? What about the elderly? Our great country is turning into a cesspool and I'm afraid for my children and grandchild. Listen to the people! Why do you want to hurt the American people?

Gayle Higgins

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it is completely irresponsible to jam a bill remaking 1/6th of the American economy in a week with no hearings. Because slashing Medicaid, which protects our most vulnerable citizens, is a moral monstrosity. Because gutting women's reproductive care is unacceptable. Because our states are totally unprepared to remake their entire healthcare system. Because an Obamacare exchange plan was a great option that allowed me to start my own business. Please oppose this travesty of a bill, it will throw our nation into utter chaos.

Carise Mitch

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I have two developmentally disabled sons

My oldest child, who is 22, was diagnosed with autism at age three. He suffers from a moderate intellectual disability and functions cognitively at around six years old. My second child, who is 19, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at age 16 months. He underwent two surgeries and high dose chemotherapy, but thankfully survived. He suffers from a profound intellectual disability, is completely nonverbal and functions cognitively at about fifteen months.

Both of our sons are under conservatorships and require around the clock protective supervision to remain at home. Caring for them at home is exhausting, but my wife and I manage to do it with the help of in home supportive services provided through Medicaid. I have a full time job in Sacramento and a two hour commute every day to work. We live in California.

The block grants, per capita caps and funding changes proposed under the Graham Cassidy bill would drastically reduce federal Medicaid expenditures in California and are a grave threat to the well being of our family. I have difficulty wrapping my head around the cruelty of this bill and it's proponents..

Before this year, I've never called my Congressman before. Since this Congress began proposing Medicaid block grants, I've called my Congressman almost every workday these bills have been pending to oppose these changes.

My family and my children matter, as much or more than the Koch Brothers and other conservative donors who fund your campaigns and are threatening to withhold donations unless you pass this bill. Please vote against the Graham Cassidy bill when it comes up for a vote next week.

Thank you,

Harry Simon
El Dorado Hills, California

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I have no idea how you sleep at night

I've served as a locally elected official. I understand, albeit at a low level, making hard choices.

This choice you are contemplating isn't hard. Making health care coverage inaccessible for more Americans is clearly unethical and wrong.

I am sure many of you consider yourselves to be Christian. When I teach Sunday school, we hear Christ's words, as he heals the sick and cares for the poor.

I have no idea how you sleep at night.

Sincerely,

Jackie Sartoris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: thoughts from a health care provider

Dear Senate,

My name is Susan Fox and I am a Chinese Medicine Practitioner out of Chattanooga, Tennessee. I along with most major medical organizations including but not limited to the AMA, APA, APHA, NIRH, and FAH strongly disagree with the approval of the Graham Cassidy Bill. It seems broadly misogynistic in element and performs it's best effort to block women from receiving critical female health services. It weakens or eliminates protections for people living with pre-existing conditions thus reveling in high out of pocket prices. This serves only to prey on our most underserved and most vulnerable communities. The ratification of this bill will deny millions of people coverage. This bill is repugnant and a spit in the face to practitioners and those they treat.

I hope this letter does not seem too rancorous, but I live in fear for the future of my patients and their well-being if this bill is approved. Please remember, at the end of the day, when you are voting, these are not just numbers, these are real breathing, sometimes happy sometimes sad, hardworking breakable people.

We are relying on you to vote against the Graham Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

To The Senate Finance Committee:

Attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude and with such sweeping and disastrous changes without a full Congressional Budget Office analysis is an outrage.

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families. Mitch McConnell is trying to hide the true measure of harm from the American people. The Committee needs to step up and stop these maneuvers.

Please stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. For Congress to radically restructure one sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham-Cassidy cannot be passed into law without a full and thorough CBO analysis. The Leader may think he can hide the truth for now, but the impact of this law will be revealed. And the American people will not accept this charade.

Yours truly,
P. Tolson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is not a health care bill, it guarantees that many innocents will suffer and die unnecessarily. Merely look at the multitude of agencies and health care associations, insurance companies, all 50 Medicaid Directors, that are against it. Wait for the CBO score. The American People deserve better.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject this reckless bill

The American people deserve better than this last-minute slapdash cynical slopjob of a bill. Lives are at stake. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy, PLEASE

To The Senate Finance Committee:

Attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude and with such sweeping and disastrous changes without a full Congressional Budget Office analysis is an outrage.

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families like my own. I am a new mom and both me and my daughter will lose our health insurance under these changes.

Mitch McConnell is trying to hide the true measure of harm from the American people. The Committee needs to step up and stop these maneuvers.

Please stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. For Congress to radically restructure one sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham-Cassidy cannot be passed into law without a full and thorough CBO analysis. The Leader may think he can hide the truth for now, but the impact of this law will be revealed. And the American people will not accept this charade.

Yours truly,
Kate Marks

--
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Im extremely disappointed in Congress (even more than ever before). I've gone through the bill. Please tell me how much my family premiums will go up under this bill. I'm a Type 1 Diabetic (30 yrs with no complications) with Celiacs disease, Hashimotos Thyroid disease, and asthma. My oldest child has autism and scoliosis. My guess is somewhere around \$15,000 a year for a family of four (4). I do have employer insurance. What happens if the job is lost or the company changes providers? Correct answer is my family is SCREWED. I will be unable to get insurance for myself. At this time, I can't even get employer life term insurance because of my auto-immune issues.

Your bill doesn't ensure my ability to get cobra or other insurance. It gives the rights to the states to make those decisions. Let's be clear, the federal government is reactive, not proactive. The federal government only steps in when states won't do the right thing. And you think allowing them to decide protections, while stripping them of income for services, will actually benefit it's constituents.

This bill basically strips those protections. By stripping the ACA of its power, you are damming me & my family to a destitute life.

If you are really concerned with controlling costs, you could end the ban on Medicare being able to negotiate costs with pharmaceutical companies. My insulin costs have gone through the roof. There are no generics or advancements in it's production. Why has the price risen so much (now at \$275 per vile with 2 viles per month)? The reason is there is no one to stop them from robbing people of an absolutely life preserving medicine.

With the harm this bill causes (I'm just a small fish in this pond), you need to question yourself on why you support this bill. You need to drop your support if this awful partisan bill. You need to shore up the ACA and it's protections. Honestly, people don't care if that's what you do and give it a new name. Approximately 33million constituents (just on federal exchanges) will lose insurance. You need to work for all the people of America and do what's right for them.

