

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marsha Merry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am a nurse practitioner who has been caring for women for over 40 years. I am adamantly opposed to the Graham Cassidy proposal which would ultimately strip millions of our most vulnerable population of their health care- including women, children and the disabled. It is time to stop this partisan closed door nonsense and come up with a real partisan solution to our health care problems. KEEP the Affordable Health Care Act and start building in long term solutions. The American people are fed up with a government that will not take out needs into consideration and who are only interested in furthering the shift of wealth to the wealthiest. We deserve better.

MAKE IT HAPPEN!!

Marsha Merry, NP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Newhauser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will deprive millions of Americans of health insurance. It is opposed by every medical organization in the country. It is supported by outright lies (as Jimmy Kimmel exposed recently). It will lead to those with "pre-existing conditions" losing their health insurance. It was not written using the open practices of the Senate (as Senator McCain explained today).

In fact, there is no reason at all to support this bill. I urge the entire Senate to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Regards,
Richard Newhauser
Tempe, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tracy Winn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a contributing, tax paying, good deed doing member of society and without the ACA, I would be dead. It is that simple.

If you pass this heinous bill, you will be remembered by history as the [REDACTED] that didn't care.

Thank you for listening.

Sent from my back pocket

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Liz Fraley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I have a good friend who is in her late fifties and is a kidney transplant recipient. Although employed full time by a medium size company, her health care costs are high enough to cause stress and uncertainty for her family. Transplant patients need ongoing care for the rest of their lives. If she should suddenly become unemployed and insurers are allowed to deny care for anyone with preexisting conditions or raise premiums so high that someone with a preexisting condition can't afford treatment, she could easily and immediately be at risk. If she'd been unemployed when she needed the transplant originally, she would never have been able to afford it. Do not allow healthcare programs to be gutted such that individuals who need assistance die early because they can be denied coverage. NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Romina G. Carrillo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband has asthma, high-blood pressure and suffers from several skin allergies that require him to take several prescription medicines on a daily basis. His monthly prescription fees continue to escalate, but luckily are manageable because of our current healthcare insurance. I am anticipating retiring in the next year or two and am anxious about our healthcare coverage given his health needs and the current threat of the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I sincerely hope that our congressional representatives will have the time to engage in a bipartisan process to improve ACA that benefits everyone—including folks like my husband and myself.

Sincerely,

Romina G. Carrillo Gutierrez

New York, NY 10471

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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

Honorable Members of the Senate:

I oppose the above bill because I think its rationale is largely only cost containment and not affordable health care for all Americans.

I prefer a bi-partisan effort at repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act that is worked on carefully over the next year. I believe honorable people can create legislation that represents both good care and affordability if all keep those goals in mind. Such legislation would make representatives and Senators proud to bring back to their districts in an election year.

--

Paul S. Safyan

[REDACTED]
Wheeling, IL 60090
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I am a psychotherapist and many of my patients count on the ACA for their healthcare. The Cassidy-Graham repeal would be devastating for them and their families. I do support a bi-partisan approach to developing our healthcare plan.

thank you,

Barbara Cohen PsyD, MFT
Oakland, CA 94618

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Hyman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care proposal

Please include my comments in your public hearings:

All three members of my immediate family have faced serious health issues in our lives. I am a breast cancer survivor who required a mastectomy, chemotherapy and follow-up medication. My husband is diabetic and requires ongoing expensive medicine, and monitoring to minimize further complications. Our daughter who was hospitalized for ten days with as a newborn with serious lung problems fully recovered and is now a graduate student at an Ivy League university. The medical treatments that successfully treated each of us would have been prohibitively expensive without health insurance.

We need a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, NOT repeal. It should be apparent to all men and women of conscience that it is immoral to make anyone's access to medical care dependent on their luck and financial status.

Respectfully,

Joan K Hyman
Buffalo, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barb Duffie-Beasley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please

My dad and stepmom, as well as my mom and stepdad, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My husband relies on pre-existing condition protections. 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,

Barb Duffie-Beasley

Normal, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Laskin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Lawmakers,

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.

Sincerely,

Diane Laskin

Los Angeles, California
90068

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlie Hautman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Please abandon this attempt to repeal the ACA. This bill appears to do an amazing amount of damage for purely political purposes.

I urge you to work together on a bipartisan bill to improve the ACA, and thus improve affordable access to health care for all Americans.

Thank you,

--
Charlie Hautman
Jordan, MN

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julianne Ricksecker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care is vitally important

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

I am old enough now that I am on Medicare, but I experienced many of the problems with health insurance that was permitted to exclude or use high surcharges for pre-existing conditions when I was a young mother. Among the issues that I and my family faced: my husband had a heart attack at 37, not because of poor lifestyle, but because of the genes he inherited from his parents. Fortunately for us, he was insured through his work at the time. But here was the kicker - he felt unable to leave that company for the rest of his career, because a change in jobs would mean a change in insurance, and coverage for his heart and cholesterol medications might be denied. He did take a year's sabbatical at one point, to explore other career options, and during that year we were obliged to find insurance on the open market, while his status maintained his ability to return to the company without penalty. Although we found a group plan that we could qualify for, his preexisting condition meant we paid very high rates for our basic insurance. Worse, I learned that I and my children were found to have "pre-existing conditions" that allowed the company to charge more AND deny coverage. What were these? For me, they denied coverage for anything to do with my spine. Because I had seen a chiropractor. I asked, you mean, if I fell down the stairs and broke my neck, it would not be covered, even though it had nothing to do with that prior consultation? That was exactly what it meant. For the children - they had been prescribed antibiotics for bronchitis the previous winter, so their lungs were uninsurable as a pre-existing condition. We were very fortunate that we had no major medical issues that year, only the maintenance of the medications required to keep his cholesterol under control. At the end of that sabbatical, my husband returned to his company, because we could not afford the costs of insurance outside of that. The small business he had hoped to start up was not to be because we could not afford not to be insured under the group plan of that large corporation. Moving to another company for career enhancement was also not available to him, because pre-existing conditions were not guaranteed to be covered when you changed insurers. It is now 33 years later, and he has never had a second heart attack, although he has been on cholesterol lowering medications all that time. My spine is fine. There have been no outrageous expenditures for spinal care for me. And my sons are now grown. I am sure they have both needed antibiotics from time to time, but they are in excellent health.

I fear for my children and grandchildren that the repeal of the ACA will return us to the days when a young family may be required to spend exorbitant amounts of money on health insurance and still not receive coverage in the areas where they are most vulnerable. The ACA may not be a perfect solution, but it is far better than the proposed Graham Cassidy bill, as far as I can tell.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Let's look at what can be done to make the ACA work better, and what can be done to make the entire health care and pharmaceutical industries do better to serve Americans.

Sincerely,

Julianne Ricksecker

San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Rose Prats [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: GCH Testimony from an asthmatic

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Emily Rose Prats
[REDACTED]

Brooklyn, NY 11226

For years between graduation and the passing of the ACA, I could not afford health insurance.

I worked many jobs to support myself, worked seven days a week, sometimes 10- or 12-hour days. None of those jobs offered health insurance. Not even all of them combined afforded me enough income to pay for insurance as a private citizen.

As an asthmatic, I would often take dangerous chances, going without a rescue inhaler because I couldn't afford the more than \$200 for the prescription. Once, in the middle of an attack that was severely restricting my breathing, I ran gasping into a gynecology clinic because it was the only doctor's office nearby, and pleaded with them to write me a prescription for albuterol. The secretaries tried to turn me away because I was uninsured, but the doctor came right out and took care of it. I still paid the \$200 bill for the inhaler because I needed it to breathe.

Asthma also makes me more susceptible to respiratory infections like bronchitis and pneumonia, and as someone who worked with kids, I was even more at risk. I was so stressed about getting sick because I couldn't afford to miss work, but also couldn't afford the doctor's appointment and antibiotics without insurance.

No one should have to choose between paying their rent and getting care, either for themselves or for their children. The wealthy already have a health advantage: they're more educated about diet and exercise; they can afford to pay for nutritious foods like organic vegetables, meats raised without antibiotics, fresh fish; and they can afford to enroll themselves and their kids in classes to keep fit. They don't have to choose the cheapest meal options: fast food, bulk frozen foods, white breads, snacks full of sugar and salt. When the middle and lower classes are at a disadvantage to begin with, to punish them further by putting healthcare out of their reach is simply cruel.

Your net worth does not determine your human worth, and a low net worth should not be a death sentence for those with pre-existing conditions, people who develop cancer and can't afford treatment, disabled children who reach their lifetime cap heartbreakingly early in life, and all the rest of us who can't afford the care we desperately need.

As a hardworking American citizen, I ask you NOT to pass this bill.

Sincerely,
Emily Rose Prats

Sent by Mrs Emma Peel, Emily Rose's iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Coplen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. At age 33, I was diagnosed with a rare Cancer, Neuroendocrine tumors. It has been 9 years since I was declared cancer free, but I will have a pre-existing condition for the rest of my life. Without the provisions of Obamacare, I would have met my lifetime maximum years ago and would be uninsurable. I shudder to think of us going backwards on healthcare insurance. Please DO NOT repeal Obamacare! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you for taking my story into consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Coplen
Atascadero, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Megan Bearce <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill: statement for the record

I am a licensed mental health professional and a woman with hypothyroidism. It is a condition with no known cause and one that occurs at a higher rate in women than men. There is no known cure. Per the American Thyroid Association: "An estimated 20 million Americans have some form of thyroid disease. Up to 60 percent of those with thyroid disease are unaware of their condition. Women are five to eight times more likely than men to have thyroid problems. **One woman in eight** will develop a thyroid disorder during her lifetime."

This means that I have a pre-existing condition. In addition, my son, my husband, and myself all have asthma. It is genetic with no known cure. Both of these medical conditions have low-cost treatment options, yet if pre-existing condition penalties are allowed via the Graham-Cassidy bill, it would cause massive premium hikes. It's estimated \$6,000 per year, per person, for asthma. The fact that this bill effectively makes millions of citizens poor and sick is appalling. Please vote no. Healthy citizens make for a healthy economy.

I request that Congress ensure that everyone in the United States has coverage for pre-existing conditions and that include all ten essential services as currently defined in the ACA, including mental health. Please require that employers provide family coverage with these 10 services, and that qualified Medicaid recipients will not have their coverage reduced or eliminated.

Megan Bearce
Maple Grove, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Andreff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. There are a whole variety of individuals with chronic or preexisting conditions, and the answer is NOT to decrease coverage or benefits. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, HLA

Somerville, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mitzi Woody [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I continue to be opposed to any health care bill that would allow discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. As I read the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill, individual states or insurance companies would be legally allowed to charge higher rates or not insure those with pre-existing conditions. This is unacceptable. I have a family member with Crohn's Disease. This is a genetic disease not caused by his behavior or diet. It is not his fault. His disease is under control, and has been for the past 30 years, but he must have affordable health care to help cover his medical and pharmacy costs. Blue Cross/Blue Shield has a monopoly on insurance in my state and a very poor reputation. I do not trust them to do what is right should the decision on coverage be placed in their hands.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Mitzi Woody
[REDACTED]
Huntsville AL 35806
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carolyn Loeb [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Dear Congress,

Young Americans like myself vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

As a 31-year old woman in good health who has lived all over the US, it was really hard to buy affordable insurance before the ACA. Not only that, but because I am a healthy young individual and almost never used my insurance, it made it that much *harder* to cut between 30 and 50 percent of my paycheck out to such insurance. But- I wanted it, in case of an unexpected emergency.

The ACA has allowed me and most other young Americans like myself to sign up for decent, affordable healthcare. Most of us don't often use the provided services and are the population that helps defray costs for others.

We may be young- but we are the future. And we want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Loeb

South Burlington, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Testimony

Dear Senators,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, as do my friends and loved ones. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I live with many medical conditions, and am fortunate to have health insurance. However, if I were ever to lose my job or move to another state, or if my coverage changed at all, the many appointments, treatments, and prescription necessary to keep me well, let alone functional, would bankrupt me. All I ask is to be able to both afford food and housing and receive medical care. I deserve that, as do my friends and loved ones, and so do all Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leavey

Ashland, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Koester [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality health care. I oppose Graham-Cassidy because it will leave millions of people vulnerable. My son was born with heart defects. If we did not have insurance, we would have gone bankrupt trying to save his life. I never want to see a person in this situation. Those who want to destroy Obama Care should try going without health care themselves. Do not destroy Obama Care. Work to make it better.

Sincerely,

Nancy Koester in St. Paul MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Weintraub [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please improve the ACA, don't repeal it!

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

When we lived in Oregon, my husband was injured by a log-splitter and had to have surgery to re-attach his finger. Luckily, he was on Medicaid at the time, and he received care. Without Medicaid we would have been bankrupted. We earn a bit more money now, and pay for his health care under the California marketplace. Our monthly payments for him are a lot of money for us! We are managing so far but I don't know what we would do if the payments went up. (I am fortunate to be covered by my work).

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

Sincerely,
Sarah Weintraub Schommer
Petaluma, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Corcoran <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 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 my experience as a health care consumer and health care provider tell me this is not the answer. This bill will not help any American health care consumer, regardless of income, in the long term. Please focus instead on high quality, efficient health care service, including management of chronic disease and mental health. I am an occupational therapy professor and teach future healthcare providers about healthcare delivery in the United States. For all of our healthcare system complexity, Americans deserve better outcomes. This proposal takes us in the wrong direction. Please do not vote for it.

Thank you,
Sarah Corcoran

Sarah Corcoran

19075
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Jobart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern:

I am a registered Republican voter in the state of California.

I am a breast cancer survivor with young children. Thanks to a routine baseline mammogram, my cancer was caught at an early and treatable stage when I was 40 years old. I've had a double mastectomy and the cancer is now gone. However, if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, the related pre-existing condition will make health insurance an unaffordable luxury and to be frank, I'm worried I won't live to see my children reach adulthood. Please don't condemn my children to growing up without their mother.

From a business standpoint, here in the Silicon Valley where I live, many of my friends who are otherwise very qualified to start their own companies choose instead to stay with their jobs in one of the big local companies because they don't have an alternative to the health insurance benefits they get at their current jobs. That's bad for the economy - small businesses bring in tax income. We should be encouraging smart people to start their own companies, and a big part of that is providing them with health insurance options that allow them to take that step.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Yes, it has problems. But the problems are not unsurmountable, and so far, the proposed alternative bills are not an improvement. Let's work together to create the right solution and it will be easy to get the requisite number of votes. Now is the chance for Republicans to show that we can lead a successful healthcare effort. Let's prove we can do it, and lead the polls in 2018 and beyond.

Jen Jobart
San Jose CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Suddard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

My family relies 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.
Sincerely,

**Wendy Suddard-Bangsund, LICSW
Monticello, MN**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Keeler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on G-C/Show American you care

Dear Senators,

Please demonstrate to us that you truly care about all Americans, not only the rich, healthy and young, but also the poor, sick and old. A "yes" for the Graham-Cassidy health plan will be proof that you don't.

Wendy Keeler

[REDACTED]
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies 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.

Sincerely,
Spence Henderson

Birmingham, AL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mario Jaramillo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Multiple members of my family have pre-existing conditions would be gravely affected by the repeal of the ACS. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mario Jaramillo, MHA

Glendale, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thanna Vickerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on the Graham- Cassidy Bill Save and Improve the ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ACA was a huge blessing for a family after our son was born and my husband did not have enough work to qualify for SAG insurance. As a woman, I basically am a pre-existing condition. My mother is retired and depends on Medicaid. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Thanna Vickerman

Los Angeles, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emma Swartz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy Bill and keep the ACA!!

I categorically oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I want America to have a single payer national healthcare system that is legally required to provide for ALL (young, old, sick, healthy) preferably free of charge outside of taxes. I've lived in countries where this is a reality, so I know it's possible, and I won't rest or be happy with my country until I see something along these lines. I think the ACA is a good start in that direction and I want it to stay in place and be strengthened and broadened, not repealed.

Thanks,

Emma Swartz
Belfast, Maine 04915

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Gray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Good People:

Like most working families, our's relies on the best quality healthcare coverage we can afford.

We have contributed to our health plans every year regardless of whether we have needed specific coverage, and we understand the insurance system is the best way to spread the risk of hard to predict health care needs over the population.

We know of many cases where costly health care has been needed by family member and friends. It was obtainable only because of having affordable quality healthcare coverage.

I am sure that a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, will provide results that strengthen the families of America and therefor strengthen America itself.

It would be a grievous error, and demonstrably un-American, to repeal the ACA rather than strengthening it to strengthen America.

Very Truly Yours,

Jack Gray
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dina Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say No to Graham-Cassidy and please keep ACA

I live and work in a very rural part of America. Here the employers keep people just under the amount of hours needed to qualify for health insurance coverage so that they don't have to contribute. This includes not only private companies, but also the government jobs now too. Instead, we need to get our own coverage.

As a now 59 year old lower income hard working American woman with a pre-existing condition I had no insurance for years, until the ACA.

The stress relief of knowing I am covered, and the affordability of my coverage, have both, I am sure, improved my health as they've significantly reduced my ongoing stress and worry about having health insurance, particularly with my pre-existing condition and as I age.

In my 3 years in an ACA program I have been to the doctor only 2x, and to the emergency room (in a small rural hospital) after a fall and some broken bones 1x. That's all. But it would have been almost impossible, if not completely impossible, to cover those costs out of the income I receive from my just over minimum wage job.

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I expect it to be available to ALL Americans, and I expect my representatives and the representatives in congress of ALL Americans, and the administration to fix what we have, not strip our coverage away again.

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,

Dina Kennedy

Long Lake, NY

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Bromfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Obamacare Story, and my Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My Obamacare story is that I was able to stay on my parent's employer-sponsored insurance plan until I was 26 years old, allowing me to save thousands of dollars while I pursued and completed my Master's degree. I now purchase my health insurance on a private exchange, which has enabled me to simultaneously work two part-time jobs that I am passionate about but which do not provide health care.

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

Sincerely,
Heather Bromfield
Berkeley, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy

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.