Sincerely
Traci Lind

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: please do not pass this bill

NO ONE thinks this is a good plan, even the GOP (see what they're offering to AK). Please see the list of all the groups opposed, real experts.

[REDACTED]

Please! This is 1/6 of the economy and the literal difference between life and death for some people. Fix ACA. That's what majority of people also want.

Thank you.

JLS
CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal GC!!!

Please repeal Graham-Cassidy. A dear friend of mine had breast cancer. The only thing that saved her life (it wasn't caught until stage four) was Obamacare. God forbid her cancer comes back. She won't be able to stop the spread of it because she will not qualify for "Trumpcare" with her pre-existing condition. Please don't allow this to go through.

Leann Donovan
Lawndale, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a health care provider, mother and American I implore you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Eliminating expanded Medicaid will be devastating to our most vulnerable Americans, including children and the disabled. This bill diminishes protections for pre existing conditions and essential health benefits which is one of the biggest wins for the American people in recent years. The Graham-Cassidy bill is no better than previous iterations and voting on it before the CBO score is absolutely irresponsible and unacceptable. The American people deserve much better. We expect and demand careful thought and intelligent debate when it comes to one-sixth of our economy and the health of our nation. We can and should do far better than the real and devastating consequences that this bill offers.

Respectfully,

Meghan Herger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Graham Cassidy bill

Hello,

I'm writing to express my most sincere disapproval of the Graham Cassidy bill, and the way in which supporters are irresponsibly attempting to push it into law.

Without a full analysis by the CBO, a sound analysis on the implications that this bill will have on the American people can not be determined. And we are talking about American's lives and wellbeing.

The actions of the sponsors and supporters of this bill make me feel like no one in government cares about the citizens of our nation, and would rather see some of us die just to say they were able to dismantle a program created by someone from the opposite party.

I beg of you: do not allow this bill to be passed without a full analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. Please do the right thing. Please work with each other, not against each other.

Please don't kill us.

Thank you,

Katelyn Zaleski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please keep the ACA

To whom it may concern,

My husband is successfully self employed. Before the ACA we spent \$1800 on our monthly premium to cover our family of four, and the coverage was awful. Now we pay \$1100 for a very good plan. We do not get subsidies. The ACA has enabled us to have funds available to do more for our children and others. It would be very difficult financially to go back to huge premiums.

And I realize that all things considered we are the fortunate ones. Please keep the ACA in place.

Thank you
Marie Antonelli

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

We need to have a bill that ensures more coverage to all Americans at a stable cost. Please consider all the Americans who have pre-existing conditions!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators,

The idea that I will not be able to afford healthcare because of pre-existing conditions is frightening. All of my conditions are easily managed with prescription medications, but I must have annual doctor visits and some basic lab tests done every year. What's your plan for keeping my premiums, deductibles, and prescriptions affordable? Graham-Cassidy puts millions of Americans like me at risk.

You are all intelligent people, and we have entrusted you with immense amounts of power over our lives. Please be thoughtful and find a real solution to healthcare in our nation. Graham-Cassidy isn't it. You can do better than this.

We're watching and we vote.

Thank you,
Mary Wilkinson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Upstate New York

My family, a teacher with two children, has done wonderfully well under the ACA. Please do not repeal it. The Graham Cassidy bill is a horror show for families like mine.

Thank you for paying attention to real people, not big business.

Leslie Daniels
Ithaca, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill is deadly, foolish, and expensive. I am vehemently opposed to it. And I'm not the only one.

If I were a senator, I'd vote NO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO! No! No!

This attempt to again repeal the AFFORDABLE CARE Act is a travesty.
Do not allow this despicable bill to be passed. Enough is enough.

GINA BARNETT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PLAY THE PART - Master Body Signals to Connect and Communicate for Business Success.
McGraw Hill Publishers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am one of the millions of Americans who need the ACA in order to stay healthy. DO NOT vote for this dangerous bill that will cause millions of Americans to needlessly die or get sick.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

DO NOT KILL ME, I AM BEGGING YOU TO NOT PASS THIS BUTCHERING BILL.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Gentlemen:

I am writing to tell you my sister's story, she is a real person, and a real citizen of this County.

She is a sixty year old woman living with Multiple Sclerosis, diabetes, and was born deaf. She was given a bad hand right from the beginning. She lives on \$600.00 a month S.S.I. She goes to food banks for her food, she relies on help from church groups and other groups that help the needy and disabled.

Her medication alone between the M. S. Injections she has to take and the diabetes medication would cost her more than she could even think to afford. The only way she gets her medication is through medicaid. Please consider her and so many others that were born with conditions beyond their control (pre-existing conditions) that have suffered so much with illness or illnesses that most of us never have to face. If this bill goes through, so many, many real people will face having to become very, very ill or even die because they are not able to afford their medications.

Thank you for hearing my sister's story. I appreciate your consideration for her and so many others like her.

Sincerely,

Robin Hyde

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The American Medical Association opposes Graham-Cassidy because it violates, "first, do no harm." Please do not pass this legislation, which will harm the American people. It is cynical and cruel to your constituents and burdensome to the states. Try to find your humanity and do the right thing.

Kate Butler

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Republicans have collectively decided that they have no credibility with the American people. This legislation has not been vetted and is denounced by every healthcare organization in the Country. You have given yourself the power of God to decide who lives and dies. This is a moment when our Country has reached another defining point in our history. Greed is all that drives Republicans to take healthcare away from millions of Americans simply to justify the largest single tax cut for the wealthiest in our society. This is not only shameful and indecent but borders on murder. Stop this act of evil and reckless governing while you still have a chance.

Sent from my iPhone

health insurance picks up less and less of the tab. But my daughter didn't create this problem, so I continue to ask why people with disabilities—including children with the most complex disabilities--frail older adults and the poorest of the poor families in our country are now being expected to pay the price, while big insurance and drug companies continue business as usual. Is that really who we are as a country? We can do



better.

Last year, my then 23-year-old daughter Cara moved into her own apartment. She had 3 part-time jobs plus a small jewelry business, so earned enough to cover her rent, utilities and groceries. A typical rite of passage, right? Except Cara was born with a rare deletion on her 2nd chromosome. Since the age of 6 months, she has been supported by Medicaid programs that maximized her development and independence. She, and her family, benefitted from Birth to 3, school-based therapies, autism in-home supports, children's long term supports, and now adult long-term care that pays for a job coach, some transportation and support in her home.

Cara moved to her new apartment with her heart operating at less than 20% capacity. She was experiencing extreme anxiety. Her developmental delays identify her as needing "a nursing home level of care." Yet the innovation, creativity and high-quality supports our family has found through Wisconsin's long-term care waivers achieved what I still consider a minor miracle: she has her own place; she is learning new skills all the time to be more independent; she is involved in multiple community activities and volunteers; she has less than 5 hours a week of in-home supports; she's a TAX PAYER.

Because I understand Wisconsin's Medicaid programs and how our state has innovated around long-term care, I don't buy the sales pitch that is Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson. States don't need more flexibility: Wisconsin has already proved that. Wisconsin has built a homegrown long-term care system of managed care that has ended most wait lists, cut hundreds of millions of dollars, and kept administrative costs at 2%. We have the largest self-directed long-term care programs in the country that routinely underspends (because individuals using the programs are making the decisions about their care) by close to 14%; and we are now about to end our wait lists for children's long-term supports, which covers more children per capita than almost any other state.

We as a family benefit from Wisconsin's innovation every day. We can fully self-direct Cara's supports to give her exactly the right amount at the right time. Cara and I hire all her workers: we are not at the mercy of corporations that assign strangers to come to her home. She uses some hours some weeks, and skips on others when her needs are less. She and her roommate use an overnight monitoring system to eliminate the need for third shift caregiving. She uses some of her budget to pay friends to provide rides instead of depending solely on costly paratransit (\$35/ride in our town).

I don't buy that GCHJ is doing anything to "reform" health care in our country. It's not addressing the real cost drivers of health care: ungodly 18-20% admin costs and unregulated, skyrocketing prescription drugs. I don't buy that it will address coverage shortages in some parts of our state, or that it will improve the direct care worker shortage. I don't see it ending wait lists for necessary supports or improving low-cost preventive care to avoid the huge costs of treating acute conditions that easily could have been remedied.

I know GCHJ isn't fixing any of the real problems in our Medicaid programs, because its architects didn't bother to talk with ANYONE who actually uses the programs. Again and again in Wisconsin, the disability community asked to talk directly to our Senator, Ron Johnson, about our very specific ideas to reform Medicaid and slow its rising costs. We got a cold shoulder. Across the country, people with disabilities and their families have tried to do the same, with the same response.

You see, more than any Congressional member with a political DESIRE to control costs, we in the disability community have a NEED to do so. Our kids' lives and futures depend on a robust, efficient, high-quality Medicaid program. So let's get serious about reform that actually improves people's lives. Let's sit down like we have done in Wisconsin and talk with people who use the programs about what works, what doesn't, and what the smartest fixes can be.

I get that health insurance costs are out of control. I see it every time I go to the doctor myself and my PRIVATE

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My comments

Dear Senators,

There are several things about this bill, that cuts to the heart of who we are as a community. We care about each other, or at least that should be our loftier goal.

If someone has a pre-existing condition, caused by an illness or an injury, should they suffer without insurance for their entire life. My son has ADHD, not from any fault of his own, just simply an ailment of his existence, With medication he is an A student, a few years ahead in Math and doing well. But if our insurance did not pay for his medicine at a reduced rate, we would be paying \$600 or more per month for his medication.

My husband also has a pre-existing condition with his blood pressure. He takes medicine, watches his weight, listens to his doctor and is doing well. But if we could no longer afford our insurance, or his medication, our major breadwinner of our family would be at risk.

We also own a small business and we have been able to buy insurance for our family through the exchanges. Our business will hopefully grow, but if we can no longer afford insurance, I am not sure what risk we could be at, but the consequences could be dire.

I am not sure why you are taking this action. It is clear from the sayings from your own mouths, you are helping your donors and not your constituents. I ask that you concentrate on your job, to serve the people that put you in office, to look out for their needs, to make their lives better. Our founding fathers would ask that you serve the country and not the wealthy donors.

Tracy Lieberman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:

Sent:

To:

[REDACTED]
Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57 PM

gchcomments

The graham cassidy bill will take tens of millions off their healthcare plan. This isn't ok.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017.docx

To whom it may concern:

Please find attached herewith my testimony, for consideration in the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on September 25, 2017.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lynsey Griswold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My perspective

Distinguished Law Makers;

I am preparing for my 7th abdominal surgery which is scheduled for October 2nd. I have had a chronic illness for 27 years and over those years been to the doctors and hospitals hundreds of times. I take expensive medication and need expensive medical supplies to function. Twice, I almost died.

In spite of these challenges, I have earned Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, married the love of my life, become a Stepmother and built a reputable career as a social worker and educator. Today, I am alive and reasonably well because I have had acces to health care and good heath insurance. I am thankful for all I have and I have the drive to keep moving forward. I do not want to be defined by my illness and I do not want to be denied treatment because I may lose my health care due to my pre-existing conditions.

Health care is a human right. The Graham Cassidy bill would infringe upon my rights if it is passed. Do the right thing...add to and improve the ACA. Repealing and replacing is not an option, lives depend on it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Support Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a cancer survivor who has had health related issues over the last two years, I simply cannot support any bill that allows insurance companies to deny or increase premiums of the many like me who have pre-existing conditions... All 50 Medicaid Directors have denounced this as a bad bill that puts our seniors at great risk as well. I am asking that you do the same.

Sincerely,

Brian Russell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [TypeApp](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP Graham-Cassidy now

I am very concerned about the new ACA repeal Republicans are unconscionably trying to force on Americans. It would be a death sentence for millions of Americans for the sole purpose of appeasing corporations.

Every major medical group and a bipartisan coalition of governors have come out saying this is a terrible and hurtful bill/amendment. It is simply not in the best interests of the American people. It is deeply concerning that Republicans are willing to sacrifice their constituents' lives simply to say they repealed a law that helps so many Americans.

It is essential that this bill/amendment be prevented from ever passing the Senate. Our lives and our country depend on it.