Sincerely,
Karen Fass
Sebastopol, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi All,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition and would not be able to afford the insurance and the medication needed to keep me healthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Marcy Merriweather

Cortlandt Manor, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Shimpfky [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve Obamacare Don't repeal it

Too many years when my children were growing up, we did not have health insurance. It was a very scary time. Both of my children were asthmatics. Later my husband and I were not able to afford insurance and finally at turning 65 we received Medicare. Thank heavens.

The only issue my children have had in health insurance since Obamacare was introduced, was it raised the premiums for their coverage for work insurance. It actually made it possible for my son, who owns a small company, and his family to have insurance.

There is absolutely no reason for anyone in this country to die, just because our elected officials will not think of the people first and profits second. Obamacare may not be perfect, but if we could have a bipartisan task force, made up of people who want to give quality insurance to the American people who elected them, I know it can be done. And no one will have to live without insurance.

Also all of Congress and the President should be having the exact same coverage as the people. I believe this would give a reason to enact quality insurance for all.

Thank you,
Donna Shimpfky
Orangevale, CA 95662

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Maggie Parent-Moyer
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I am employed full-time and have chronic illnesses that are highly manageable if I have access to regular medical visits and prescription medication, something I am only able to do because I can purchase affordable health insurance via the ACA marketplace. If pre-existing conditions were not required to be covered, I would be unable to afford health insurance. With my medication, I can work. Without it, I would be unable to work and would die within a few years at most. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely,

Maggie Parent-Moyer

Robinson, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Szelag [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senators,

Many members of my family and many of my friends rely on affordable healthcare. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill as it CREATES what amounts to a roulette game for millions of American citizens. Depending on the state they live in and the rules their state may impose from year to year, Americans can never be certain whether they will be free from rate hikes for pre-existing conditions, exclusions and are not guaranteed basic affordability depending on the rules that state may or may not invoke. This level of medical insecurity on the part of ordinary citizens and the problems it creates for hospitals and health care providers is totally unacceptable and would dramatically increase the cost of American Health Care and create the possibility of many Americans dying due to a lack of access to health care. Not to mention, the Congressional Budget Office and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) have not even analyzed this bill. I, along with a majority of worried American voters would very much prefer to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA rather than repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sandra Szelag

Tucson Arizona.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinne Jager [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

My family and I
rel
y

on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
As middle-class, hardworking non-profit workers and small business owners, our family's health insurance costs would skyrocket under Graham-Cassidy. My small business owner father would NOT BE ABLE TO PAY for his premiums. It would devastate our family.

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

Sincerely,
Corinne Jager
Boston, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristopher Geda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Another citizen against the Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing today to repeat the sentiments I have already shared with my two Senate representatives, Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris. The Affordable Care Act is crucial to the safety, well-being, and continued success of the United States. The Graham-Cassidy bill ought to be defeated in the Senate because it is un-American, inhuman, and irrational.

A nation cannot contribute its best minds and bodies to the service of other citizens if those people cannot be assured of affordable, accessible, and quality health care. When we are healthy, our communities are healthy. When our communities are healthy, our nation can be healthy.

Beyond the economic argument, there is the ethical argument that we all have the obligation to help those around us in need. Providing affordable and accessible health care is a moral duty and it is one that, as a 2%-er (in terms of household income) I am very happy to complete. Owing to a lack of common deductions (dependents, mortgage interest, student loan interest, etc.), my husband's and my taxes are among the highest income taxes in the US. I am happy to pay the portion of my taxes that helps ensure my fellow human beings are able to seek the medical care they need and desire. This is the price I pay for living in a beautiful country with opportunity to many. I want others around me to have the same opportunities but if they are suffering from treatable illnesses and traumas, how can they be expected to engage and be successful?

The ACA is not perfect; it is a young program and it has many kinks to be worked out. But repealing it wholesale for the sake of some campaign promises (others of which have been conveniently ignored, it seems) or out of some dogmatic adherence to libertarianism is an outrage affront to reason. Instead, I urge lawmakers on all sides of the question to work together to improve the ACA.

Do not repeal the ACA. Do not approve the Graham-Cassidy bill. Do not let millions of people die because of bad luck and bad decisions.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Geda
San Francisco, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susie Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, not repeal it. Give us what you have (which as a tax payer I pay for YOU!) ~ give us single payer!

I & my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story ~ many family members have had to under go cancer treatment; being a woman was and probably avian would become a "preexisting condition! Many of my family members have skin cancer. My husband had a severe medical condition this past year that without our health insurance we would be bankrupt. And going forward the medications required would be considered a per-existing condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Give us what you have (which as a tax payer I pay for YOU!) ~ give us single payer!

Sincerely,

Susie Bauer

Milwaukee, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Mills <ch[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Our family as well as many of our friends and neighbors rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We would not have gone through a healthy pregnancy and childbirth without it. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Christine, William and Moses Mills

Los Angeles, CA

--

Christine Louise Mills
Editor [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rick & Beth Cottingham [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on the Graham Cassidy bill
Attachments: Graham Cassidy comments.doc

Dear Senate finance committee members, attached is a letter with comments. Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Humbly, Rick & Beth Cottingham, Helena MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stefanie Bell-Egge [REDACTED] <>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. A dear friend died of colon cancer a decade ago because he did not seek treatment for his symptoms until the disease had progressed to Stage IV - because he couldn't afford health insurance, so couldn't get examined earlier. Had he been able to visit the doctor when his symptoms first appeared (i.e., at Stage 1), he likely would be alive today. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Bell-Egge

Plymouth, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Laing <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a concerned citizen who feels this bill will destroy American exceptionalism, ingenuity, creativity, and innovation. Having an option for health care outside of a full-time, salaried positions allows the creative to create, it allows the curious to go back to school, it allows for business to start up, passions to be followed, and risks of entrepreneurship to be taken.

Removing the protects for Americans with pre-existing conditions also removes our ability to be a healthy work force. If we, or our children fall ill, we will lose jobs, lose productivity, lose lives without affordable health care. Without the assurance of an affordable doctor's visit or treatment, people will avoid visiting health care practitioners and we will see an increase in the spread of disease.

By denying woman specific health coverage to meet their unique biological needs, by defunding Planned Parenthood, you would almost guarantee higher rates of teenage pregnancy, STI transmission and spreading, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, and more. Planned Parenthood provides a safe option for women and girls to seek advice, care, and treatment locally. They are as much a doctor's office as any other. Their branding of being for women, makes them more likely to be visited by those who know little else of the field.

A nation as great as ours has to have a philosophy. It is my political philosophy that our wealth, and success as a country is a direct result of our people's hard work and ability to turn opportunity into production. Making sure we have the healthiest population in the world should be one of our core values and priorities. How does a country claim superiority of business, science, education, innovation without a health population? In order to be great and remain great our citizens must be looked after and taken care of. We pay taxes to have the best that the world has to offer. We don't pay taxes to make the rich richer, or the politicians feel important.

I remind you of your role, your oath, and your duty as a member of our federal government. Protect the people, serve the people, help the people. Provide us with a more perfect union. Promote the general welfare.

Ask yourself, as a paid employee of the government, salaried by the American people, "What is greatness? Does this serve the greater good? Does this help more than it hurts? Does this bill make America a better —the best— country?"

I am willing to bet, your answers are in conflict with the goals of this bill. Please vote NO on the GC bill.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I appreciate, your thoughtfulness and your compassion for all Americans. You likely have gotten into this position by your desire to help people and change our country for the better. Please vote for better care, better coverage, better health statistics.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Laing
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dorothea Salo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy!

My name is Dorothea Salo, and I am an American citizen residing in Madison, Wisconsin.

Members of my family, friends of mine, and quite a few of the students I teach rely on the access to health care granted by the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. Without Medicaid, my grandmother would have passed her final days in excruciating pain, unable to bid us farewell. Without the ACA, one of my best students would not have been financially able to seek care for a severely broken leg bone.

I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. I DO NOT WANT IT REPEALED. How can Congress not see that repeal is a death sentence for many, many Americans who have committed no crime?

Sincerely,
Dorothea Salo
Madison, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kauai Indivisible [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We oppose Graham Cassidy

On behalf of the members of Kauai Indivisible, we urge opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. Stop trying to take healthcare away from millions of Americans!

We support the Murray-Alexander effort to create a bipartisan fix for the ACA. We do not support repeal.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Costello <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Opposition

M

y family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Due to pre-existing conditions, if we are forced to change our health care insurance, the consequences would be devastating for our family. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jill Costello
Cambridge, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SRW [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment on latest effort to repeal ACA

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I agree with concerns raised by Senator McCain - that the bill is being rushed through without adequate debate or analysis. I don't see how anyone from either side of the aisle can vote for it without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it. Without a full CBO score, the bill should not be put forward for a vote at all.

My personal view is that all Americans should have access to high quality health care, not just those who can afford it. I am lucky enough to be one of those who can, but many of our family members and friends are struggling to pay for health care. My mother's best friend had a terrible accident... she's paralyzed from the neck down, and stuck in a lousy rehab center. She cannot afford the daily physical therapy she needs if she's to have any chance of doing anything for herself ever again. I can't imagine a worse fate!

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Health insurance and prescription drugs are too expensive - on that everyone can agree - but they were expensive before the ACA so please work with it to make it better. We can't just pull the rug out on people and have an entirely new system every 4 years.

Sincerely,

Santina Wortman
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nanci Imburgia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

The Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill would be disastrous for women. It would roll back everything we've worked for these past 60 years. In case you're not aware, here's what it does:

- Denies women the right to choose Planned Parenthood as their healthcare provider
- Ends nationwide protector maternity care as an essential health benefit
- Could end private insurance coverage of abortion
- Makes being a woman a "pre-existing condition"
- Increases women's out-of-pocket healthcare costs
- Disproportionately hurts women by cutting ACA subsidies
- Disproportionately hurts women of color by cutting Medicaid
- Severely restricts access to reproductive healthcare
- Forces new mother's to choose between being with their newborn and keeping their insurance

Nanci Imburgia

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Romano [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health bill

To whom it may concern,

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

Rich Romano [REDACTED] NY 12548 [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Rosenfeld [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Do Not Pass This Deadly Bill

Dear Senators:

You were elected to represent the people of your states, to look out for their interests. If you vote in support of the Graham-Cassidy bill you will be putting your constituents at risk of dying, of bankruptcy. With so much at stake, how can you vote on this bill without adequate analysis from the Congressional Budget Office and a real opportunity for debate? Just because you don't have to worry about your healthcare doesn't mean you shouldn't be concerned about the lives and the health of the people who voted for you. Of all the changes that have saddened me and angered me and horrified me this past year, it is the gratuitous cruelty shown by so many in power that troubles me the most. Is this how you "make America great again?" If you had any decency, you would be ashamed to sacrifice the health of ordinary Americans in order to placate billionaires.

Please, do the right thing and reject Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Rosenfeld
[REDACTED]

New York, NY 10024

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jana Yeakel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Action: Submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

Action: Submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

My family relies 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.

Sincerely, Jana Yeakel

Pasadena, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Thurston <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing-2.docx

(statement also attached)

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Charlotte Thurston
<[REDACTED]>

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing this email to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill, which limits healthcare options by reducing Medicaid and by not protecting people with pre-existing conditions--and by doing so, the quantity and quality of people's lives. My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, and have benefited from ACA, by having better access to prescriptions, birth control, and the doctors we need. And we care about the friends, family, and community around us who also benefit from ACA, whether from expanded Medicaid coverage, easier access to insurance, or better access to people with pre-existing conditions.

Consequently, I'm disappointed and angered to see continued Republican pushes to pass bills like Graham-Cassidy that have so little to do with providing better access to healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Best,
Charlotte Thurston
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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.

Sincerely,

Melissa Laurice

Cloverdale, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Wright [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Situation

From Rhode Island:

This newest iteration of "health care" is a travesty. What has happened to this country that we no longer care for our citizens? Here are my thoughts:

1. We CANNOT allow this---too many people will be harmed.
2. We should be ASHAMED that our country has become such a cruel and uncaring one.
3. Developed countries in Europe (and, of course, our neighbor Canada) have long since seen health care as a RIGHT
4. Our Senators: Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse, can be counted on to do what is right for US citizens.

I want this bill to be voted DOWN.

Jan Wright, RN, A.D.N., BS, M.Ed
Rhode Island

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Graf Howatt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

It is so hard for me to speak to what this healthcare bill means to me because I have grown weary of having to repeatedly explain how important affordable, quality health care is, so let me bullet point this.

- * I was 43 when I was diagnosed with Stage IIIC Breast Cancer and underwent 4 rounds of AC chemo, 11 rounds of Taxol, one mastectomy with axillary lymph node dissection, and 30 radiation treatments

- * I was 44 when I was diagnosed with lymphedema

- * I was 46 when I learned I carry the BRCA1 and BRIP1 breast and ovarian cancer genes

- * I was 47 when I had my other breast and my ovaries removed - and my uterus too, what the heck

- * I am now closing in on 49 and am doing very well, thank you, but I will always have multiple pre-existing conditions even though I chose a healthy lifestyle: have never smoked or taken drugs, rarely drink alcohol, always wear my seat belt, wear sunscreen, eat a balanced diet, and saw my doctor, dentist, and optometrist annually. But in the eyes of the insurance industry, I am dead weight.

My mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a year ago. My father has battled heart and high blood pressure issues since my high school years. Both are still with us but spend as much time in doctors' offices as they do at home. Pre-existing conditions and all kinds of new things show up on occasion.

My son was diagnosed with a mental illness in elementary school. He successfully completed treatment and is doing very well now, eight years later, but you guessed it: in the eyes of insurance world, he has a pre-existing condition. He's 18 and healthy right now, but for the rest of his life, he will carry the stigma and the burden of having been sick once.

I could go on, but I won't. I'm sure you are hearing all kinds of stories from your constituents. I hope you are listening. We are not a bottom line. We are not a business. We are real people living real lives, doing what we can to make good choices and stay out of the hospital, but sometimes fate has something else in mind. Before my cancer diagnosis, I was considered very low risk. There was no family history to show me the red flags I needed, and still I got cancer. My parents are in their 70s and 80s. They keep busy, volunteer in their community, and golf when they can, but still they have medical issues. My son is an amazingly gifted person who will contribute great things to the world, but still he developed a mental illness. Still, in the eyes of the insurance industry and the politicians who work for them, we drew the short straw. We will still get to make good choices for our health, but if this bill passes, we will also get to make choices as to what we will be able to pay for.

I am five years out from being declared cancer free. For a woman diagnosed at the staging I had, this is a huge milestone. Since I have lymphedema, I will be under the care of a physical therapist and will need compression garments for the rest of my life. Since I have breast cancer genetics, I will see my oncologist every six months for years to come in hopes we can stave off recurrence or catch it early if it happens. I will live the remainder of my years on this planet having to worry about cancer. That is hard enough. I really don't need to worry about if my care will be covered by insurance or if we will be able to afford this care. My parents have enough on their plate right now. Insurance should be the last of their worries. And my son? He's only beginning to live his life.

When you vote on this bill, think about the personal stories. When you create legislation of any kind, remember the people it affects and remember their stories. We are real and so are our stories. What you do affects us. Make the right choice - the healthy choice - and do not support this bill. Give up "repeal and replace" and start sitting down at a table together to make something that is truly good for the people.

Mary Howatt, tired American
Argusville, North Dakota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mairin Kirchheimer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

As an American with a pre-existing condition that will soon be approaching senior citizen status, I am very concerned about the impact of this legislation, should it be passed.

I have been a part of a high risk pool because I had cancer at 18 and my late husband had diabetes. We paid very high premiums for hospitalization only insurance and yet when he had an accident and we wanted to use the insurance, they found legal loopholes to get out of paying the bulk of the bill. I became a 34 year old widow with \$100,000 dollars in debt on a day care providers salary. After 2 years of working 3 jobs to try and pay off these bills, I was deeper in debt because of the interest being charged. I ended up one of the casualties of a medical insurance system that did not work and had to declare bankruptcy. No American who works hard ought to have to lose their financial security because of medical bills.

Despite what the GOP asserts, the new Cassidy Graham health care bill:

- Allows you to be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions.
- Strips away price caps for older Americans.
- Strips away requirements for basic coverage of things like emergency room visits and prescriptions.
- Strips away requirements for coverage of substance abuse treatment.
- Accelerates the 'death spiral' critics of Obamacare complain about by repealing the individual mandate.
- Strips funding for New York State medical expenses to the tune of \$2000 PER PERSON.

My husband was ready to retire, thus making room for a younger person to take his place and start his engineering career but because of Republican proposals to repeal the ACA, he feels the need to stay on the job so we both have access to insurance. Both of us have pre-existing conditions.

Passing a bill that will hurt millions of hard-working Americans is not conservative, it is cruel and stupid. Does the GOP really want to have this as their sole legislative "victory"?

Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege for those who can afford it. Do not pass this bill. Work with Democrats to fix the problems with the ACA and do it, as Senator McCain wisely says, in regular order.

Regards,
Máirín Kirchheimer
[REDACTED]
Vestal, NY 13850

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SBC [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Senators,

I use that term loosely since it used to represent a respectable institution with honorable members. Not anymore. I am so disgusted with your behavior on our health care and other issues that it makes me sick.

I am a retired woman on a very limited income who has a pre-existing condition. I am sincerely worried on the repeal and replacement of the ACA that you are considering. While this will not affect your healthcare or the care of your family, it will adversely affect thousands if not millions of Americans. Most women do not reach the age of 50 without having a pre-existing condition. We have very little control over this. Where are the women on your panel? Where are the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals that can advise you on best practices? My hope would be for you to get together in a bi-partisan way to craft a health bill that would be fair and just for all of us.

The rush to pass a bill no matter how destructive for most individuals is very troubling. Where is your integrity? Where is your honor? Where is your compassion? Your behavior is immoral. The real heroes will be McCain, Collins and Murkowsky plus the Democrats who stand up to this peacock of a president and you egotistical men. I'm embarrassed for you and our country.

Please do not vote to repeal ACA. Work together to improve healthcare for all Americans.

Susan Johnson
Fishers, In
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: notdeb2 . [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Like all Americans, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Although my husband and I were not directly affected by the ACA (we actually were able to keep our old insurance plan, as promised), the expansion of Medicaid has been a big help to another family member, enabling him to seek more education that will lead to a better job. Instead of repealing the ACA, Congress should undertake a bipartisan effort to improve it.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schaaf

Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert George [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Single Payer Medicare for all

My family needs high quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with ACA is my wife and I cannot afford ACA I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to implement single payer medicare for all health care, not repeal it. We cannot as a nation afford to keep this bloated high cost system ultra high profit system of Health Care It is a welfare for the Rich Health Care Insurance and Drug Companies!!!!

Sincerely, Bob George]

Berwyn Illinois

learn glow grow
Bob George

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Repeal the ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I would not have healthcare without the ACA. Out of college I couldn't get a professional job that provided me healthcare. And I am still struggling to find an entry level position that affords me healthcare. Don't repeal the ACA.

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

Sincerely,
Allison
Van Nuys, CA

--



Allison Richards
Sourcer



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

I am an internal medicine doctor who takes care of acutely ill people in the hospital (called a 'hospitalist' for those of you that are unfamiliar with the specialty). The passage of this bill will threaten the lives of your constituents. The passage of this bill will likely result in higher cost ultimately. We have seen it happen in the state of TN when our medicaid (TennCare) was cut. I am for a single payor healthcare for all.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gmail <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We own a small business and therefore buy our own health insurance. Affordability and the guarantee of coverage for all healthcare and health issues, including (the unjust concept of) pre-existing conditions is vital. It is not freedom of choice when one cannot afford healthcare, or when becomes financially bankrupt from unforeseen illness or circumstances that affect one's health. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Eva Lee
Ridgefield, CT

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zoe Schott [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy Bill

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.

Sincerely, Zoë Schott

Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chestine Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is I was in a terrible automobile accident 3 years ago. I broke my sternum, several ribs and both legs. If I had not had affordable insurance I would have faced losing my house and all my assets as the cost for air flight, hospital care, and rehabilitation was astronomical. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Chestine Anderson [REDACTED] Garberville, CA 95542

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gretchen Jennings <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Script: I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will surely do away with protection for pre-existing conditions. It will work against the most needy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Gretchen Jennings

Washington, DC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Hernandez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To Senators Graham, Cassidy and all senators who support the Graham Cassidy Bill,

You should be ashamed of yourselves! Seriously, you should be ashamed!! You were elected to represent the best interest of THE PEOPLE! Not the best interest of the party, yourselves, corporations that line your pockets! You have let the people down! SHAME ON YOU!!!

Martha Hernandez
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rude tina [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a physician who wants to see quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Please devote your efforts to actually providing a foundation of health that all Americans can depend on, regardless of income, employment, pre-existing conditions, or other factors that prevent ordinary people from enjoying a productive healthy life. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Respectfully,
Christina C. Rude, DPM
Los Gatos, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen Lessard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: ryajen@gmail.com
Subject: Say No to Graham Cassidy!

I live in Western NY and I am objecting to the Graham Cassidy health bill:

- 1) it unfairly targets NYS for reductions in Medicaid allocations. I live in Rochester- one of the poorest cities in our country. Most in the poverty level are children;
- 2) It allows states to insist that those qualifying for Medicaid to reapply every six months or even more frequently. This is a burdensome amount of paperwork to expect from a disadvantaged population. Corporations are only subject to annual reports. Why are individuals forced with such a burden?
- 3) While claiming to put more decision making power in the hands of states, it prevents any federal Medicaid funds to go to medical establishments which primarily offer reproductive care to women. This means states cannot chose to provide Medicaid funds for annual exams, cancer screening, HIV testing in addition to birth control. If this bill is truly attempting to give more power to states, why does it restrict federal funds in such a discriminatory manner?
- 4) The bill allows state insurance regulators to permit denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions. Denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions allows health insurance companies unfair enjoyment of premiums without coverage that patients pay for.
- 5) the bill has not gone through proper examination or evaluation by the congressional budget office. Representatives voting on the bill therefore have no concrete measure of the consequences of voting for this bill on their constituents; and
- 6) It is a flagrant attempt by sponsoring representatives to repeal the existing ACA for political gain (I.e. Securing votes in future elections), without considering the devastating consequences for the American people.

Therefore, I strongly object to having this bill come to a vote when so many are misinformed or under informed as to the potential negative consequences. I am asking the finance committee to make sure this does not go to a vote in its present form.

Thank you in advance for your review.

Regards,
Jen Lessard
Rochester, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Kimberly Dorris and I live in Scottsdale, AZ. I urge members of the Senate to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and to instead develop a bipartisan approach to addressing issues with the ACA.

There are many polarized opinions on Obamacare and healthcare in general. But I'm an American who has truly seen both sides of this issue.

After working corporate jobs for my whole career, I was laid off in 2009 and decided to pursue a job in the nonprofit sector. I began working for a nonprofit in 2010, which is too small to provide health insurance, so I maintained my COBRA coverage until it expired in April 2011.

That's when I learned the value of group health insurance. You see, in 2007, I was diagnosed with Graves' disease during a routine checkup. Graves' disease is an autoimmune disorder that primarily affects the thyroid, but can also affect the eyes and skin. Although dealing with the diagnosis itself was difficult, it was a non-event from an insurance standpoint. I was placed on methimazole, a generic antithyroid medication. About 4-5 times per year, I had a blood test done and visited my endocrinologist to review the results and adjust my medication if needed.

When my COBRA ran out, I started shopping for an individual policy. I was denied outright by Aetna and Humana, and was discouraged from applying by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona due to my pre-existing condition. In addition to denying me for the Graves' disease, one of the insurers also denied me because I had taken medication for acid reflux for two months – three years prior to the application! Yes, there were so-called "Individual Portability Plans" – but these policies were basically window dressing that allowed insurers to claim they were following the letter of the law, although certainly not the spirit. When I priced one of these plans through BCBS of AZ, the cost was over \$600 per month. A former colleague with a pre-existing condition was paying \$1,000 per month. And a woman I know who is a breast cancer survivor was quoted a premium of \$3,000 per month!

I finally found a Golden Rule policy through a broker – but it excluded any coverage for Graves'. The out of pocket costs for my medication, lab tests, and office visits at least would have been manageable. Except for one problem: because of the rider, my providers were under no obligation to honor the discount they normally would have granted to my insurance company. For example, for my routine labs, the insurer's cost was \$111, but the full cost was almost \$1,000!

In 2014, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, I was finally able to purchase an insurance policy that included coverage for my pre-existing condition.

As I mentioned, I've seen the other side of the ACA as well. I live in Arizona, and my premiums have skyrocketed, particularly in the last year. I do not receive a subsidy, and I am currently paying \$495 per month for a plan with a \$6,000 deductible – which basically amounts to catastrophic coverage. I desperately need premium relief, but there has to be a better way to get my own premiums down other than stripping out essential benefits that I currently use or that I might need someday (which, of course, is why we have insurance in the first place) or by throwing Medicaid patients under the bus.

So I do need relief, but I'm disappointed that that the only thing Republicans seem to want is to undo Pres. Obama's signature legislation, regardless of whether or not it's good public policy. (And this might be a good time that I was an Independent for decades, but the GOP's poor handling of healthcare policy was one of the factors that led me to register as a Democrat this year.)

For example, I have not heard one single Republican discuss the importance of upholding the ACA's focus on preventive care. However, I hope you will consider the fact that encouraging simple lifestyle interventions (exercise, diet, stress reduction) can reduce the risk of getting a chronic disease. In other cases, early detection and medical intervention can save lives. If my Graves' disease had not been diagnosed in a routine checkup, this condition can lead to bone and muscle wasting, heart complications, and even death from thyroid storm. Also, in 2014, I was diagnosed with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade III during a routine checkup; if left untreated, this condition can progress to cervical cancer, which according to the National Cancer Institute, causes 4,000 deaths per year. This is exactly why services provided via Planned Parenthood are so important; it would be a tragedy if our elected officials chose to withhold life-saving screenings as a publicity stunt.

In closing, I've been infuriated to hear many Republicans (including one of my Senators, Sen. Jeff Flake) falsely claim that the bill protects people with pre-existing conditions. This is blatantly untrue. Graham-Cassidy clearly gives states the opportunity to increase costs for people with pre-existing conditions and to strip out Essential Health Benefits that are critical for managing specific health conditions. Senator Flake stated in a recent interview, "In reality, is any governor or state legislature going to deny coverage based on preexisting conditions?"

The answer? Yes. In a heartbeat. In an attempt to chase the siren's song of lower premiums, I have no doubt that some states (and very likely my home state of Arizona) will immediately move to force people with pre-existing conditions into unaffordable policies as well as to strip away the Essential Health Benefits needed to manage our conditions.

This will affect me personally as well as millions of Americans who work, volunteer, and raise families while living with pre-existing conditions. Eventually, this bill will affect a larger group of Americans – since “sick” and “healthy” are fluid, not fixed states. (I was in the best shape of my life when I got my Graves’ disease diagnosis). So if you purchase an insurance policy that is a few dollars cheaper because it lacks essential benefits – and then you actually need those benefits (such as hospitalization) – it’s a triple whammy. First, your costs aren’t covered. Second, the costs won’t go towards meeting your deductible. And third, those costs are going to be 10-20 times higher because you won’t get the benefit of your insurer’s contractual discount.

An additional note is that if coverage is eroded for people with pre-existing conditions, you will see entrepreneurs, freelancers, and small business employees forced back into the corporate world because the only type of coverage they will be able to get is through a group health plan. Is this really good for America?

I have a suggestion for an amendment that should be attached to ANY healthcare bill. And it’s this:

1. All U.S. Senators, Representatives, and staff members MUST purchase their insurance on the individual market in the state they represent. No more cushy federally-subsidized plans.
2. Prior to applying for a section 1332 waiver, a state's Senators, Representatives, Governor, and staff members must ALL agree to purchase their insurance on the state individual market. No more cushy state-subsidized plans.

I understand that there are differences of opinion in the way that healthcare reform should be approached. But it is unacceptable that elected officials who receive generously subsidized health insurance are literally making life-and-death decisions for constituents who are not so fortunate.

Please throw this TrumpCare bill (and any other eleventh hour piece of garbage that the Republican party tries to slap together) in the trash where it belongs. Instead, Congress needs return to “regular order” and start the process over in a bipartisan fashion that seeks out input from both parties, from experts in the field, and most importantly, from Americans who will be impacted.

Sincerely,

Kimberly K. Dorris

Scottsdale, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzi Kaplan Olmsted, BA, BS, MA [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

This bill is ill-conceived, poorly considered, a terrible idea for the majority of Americans, an insult to voters, and inhumane. The fact that you had the temerity to redistribute the funds accepted by the states that accepted Medicaid expansion to the states that didn't is infuriating and offensively transparent. Your maneuver to bribe Senator Murkowski by allowing Alaska to keep what the rest of Americans deserve, at a minimum verges on criminal malfeasance. It is my sincere belief that no one who supports this bill should ever hold public office again, as it demonstrates a profound inability to put the needs of Americans ahead of your petty, personal egotistical bull feces. Despite the fact that I don't currently purchase insurance through the exchange, this will drive premiums so high (and they already cost over 1/3rd of our two-income gross on my husband's employer's partial contribution plan) that we will be unable to afford to live normally, and could lose our home. That makes no sense, just because I have multiple pre-existing conditions, and have exceeded a lifetime cap at 54.

Suzi Kaplan Olmsted MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sabrina Wong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with mediCal is that my husband and I have moved and are in between jobs attempting to ensure our health coverage. Without the Affordable Care Act, the very cheapest health insurance costs half of our home mortgage each month. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Sabrina

Danville, ca

Sabrina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Tausig [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare public comment

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare and so do millions of Americans that deserve quality healthcare in this wealthy country. My mother is a disabled, low income elder who relies on Medicaid and has preexisting conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Heather Tausig

Newton, Ma

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Devanthery-Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee,

Please accept my vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation currently on the Senate floor. This bill if passed into law will mean hardship and suffering for millions of Americans. And why? I see no reasonable argument in favor of it. Please return to the People's business of creating and passing legislation for the American people, not for billionaire donors who have their own distinctly unAmerican agenda.

Sincerely,

Constance Devanthery-Lewis
Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebekkah Porter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

It is beyond the realm of reason and any level of human morality to bring forth the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal (and let's be honest) not actually replace the Affordable Care Act.

It is unconscionable to move forward without a CBO score, any public discussion, or an opportunity for bipartisan amendments.

We live in a republic for as long as we can keep it, and as long as we have it we must insist on the order of law.

Millions of American citizens will be harmed by this bill. Millions. This bill will kill people and destabilize the existing insurance markets--which all of us in America rely on for our healthcare and that of our families.

Had we been smart, like our allies in Europe and Asia following the Second World War, we would have set up a system of universal healthcare. If we had we wouldn't even be having these constant efforts to undermine American healthcare, brought mostly by the Republican Party. It's unfortunate that the Greatest Generation didn't do that one last service for us. They certainly understood the necessity of Americans pulling together for the greater good in a way that we, their children and grandchildren, have never fully realized.

But we didn't do that as a nation, so we are where we are. There's a way forward, but an effort to end-run general order in Congress so that one party "wins" while the entire country loses is unacceptable.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is an abomination and should never be presented for a vote. But if it is, I hope that senators of both parties will review their souls and vote nay to this vile, cruel, unjust bill.

Rebekkah Porter
US Citizen
Indiana (47904)

Sent from my Super Cool iPhone6S.
Another fine Apple product.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Celia Grohmann <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear HonorableSenators,

Please do all that is on your power to stamp out this effort to again defeat Obamacare. It is unconscionable that you, our leaders, would do such harm to American citizens. I agree with McCain, please go back to bipartisan solving of problems.

Say NO to this bill, in any shape or form it takes!

Thank you,

Celia Grohmann,
Missoula, MT 59808

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Sent from Celia Grohmann, Banana Belt Realty

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ariel Nereson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill citizen comment

I, my husband, and our infant daughter, all tax-paying U.S. citizens, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without the ACA, I would not have had access to prenatal healthcare because of a gap in coverage when I changed employers. Because of the ACA, I was immediately enrolled in Medicaid and was able to get prenatal care, perhaps the most critical act to maintaining a healthy pregnancy for mother and baby. Without the ACA insurers could consider my pregnancy a pre-existing condition and decline to insure me, leading to astronomical individual expenses and, possibly, not seeking the care recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. I do not think it is ethical or in the best interests of the American public and our country's finances for the Graham-Cassidy bill to be pushed through without time for it to be scored by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ariel Nereson
Buffalo, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barb Schueppert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

As with most American families, we rely on access to quality, affordable health care. I'm not wealthy enough to cover costs of medical care on my own. My late husband died of a brain tumor. Without medical insurance our family would have been bankrupt.

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, whose primary intent appears to be to fulfill a campaign promise regardless of the fact that it throws millions of Americans' access to healthcare--especially those Americans in the middle class and those depending on Medicaid--upon the whims of state politicians. How is that an improvement, particularly given that this bill allows states to take away the protection for those with pre-existing conditions and seniors whose health needs are greater? For shame!

Please find a bipartisan solution that fixes those things in ACA that need fixing while following through on subsidies needed to assure insurance companies that the government won't throw them to the wolves, too. Think of the people, not the politics!

Sincerely,
Barb Schueppert
Tucson, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Adams [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care/ Our future/Integrity

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ACA helped both my wife and I to receive health care when we had been previously denied coverage for pre existing conditions. We have also been for the past years caring for our elderly Moms , in their 90's, one of whom relied on Medicaid for essential care. I can't fathom how this Bill will impact people who struggle to make ends meet and are living with serious illness. The ongoing instability is a huge blemish on our country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Let wisdom triumph. Let go of the Profit Prophets. Act with integrity.

Sincerely,

John Adams

Essex Junction, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Auerbach <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop this bill and actually fix the complicated medical care problems

This bill is a poorly constructed cop-out as an answer repeal/replace by ending funding and pushing the onus onto individual states.

My mother had ten years of breast cancer treatment before she died. Each one of her treatments cost as much as \$10000. She didn't ask to have cancer. She wanted to live. We wanted her to live.

Why are you not looking at what treatment costs? Numerous think tanks have reviewed this information. Numerous medical and policy professionals have provided reasons.

A VERY quick Google search of "why is healthcare so high?" Showed an article that very plainly outlines three reasons: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.pbs.org/newshour/amp/rundown/why-does-health-care-cost-so-much-in-america-ask-harvards-david-cutler>

You want votes to "win" as a party and repeal ACA, a system that undeniably cost too much and provided too little? Make hard choices and fix the real, messy, complicated problems: administrative costs that are 10% higher than other countries; drug costs that are higher than other nations; costs of medical procedures, like my mother had. In her case, I opened bills for her treatment two years after she passed away from doctors we never heard from.

Do you have the courage to do what's right? I have my doubts; as I'm jaded enough in our political process to see that you side with parties and not people, lobbyists and not issues, and political games instead of the carefully thought out arguments our forefathers showed in The Federalist Papers.

For ALL of us, and in my mother's memory, I beg you. STOP. THINK. ACT. Use your positions to make life better for us.

Penny Aronson
Germantown, TN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen ODougherty PhD <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep ACA

I am what they call the "sandwich" generation. My mother is over 90 years old and receives the care she needs because of Medicare. My daughter lives with a mental illness. Without Medicaid, she might possibly not have survived to adulthood.

My whole family relies on affordable health care. I am writing to urge you to oppose and defeat the Graham-Cassidy bill. Instead you should preserve and improve the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Dougherty
St. Louis Park, MN
55416

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miriam Marchevsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am an independent consultant, and due to a history of cancer, I depend on the protections afforded by the ACA to maintain my professional freedom & peace of mind. Under the ACA, i have seen my premiums stabilize & the quality of my coverage improve. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Miriam Marchevsky

Oakland, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mara Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy.