Rebecca Rindler
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

There should be no vote on this bill until the CBO scores it. There should be regular order and public hearings. All Medicare directors of 50 states oppose this bill. The political BS needs to stop NOW!

This is not about HC, this is about tax cuts to the rich and throwing away our most vulnerable, seniors, children with disabilities, mentally ill, addicts. This is disgraceful for this once great country of ours.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the Cassidy-Graham Bill

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my concern over the Cassidy-Graham ACA repeal bill. Americans have made it clear that we do not want the ACA to be repealed. If passed, the Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact on people, especially those of us with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. Please don't bring this terrible and cruel bill to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for your time,

Shannon Taing
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on graham Cassidy bill

We need to move forward on health care, not backward.

Sent from Andrea's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Subject: reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Subject: reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

Please, I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee has been considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Charles Accardi
Topanga, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the ACA and make Medicare for All

To whom it may concern:

I am a Rhode Island resident and I support the Affordable Care Act. I oppose current Republican attempts to repeal it. We need to protect the healthcare of millions of people.

I also think that we should adopt a Medicare for All system--a single-payer system with universal coverage (I support the bill Senator Bernie Sanders put forward). Healthcare is a human right, and in the richest country in the world, we have the resources to take care of everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Matthew Osborn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Homer (10/17)
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is a bad bill and should be promptly defeated

Dear Senators,

If we cannot have a proper, efficient single-payer health care assurance system in the United States then please, please support and improve the Affordable Care Act. Graham Cassidy is a travesty that will harm many citizens. Evidence is everywhere you look that hobbling or killing the ACA will leave many people uninsured. The poorest citizens will suffer the most. Give all citizens the coverage you members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have. Anything less is basically unfair.

Yours sincerely,
Homer Stavelly
Northfield, Massachusetts

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HC ACT Proposal

This Cassidy-Graham proposal is potentially disasterous in so many ways. It actually violates the physician's first principle of doing no harm which is why so maany physicians and medical associations have come out against it. It undermines the social constructs that underlie our child welfare system, e.g., supporting the health and welfare of ALL of America's children and the families who raise them. It is the undoing of the futures of so many who were just shored up be Medicaid expansion andd is a fiscally reckless solution to a "problem" that is more political than social/medical. Services to citizens in Medicaid expansion states will collapse under the weight of block grants that are not sufficient to cover expenses. These are predictable and preventable consequences of politically-motivated ill-advised maneuvers to fix something that isn't broken - and wreak fiscal havoc to boot.

Additionally, physical and behavioral health parity is hard enought to guarantee even though it is law - cutting mental health and substance use treatment in the midst of an opioid epidemic in just lunacy. Please help the Senate to move away from this damaging legislation - for the sake of the people of the US. Thank you. MKD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Ventimiglia <Karen.Ventimiglia@seniorcare.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:07 PM
To: gchcomments

My comment on the new health care legislation is as followed.

This bill will harm myself and my husband who both have pre existing illnesses and 5 yrs away from Medicare.
Im fearful that we are going to be priced out of the insurance market and lose our coverage.

Please listen to people, this is a bad bill,

Karen Ventimiglia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Hello.

I live in Madison, Wisconsin. I am writing to voice my opposition to the current health care proposal, proposed by Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Ron Johnson. I'm ashamed of Senator Johnson.

I have a beautiful daughter. She will be 29 years old on Christmas Day 2017. This health care proposal would be devastating for her. I rely on these funds to provide for her care.

I also have friends who are self-employed. One (my cousin) could have died without the ACA. She had breast cancer and with the ACA, her radiation treatments were covered. Granted, the ACA isn't perfect. My cousin's premiums are high. Personally, I support the proposal offered up by Senator Bernie Sanders, but that's beside the point. The point is, I urge you to reject this unpopular and devastating health care proposal.

Thank you for listening.

Helen Hartman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 62705

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am sending this email to urge you to vote NO to the Graham Cassidy Bill. This bill strips US citizens of the protections offered to them by Affordable Care Act. These protections include:

1. Not allowing insurance companies to impose lifetime maximums on coverage
2. Not allowing insurance companies to deny coverage to sick persons (including indirect denial via the ability to charge higher premiums to those who may have an illness)
3. Not requiring insurance companies to spend a high percentage of premiums on health care rather than on other insurance company determined items
4. Not requiring everyone to have insurance which will result in everyone having to share the high cost of providing health care to the millions who will go back to being uninsured (either by choice or because they will not be able to afford it)
5. Not requiring insurance companies to cover truly "essential" health benefits, those defined in the Affordable Care Act

In addition, having 50 different ways to manage health care will be inefficient and will ultimately result in higher costs, confusion, and chaos for states, individuals, and insurance companies.

I do not see any benefit offered to the ordinary US citizen by this bill. I urge you to vote no.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

PS – I work for a major health care insurance company.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Under the affordable care act there is a cap on what insurance companies can charge policy holders. Why is there no cap on this bill and how does that benefit Americans.

Jo Ann Baldwin
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Senators-

Allowing states to decide whether their citizens get protected from health insurance companies who want to charge the sickest people higher premiums and to substantially reduce the number of people covered by a Medicaid is very bad policy and will cause millions of people to opt out or lose their health insurance. Taxpayers will then end up paying for huge hospital costs from uninsured patients, and at a much higher cost than having insurance. Vote no on this bill or you may face a single payer system in the future. Thank you. Evan Gladstone

Evan Gladstone

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT repeal and replace ACA

The proposed bill is inadequate. DO NOT vote yes. VOTE NO ON LINDSEY GRAHAME'S PROPOSED BILL.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Healthcare Debacle

Dear Republicans in Congress,

I see this final attempt at Repeal and Replace as total Congressional disconnect from We the People of this late, great nation.

Why do I say late great nation? Because we once stood for something ethical and wonderful. Even if we did not always measure up, we strove to be good people, to do what was right.

My Norwegian grandmother used to say, You know what is right. Now do it. We did know what was right back then. When we didn't do it, we didn't brag or rationalize. We learned from our mistakes and tried to do better next time.

I think you have lost sight of what is right. Your bravado certainly indicates this Truth. You value money over people. You value power over compassion. You value self-preservation beyond any ideal.