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Surely, by every measure this is not a good bill. I ask Congress not to hold a vote on a bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on a bill that will affect so many American lives without knowing how it will impact us? I am also very concerned about language in the bill that will allow states to loosen pre-existing condition coverage. I have heart issues and sarcoidosis. Will my insurance company have the right to no longer cover me? Lastly, if this bill become law, Medicaid will be reduced drastically. How is this helping Americans? This bill is simply heartless and just a way for the GOP to pay for its upcoming proposed tax cuts. Instead of continuing with this charade, please return to regular order and work in a bipartisan manner to improve the existing ACA law.

Sincerely,
Mara Cohen
Chappaqua, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deb Knight <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Committee Members:

I write in opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health Bill,

I am not only a consumer of healthcare services (i.e. patient), I am also fortunate to work in the healthcare system as a Certified Medical Coder and Auditor.

I understand healthcare from many perspectives. You see, not only do I have pre-existing conditions, each of my family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and fellow Montana residents have pre-existing conditions. We are human beings - we live life, we inherit our ancestors' traits, medical conditions and predispositions.

As a medical Coder and Auditor, I spend my days converting medical providers' documentation of patient interaction and treatment into CPT, ICD-10-CM and HCPCS codes following guidelines, rules, regulations and laws so that the providers I work for are reimbursed for the life-saving, quality of life enhancing services they render.

I also work with patients on a regular basis as well, explaining how insurance works, explaining how a patient's particular insurance policy works, and helping them to understand the health care process. I help them navigate the system and explain their options for treatment and payment.

I love my job and I'm grateful for the high-quality medical providers that I work for and trust my life and well-being to. It is my firm belief that when healthcare is used as a political pawn or promise or penalty, those involved in that unsavory behavior are in the wrong and transient in a very non-transient service. They will come and go, those who receive healthcare services and work in the healthcare system are the constant. It is wrong to use us as pawns in this way.

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Please, remember that someone in your life, a neighbor, relative, former school mate, is in dire need of quality, affordable healthcare or their livelihood depends on healthcare. Please don't take your responsibility lightly and misuse the power you have been granted to hurt people - people that are living life, being human beings in the beautiful U.S.A.

Thank you.

Deb Knight
Missoula MT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Seidel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AFCA Vote

My son in law has just been diagnosed with kidney cancer. He and my daughter have a policy through the AFCA. If you repeal this protection for them they will lose everything they after starting next year.

I am asking you to work on a bi-partisan effort to improve, not repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Pat Seidel
Brooklyn, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jamie Glass [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Myself and my family, especially my mom, rely on quality, affordable healthcare and because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I depend on affordable monthly medications to manage conditions that would otherwise prevent me from working and paying my taxes. My mom relies on Medicare due to permanent disability and chronic health problems, and while I help when I can, I don't make enough money to pay for all the care she needs and currently receives under the ACA.

I want to see a BIPARTISAN Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it. That would represent what the majority of Americans want and NEED.

Sincerely,

Jamie Glass

Malden, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to be on record against the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. The bill will destabilize the insurance markets by eliminating the individual mandate. The bill will cause those with pre-existing conditions to lose coverage. It is cruel to women, the sick and the elderly. Many health care organizations - doctor, insurers, hospitals - have spoken against it.

Finally, as a citizen and voter, I am offended and dismayed that Leader McConnell would push a bill that has not been properly vetted and scored by the CBO. We need open, robust debate and regular order for a piece of legislation that would re-order 1/6 of our national economy.

Sincerely,
Stacey Turner
Homewood, AL

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Fink-Winter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony against Graham-Cassidy

My husband relies on Obamacare because my employer won't cover him (as in theory his job offers insurance...which it does sort of, when he's not laid off, which is about half the time).
So we depend on Obamacare.

We're in our mid-40s, and sometimes things come up unexpectedly. In addition to whatever surprises life has in store for us, I have a pre-existing condition. In addition to being female, I have a nonfunctioning thyroid. Before Obamacare, I had to be super-careful never to let my health insurance lapse or I wouldn't be covered or would be eligible for coverage only at higher rates.

Under Graham-Cassidy, the state I live in will get block grants. They won't have to guarantee me coverage. My rates will jump. And as I get older and accumulate more conditions, it will get worse and worse.

In addition to whatever happens to me, people on Medicaid will face coverage caps. I don't think getting rid of Obamacare "because we promised" and saving money on the backs of the people who need it most (forcing them into the emergency room, where we will end up paying for their care after their health has gotten really bad) is good policy.

I oppose this legislation and call on the Senate to oppose it.

Sincerely,
Ruth Fink-Winter, 47
Wheaton, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: NANCY WURTZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family, friends, and every US citizen should be able to 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.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wurtz

Lexington, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Fleming <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is not a thoughtful, well researched bill, and it seems to be toying with the real health and financial issues of many Americans. People's lives depend on quality, affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anna Fleming

Girdwood, AK

99587

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Frank <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My comment on the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a citizen and a human being, I cannot find a single thing in this bill that benefits anyone's health. There are so many ways that everyone who knows anything is telling you this will hurt and kill people.

But more importantly, and more personally, I know for a fact that this bill would have killed my father if it were reality.

We didn't know about my father's cancer until he collapsed and had to have emergency brain surgery. Preexisting. It was a thing that just emerged. His doctors at [REDACTED] in Boston are some of the very best in the world, and they had no idea it was there. Under this bill, that surgery and everything else that was done by some of the best people I could hope to know wouldn't have been covered. Because of the coverage the ACA provides - and this bill explicitly denies - he lived almost two more years. I still lost him on election eve, and there's not a day I don't miss him, but it would have been so much worse if that collapse had been the end. And this bill would have made it the end. That anyone thinks that is okay is unforgivable.

This bill is not about health. Not about staying healthy, or becoming healthy. It is about hurting. Physically. Mentally. Politically.

It cannot be allowed to become law.

Diane Frank
Brookline, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beau Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please preserve ACA and make a bipartisan effort to improve it

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

Without the Medicaid expansion funding, and affordable health plans that include coverage for preexisting conditions and essential health benefits, my mother would not be able get the care she needs. I care what happens to my mother, and I care what will happen to the millions who will lose coverage if the Graham-Cassidy bill were to pass.

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

Sincerely,
Beau Anderson
West Hartford, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Government Leaders:

My daughter and my grandchildren depend on the Affordable Care Act for reasonably priced health care. They are part of the health connector system in Rhode Island and have had to rely on this since their income is low. I would encourage you to work for a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Crystal Kofke

[REDACTED]
Monson, MA 01057

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Herrin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

My daughter was born with an undiagnosed congenital heart defect. She's had 2 surgeries already to repair the defect, and to further correct the defect as she grows. From the standpoint that I am employed by one of Kentucky's largest employers, I have had (and therefore she has had) excellent insurance. We have faired well in that respect.

She wants to be an entrepreneur, and has already started to plan for the day when one of her ideas becomes the "next big thing".

Without the benefit of the ACA, my daughter will instead have to focus on...

- whether or not her chronic conditions are excluded from coverage as pre-existing conditions
- whether she faces annual and/or lifetime caps on her care
- whether she has to abandon her passions to take a job solely for the large group employer insurance benefit, because anything that would cover her needs would be unaffordable on the individual market

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Herrin
Lexington, KY

Jennifer Herrin | [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blaine Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators,

Don't repeal-- fix what is broken!! The ACA is just the first step. No one starts running out of the gate. You need to work TOGETHER to fix a long standing problem of corporate health insurance greed and exorbitant pharmaceutical companies pricing.

DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Edith Roberts

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story: I am a senior citizen. of modest means, on a limited income and on medicare. Each time I go to the doctors, I pray that I will be OK. If the day ever comes that I am put into the category that will become a 'pre-existing condition, I want to know that I can get treatment. If the day ever comes that I need Medicaid because I've depleted my personal assets, I want to know that Medicaid will be there. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Margaret Shafer
Hamburg, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kali Koffee <k[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have asthma and pernicious anemia. Very treatable diseases with an inhaler monthly and B12 shots. However, these two conditions would keep me from enrolling in any type of healthcare insurance due to have pre-existing condition and run up considerable costs due to regular doctor visits.

Without prevention with the inhaler and simply Vitamin B12 shots, my conditions would turn into something entirely more serious. I am able to go to the doctor for preventative checkups now without major cost.

I am the sole bread winner in my home and pay taxes! I support my family and a daughter that attends college, who also relies on my benefits. I work full time to provide jobs and talent to excellent companies throughout this country.

With regular treatment, I am a powerful contributor to my community. I have a beautiful garden to feed my family and community, and find jobs for talented engineers and scientists.

This bill impacts more then just the individuals enrolled. It impacts the entire community that individual supports.

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

Sincerely,

Lonia Wallace
Inglewood, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave Hermeyer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal Obamacare

All Americans need and rely on 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.

Dave Hermeyer
San Francisco CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaina Greenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham -Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My nine year old son has a chronic, long-term autoimmune disease. My five year old daughter has the same genetic markers as her brother and it is a matter of time before she develops the same disease as him. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Elaina Greenberg
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Healthcare

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I own a small business which employs twelve people, additionally I work for my parents' small business, a family run restaurant that has been featured on national television. Unfortunately neither of these businesses offers health insurance. We have relied on the ACA since it's beginning.

For years I dealt with endometriosis, in my mid twenties my condition worsened and my husband and I feared we would never have children. A year before the ACA was enacted we decided to begin trying to conceive a child, we were self insured but didn't have maternity coverage. We looked into adding maternity coverage but the additional monthly cost in addition to the secondary deductible as well as the fact that we had to carry maternity insurance for 18 months prior to conception. As we had no reason to believe I couldn't have a normal, vaginal delivery we decided to forgo maternity insurance and pay out of pocket. As luck would have it I had to have a cesarean section after 18 hours of labor. Our bill following the birth of our first son was over \$20,000. A year later we discovered our son needed heart surgery. We were fortunate to be insured under the ACA and took him to Riley Children's hospital where he received excellent care. That year we hit our \$10,000 deductible. Two years later we discovered we were pregnant with our second son, when open enrollment began we chose a plan with a lower deductible knowing we would most likely face another C section. The freedom to change our plan in the midst of my pregnancy was not something that would have been possible prior to the ACA as pregnancy was considered a preexisting condition.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Lehman

Goshen, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lara Applebaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Medical bills for more minor health concerns already create financial strain and without affordable healthcare, my family would struggle even more in the face of serious medical conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Lara Applebaum

Girdwood, Alaska

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@harris.senate.gov; senator@feinstein.senate.gov
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I urge all of our nation's senators to vote against it. As a cancer survivor, I am very concerned about any laws that allow any weakening of provisions against discrimination for pre-existing conditions. Cancer survivors like myself, as well as the tens of millions of Americans with other serious chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, mental health issues or even pregnancy, should not have to worry that we might be denied coverage or charged more for coverage due to our misfortune. We also shouldn't have to worry about potential spending caps or lifetime limits. My eight hour surgery and three days of hospital care last year cost \$99,000. I cannot imagine what the subsequent six months of weekly chemo cost. Without affordable, comprehensive health care, I would not now be in remission; I would be dead.

I believe that everyone in my position, regardless of what state he or she is lucky or unlucky enough to live in, should have quality, affordable health coverage. States' rights do not include the right to deny life to your residents, but some state leaders would choose that if left to their own devices...in the same way they once chose to prohibit certain children from attending quality schools based on the color of their skin. The role of the federal government is to hold all states to the highest and best standard for any issue...health care, education, a healthy environment for our children, etc.

If you don't now have a pre-existing condition, someone you love does and chances are you will one day, too. Those of us with pre-existing conditions are already facing enough battles as it is, and we need our elected officials to be part of our support, not another obstacle to our wellbeing.

Graham-Cassidy is not good for America. I urge all of you to do what is best for our country, not your donors or personal political gain. Defeat this bill, and then get busy making the ACA the success it can be if you all work together in a bipartisan manner to make it so.

Sincerely,

Laura Hewitt
Sacramento, CA

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wray Johnson [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I think this legislation would be destabilizing to the insurance industry, would increase costs to consumers, and leave millions of Americans uninsured. It would be bad for our country and should not become law.

Wray Johnson
Franklin, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Ellefson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Financially irresponsible

Passing Graham-Cassidy is financially and socially irresponsible. U.S. citizens need our elected representatives to be representative. Partisanship and ego are wreaking havoc on our legislative and other governmental systems. In short, put on your big people pants and work FOR your constituents, not your donors.

Amy Ellefson
Omaha, Nebraska

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Robello <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Along with numerous friends and family members, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

In recent months, I experienced the financial drain of numerous copayments, coinsurance and deductibles (as well as full payment for one test not covered by insurance) in an effort to diagnose a health condition that was puzzling to myself as well as my healthcare providers. The thought kept going through my mind...where would I be without insurance? What do others who are less fortunate do?

I have elderly relatives who face challenges daily with paying medical expenses not covered by Medicare. Their fears and concerns about having enough money to pay their medical bills, and keep a roof over their heads, further harms their mental and physical health. Neighbors and friends who are disabled have many sad stories to tell about gaps in healthcare due to limited insurance coverage.

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

Sincerely,
Christine Robello
Cotuit, MA 02635

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Kahrs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare bill

I am writing to voice my opinion about the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. I believe that this would be a disastrous bill that will kick millions off of health care or make it so expensive they cannot afford to keep it. This bill has the potential to adversely impact more people than it would help. For people like myself who have a pre-existing condition which not only requires dr care, but expensive medications, losing coverage is a death sentence. It would only be a matter of week until I would no longer be able to leave my home, forcing me to quit the part time job I currently have. I would become housebound, not being able to leave the house to even do grocery shopping. PLEASE stop this bill and work with each other to find something that will help people, not hurt them.

Thank you

Debbie Kahrs

[REDACTED]
NY 10956

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: laura-<l[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

Quality, affordable healthcare is a prerequisite for an economic prosperity that will benefit us all. My state would be severely impacted by the Graham-Cassidy bill. We are already significantly underfunding schools, courts, & other public programs due to a state revenue shortfall. The nation needs a bipartisan Congressional effort to **improve the ACA, NOT repeal it**. Each attempt to draft a hasty, unjust, and economically unrealistic repeal at the expense of the majority of Americans who do not want a repeal has alienated me further and further from Republican party leaders.

Laura Hebenstreit
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angelic Winters [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not think families should be put at risk of losing everything to get healthcare which should be a basic right of citizenship. We cannot be good citizens and contribute to the economy if we are unhealthy.

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

Sincerely,

Angelic Winters

[REDACTED]
Kingsport, Tennessee 37760

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSITION TO Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Committee Members:

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My nephew was born with serious heart problems, similar to Jimmy Kimmel's son. He required surgery immediately after birth and has since had numerous procedures and now wears a pacemaker. His doctors say he is likely to need more surgeries. He also has panic attacks and OCD as a result of his heart trouble and on top of that he's pre-diabetic at the age of 32. He's married and has two healthy children. His medical expenses will surely exceed any cap the Republicans might agree to. He, and every other citizen deserve to be treated regardless of cost, and the government--yes the taxpayers--must pay. This is the American way! My nephew is terrified of losing his job now that ACA protections for people with pre-existing conditions are threatened. Outrageous.

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

Sincerely, Judith Anderson
Santa Rosa, California 95409

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jen mcnary <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am a 49 year-old woman currently in treatment for a very aggressive form of breast cancer. I am employed in a program that works to help adults with serious disabilities become independently employed.

I feel very strongly that what we need is a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McNary
Brookline, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynda Roseman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please do whatever you can to make sure that the Graham Cassidy bill doesn't move ahead.

What kind of heartless country have we become that we are willing to sacrifice people's health care to line the pockets of the rich? This is not the America I know and love. I know that the vast majority of people would be against this bill if they really understood what it means for most Americans.

Please consult your conscience and do the right thing.

Respectfully yours,

Lynda Roseman

Brookline, MA 02445

Registered voter and elected Town Meeting Member for the Town of Brookline, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Graham-Cassidy plan

Greeting!

Please, watch this 1 min long video. Decision-makers need to know what it feels like to be threatened! They might think people with disabilities won't know about cuts, it won't hurt them.

However, people who approve cuts must "walk in people with disabilities shoes" for only ONE DAY before saying yes to cuts! PLEASE, give me a minute and watch my video.

Stop California CUTS!



Stop California CUTS!

Desperately trying to convince Senators not to vote for cuts on services for people with disabilities. PLEASE, H...

Diana Ugalde-Lara

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Penny Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

I personally rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am lucky to be a renal transplant recipient which requires that I take immunosuppressive medications for the rest of my life to survive. This pre-existing condition would leave me ineligible for affordable healthcare under the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for listening.

Penny

Penny Mitchell
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Trinh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT SUPPORT GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a Veteran and a daughter of a disabled senior Mom and my son has Autism with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. In Arizona, my mom currently receives NO dental care and very minimal healthcare through the state. I can't imagine letting healthcare go to the states for them to jerk people around while they use healthcare as a self serving political tool!

The idea of screwing our disabled, our seniors is morally repugnant to me and should be to you! The notion that pre-existing conditions are an excuse for insurance companies to price gouge is equally repugnant and should be CRIMINAL! People get sick all the time, people are born with conditions, people acquire diseases and illnesses; WE ALL DO at some point, this is wholly unfair to people.

Passing legislation without proper due process, i.e. rushing through forcing votes undermines the fabric of our democratic process! No political donor should have the power over our elected officials to do that, NO ELECTED OFFICIAL should be allowed to undermine the legislative process; it's a disservice to the people who elected you!

I plead for my family and all those who stand to be steamrolled by a political party and agenda, DO NOT SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION or any legislation that's seeks to undermine our democratic process or the welfare of American people.

Why can't we be like most all industrialized nations and take care of our people? Why is that such a bad thing? Why can't we lead and take the best examples and do even better?