I am sorry I allowed this to happen. That I wasn't more verbal, more involved. I am sorry I sat back and believed in the process. Because the process failed us all. And you as our worker bees, have failed all of us.

I don't have insurance at age 64. I can't afford it, despite being white and middle class and a good-hearted, highly educated Midwestern mother and grandmother. Unlike you, this doesn't mean I think others shouldn't have what I don't have or need in the moment.

I agree with Jimmy Kimmel and disagree 200% with the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Tell the Koch brothers that comes from a Kansas native.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment
Attachments: Hair.jpg; IMG_0195.jpg; IMG-0074.JPG

When I was 25, I was finishing my graduate program at the University of Missouri and preparing to enter the Peace Corps. I had student insurance, but it would end upon graduation, and I would have about 9 months without coverage before my Peace Corps service began. I didn't give it much thought; I was young, healthy, didn't go to the doctor much. My parents foresaw the gap in coverage and told me about a new law that would allow me to stay on their coverage until I turned 26. I said, sure, sign me up. Didn't really matter to me, but why not? So I joined their plan.

The pain started in April 2011, about a month before graduation. I wrapped my knee, iced it, and took a break from running for a while so it would heal. After graduation I was planning on taking a temporary job in rural Montana, to pay the bills until my Peace Corps service started. I was still having pain, and not wanting to end up in the middle of nowhere Montana with a torn ligament, I scheduled an MRI. I will never forget the MRI techs telling me, "You'll be glad you came in." I was sure I had torn something. I was on my parents' insurance at the time.

I will never forget the phone call, when the doctor said, "Ms. Schultz, it appears you have a tumor."

The tumor was osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer usually found in children and adolescents. I endured 5 surgeries, including a total knee replacement, and 9 rounds of chemotherapy (each involving 3 doses of chemo, so 27 doses all together) over the course of a year. Most of my treatment was inpatient, though I also received at-home physical therapy and IV services. Just one of my post-chemo injections cost thousands of dollars. Because I had taken that insurance, most of my treatment was covered, and my parents avoided bankruptcy. I would not have qualified for charity care. I don't know how we would have afforded my lifesaving treatment had I chosen to forego coverage because I was 25 and thought I was healthy. I think about it every day.

After treatment, I had to find a job that offered insurance fast, because mine was about to end, the exchanges hadn't rolled out yet, and MO (where I was living and being treated) was not an expansion state. This brought me to WV. My mom, who lives in Rivesville, in Marion County, knew someone who was hiring, and I figured I could live with her while I got back on my feet. Turns out, it was a miserable job. But luckily, after a couple years, I saw a job posting for an enrollment assisting position at a local health center. I had always appreciated the ACA for what it had done for me, and boy could I speak to the importance of getting covered. For 3 Open Enrollments, I helped my community members enroll in quality, affordable coverage. These folks trusted me, year after year, to help them find a plan that was economical but met their needs. As a former teacher, I was able to explain the ins and outs of the insurance market in terms they could understand. I, myself, as a contracted worker, depended on the WV Marketplace to purchase my insurance. My exchange plan covered all of the scans, lab work, prescriptions, and mental health services I needed for my cancer follow up care. I was able to afford my own care, despite being a cancer survivor. I loved this job, and would have been happy to stay there for years and years.

But. But things changed in November 2016. My access to the health care I depended on to stay alive, as well as my job (funded through the ACA), became uncertain. I predicted sabotage, if not full repeal of the ACA. So I

left. First, I left my job, for another with employer-based coverage. But then I realized that my own members of Congress weren't going to stand up and protect my access to health care. They actually took steps to destroy a law that saved my life. So then I left the state of WV all together. I left my job, I left my family, and I left some dear friends because I was afraid for my future. And I feel terrible every day for leaving, but I feel so much safer in New York, where I know my members of Congress at least recognize the importance and value of health care.

I still rely heavily on my insurance to cover my follow up care. I require lab work every 6 months, a yearly CT scan, five prescription medications, mental health services for anxiety, depression, ad PTSD, a knee MRI and EKG every couple of years. I have chronic kidney disease and hearing loss as a result of my chemotherapy, both of which require monitoring. To pay for this, I work full time in the public health sector. I am also a public health graduate student, so that I can make a better living doing something I love- standing up for our health care consumers.

I cannot afford to pay more for my medical care than I already do. It will break me. I work hard so I can afford my care, and I don't deserve to be discriminated against because of a random gene mutation 6 years ago. What if my cancer comes back? I'll meet my lifetime cap in a matter of months, meaning I'll face financial ruin on top of death. I've already changed my life because of this health care landscape. I can't bear to take more losses from this. Please stand up for West Virginians, New Yorkers, and all Americans. Graham-Cassidy is unacceptable. We need to protect the gains we've made. We cannot go back.

Mina Schultz

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the bill

Please be sure you have each read the bill in full and read the letters and comments from our nations reputable medical organizations. If your motivation to vote yes is because you want a political win or to satisfy big donors. God help us. I am against Graham Cassidy and consider it risky. Fix the ACA if you care about people. You will pay 2018/2020 elections. I am a registered R and am so disgusted by this president and congress I will be working for Dems next election cycle. You are hurting people don't you get it?
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a life long American citizen. I have lived all over this country and I've traveled abroad and I have too many healthcare stories to share in an email with people who probably won't read it so I will try to stay on point. I am a woman and in this country my gender has been treated as a pre existing condition and an excuse to discriminate and price gouge for far too long. The ACA finally addressed this issue, made it illegal to charge women more just for being female and increased access to routine screenings that save both money and lives. Graham Cassidy wants to roll back this progress because insurance companies don't like the way it affects their profit margins and because the GOP still treats women like they're not really people who deserve equal coverage.

The ACA finally offered free and low cost birth control options so that women could have more control over the biggest biological and financial decision of their life, whether or not to become a mother. Graham Cassidy creates a loop hole that allows insurers to deny this coverage because again, they don't like how it affects their profit margins and Republicans don't like women having complete control over their reproduction or sexuality, this is discriminatory. Does the bill cover unnecessary erection enhancement drugs like Viagra for men?

The ACA finally started moving us toward comprehensive maternity and post delivery care. Graham Cassidy would roll that back. Why? Because insurance companies don't like the way it affects their profit margins and because the GOP still treats women like they're not really people who deserve equal coverage. Because "family values" are just lip service to the GOP.

When I was pregnant for the first time, I woke up one morning in my 22nd week cramping, in a puddle of my own blood. When I arrived at the hospital the first question I was asked was not "how can we help you?" or "why are you covered in blood?" it was "do you have insurance?". American citizens are seen as cash cows and profits to be made, not patients because we have a medical industry in this country instead of health care services.

My placenta came off, I almost bled to death and my baby died. I know that other babies have survived at 22 weeks, perhaps my son would have if I had rich people's insurance.

When I was pregnant with my second son, my husband started a new job and his insurance was not yet active, because somehow we've convinced ourselves as a nation that it's ok for employers to control when and how much coverage other humans should have. One day 5 months into an otherwise perfect pregnancy, my appendix started to rupture. When I went to the ER in excruciating pain the first question was again not "how can we help you?" or "what seems to be the problem?" it was "do you have insurance?" After they ignored my detailed description of my symptoms which I knew were appendicitis because I had taken anatomy classes, they tested me for kidney stones even though I answered no to every symptom related question and the test was negative. They then decided to send me home with some non helpful pain pills when I was 5 months pregnant, had a sudden high fever, stabbing pains and couldn't keep water down. I couldn't sleep and in the middle of the night I called my midwife, told her that it was getting worse and that my baby and I were going to die. She picked me up, took me back to the ER and insisted that she speak to a surgeon. Again, they asked me about my insurance first, even though I had been there that afternoon. My midwife saved our lives that night but I wasn't out of the woods yet. Two months later my son was born prematurely and had to spend a month and a half in the NICU. I had to watch my tiny baby lay in a plastic box with tubes and monitors stuck all over him, hoping

that he didn't get sick and that his organs had formed well enough. When Jimmy Kimmel told his story about what happened with his baby I knew exactly how he felt and who he was talking about. I was finally able to bring him home after almost 2 months and he had to remain hooked up to a heart monitor while he slept for another month just in case his heart faltered. I lived in non stop anxiety that my baby would fall asleep and never wake up. Do you know what that's like? During this time I started to receive bills, the heart monitor alone was \$600 for one month. One of the bills was \$88,000. It all added up to over \$100 k and I still had bills from my appendectomy. I had to declare bankruptcy that I have not fully recovered from financially. I knew other people who had been in the NICU with us who had to do the same, one lost their home. One of the babies next to my son had to have heart surgery just like Jimmy Kimmel's son. The mother worked for Costco, and she was lucky enough to have their insurance so while I and other parents were facing financial ruin in exchange for our babies' lives, she was ok . I am happy for her, but if she had lost her job right before her baby was born she would be in the same boat as me, it's that arbitrary and I find that completely unacceptable.

As citizens we pay taxes and we deserve to have those taxes allocated in a way that serves us as individuals and as a society. It is in our best interest as a country to strive to promote and maintain health. We would save money if our citizens are able to take care of themselves and their families instead of waiting for things to become an emergency. We increase productivity when our workers can prevent and treat injuries and health issues. We serve no one by withholding care and punishing our citizens with bankruptcy. We all suffer when people in our community struggle with substance abuse and cannot afford treatment.

Our taxes should be spent wisely in a way that increases health, productivity, public safety, education and prosperity. I want every person who voted for the unsolicited mega military increase to tell me why that is more important than healthcare ? Our own citizens are suffering from inability to access and afford healthcare and more will suffer and die if this bill passes. How is it in any way acceptable to condemn your own citizens to sickness and death which would otherwise be prevented by maintaining our current healthcare and continuing to improve it? We should all be working toward a Medicare for all system which would allow for bulk bargaining on pharmaceuticals, increased preventative treatments and stream lined patient care. At the very least we should implement drug re-importation from Canada. Our taxes paid for FDA research of these drugs and now they are available for a fraction of the cost in Canada because our government allows for the price gouging of its citizens, that is NOT what I call serving your country.

In conclusion there is nothing worth supporting in this current legislation. We should kill it and instead revive the bi partisan effort that was working on improvements to the ACA. It isn't enough but it's a start.

<http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/a12438782/cassidy-graham-bill-dangerous/>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/20/439277/coverage-losses-state-graham-cassidy-bill-repeal-aca/>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because people will end up not being covered for the medical care they need. The insurance industry will be thrown into disarray and there is no good reason not to work on the bi-partisan proposal already in the works. Shame on Lindsay Graham et al!....

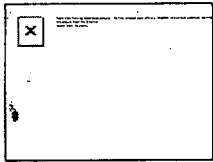
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid Issues

I know that you are considering changes to the AHA. I further know that the issues are complex, and difficult. As an adult with Autism, however, and sibling of two severely impacted brothers with autism, I have a personal plea for you to please make sure that-- whatever ends up being decided-- individuals with disabilities will have **increased** access to Medicaid under your new system. The AHA threw able-bodied adults onto the Medicaid roles, stretching an underfunded program even further. Please go back the other direction and ensure that those who CANNOT work (like my two brothers) will be able to get healthcare assistance. Block grants will not work unless Medicaid is limited to the people who need it most. Care is already too limited (no dental, etc), and any changes to Medicaid must make things better for individuals with disabilities, not worse.

Thank you,

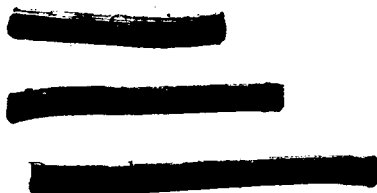


[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Before the ACA, my husband and I struggled to pay the doctor bills for our son. Many of our bills ended up with collection agencies and we often wondered if we would be better off without health insurance. Our insurance plan paid for very little of our medical expenses and if we didn't have to pay the outrageously high monthly premium, we might actually have enough money to start paying down our medical bills. After the ACA, our premiums went down and the insurance plan paid more of our medical bills thanks to the 10 essential health benefits requirement. We were still paying for the medical bills incurred pre-ACA, but at least the new medical bills were much more manageable. It would be horrible to have to go back to not being able to afford our medical bills, frequent phone calls from collection agencies and the possibility of bankruptcy due to our medical bills. If this bill passes, we will most certainly go back to that or worse.