Respectfully,

Beth Trinh

gchcomments@finance.senate.gov

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Any health care proposals need to go through the Committee processes which Congress has for this kind of huge decision. The G-C bill leaves the door wide open for insurance companies to have the option of raising premiums if you have an existing condition. It also leaves states with the option of not using the block grants for the poorest people, it's not in the bill even though Mr. Graham tried to give assurances that the poor and low income working people will be served. Medicaid is threatened. It will be very bad news for millions of people as far as I can tell

Make health care better, and do it properly for the benefit of people not politics!

Kristine Brown
Inverness CA
94937-0681

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lin Hilliar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I believe every American deserves quality 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.

Sincerely, Linda Hilliard

Middletown RI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop replace and repeal

Fix the ACA and sop this madness. You really can only push people so far.

The Reverend Lewis Marshall

[REDACTED]
Staten Island, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda walls [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for 9/25 Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies 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.

Sincerely,

Linda Walls
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Honeycutt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham-Cassidy-Johnson

My friends and family members rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family and friends have stories about pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort is to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please let us not play politics when we are talking about the American people. There is no win or loose except for us, we lose if you repeal.

Sincerely,
Sheila Honeycutt

Santa Clara, CA

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rocio Haskell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions and mental illness make it essential that health care be affordable and accessible. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Amparo Haskell

Emeryville CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies 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.
Sincerely,
Linda Bess
Honolulu, Hawaii

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Zeise [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Possible Repeal

My friends, my family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My niece has Crohn's disease and will require treatment for her whole life. My niece is doing a fantastic job fighting opioid abuse with the help of her healthcare providers. Next year I will be purchasing my own health insurance and need affordable, good coverage.

I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mary Zeise
St. Francis, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Yount [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello--

I am a registered voter from California (zip code 94530) and want to express extremely strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill, which will make health care unaffordable for millions of people, including many of my friends. The ACA could no doubt use improvements, but gutting it and leaving many people (including many Trump supporters and their families) without any alternative is NOT the answer.

Lisa Yount

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Newton [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. David Newton
[REDACTED]

Gilbert, AZ 85233
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margie Braband [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

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.

Sincerely,

Margaret A Braband

Downers Grove, IL

60515

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Denny <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:50 PM
To: gchcomments

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I worked all my life and for 26 years for government and because of my workman's comp injury and subsequent injuries, aging and weight gain, I had to be on MediCal (ObamaCare) until my Medicare began. My sister is pretty much in the same situation in Michigan but also has cancer.

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

Sincerely,

Cynthia Denny
San Jose, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Aylesworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am healthy now, though know that there could be a time in my life when I will require more significant medical interventions than I have had. I'm also well-aware that I would not be a healthy productive member of society if I did not have affordable health care. Health care for all improves the United States by ensuring that people are able to be their best selves and work, parent, and take care of themselves and others--all to the benefit of the United States. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sandy Aylesworth

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Thornton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 7:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham - Cassidy Bill; another attempt to destroy the ACA

To the Senate Finance Committee:

As a friend of mine already wrote "Don't repeal/replace the ACA! The Graham-Cassidy bill is a broad-scale and deep disaster for the country – that's your country and mine, your family and mine. The new bill does not cover people well enough to be called "healthcare". It basically says: "we couldn't care less about health". For example, "You got cancer again? Sorry, you've hit your lifetime cap, there is no further coverage, and if you cannot afford treatment (which only wealthiest can), just go and die". The fundamental concept and purpose of insurance is to pool the resources of all, to help pay for the relatively few, if and when they need it. We have mandatory car insurance, and health insurance should work the same way, for the same reasons." I am STRONGLY re-iterating his words, which so precisely express my really strong feelings about this bill.

There are a number of REALLY bad features of the proposed bill; the plan does not cover pre existing conditions, women's health needs and decimates funding for Medicare and Medicaid. And premiums will increase beyond the current astronomical rates. Approval of this legislative proposal would inflict harm and sacrifice people's lives in the callous attempt to deliver on ill-conceived and crassly pandering campaign promises playing to the biases of the basest part of the Republican base.

I do not understand how anyone who cares about our nation, our people, our healthcare, can even think about approving this new attempt to satisfy an insane need, an OBSESSION, to negate "Obamacare". This is more about political "winning" than about caring, than about rationality, than about HUMANITY.

We can all see the outlines of the disastrous outcome, but the strategy to turn the plan into law, tries to prevent proper objective evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office, in order to avoid a storm of objections before the vote comes. Quit sneaking legislation past the normal legislative process – the behavior of the congressional leadership is both shameless and shameful. Accept your responsibility and work to make affordable healthcare a right in this country, not a privilege accessible only to the wealthy! Get input from all sides and let the non-partisan CBO evaluate it.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth K Thornton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Marquis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid is that we live as a family of five on a single income from my husband being a public school teacher. We couldn't afford the premiums for insurance through his school district and qualified instead for Medicaid. Because of Medicaid, when our youngest son had to be hospitalized from not being able to walk, we weren't forced into debt to pay his medical bills - Medicaid allowed him to get high quality medical tests and treatment that we could not have afforded otherwise. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you.

Jessica Marquis
Phoenix, AZ



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

One Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
617.350.7279 Office
617.350.0974 TTY
800.272.4232 HelpLine

September 25, 2017

Chairman Orrin Hatch
Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Ron Wyden
Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted by email to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Re: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal (H.R. 1628)

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of Health Care For All (HCFA), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal. HCFA is a Massachusetts nonprofit advocacy organization working to create a health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, accessible, and culturally competent care to everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. We achieve this as leaders in public policy, advocacy, education and service to consumers in Massachusetts.

We write to voice our extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions; and
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low- and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, children, seniors, veterans and people with pre-existing conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in approximately 665,000 Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027.¹ This proposal will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. We have come so far in Massachusetts, extending health coverage to 97.5% of our residents.² To build support for the proposal, some have specifically singled out Massachusetts due to our state allegedly receiving a disproportionate amount of federal health care funds.³ Yet federal funds provided to Massachusetts mostly reflect the success we have had in our outreach and enrollment efforts, which have resulted in the lowest uninsurance rate nationally.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal disproportionately impacts Massachusetts and other states that have expanded Medicaid. The bill would unravel this success in Massachusetts and devastate the lives of people in our state and across the country. Below we lay out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

Eliminates programs that serve as a lifeline for low- and moderate-income families.

This proposal takes away health coverage from millions of Americans, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults (about 300,000 people in Massachusetts alone). It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people nationwide – and over 200,000 Massachusetts residents⁴ – rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees – and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected spending under current law, including an \$8 billion loss in federal funding to Massachusetts.⁵ Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

¹ Center for American Progress, "Coverage Losses by State Under the Graham-Cassidy Bill to Repeal the ACA", <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/20/439277/coverage-losses-state-graham-cassidy-bill-repeal-aca/>.

² American Community Survey.

³ See, e.g., A. Cancryn, "Cassidy says he's close to having the votes to pass Obamacare repeal," Politico, September 15, 2017.

⁴ As of August 2017, 201,006 individuals enrolled in Health Connector covered receive Advanced Premium Tax Credits. See: https://www.mahealthconnector.org/wp-content/uploads/board_meetings/2017/08-10-2017/Summary-Report-August2017.pdf.

⁵ Avalere Health, "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion", <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA.

By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% (\$1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap would force Massachusetts to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility – all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries nationally (about 36% in Massachusetts)⁶, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. Seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services – the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities – are “optional” in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. The burden will likely hit communities of color, where Medicaid enrollment is high, especially hard.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

All states, including Massachusetts, would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Massachusetts with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% (\$1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the ACA – including Massachusetts – will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant does not make up for Massachusetts’ losses. The block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

⁶ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, “MassHealth: The Basics, Facts and Trends,” updated September 2017. Available at: https://bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/default/files/download/publication/MassHealthBasics_Chartpack_v10_Final%202017.pdf. Note: Massachusetts has a combined Medicaid/CHIP program (MassHealth); while children ages 0-18 make up 35% of MassHealth enrollment, about 160,000 of these children are funded through CHIP.

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Helfer-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

Annette D. Shine

[REDACTED]
Toledo, OH 43614

My comments in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill are based primarily on my personal experiences as a mother whose son has pre-existing conditions, and as small business employee tasked with collecting information on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on that business.

At age 18 months, my son was diagnosed with a peanut allergy, which did not require any hospitalization or even a doctor's visit. At age 14 he was diagnosed with high blood pressure, which did require medical tests to ascertain the cause. Those tests were covered by my employer-sponsored health insurance. Treatment in both cases was quite simple: avoid eating nut-containing foods and reduce dietary sodium intake. Fortunately, even as a young child he was always admirably compliant in following these directives, so the medical costs associated with these conditions were minimal.

He graduated from college during the Great Recession, and was lucky to find a job, although it did not have any health insurance benefits. At age 23, he aged out of my employer's health plan, so I investigated insurance options for him. The cheapest comprehensive individual plan I could find cost \$3000 per MONTH, which exceeded his salary and amounted to about half of my take-home pay. The insurance companies claimed the high cost was due to his pre-existing conditions. We opted to forego health insurance coverage for him, but when the Affordable Care Act was implemented, he returned to my employer's plan. I do not remember exactly, but I believe the cost of that coverage to me and my employer was about \$200 per month, which was reasonable. After he aged out of that coverage at 26, he was able to find affordable coverage for himself, and is currently covered by Obamacare as an employee of the United States Senate. He also runs marathons in about 3 hours 15 minutes! So, without the protections of the ACA provisions for pre-existing conditions, insurance companies could, and DID, demand exorbitant premiums from him, a healthy young adult. The Graham-Cassidy bill, by refusing to prohibit such extortion, virtually guarantees that he and others like him will again be exploited by the health insurance industry.

The US Senate should NOT leave such regulatory authority to the states, especially to those such as Ohio, whose legislative and Congressional districts are so horribly gerrymandered that large fractions of the population are de facto disenfranchised. The lives of our citizens should not be held hostage to political ideology.

After the ACA was implemented, the rate of increase in health insurance costs for my small business employer dropped to less than half of what it was before the ACA. This decrease occurred despite the fact that my gerrymandered state legislature passed bills designed to hinder implementation of Obamacare (e.g., Ohio HB 3, 2013-2014). The fact that the rate of increase did not drop to zero is, of course disappointing, but those data show that the ACA has been successful at mitigating cost increases even in the face of deliberate attempts to prevent

its success. In addition, of course, ACA provides affordable coverage to millions of citizens like my son. The Graham-Cassidy bill will eliminate both of those successes.

Lastly, I would like to offer you the advice of one of my former students: "I find that, whenever I try to do an experiment in a hurry, it takes me three times as long as if I had done it at the regular pace."



MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

Every physician matters, each patient counts.

September 25, 2017

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The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hatch and Wyden,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 25,000 physicians, residents and medical student members of the Massachusetts Medical Society to express our strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal being considered by the Committee. As physicians who have dedicated our lives to caring for our patients, we know this legislation promises to threaten the health of millions of Americans. We are dismayed that efforts to pass a truly bipartisan proposal to help stabilize the ACA were derailed in lieu of this Graham-Cassidy proposal, which many consider more egregious than proposals recently rejected by the United States Senate. As you know, our concerns are shared by the vast majority of our colleagues in medicine, health care and patient advocacy.

There is much in this bill that causes us great concern. Fundamentally, the Graham-Cassidy proposal ends our federal government's historic commitment to support health care for the most vulnerable among us by creating state-based block grants, purposefully void of any of the necessary safeguards and protections to ensure patients receive the health care they need. By design, the funding for these block grants is cut significantly. Future federal payments are capped so there will never be enough money to cover the costs of health care for the poorest and sickest. Also, because the goal is to totally transfer responsibility for these people from the federal government to the states, the bill terminates the federal government's support by 2027. From this perspective, the Graham-Cassidy proposal represents one of the most dramatic changes to our health care system in decades – and yet one which Congress has barely begun to vet, deliberate or score. We see no justification for this haste.

By design, this bill puts people who are sick (those with chronic illness and preexisting conditions) at risk for losing health insurance – which, to be clear, means losing access to health care. States will be allowed to waive prohibitions on health status ratings – a provision which is guaranteed to dramatically increase the cost of insurance premiums. This bill would allow states to eliminate the essential benefits package, which makes certain that health insurance covers the basics when patients become sick or need to go to the hospital. If a state chooses to eliminate the essential benefits requirements, coverage for maternity care, preventive care, substance abuse and opioid addiction could all be easily eliminated. Prior to the ACA, unpaid medical costs were one of the main reasons for bankruptcies in this country, including among people who had health insurance. These changes, as well as provisions to defund

Planned Parenthood for one year, will seriously impact women's access to care. States will be forbidden to cover childless adults under Medicaid, so low-income women could only become eligible for coverage once they are pregnant. None of this even addresses the impact on the millions of Americans who will lose access to health insurance because this proposal not only fails to stabilize the market, but could lead to a further increase in health care costs.

Much has also been made about the fact that Massachusetts, New York, California and other large states currently receive the largest percentage of Medicaid dollars. We have worked hard in Massachusetts to insure almost 96% of our residents. Under Graham-Cassidy, it is estimated that Massachusetts would lose \$8 billion. Unlike previous bills, Graham-Cassidy would prohibit Massachusetts and other expansion states from using our own funds to continue these extended services. But this bill, whatever its intent, also significantly reduces funding to a number of cash strapped, smaller and mostly rural or Rust Belt states that adopted the Medicaid expansions to combat health crises. As devastating as the cuts would be to Massachusetts, the people living in these smaller states might in fact be the most harmed by this proposal.

As a pediatric pulmonologist, I want to explain what this all means in real terms for the children I treat – children with asthma and cystic fibrosis.

Asthma is a major cause of illness in children of all ages. It has a tremendous impact on their overall health and quality of life, and it also has a considerable impact on the overall cost of medical care. These children, if their disease is not well controlled, spend a lot of time in the doctor's office, the emergency room, the inpatient service, and (not infrequently) the intensive care unit.

Children without health insurance have less access to the medications and preventive care that keep them well. Fortunately, the Affordable Care Act has allowed many families previously without health insurance to obtain it. This has given them access to the type of care that reduces exacerbations of the disease and keeps children out of the hospital.

As these children grow up, they need continuous care to let them flourish as adults – and that requires reliable, affordable, meaningful insurance coverage.

Graham-Cassidy proposes to undermine their health in two specific ways. By undoing essential health benefits, it would allow insurance companies to choose not to cover the type of preventive care that keeps patients healthy. In addition, by slashing protections for patients with preexisting conditions – conditions like asthma and cystic fibrosis – the bill would allow insurance companies to charge astronomic rates beyond the reach of too many patients like mine.

Cystic fibrosis is a congenital, chronic, as yet incurable, and terminal illness affecting vulnerable children and adults. The outstanding advances in care for this disease over the past 40 years have increased survival from the pre-teens to older adulthood. However, the preventative care network established to treat these patients requires continuity, evaluation, and intervention. As a preexisting condition, and as a resource-intensive disease, such patients would lose the ability to remain relatively healthy and to contribute to society as they are currently doing. Both quality of life and survival would suffer irrevocably.

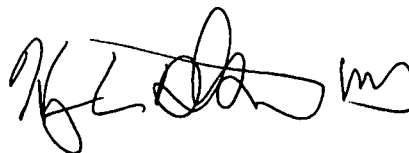
Under the Graham-Cassidy block grant per capita cap funding mechanism, states will have fewer – and, we believe, insufficient – funds to cover all the medical costs for sick patients. Cystic fibrosis patients, and other patients in need of life-saving interventions, will not, and cannot, wait for federal funding. Their conditions will simply not allow it.

It is my life's work to fight for children with respiratory diseases. As the president of the MMS, I represent 25,000 other Massachusetts physicians who have made a similar commitment to their patients to treat the diseases from which they suffer. We strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal and to begin bipartisan talks with the members of the Senate HELP committee to develop both short and long-term solutions to improving the ACA and our nation's access to quality affordable health insurance and health care.

Before I close this letter, I would like to share a personal story. A decade ago, my wife and I were at the wedding of a young woman with cystic fibrosis who had survived a lung transplant. While she and her new husband were out on the dance floor, my wife leaned over to me and whispered, "You know, when I married you, we used to go to a lot of funerals of 8 and 10 year olds. Now we are going to a bunch of weddings of 30 year olds. I like this better." I told her I liked it better, too. I fear that if Graham-Cassidy were to pass, we would go back to attending more funerals of children. That would be unbearable, and unfair.

I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say we look forward to working with you to make sure that does not happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. L. Dorkin, MD, FAAP'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H' and 'L'.

Henry L. Dorkin, MD, FAAP

cc: Beth Pearson
Niki Hurt

September 25, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write to voice our extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in approximately 665,000 Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.¹ Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

Eliminates programs that serve as a lifeline for low- and moderate-income families.

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected.

¹ Center for American Progress, "Coverage Losses by State Under the Graham-Cassidy Bill to Repeal the ACA", <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/20/439277/coverage-losses-state-graham-cassidy-bill-repeal-aca/>.

spending under current law, including a \$5-\$8 billion loss in federal funding to Massachusetts.² Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% (\$1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Massachusetts to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are “optional” in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

All states, including Massachusetts, would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Massachusetts with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% (\$1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid

² Avalere, “Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion”, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/20/439277/coverage-losses-state-graham-cassidy-bill-repeal-aca/>.

expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for Massachusetts' losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."³ And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts Massachusetts residents who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in the Health Connector would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the

³ "Fitch: Latest ACA Bill Includes Medicaid Repeal and Replace Provisions for States", <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/pr/1029238>.

population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

We believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to “regular order,” as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal. This legislation would have extremely detrimental impacts on millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents. We are hopeful this legislation will not move forward.

Sincerely,

Jillian Chenault, LICSW

Statement for the Record

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

Senate Committee on Finance
September 25, 2017

Submitted by:
The ALS Association
1275 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

For More Information Contact:

Kathleen Sheehan, Vice President Public Policy [REDACTED]
Stephen Goewey, Vice President Communications, [REDACTED]

The ALS Association | 1275 K Street NW, Suite 250 | Washington, DC 20005 | alsa.org

On behalf of people living with ALS and their caregivers, The ALS Association submits this statement for the record to oppose the amendment to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) proposed by Senators Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, Dean Heller, and Ron Johnson.

The ALS Association, along with leading patient and provider groups, opposes the Graham-Cassidy proposal because it does not meet our core set of principles that health care must be accessible, affordable, and adequate.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS patients leads to disability and death of patients living with ALS – with an average life span of two to five years after diagnosis. The prevalence of ALS in the military is twice that of civilians.

The mission of The ALS Association is to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. Affordable, adequate care is vital to the patients we represent. Our Chapters work closely with Certified Centers of Excellence that offer multidisciplinary ALS clinics as well as provide a range of free services for people living with ALS and their families including: support groups, care services coordinators, equipment loan programs, assistive technology support and respite care grants. The ALS Association is a non-partisan organization that leads the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy.

Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy proposal would negatively impact the access of people living with ALS and many Americans to adequate and affordable health coverage and care.

- *Patient Protections:* First, it would undermine nationwide protections for patients by offering states the ability to allow insurance companies to charge higher prices and place limitations on coverage (such as annual or lifetime caps) for those with preexisting conditions.
- *Premium Assistance:* Second, it would remove current premium assistance to help lower-income and moderate income families to afford to purchase the insurance that they need. This is especially important for people living with ALS who lose their job and insurance coverage after an ALS diagnosis but need to purchase health insurance for themselves and their families. Without premium assistance, many of these families could face serious financial stress or bankruptcy.
- *Medicaid:* Third, it would dramatically cut access to Medicaid health care by cutting and capping funds through block grants. Under Graham-Cassidy, states would be forced to change eligibility to fit their block grant funding or close enrollment in Medicaid when funds run out. This impacts not only people living with ALS who depend solely on Medicaid for coverage but also those patients who receive both Medicare and Medicaid.
- *Veterans:* Medicaid cuts would also harm veterans, as reported by 2017 research from the RAND Corporation, entitled “Veterans' Health Insurance Coverage under the Affordable Care Act and Implications of Repeal for the Department of Veterans Affairs.” Although

many veterans do receive health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a good number do not qualify or are unable to access VA care for a number of reasons. The RAND report notes that Medicaid expansion and marketplaces helped address gaps in health insurance coverage and contributed to lower rates of un-insurance among veterans. This is particularly important because the incidence of ALS in individuals is much higher for those who have served in military.

While we urge the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy, we understand that improvements to the current system are needed. We greatly appreciate the bipartisan effort being spearheaded by Senators Alexander and Murray. In hearings in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, state regulators and governors of both parties offered solutions to help stabilize the insurance market. We urge the Finance Committee to join in these efforts to address issues within its jurisdiction to develop bipartisan solutions to these complex issues.

In closing, we encourage Congress to reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal because it will negatively impact people living with ALS who are part of the 133 million Americans with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers.

For More Information Contact:

Kathleen Sheehan, Vice President Public Policy, [REDACTED]
Stephen Goewey, Vice President Communications, [REDACTED]

The ALS Association | 1275 K Street NW, Suite 250 | Washington, DC 20005 | alsa.org

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date: Monday September 25, 2017

Parth Patel


Bartlett, IL 60103

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you today to express opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

The bill would convert Medicaid into a block grant program. These block grants would contain a per-capita funding cap. I am concerned that states will not have the proper incentives to increase coverage and care. I do not see how this change will lead to improved health outcomes.

The bill would allow states to waive the Affordable Care Act's community rating clause. These waivers would lead to higher premiums to customers based on health status. I am concerned that insurers will price out individuals with pre-existing conditions.

The American Medical Association's statement from September 19, 2017 opposes the proposal. The bill violates the medical profession's "first do no harm" principle. The AMA concluded that the proposal would lead to loss of coverage for millions of Americans. Furthermore, the bill would destabilize insurance markets and reduce access to affordable coverage.

I urge you to abandon the proposal. If the bill comes to a vote on the Senate floor, I urge you to vote no.

Best Regards,
Parth

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 25, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing millions of people who support equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people nationwide, we write to express our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) proposal, and its underlying provisions to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We are deeply concerned about the negative impact that the Graham-Cassidy bill would have on many vulnerable and marginalized communities—including the LGBTQ community—that already face systemic discrimination and healthcare disparities.

The ACA has served as a lifeline for millions of LGBTQ people who too often have found themselves cut off from critical healthcare services.¹ Prior to implementation of the ACA, LGBTQ people had some of the lowest insured rates of any population in the country. The individual market reforms, including the ban on preexisting condition exclusions, have made it possible for many in our community to obtain health insurance for the first time in their lives. Thanks to the ACA, from 2013-2017, the uninsurance rate for low- and middle-income LGBTQ people was reduced by 35%.² There is evidence that this reduction has been greater in states that opted for the Medicaid expansion,³ and currently 1.8 million LGBTQ people rely on Medicaid.⁴ For those with particularly low incomes – under 250% of the federal poverty level – 40% of LGBTQ, compared with 22% of non-LGBTQ people, rely on Medicaid. For many people living with HIV, as one example, protections for those with pre-existing conditions has made insurance affordable and treatment accessible. Tens of thousands of people living with HIV have qualified for care under the Medicaid expansion, gaining access to life-saving treatments before becoming disabled by the virus. As a result, people living with HIV are able to have healthier and longer lives.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal will have a detrimental impact on the positive trend of health coverage for LGBTQ people and so many other vulnerable populations. Under previous repeal and replace legislation with comparable provisions for block-granting Medicaid the Congressional Budget Office projected 32 million people could ultimately lose coverage.⁴ These projections foreshadow an unacceptable growth in the uninsured rate and an equally unacceptable exacerbation of health care disparities.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal fundamentally changes the Medicaid program, imposing a per capita cap funding structure and terminating the expansion of the program under the ACA. The magnitude of the lost funding will have a swift, stark, and devastating impact on the most

¹ <http://hrms.urban.org/quicktakes/Uninsurance-Rate-Nearly-Halved-for-Lesbian-Gay-and-Bisexual-Adults-since-Mid-2013.html>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2017/03/22/428970/repealing-affordable-care-act-bad-medicine-lgbt-communities/>

³ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/reports/2014/11/17/101575/moving-the-needle/>

⁴ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2017/03/22/428970/repealing-affordable-care-act-bad-medicine-lgbt-communities/>

⁴ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/like-other-aca-repeal-bills-cassidy-graham-plan-would-add-millions-to-uninsured>

vulnerable among us: women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and persons living with HIV. The legislation also strips the requirement to cover essential health benefits under the Medicaid expansion, leaving millions without access to the critical benefits that often save lives, such as substance abuse treatment and mental healthcare services.

The bill will also increase premiums for people with pre-existing conditions, including many significant, chronic health conditions for which LGBTQ people are at greater risk of experiencing relative to their peers. For example, people with major depressive disorder will see a premium surcharge of \$8,490, while someone with breast cancer will see a surcharge of \$28,660.⁵ Research shows that 65% of LGBTQ people have a pre-existing medical condition, such as diabetes or heart disease.⁶ Rather than increasing coverage, passage of this bill will cause millions of people to lose coverage while making coverage unaffordable for those who remain in the market.

Graham-Cassidy would give states broad waiver authority to eliminate the ACA's core protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. Insurers would still have to *offer* coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, but they could make such coverage so expensive that it would be essentially meaningless. For LGBTQ older adults, many of whom face pronounced health disparities in physical and mental health, including depression, high blood pressure, heart disease, cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, and HIV/AIDS, cost increases of this magnitude would result in the loss of health care coverage.

Prior to the ACA, employer-provided health plans frequently limited the maximum amount of coverage employees could receive over their lifetime. In 2009, 59% of covered employees had health plans with lifetime maximums, meaning they could face bankruptcy if they encountered serious health problems and were left unable to cover their healthcare costs.⁷ By allowing states to seek waivers to specified essential health benefit requirements, the Graham-Cassidy proposal gives states—and subsequently employers—the ability to narrow the definition of these essential health benefits. Ultimately, this would dismantle the ACA's ban on lifetime limits and annual out-of-pocket spending limits for essential health benefits, once again leaving individuals to risk bankruptcy in order to obtain basic healthcare.⁸

LGBTQ people, particularly people of color and those living with HIV, face systemic discrimination and health disparities, which the ACA was helping to address. Graham-Cassidy would take us backward, shredding the health care safety net and leaving many in our community to risk bankruptcy in order to obtain basic health care. The one-two punch of gutting Medicaid and eliminating the ACA's marketplace subsidies would strip coverage away from millions and inflict some of its worst harm on LGBTQ people, who already experience health disparities because of economic disadvantage and discrimination.

The provision barring Planned Parenthood and its affiliated clinics from participating in essential

⁵ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/09/18/439091/graham-cassidy-aca-repeal-bill-cause-huge-premium-increases-people-pre-existing-conditions/>

⁶ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2017/07/06/435452/senate-health-care-bill-devastating-lgbtq-people/>.

⁷ <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/7936.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2017/03/24/new-changes-to-essential-benefits-in-gop-health-bill-could-jeopardize-protections-against-catastrophic-costs-even-for-people-with-job-based-coverage/>;

<https://www.brookings.edu/2017/05/02/allowing-states-to-define-essential-health-benefits-could-weaken-aca-protections-against-catastrophic-costs-for-people-with-employer-coverage-nationwide/>

public health programs not only violates the procedural requirements of legislation adopted under budget reconciliation, it constitutes terrible health policy. Barring these clinics from receiving federal reimbursement for care provided will jeopardize the ability of these providers to deliver preventive healthcare services, such as cancer screenings and STD and HIV testing, as well as services like gender transition-related care that may not be offered elsewhere in many communities. Often, health centers such as Planned Parenthood offer the only culturally competent healthcare available to LGBTQ people, especially in rural and isolated areas. Rather than improving care options, Graham-Cassidy would disproportionately impact people—including people of color, immigrants, young people, and members of the LGBTQ community—who already face structural barriers to accessing care.

We strongly urge the members of the Senate to reject provisions such as those contained in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal that would harm millions of Americans and deny them the health benefits that save lives.

Sincerely,

Adolescent Counseling Services/Outlet
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
Alaskans Together For Equality
Alliance For Full Acceptance (AFFA)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Psychological Association
APLA Health
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Basic Rights Oregon
BiNet USA
California LGBT Health and Human Services Network
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Center For Black Equity
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Community Research Initiative of New England
Consumer Health First
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Equal Rights Washington
Equality Arizona
Equality California
Equality Federation
Equality Florida
Equality Michigan
Equality North Carolina
Equality Ohio
Equality Pennsylvania
Equality Texas
Equality Utah
Equality Virginia
EqualityMaine
Fair Wisconsin

Family Equality Council
Fenway Health
Forward Together
Freedom Oklahoma
Gender Health Center
Georgia Equality
Georgians for a Healthy Future
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
HealthRIGHT 360
HIV Medicine Association
Human Rights Campaign
Jackson Cty Democrats (OR) LGBTQ Caucus
JCD LGBTQ Caucus (Oregon)
Justice in Aging
Lambda Legal
LGBT Center of Raleigh
Liberty City Democratic Club
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Lotus Rising Project
LPAC
MassEquality.org
Mazzoni Center
Minnesota AIDS Project
MomsRising
Montana Human Rights Network
Movement Advancement Project
NASTAD
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Council of Jewish Women
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC)
National Health Law Program
National LGBT Bar Association
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
NEAT - the National Equality Action Team
NMAC
One Colorado
Our Family Coalition
Out2Enroll
OutFront Minnesota
OutServe-SLDN
Palmetto Project
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Pride at Work

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
PROMO
Resource Center (Dallas, TX)
Rogue Rainbow Elders
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders)
SC Equality
SCPHCA-SCMHP
Secular Coalition for America
SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative
The AIDS Institute
The Center for American Progress
The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada
The Health Initiative
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition
The Trevor Project
Transgender Law Center
True Colors Fund
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Whitman-Walker Health
Wyoming Equality
Young Invincibles



3125 Poplarwood Court, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 850-2901 • www.nccdd.org

Date: September 25, 2016

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)
Re: The Graham Cassidy bill

The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) is one of 56 Councils in the United States and territories authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). The NCCDD is a Governor appointed 40-member body, with the composition of the board, by law, being 60% being people with Intellectual or other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The NCCDD works on behalf of over 185,000 North Carolinians I/DD and their families. Many individuals with I/DD need long-term services and supports (LTSS).

Members of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) are appointed by both Republican and Democratic governors, possess diverse professional and lived experience, come from urban and rural communities across North Carolina, and routinely find common ground to inform, fund, and promote successful cross-sector innovation within our state. Per the DD Act, NCCDD is charged to broadly educate and inform on issues impacting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Medicaid-funded services and supports remain central to the daily lives of many North Carolinians with I/DD and their families. Similarly, key components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) remain critical to the I/DD community. As the Senate Finance Committee hears testimony on Medicaid and the ACA, NCCDD would like to offer some insight into how these programs impact our state.

Medicaid is a stabilizer for rural hospitals. Per a recent study¹ by the University of North Carolina, four rural hospitals in NC have closed in the last several years, and many more are vulnerable to closure. Without stable funding, responsive to needs, additional rural hospitals, and the communities they serve, are at risk. This impacts not just Medicaid recipients, but everyone -- from the capacity to keep people healthy and ready to work in rural areas right down to increased wait times and reduced capacity of urban emergency departments as they receive patients from further and further distances.

Medicaid positively impacts NC's workforce and tax base. Thousands of health professionals, direct support professionals who provide care in homes and other settings, and others are employed through Medicaid dollars in our state. Medicaid keeps working families of individuals with significant disabilities in the workforce while

¹ <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/>





their son or daughter receives professional supports in the community. And Medicaid dollars help support individuals with disabilities themselves to get and keep a job.

Medicaid helps cash-strapped schools meet the needs of students with disabilities: Many children with disabilities receive physical, occupational, and speech therapies in school funded by Medicaid. These services help schools meet diverse needs while individuals get more out of their education.

North Carolina's investment in efficient and effective community-based supports for individuals with significant disabilities will be at risk with a capped Medicaid program. Medicaid is often the only payer of modest long term community based services and supports for individuals with disabilities. These in-community supports can keep people with significant needs out of unnecessary and phenomenally costly institutional settings, and at a fraction of the cost. North Carolina doesn't have the physical or financial capacity to care for people with disabilities in institutions. (Nor is that what families and individuals want!) Cutting and capping Medicaid would wreak financial havoc on states while individuals and families bounce in and out of costly and limited crisis care. People will get hurt.

Medicaid is flexible-- we don't need a cut or cap to make the program specific to NC. North Carolina, like many states, has engaged in a robust multi-year effort to modify its Medicaid program outside of original federal guidelines. That request to make the program our own (through an 1115 Demonstration Waiver), based on significant feedback from hospitals, doctors, families, people with disabilities, mental health or substance needs, and even faith communities, is waiting for approval at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). We can't implement that "home grown" program if we cut and cap funding.

Cutting and capping Medicaid puts people with disabilities at particular risk: Long term community based services and supports are "optional" for states. As states look to contain costs under a capped program, individuals with disabilities and their families will lose supports to live in the community, and there will be no other safety net to catch them... A particular fear for nearly 25,000 caregivers² in NC over the age of 60 who are caring for an adult son or daughter with disabilities in their home.

Cutting spending doesn't reduce cost of care or health needs. It just severely limits the states' capacity to address needs: States cannot make up the hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid funding losses. To cut costs, states will need to reduce eligibility, service arrays and quantities, as well as the reimbursement for those services. At the same time, systems will be struggling with increased crisis-based care and uncompensated services.

² <http://stateofthestates.org/documents/NorthCarolina.pdf>





While the majority of our comments center around Medicaid-funded services, we would be remiss not to mention the importance of **key components of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**. NCCDD's work includes a significant focus on competitive employment and asset development for individuals with I/DD. Success in these areas can mean an individual is no longer eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, and benefits and protections within private insurance can become the lynchpin to that transition.

- The full complement of 10 Essential Health Benefits are critically important to ensure individuals with I/DD receive the habilitative supports, durable medical equipment, mental health services and more that maximize their health and ability to meaningfully participate in their communities. This component of the ACA allows individuals and families to know what's in their insurance, and feel confident their health will be maintained.
- Pre-existing conditions can be an insurmountable hurdle for individuals with disabilities and others endeavoring to purchase insurance outside of Medicaid. Changes to the ACA at the federal or state level may indirectly jeopardize individuals with pre-existing conditions.
- Yearly and lifetime caps can be easily reached whether you have a child with significant medical needs, are diagnosed with cancer, or experience catastrophic injury. Changes to the ACA, again through federal or state changes, may have the indirect effect of a cap.

The NCCDD remains committed to fostering and supporting bipartisan discussions. We see the power of diverse thinkers convening to identify needs and craft solutions. And we will readily make ourselves available to inform the discussion in a non-partisan fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra McArthur, Chair
North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

cc: Chris Egan, Executive Director, NCCDD





Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

September 25, 2017

TO: U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

FROM: The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

Maureen Ryan, [REDACTED]

Beth Swedeer, [REDACTED]

Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, [REDACTED]

Lisa Pugh, [REDACTED]

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

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations is a cross-disability coalition of more than 30 state and local organizations and groups. For more than 20 years, Survival has been focused on changing and improving policies and practices that support people with disabilities of all ages to be full participants in community life.

Survival Coalition strongly opposes the Graham-Cassidy proposal due to its significant Medicaid funding cuts and rollback of key insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

We have become frustrated in recent months by continued assurances that the Medicaid cuts created by per capita caps and changes to the private insurance market won't impact people with disabilities. The ACA ended health care discrimination based on disability status and resulted in substantial gains in health care access and coverage for people with disabilities, including mental illness and other chronic conditions. Before the ACA, many Wisconsinites with disabilities were unable to obtain private insurance, and experienced limited access and dire financial problems due to healthcare costs. Allowing states to get waivers from the community rating provision and Essential Health Benefits means that people with disabilities are no longer guaranteed access to needed services on the private health insurance market. It also means that health insurance companies can go back to charging people with disabilities more for their health care. If this bill is passed, important coverage decisions will be left up to individual states, resulting in a patchwork system that offers inconsistent coverage of important therapies and medical devices.