Congress should spend its time and efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act instead of replacing it with unpopular and devastating health care bills. My family's health insurance through the ACA is much more affordable and has better coverage than my employer-provided insurance which is more than can be said for the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The signature area is redacted with three thick black horizontal bars.

cc: Senator Joe Donnelly (via email)

Senator Todd Young (via email)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Campbell, Katie (Donnelly); Light, Jaymi (Young)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

September 21, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Senate Finance Committee
[REDACTED]

Re: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill which must be opposed at all costs. This bill does nothing to improve American people's access to quality health care and will hit older, poor, sick and disabled people the hardest leaving millions uninsured. That would be a death sentence for many members of this vulnerable group of people.

Under this bill, states will be able to waive the requirement to cover essential health benefits which include preventative care, maternity care, newborn care, mental health treatment, laboratory services, pediatric services including oral and vision care, emergency services and prescription drugs, among other benefits. When I read that list, I can't help but wonder, what will be left for the insurance companies to cover?

The Graham-Cassidy bill would also remove the protections for people with pre-existing conditions. I am very concerned that if this bill passes, my son, who was born with congenital heart defects and scoliosis, may not be able to afford the kind of health insurance that will provide him with the health benefits he needs.

Republicans justify repealing the Affordable Care Act ("ACA") by blaming the ACA for high premiums, but that doesn't ring true to me. After the ACA, the premiums for my employer-provided insurance went down and the plans provided more benefits. Nonetheless, my children are currently on an insurance plan we purchased through the ACA Marketplace because the monthly premiums are even less expensive than my employer-provided insurance and the coverage is actually better. Still, the rates could be better if more insurance companies would participate and here in Indiana there were so many insurance companies that wanted to see the ACA fail they refused to participate. If high insurance premiums are the concern, then pass a bill that will make insurance premiums more affordable for everyone, not just the people who rarely use their insurance policies.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Medicaid Cuts-Have Disabled Brother Who Relies on it.

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to Medicaid because I am the sister and legal guardian of my 59 year old Brother, Bob Curran, who has Down syndrome & Alzheimer's Disease, and he is dependent on Medicaid. Don't pull the rug out from under him, us, me.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy Bill

I have a 33 year old son who has severe Cerebral Palsy. He's been effected since he was 3 weeks old. The impact of this young man has been good and bad on our family in so many ways. This is, without a doubt, the most difficult challenge we have ever had to face in our 40 years of marriage and my 64 years of life. Despite his many surgeries, therapies and thousands of days of excruciating pain he endures, he is the happiest and most positive person I have ever known. I'm amazed everyday how his existence brings out the very best in our community and world. When I see this squabbling over health costs and issues I am saddened by the lack of compassion and empathy for our most vulnerable population. My hope would be that no other family will have to go through what we have had to because our country's leadership does not care!!

His life will be over if this bill is passed. My husband and myself would never be able to begin to cover his expenses and daily needs. We both have full time jobs to help with his costs that are not covered by Medicaid.

We are very grateful for the funding and services he has received. Please don't let the birth of this bill be the death of my son.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

....
I'm an insulin dependent diabetic. Without the ACA and without its subsidies I would have no insurance. And without insurance I couldn't afford the nearly \$20k a year it takes to maintain my diabetes and keep me healthy. 12,000 of that nearly \$20,000 is for my insulin alone that's priced at \$335 a vial.

Removing subsidies has deadly consequences for me and millions of others. Without explicit protections for those of us with pre existing conditions you are in essence removing our ability to remain healthy.

Please stop this constant attempt to dismantle something that caused more good than harm. Yes it's not perfect but it's far better than what we had before. Use it as a basis to make more improvements that fix what's not working . Better yet, lets work with Bernie Sanders on Medicare for all so that we have a more equitable access to care for all regardless of income or economic status.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-Existing Conditions

Dear Elected Officials,

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to our family. I have the pre-existing conditions of lupus and kidney disease. We are an active duty military family with 5 children. Our children have a range of pre-existing conditions including cerebral palsy, autism, genetic disorders, hypogenesis of the corpus callosum, Chiari Malformation, visual impairments, auditory processing impairments, and a range of other challenges. They deserve to pursue the American dream like any other American child. The thought that my children will grow up to face discrimination in health care based on their conditions is reprehensible. My brother suffers from schizophrenia and experiences homelessness. We need to provide greater funding to our healthcare system not less. "Whatsoever is done to the least of these is done unto Me". It is our moral obligation to care for our sick and disabled. I am appalled at the continued efforts by our elected officials to repeal our healthcare and place families like mine in harms way. Each time such a bill is introduced I cannot sleep and pray that God changes the hearts of those leading our nation. Where is the compassion and empathy.

Please do not pass this bill that will harm our most vulnerable citizens. I beg you for my children's future and for the future of so many of our nation's children.

Disabled Air Force Veteran,

[REDACTED]

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

"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" ~Dr. Seuss

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it doesn't protect people with pre-existing conditions like me. I have kidney failure and worried sick that insurance companies will start charging unaffordable premiums to cover my care. I like the ACA, it protects me by forcing insurance companies to cover me at the same price as a healthy person. It also removed the threat of lifetime caps. Under this Republican bill the states could allow the insurance companies to bring them back. Is healthcare only for wealthy and healthy people? Are the rest of us supposed to just die? What kind of people are you? Everyone can get sick or hurt at some point in their lives. What if your grandchild gets a brain tumor and hits their lifetime cap at age 6? You must vote NO on this terrible bill. Fix the ACA!

Regards
Randi Anderson

Randi Anderson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because too many people will be in danger of losing coverage. I am vehemently opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal!

Christine Houghton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: info@pahealthaccess.org
Subject: Begging. Please help us.

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because while my husband and I have been employed for 45 years with medical insurance for our own family members, our siblings, parents, adult children and grandchildren circumstances have required Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA as it exists today.

Without these options for health care, our family would be destitute, we would have used our funds for our parent's care, my unemployed brother would have been denied care for a brain tumor, and my grandson may not have survived without the NICU.

Healthcare is breaking the financial back of every family I know. We cannot afford to retire because of the cost of healthcare and we have NO EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS. Our adult children work 40 to 60 hours a week to keep poor, yet expensive health insurance.

Their hard earned dollars do not go back into the economy, but to insurance premiums and medical bills.