In addition, every single Medicaid per capita cap proposal released this year has capped funding for people with disabilities and includes a slowed growth rate that does not address long-term care needs. About two-thirds of Medicaid funding is spent on providing services to people with disabilities and older adults. Cuts to Medicaid mean cuts to the services that people with disabilities need. There is no question that proposed Medicaid per capita caps will be detrimental to the health, safety and independence of people with disabilities.

Wisconsin's strong Medicaid Program is essential to the health and independence of people with disabilities. Adults with a disability are more likely to: be low-income, have less access to

health care, and report higher health risk factors and chronic conditions. People with disabilities rely on specific supports only available to them through Medicaid, such as personal care and mental health and substance use disorder services.

Estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on Medicaid per capita caps created by the American Health Care Act (AHCA) and the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), showed a 25% cut to federal Medicaid funding over just 10 years as a result of per capita caps. Graham-Cassidy proposes a per capita cap model that is nearly identical to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) and Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). Federal Medicaid funding cuts of this size jeopardize the progress Wisconsin has made over the past 20 years in transitioning people with disabilities out of institutional settings and into the community. It's not clear how Wisconsin can absorb this large a federal funding cut and continue providing the programs and services needed to support people in the community, which is ultimately more cost-effective for taxpayers.

While Graham-Cassidy provides funding to encourage the provision of HCBS services, the criteria for these incentive payments are unclear and the funding would expire in 2023. While we agree that states should be rewarded for increasing access to HCBS services, we do not believe such a short-term investment would result in meaningful policy change nor would it be effective when coupled with Medicaid per capita caps.

Medicaid per capita caps will shift costs to Wisconsin taxpayers and require our state policymakers to make tough choices when it comes to funding its current Medicaid programs. In a letter released September 21, the bi-partisan National Association of State Medicaid Directors announced its opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal because it "would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history."

In addition on September 23 a powerful group representing our nation's hospitals, physicians, health plans stated: "We agree that the bill will result in dramatic cuts to Medicaid and a funding cliff in the future, fundamentally changing the way that states provide coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens."

Wisconsin is on track to end the waiting lists for its children and adult long-term care programs, but federal Medicaid cuts will make it difficult to keep that promise over time. We are also experiencing severe provider shortages in several key areas like personal care, dental care and mental health, and federal funding cuts could lead to rate cuts which will only make these issues worse. Survival has heard from countless families across the state that they cannot access needed services in the current system as a result of inadequate funding. Access issues will only increase under Graham-Cassidy.

The non-partisan CBO analysis of both the AHCA and BCRA clearly states that cuts to federal Medicaid funding will require states to decide whether to "commit more of their own resources to finance the program at current-law levels" or find ways to reduce spending by "cutting payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminating optional services, restricting eligibility for enrollment." Survival Coalition is concerned that cost-saving measures like this will restrict access to care for people with disabilities and low-income children and adults. We must

again mention our concerns about the ability of people with disabilities to continue living and thriving in the community under a per capita cap system. Many of the services people with disabilities rely on are optional Medicaid benefits and, as CBO points out, at risk of being eliminated in a per capita cap system. Policymakers may think that “bending the Medicaid cost curve” means that people might need to wait a bit longer to see a doctor or change their prescription medication to a cheaper brand, people with disabilities and their families see a threat to their ability to continue living life on their own terms. Medicaid cuts mean cuts to transportation to get to work, not having a personal care worker and being forced to sleep in your wheelchair overnight, or even going back to the days when people waited decades—or even died waiting—for services.

In addition, we are deeply troubled by the serious procedural issues with this bill. We agree with Senator John McCain’s call for Congress to work in a bi-partisan manner to enact meaningful health care reform using the full committee mark-up and public input process.

While Survival Coalition believes that CBO estimates of both the AHCA and BCRA provide insight into the fiscal effect of Graham-Cassidy, we strongly object to lack of full CBO score for this proposal. We believe it is irresponsible for Congress to rush a bill to the floor for a vote without understanding its potential impact on the millions of Americans who use Medicaid and the millions more who have gained access to private insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). There is too much at risk to move forward without a full understanding of the bill.

We also object to including the biggest restructuring of Medicaid in the program’s more than 50-year history in a bill meant to repeal and replace the ACA. Such a drastic change to Medicaid deserves separate consideration and debate. It must be vetted using the traditional committee process and include significant stakeholder input. The people who are touched by Medicaid every day have a right to weigh in on any changes to the program, and that cannot be achieved by holding only one public hearing and with extremely limited testimony just days before taking a final vote.

There is no doubt that there is room for improvement in both the private health care system and Medicaid. However, the process that has been used to draft and debate this legislation will not result in meaningful reform. It does nothing to address many of the significant health care cost drivers, including unchecked prescription drug and administrative costs. It will, however, result in millions of Americans losing health care access and devastating cuts to Medicaid. It also means the end of a landmark protection that prevented insurance discrimination against people with disabilities, allowing health insurance plans to once again deny coverage, terminate coverage or charge people higher premiums simply because they have a disability. We implore you to set aside this proposal and instead work with stakeholders to improve care coordination, address the social determinants of health and other member-centered programmatic reforms.

Survival Coalition asks that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

To quote the many disability advocates that have come before us: Nothing about us without us.

Title Of Hearing: **Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing**
Date of the Hearing: **September 25, 2017**
Full Name: **Samuel Calmes Quintal**
Address: **[REDACTED], Philadelphia, PA 19129**

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to register my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. If, as the sponsors of this bill claim, this legislation is aimed at increasing the quality and decreasing the cost of healthcare for all Americans, there is no reason to gut consumer protections that are currently law. Specifically, ending requirements that health insurance is available at no extra cost to individuals with pre-existing conditions, and the requirement that all health insurance plans cover a set of basic services, such as maternity care, primary care visits, pediatric care, etc.

I am shocked that the sponsors of this legislation have admitted that the changes this bill makes will adversely affect states by changing the funding levels for Alaska and Maine back to current law, in an obvious pandering attempt to win votes.

I am also alarmed by the process that has underlaid this whole healthcare debate, and I struggle to understand how any senator could consider voting for legislation without a full score from the CBO. That would be deeply irresponsible and negligent.

Thank you for your time.

Samuel Calmes Quintal



The Children's Aid Society

STATEMENT OF

Children's Aid
for the

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

before the

Senate Finance Committee

September 25, 2017

[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10017

CONTACT: Yolanda McBride, Director of Public Policy
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]



The Children's Aid Society

For more than 160 years, Children's Aid has been committed to ensuring that there are no boundaries to the aspirations of young people, and no limits to their potential. We are leading a comprehensive counterattack on the obstacles that threaten kids' achievements in school and in life. Success and strong well-being are contingent upon positive outcomes in four life domains: education, health and wellness, social-emotional development, and family stabilization. At Children's Aid, we are teachers and social workers, coaches and health care providers. We know what it takes to ensure children grow up strong and healthy, and ready to thrive in school and life. We have constructed a continuum of services, positioned every step of the way throughout childhood that builds well-being and prepares young people to succeed at every level of education and every milestone of life.

At Children's Aid, health and wellness is critical for the overall welfare of our children, youth and families. We provide comprehensive medical, dental, vision, behavioral health and reproductive health services through a network of six school based health centers (SBHCs) and two community-based clinics serving nearly 10,000 children and youth in limited resource neighborhoods in New York City (South Bronx, Harlem, Washington Heights and the north shore of Staten Island). We also operate a children's Health Home – Children's Aid Health Connections - providing comprehensive care management for nearly 300 children and youth.

Our Child Welfare & Family Services division ensures the safety of and well-being of children born into poverty and works with families to develop and sustain stable and self-sufficient households. The provision of health services for youth in foster care factors heavily into ensuring that the comprehensive needs of the child are met. In FY 17, the division served over 6,000 children and families through preventive, foster care, and adoption services.

The recent conversations around health care reform are alarming and have largely failed to address the direct impact on the lives of our country's children and youth. Under the proposed health care reform bill in the Senate, the Medicaid program would be reduced by billions of dollars, resulting in less access to care for the nation's children and youth, specifically those under our care. Currently, nearly 6,700 of Children's Aid's children and youth are enrolled in Medicaid and nearly 1,000 are youth in the foster care system. We have concerns that particularly youth in care will suffer twice as much because they rely heavily on the Medicaid program.

Below we offer some key points to help illustrate the specific needs of youth in the foster care system:

Children in the child welfare system are uniquely vulnerable

- Children in foster care have such unique vulnerabilities and health disparities that the American Academy of Pediatrics classifies them as a population of children with special health care needs.



The Children's Aid Society

- One third of children in foster care have a chronic medical condition, and 60 percent of those under age 5 have developmental health issues.
- Up to 80 percent of children entering foster care have a significant mental health need.
- Children in foster care face greater health needs because of their experiences of complex trauma, including abuse, neglect, witnessed violence, and parental substance use disorders.

The number of children in the child welfare system is growing

- As of the end of FY 2015, there were 427,910 children under the custody of their state in an out-of-home care setting, including a family foster home or treatment institution.
- In 2015, parental substance use was a factor leading to removal from the home for nearly a third of children, compared to just below 25 percent in 2005.
- In 2015 approximately 1 million children received Medicaid coverage through their involvement with the child welfare system.
- Children fare best when they are raised in families equipped to meet their needs. Medicaid's unique and comprehensive Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit equips families to care for abused and neglected children in foster or kinship care and adoption by giving them access to the range of physical and mental health services they need.

Medicaid changes would hurt vulnerable children in foster care and undermine adoptions

- Per capita caps and block grants would dramatically reduce funding for Medicaid. These cuts would lead states to reduce costs, resulting in reduced access to care and inadequate services for children in foster care.
- Children unable to receive treatment for their chronic behavioral and physical health conditions would be difficult to place in foster and kinship caregiver homes, leading to increased youth homelessness.
- Medicaid coverage serves as an incentive and assurance for families adopting a child with special needs from foster care. Families would be less likely to consider these adoptions without the assurance of Medicaid to meet their children's complex health needs.

Children's Aid is thankful for the opportunity to submit comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal to the Senate Finance Committee. As an agency, committed to eradicating poverty in the neighborhoods that we serve, we will do all that we can to advocate, protect and increase funding for the neediest communities. It is the right and moral thing to do to ensure that our children and families have the best opportunity available to realize their full potential.



FEMINIST MAJORITY

Working for Women's Equality

Eleanor Smeal
President

Peg Yorkin
Chair of the Board

Katherine Spillar
Executive Director

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September 25, 2017

Chairman Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member Ron Wyden
Senate Committee on Finance

**RE: Statement for the Record
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017**

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Feminist Majority, a national women's rights organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive health, and the empowerment of women in girls in all sectors of society, we write in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson ("Graham-Cassidy") proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), severely cut federal funding for the Medicaid program, and change the financing structure of Medicaid to a per capita cap or block grant system.

This plan would have a devastating impact on women's health. Not only would it cut off access to health insurance coverage for an estimated 32 million people, the Graham-Cassidy bill would make it more difficult, if not impossible; for many to access care, including women, people with disabilities, seniors, and anyone with a prior medical condition.

Medicaid

The Medicaid program provides a lifeline for millions of people, including middle-class people who rely on Medicaid to fill healthcare gaps, and gives families and individuals a chance to lead healthy lives. The Graham-Cassidy bill, however, would fundamentally dismantle this lifesaving program. The deep funding cuts to Medicaid contained in the Graham-Cassidy proposal together with its proposed block grants and per capita caps on federal Medicaid funds shifts enormous costs to the states, threatens state budgets, and jeopardizes access to care. Without the guarantee of federal funds for all Medicaid enrollees, states will be forced to cut benefits, either by limiting covered services, increasing cost-sharing on low-income people, or restricting enrollment. States will also be hampered in their responses to public health emergencies, such as the opioid crisis or an outbreak of Zika, or to increased demand on healthcare services.

By limiting federal support for Medicaid, including by cutting the growth rate, the Graham-Cassidy proposal puts the health and lives of women, the elderly, and people with disabilities at risk. Two-thirds of adult Medicaid beneficiaries are women,¹ and Medicaid provides health coverage to one in five women of reproductive age.² Nearly one-third of Black women, over one quarter of Latinas, and about 20 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander women of reproductive age are enrolled in the program.³ Medicaid covers the cost of over half of all births in the U.S. and provides nearly 75 percent of all public family planning funds.⁴ It also pays for more than half of all long-term care expenditures, including nursing homes.⁵ Two-thirds of nursing home patients are women.⁶ Medicaid allows these women, many of whom have gone through their savings and assets, to receive the long-term care they need. Medicaid cuts and caps, however, will restrict access to care at all stages of women's lives, leading to poorer health outcomes that can impact not just individual well-being but also destabilize families and communities.

Although the proposed changes to Medicaid would have a devastating impact on all aspects of women's health, the proposed funding ban to Planned Parenthood is particularly harmful. The Graham-Cassidy plan would prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving any Medicaid funding for one year for any service, including family planning, cancer screenings, and testing for sexually transmitted infections. Barring Planned Parenthood from receiving federal Medicaid reimbursements jeopardizes access to these basic healthcare services for millions of low-income women and young people. More than half of Planned Parenthood's patients rely on Medicaid for care, and 56 percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in rural or medically underserved areas.

Medicaid also allows people with disabilities to receive critically needed care, whether medications, therapy, or community-based or in-home services. This care frees people to pursue jobs or an education, or simply allows them to live with their families instead of inside institutions. Roughly 40 percent of Medicaid spending benefits people with disabilities.⁷ Medicaid covers 60 percent of children with disabilities, and 40 percent of non-elderly adults with disabilities.⁸ Medicaid also provides some economic security for caregivers, many of whom

¹ Julia Paradise, et al., Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid at 50*, <http://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-at-50-low-income-pregnant-women-children-and-families-and-childless-adults/>.

² Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid's Role for Women* (Jun. 22, 2017), <http://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/medicaids-role-for-women/>.

³ In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, et al., Fact Sheet, *Attacks on the Affordable Care Act, Planned Parenthood and Medicaid Are Attacks on Reproductive Justice for Women of Color* (Sept. 2017), available at <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/repro/the-house-republican-repeal-bill-threatens-reproductive-justice-for-women-of-color.pdf>.

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, *supra* note 2.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid Pocket Primer* (Jun. 9, 2017), <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/medicaid-pocket-primer/>.

⁸ *Id.*

are women, who would otherwise be unable to meet the needs of their loved ones while also meeting basic needs for themselves or other family members.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal would also eliminate both federal funding for the Medicaid expansion—which has allowed over 10 million people to gain coverage,⁹ including an estimated 3.9 million women¹⁰—as well as federal premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies. Instead, starting in 2020, the federal government would create new, temporary federal block grants to the states, which are estimated to amount to over \$215 billion in revenue loss.¹¹ In addition, the Medicaid Directors of all 50 states have expressed deep concern about these block grants, warning that the vast majority of states would not be prepared to operationalize them in 2020, leaving the fate of millions of people uncertain.¹² Even more alarming, the block grants would expire in 2026, without any guarantee of renewal, inserting even more uncertainty into state budgets and forcing millions of people to lose access to care.

Medicaid is the largest insurer in the nation, serving around 70 million people each year.¹³ The Graham-Cassidy proposal seeks to dramatically cut and fundamentally change the program without a full score from the Congressional Budget Office, without adequate hearings, and without full and robust deliberation that includes a wide variety of stakeholders examining the effect of program changes on the healthcare system, on U.S. workers, and on state economies.¹⁴ Medicaid creates and supports millions of jobs in the U.S. and is critical to state economies. Cutting Medicaid will undoubtedly lead to a loss of jobs and may disproportionately impact women workers who make up the majority of certain healthcare workers, including 80 percent of ambulatory health care employees, 76 percent of hospital employees, and 80 percent of nursing home and residential care facility employees, among other jobs.¹⁵

Time and time again, including during the previous attempts to pass ACA repeal bills this summer, the public has rejected efforts to decimate the Medicaid program. The Senate should abandon this effort and instead work to protect the coverage gains made by the Affordable Care Act.

⁹ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid Expansion Enrollment FY 2016*, <http://kaiserf.am/2sPNGa6>.

¹⁰ National Women's Law Center, *ACA Repeal: What's at Stake for Women's Medicaid Coverage* (Feb. 13, 2017), <https://nwlc.org/resources/aca-repeal-whats-at-stake-for-womens-medicaid-coverage/>.

¹¹ Avalere, Press Release, *Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion* (Sept. 20, 2017), <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>.

¹² National Association of Medicaid Directors, Press Release, *NAMD Statement on Graham-Cassidy* (Sept. 22, 2017), http://medicaiddirectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NAMD-Statement-on-Graham-Cassidy9_22_17.pdf/.

¹³ Kaiser Family Foundation, *supra* note 7.

¹⁴ The Commonwealth Fund, *Repealing Federal Health Reform: Economic and Employment Consequences for States* (Jan 2017), <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2017/jan/repealing-federal-health-reform>.

¹⁵ National Women's Law Center, *Medicaid is Vital for Women's Jobs in Every Community* (Jun. 26, 2017), <https://nwlc.org/resources/medicaid-is-vital-for-womens-jobs-in-every-community/>.

Other Aspects of ACA Repeal

In addition to the proposed changes to Medicaid, the Graham-Cassidy bill proposes to repeal the ACA premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies as well as the individual mandate. The bill would also allow states to waive important consumer protections, such as the prohibition on charging people with pre-existing conditions more for coverage and the guarantee of coverage for ten categories of essential health benefits. These provisions would put health insurance coverage out of reach for millions, cause premiums and other costs to skyrocket, and deny care to those in need.