This is no way for Americans to live. My heart is breaking for my family, and unlike most of you, we are helpless. All I have the power to do is call, write, vote and beg.

So, I am begging you, please do nothing to jeopardize the ACA, Medicaid or Medicare.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday Morning Blues

Took my kid with a broken hand from football to get an x-ray. There was a woman and her son waiting when we got there, waiting as we went for x-rays, waiting when we were checking out. She was angry and humiliated and had tears streaming down her face because her son needed a physical for school and she didn't have insurance. Wrong. Wrong. Wrong. That sweet boy who patiently waited while my kid sailed through. Wrong!!!!'

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Take the politics out of ACA & do what's right for the people. Improve ACA & be known for putting country before party.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because

....
My son has a rare genetic condition. My husband had to quit his job to stay home with him. Without Medicaid I don't know where we would be. My son has a myriad of health issues and has multiple procedures a year. His preexisting conditions started the day he was born. He would exceed any life time cap. I also have pre existing conditions as does my husband. Not as severe as our son but we worry about ourselves as well. Please do not let this detrimental bill go through.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

It is irresponsible to bring this legislation to a vote without giving the CBO a chance to score the legislation's cost and effects. Furthermore, the American public has the right to comment and give feedback in response to that score. Do not push this through for the sake of politics. It is cynical, dangerous and contributes to the toxic partisanship that is running rampant in Washington. History has its eyes on you.

Sincerely,
Hilary Widdifield
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham Cassidy abomination

To Whom It May Concern:

As the owner of a small business which cannot afford to provide group health benefits to my employees, a woman with a pre-existing condition and a mother of two sons with pre-existing conditions, I am appalled that the esteemed Mr. Graham and Mr. Cassidy see their bill as something that will impact me positively. I could spend a great deal of time regaling you with all of the reasons why this is a bad bill, but I will focus on the one that I think the Senate Finance Committee would be most interested in and that is that it has not been vetted properly.

The CBO does not have adequate time to analyze the financial ramifications of this bill and that is a deliberate move on the part of the authors of the bill as they see their window to avoid the 60 vote requirement shrinking. NO bill before either house of Congress should be rammed through without proper analysis, least of all one which impacts millions of constituents so dramatically. Please require that a bill of this import be properly analyzed for financial and fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Roni Sutton

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

a big fat NO on the crappy GOP bill

Chef Debbi Dubbs

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy Health Plan

This is a bad bill. It should not be rushed through without full disclosure, debate and the CBO analysis. Millions of people will lose their health insurance if you allow this bill to become law. States are already in financial distress; offering big corporations tax breaks to relocate, while cutting services to their citizens. Turning the full responsibility for healthcare over to the states will result in less efficiency, more variability in care and standards, and greater health disparities between rich and poor. If you want to fix or replace the Affordable Care Act, do it correctly and honestly. If you want to do the right thing for us, for the American people, vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Berenice Gerjuoy
West Hartford, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because
....

Cheryl DiBartolomeo

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Eric Linn-Miller
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL

Please please please do not repeal Obamacare without actually replacing it with something better. You know that your plan will result in less coverage. Yes you will save money but shouldn't there be a basic level of decency which we do not sink below. Shouldn't that level be that we don't let people die needlessly or suffer from illness when there are treatments. Can't we all agree on that? Republicans and Democrats.

Don't take away the healthcare from millions of people

Paul Lincoln
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: No healthcare repeal

Dear Senators,

A repeal of Obamacare without a proper replacement is no act of charity or pride; it will be remembered as one of the most serious blunders in modern American legislative history.

The Graham-Cassidy is far worse than our current system. I'll be brief because I'm sure a million people can say better and more eloquently what I have to say: please do not repeal Obamacare in favor of the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you for your consideration and your attention.

Sincerely,

Bobby O'Rourke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal

Shelly Jimenez
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regarding the Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
September 25, 2017

To all elected officials,

My father (among many others) are in desperate need of being considered when repealing the Affordable Care Act. We need to put aside party lines and recognize the humanity involved. You see, my father is in the advanced stages of Parkinson's Disease and we can no longer care for him at home ourselves. Keeping our heads above water financially without the Medicare benefits he currently has would force our family to and many other families to make unimaginable choices. Please do not make us choose between feeding and sheltering our family to give him the 24 hour care he now requires. He as well as every member of my family have paid taxes that support our current system. Making changes to the ACA makes more sense than repealing and offering the American people less choice and benefit. Keeping healthcare available to the people is of the utmost importance. Human life should be a higher priority than a wall that doesn't offer the security promised by our current president. We all need you to consider the outcome.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Morality

For a party who claims the moral high ground, the Republicans sure are willing to throw the less fortunate under a bus. The Affordable Health Care Act is a huge step in the right direction and should be improved upon... not scrapped. Who are they working for with this effort to repeal and leave so many without coverage options? The math doesn't add up unless it's about corporate campaign donors who do not represent the majority of Americans. Citizens united has corrupted our government so badly that it seems to have forgotten who government is supposed to be working for! Fix healthcare! Do not repeal the ACA!!!

Richard House
Hamden, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This is absurd!

To whom it may concern.

I cannot wrap my mind around why this current administration insists on repealing a bill that provided health care to millions of hard working people in this country. How can anyone talk about "making America great again" when you are talking about taking this coverage away. And additionally allowing insurance companies to MAKE MONEY off of a person's illness by charging higher rates for preexisting conditions. This is immoral. Money is being given to the states under what stipulations? What is their obligation to spend it on the actual health care of people? Not facilities, not doctors, not medicines, but people. People in this country who are busting their butts to make ends meet, only to get ripped off by health insurance companies. Work with the existing bill. Improve it. Tweak it. Make it better. But stop putting forth these lame bills that WILL HURT many people. And for God's sake put the responsibility of the rising costs of health care where it lies...the blood sucking insurance executives who are profiting off of people illnesses. Those people have a special place in Hell. And so do the people who demonized an administration that brought this to the forefront. This has got to stop! This bill is a travesty to our country and will seriously affect the lives of your voters.

Kill the bill. Do it now! As your employer, I demand it.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Do_Not_Reply@Rubio.senate.gov
Subject: Health plan

I implore you, please vote no on this healthcare bill. I will be watching the votes and can assure you will do everything in my power that you don't keep your job!

Sent from my iPhone