By eliminating the premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies, the Graham-Cassidy plan would jeopardize coverage for the over 12 million people who enrolled in marketplace plans during the 2017 open enrollment period.¹⁶ Of those who enrolled through Healthcare.gov, fifty-four percent were women and girls.¹⁷ Nationwide, eighty-three percent of those who enrolled in a marketplace plan received a premium tax credit, and more than half qualified for cost-sharing reductions.¹⁸ As discussed above, the block granting of ACA federal financial assistance to the states would be inadequate to meet the need. Further, there is no requirement that states spend the block grant funds to help low- and middle-income people obtain coverage, and the block grants themselves would expire in 2026. As a result, millions of people, many of whom accessed coverage for the first time, would lose coverage.

Even as the Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate financial assistance for marketplace enrollees, it would also cause the cost of those plans to rise. By ending the premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, the Graham-Cassidy proposal would introduce a new layer of government-created uncertainty into the private insurance market, destabilizing the market and causing insurers to raise their rates. In addition, like all of the ACA repeal bills that preceded it and failed, the Graham-Cassidy plan ends the individual mandate, which could cause younger and healthier people to leave the marketplace, raising the cost of insurance for older adults and those with medical conditions. According to estimates, under the Graham-Cassidy plan, premiums would rise by 20 percent in the first year alone.¹⁹

Individuals with pre-existing conditions, however, would experience the greatest cost increases because the Graham-Cassidy proposal would also allow states to waive the protections that prohibit insurance companies from charging individuals with pre-existing conditions more than so-called “healthier” people. For women, this may mean being charged more for having experienced a pregnancy, childbirth, an eating disorder, depression, lupus, or breast cancer, or

¹⁶ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *Health Insurance Marketplaces 2017 Open Enrollment Period Final Enrollment Report: November 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017* (Mar. 15, 2017), <https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2017-Fact-Sheet-items/2017-03-15.html>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Like Other ACA Repeal Bills, Cassidy-Graham Plan Would Add Millions to Uninsured, Destabilize Individual Market* (Sept. 20, 2017), <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/like-other-aca-repeal-bills-cassidy-graham-plan-would-add-millions-to-uninsured>.

having received medical treatment related to sexual or intimate partner violence. Premium surcharges could range from \$142,650 per year for metastatic cancer to \$17,320 for a pregnancy.²⁰ These surcharges would price many families and individuals out of the market. By definition, these are people—new mothers, cancer survivors, children with medical conditions, etc.—who most need access to healthcare.

For those who can pay increasing costs, the Graham-Cassidy bill may force them to pay more for less. Currently, insurance companies are required to cover ten categories of essential health benefits (EHBs), such as emergency care, hospitalization, laboratory services, pediatric care, and more. The Graham-Cassidy proposal, however, would allow states to waive coverage of EHBs. States could eliminate any or all of these benefits, including maternity care, or allow insurers to determine the scope of coverage. As a result, people who are able to purchase health insurance would face substantial increases in their out-of-pocket costs for care because their insurance plan would no longer cover the care they need. In particular, people who rely on expensive prescription drugs, mental health services, or substance abuse treatment could see large increases in their healthcare spending or would be forced to stop receiving those services all together.

The loss of maternity care as a covered essential health benefit would be particularly burdensome for women and their families. Prior to the ACA, only 18 states required nongroup health insurance plans to cover maternity care.²¹ As a result, only 12 percent of individual insurance plans nationwide offered maternity coverage.²² It is expected that states that did not previously require maternity benefits would stop guaranteeing coverage for those services. In these states, women who want maternity coverage would have to purchase a rider at a cost of more than \$1,000 per month, a cost that many women simply cannot afford.²³ Under these circumstances, having a baby could mean financial ruin. The average cost of childbirth in the United States ranges from around \$32,000 for a vaginal birth and \$51,000 for a cesarean birth.²⁴

²⁰ Sam Berger and Emily Gee, Center for American Progress, *Latest ACA Repeal Plan Would Explode Premiums for People with Pre-Existing Conditions* (Apr. 20, 2017), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/04/20/430858/latest-aca-repeal-plan-explode-premiums-people-pre-existing-conditions/>.

²¹ Kaiser Family Foundation, *Pre-ACA State Maternity Coverage Mandates: Individual and Small Group Markets*, <http://www.kff.org/state-category/health-insurance-managed-care/pre-aca-state-mandated-health-insurance-benefits/>.

²² National Women's Law Center, *The Many Ways the American Health Care Act Would Jeopardize Women's Health and Economic Security* (May 24, 2017), <https://nwlc.org/resources/the-many-ways-the-american-health-care-act-would-jeopardize-womens-health-and-economic-security/>.

²³ Congressional Budget Office, *Cost Estimate: H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act of 2017 as passed by the House of Representatives on May 4, 2017* at 26 (May 24, 2017), <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/costestimate/hr1628aspassed.pdf>.

²⁴ Truven Health Analytics, *The Cost of Having a Baby in the United States* 6 (Jan. 2013), <http://transform.childbirthconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Cost-of-Having-a-Baby1.pdf>.

Denial of maternity coverage is also dangerous and endangers women's lives. Pregnancy carries considerable health risks, including anemia, gestational diabetes, depression, infection, and high blood pressure, which can lead to hypertension or preeclampsia. These conditions, if untreated, can lead to serious complications, including preterm delivery, low- or high-birth weight babies, and infant or maternal death.

Coupling the denial of maternity coverage with the elimination of other essential health benefits—like coverage for mental health and substance abuse services or chronic disease management—increases the likelihood of maternal and child death. Many maternal deaths are the result of pre-existing health conditions like cardiovascular disease, obesity, and substance use. If coverage for treating those underlying conditions were cut, fewer women would be able to access care to keep themselves and their children healthy. This is especially concerning since the United States has the highest level of maternal death in the developed world.²⁵ Maternal death rates are particularly high among Black women who are more likely, as a group, to experience additional health disparities.²⁶ In addition, the Graham-Cassidy proposal would increase restrictions on abortion coverage, a policy that undermines healthy motherhood and endangers women's health by putting healthcare out of reach.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would also allow states to re-impose annual and lifetime caps on coverage, a practice that the ACA had curbed. Prohibiting caps on coverage ensures that families and individuals with serious health concerns can access benefits when they need them the most. Imposing caps is tantamount to imposing a cutoff date on critically-needed care, threatening the lives of the most vulnerable.

Increasing healthcare costs would mean less financial stability for families, too many of whom are already struggling to get by. The family forced to pay higher premiums because of a pre-existing condition may be forced to choose between healthcare or food, healthcare or their child's education, healthcare or the rent. Adult children may find themselves financially stretched to pay for an elderly parent's care when they can no longer rely on Medicaid to help pay the cost of nursing home care. Skyrocketing out-of-pocket costs as well as the loss of coverage all together could lead families into bankruptcy. In fact, a recent study of bankruptcy filings found that expanded access to insurance coverage under the ACA helped drive down personal bankruptcy filings.²⁷ The Senate should not lead the country backward.

For the reasons discussed above, the Feminist Majority strongly opposes the Graham-Cassidy bill, and we urge the Senate to abandon this effort, as well as all efforts to repeal the ACA and dismantle or defund the Medicaid program. In addition, the Feminist Majority has grave

²⁵ Nina Martin and Renee Montagne, *U.S. Has the Worst Rate of Maternal Deaths in the Developed World*, NPR (May 12, 2017), <http://www.npr.org/2017/05/12/528098789/u-s-has-the-worst-rate-of-maternal-deaths-in-the-developed-world>.

²⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System* (Jun. 29, 2017), <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html>.

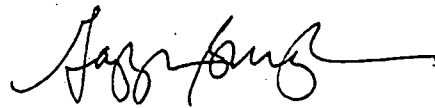
²⁷ Allen St. John, *How the Affordable Care Act Drove Down Personal Bankruptcy*, Consumer Reports (May 2, 2017), <https://www.consumerreports.org/personal-bankruptcy/how-the-aca-drove-down-personal-bankruptcy/>.

grave concerns about the lack of transparency surrounding the development of this legislation, as well as previous legislation to repeal the ACA and restructure Medicaid. It should be noted that this one hearing, with its cursory attempt to gather public input without reasonable notice, is not an adequate replacement for rigorous debate and deliberation of a proposal to reshape the U.S. healthcare system. We encourage the Senate to return to regular order and work in a bipartisan fashion to strengthen the ACA and increase access to healthcare for all.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Smeal
President



Gaylynn Burroughs
Policy Director

September 25, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance
Attn: Editorial and Document Section
Room SD-219
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a nurse, I am concerned by how this would devastate funding for healthcare, which as you know constitutes between one fifth and one sixth of the American economy. I am scratching my head at the celebration over saving a couple of hundred coal or manufacturing jobs, while yet being willing to decimate an industry that not only provides a community with a wide range of jobs with benefits, from service level to top tier, but which is also an industry that every American needs to utilize at some point. What better investment in jobs and the health of our country could be made? Yet here we are, willing to throw it away without a CBO score or a thought to how this will affect the communities that depend on healthcare organizations for jobs as well as medical care.

Secondly, I write to oppose it as the mother of a daughter with a congenital heart condition. Currently, 1 in 100 babies is born with a heart condition; the number is nearly double that for children with autism. How is it "pro life" to deny these children necessary medical care, or charge their families an unaffordable premium for it?

Federal funds have not been used for abortion for some time. Why do we insist then on removing cancer screenings and primary care from the communities served by Planned Parenthood? This does not strike me as consistent with pro "life" either.

I am deeply disturbed by credible news reports that the Republican "piggy banks" known as the Koch brothers are making their donations contingent on healthcare repeal. I cannot think of any darker way to gain political influence than to use money to barter for the lives of innocent people.

Destabilizing the insurance market as this bill is sure to do is not good for anyone. Every major medical and hospital organization in the country joins me in assuring you of this. Please listen to rationality and resume BIPARTISAN talks on how to FIX healthcare. Don't simply "hold your nose and vote" for this bill under the assumption that "we said we would repeal Obamacare and anything is better." Anything is NOT better. The Affordable Care Act needs fixing, yes, but then please, by all means, get to work! By all accounts, this bill is sloppily crafted and displays no understanding of how medical care or the insurance markets work. Americans deserve better!

Sincerely,

For: The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Hearing
Monday, September 25th, 2017 @2pm

From:

Liisa McCloy-Kelley
[REDACTED]

Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
[REDACTED]

As you go to consider this new healthcare bill today, I want you to know that I oppose the passing of The Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am terribly worried about how catastrophic this could be for myself and the millions of other people like me who rely on decent insurance that allows coverage for essential health benefits, coverage of pre-existing conditions and few lifetime limit caps that are likely to be significantly changed or destroyed if this bill passes.

For the past 34 years, I have lived (and suffered) with Type 1 Diabetes. I got sick with a virus at 13 years old and didn't recover. Back at school, my teacher called my mom because they thought I was on drugs since I was running to the bathroom so often. I had lost a lot of weight and was constantly weak and thirsty. I ended up hospitalized, where they diagnosed the diabetes and started me on insulin therapy. After about a year, my pancreas had one last "honeymoon" of insulin and stopped working. Ever since, I have been dependent on this injectable medicine to live. It would take just three days without my insulin before I would slip into a coma and die a painful death.

I also have several other chronic health issues including: asthma, chronic allergy and sinus problems, as well as gastrointestinal issues, migraines and have had many orthopedic injuries and surgeries. This year I have experienced kidney issues and found nodules in my lungs and one in my breast. The diabetes complicates everything else with my health and is an invisible battle that I fight every minute of every day. Every time I have another health issue, I discover something new about my diabetes- diabetics don't heal well, they stiffen easily, they are more prone to kidney issues and shoulder injuries. They have more kidney issues. The overall impact of the disease weighs on everything else in my body. The disease was caused by an auto-immune disorder and makes me susceptible to so many other things that are also auto-immune related.

In many ways, I have had to become my own doctor and nurse because I need to make dozens of treatment decisions every day and in the middle of the night and I know the balance of my medicines and my body better than anyone else could. I can't ever forget

about it or have a day off so matter how sick or tired or frustrated I become. As careful as I am and as hard as I try, my diabetes can't be entirely controlled, which wreaks havoc on my mental health and confidence. I'm always walking on an edge between the peaks and valleys of high and low blood sugar. Every day I risk death as I make decisions about how to treat low blood sugars, which are the side effect of good control and can cause confusion and unconsciousness. What keeps me going is that I know diabetes will likely be the underlying cause of whatever eventually kills me and I work hard to try to head off that day.

Beyond being difficult to manage, diabetes is outrageously expensive to treat. Without adequate insurance, few can afford the insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring systems that offer the best care and hope for someone who has to live longterm with this disease. There are no generics for these medicines, and the technology we can use to give better control is constantly changing and gradually improving. An insulin pump costs about \$8000 and needs to be updated and replaced at least every 4 years. A bottle of insulin costs over \$330- I use 3-4 a month. In addition, the infusion sets and continuous glucose monitoring supplies cost thousands a month. You can't get any of this medicine over the counter, it all has to be prescribed, which requires the continuous care of an endocrinologist and at least 3 visits a year. All of my adult life my job opportunities have been guided by access to insurance and trying to ensure that I not get caught in a "pre-existing condition" situation while balancing the "lifetime limit" that you so quickly inch toward when you spend many thousands of dollars a year to stay alive.

The ACA guarantees for pre-existing conditions, no lifetime limits and essential health benefits coverage for hospitalizations, prescription drug coverage, and chronic disease management have helped significantly towards ensuring that I will be able to continue to fight this disease for years to come. I've long had decent insurance coverage through the company that I work for, but I didn't have these guarantees before the ACA. I am terrified of what the Graham-Cassidy plan might mean for me and my ability to continue to live with this disease.

Please stop rushing to find a "solution" that doesn't help and just makes the President happy to say he did something. Please stop pretending that sending so much of this back to a state level to decide is the right thing for the vast majority of America. So many of our states don't have the infrastructure to support good healthcare and so many of our people must cross state lines to get to adequate healthcare.

Let's all work together to find a way to help everyone and stop rushing to put through something that just checks off the box of "Replace Obamacare." This is not the answer.

Thank you,
Liisa McCloy-Kelley
Croton-on-Hudson, NY

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee including my own Senator Pat Roberts

Title: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Position: Opposed

Name: Jawanda Barnett Mast

Address: [REDACTED]
Olathe, KS 66062

Email: [REDACTED]

Twitter: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden and Committee Members:

My name is Jawanda Barnett Mast, and I am writing as a parent and as a disability advocate. In both paid and volunteer positions, for the past 18 years it has been and continues to be my great honor to work alongside families to advocate for individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities. However, my most important job is to testify on behalf of my daughter Rachel who has also sent comments. **I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill based upon the devastating effects it will have on Medicaid and health care for people with Down syndrome and other disabilities.** I urge Congress to work together in a bipartisan fashion to improve upon the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and make any necessary changes to the Medicaid system without block grants, cuts or caps.

I gave birth into the Down syndrome community when my daughter Rachel was born just over 18 years ago. She is a senior in high school. We have worked hard for her to be meaningfully included, and she will graduate with a diploma in May. She has been very successful in her school and she has become quite the advocate herself. Just a few years ago, she told Senator Moran, Senator Roberts and Congressman Yoder (and anyone else who would listen) that she wants to live in a pink house so they should pass the ABAE Act. Like most of you, they listened and did the right thing. **We are asking you to do the right thing when it comes to healthcare.**

Mandy Americans do not realize that there are people besides the elderly and the poor who depend on current Medicaid system to live independently and work in meaningful employment. My Rachel is one of these people who receives support from this very "welfare" system and will probably need those supports to live independently. I'm going out on a limb here and saying that I suspect most people do not realize that Medicaid is the entry into the system for individuals with disabilities.

We had a prenatal diagnosis so we could line up some of Rachel's early intervention services even before she was born. As people described waiting lists and IFSP's and future IEP's and Family Support Services and something called Medicaid Waivers, I remember thinking that we had good insurance and surely all this fuss wasn't necessary. But did you know that if not for early intervention services mandated by the government 30 plus years ago, Rachel probably wouldn't have received speech therapy, occupation therapy or physical therapy because she has Down syndrome. **Down syndrome is a pre-existing condition** and even with our outstanding employer-sponsored insurance, it wouldn't pay for those services. Our middle-class family could not have

afforded those services. Graham-Cassidy allows states an option to opt out of pre-existing conditions. We will return to days of outrageous pricing for those with pre-existing conditions. Many if not most people do not choose to have pre-existing conditions.

I am certain that most of you know, there is tremendous pressure on expectant mothers of children with Down syndrome to terminate their pregnancies. **Pro-life should mean all life for all of life.** Children born with Down syndrome and other disabilities will need services across the life-span. The Graham-Cassidy bill threatens these very supports by decimating the services these very children who become adults will need to be less reliant on the government. Pro-life legislators should make it their responsibility to create a system that does not further punish those who choose life and/or make it harder and that provides services across the life span. Per capita caps and block grants will force states, already struggling to balance budgets, to cut non-essential services.

Today, Rachel is engrossed in a busy senior year filled with dances, excitement, plays, bonfires, and more. She wants to go to college. She wants to get a job. She wants to drive and maybe someday she will, but I would guess that's a long shot. She wants to get married. She wants to live in that Pink House. Rachel is very capable, but she needs supports like transportation, job training and coaching, assistance managing her finances and will probably need some level of personal care assistance to live independently. Currently, these long-term services and supports (LTSS) for independent living are provided through something called a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. Yep, the entry into the system for independent living supports for my Rachel and thousands like her is: **Medicaid.** Medicaid Waivers are optional programs and of course every state's program looks a little different. Some states do a good job. Other states do pretty terrible job and there are a lot in the middle. Did you know if we move to another state, Rachel would go to the bottom of the list for those wavier services? In my home state of Arkansas, the waiting list is twelve years long. Optional means that when funding is tight, these are likely to be cut. There are already lengthy waiting lists in many states. By the way, if you decide to move or your job relocates you, you go to the bottom of the wait list in the new state. The Medicaid HCBS Waiver is one of many optional waivers and will be first up for cuts.

My family worked for eight years, mostly at our own expense, to travel to Washington DC to meet with legislators to tell our story and the stories of others who needed to be able to save beyond they \$2,000 asset limit. My premise then and now is that we do not want Rachel to depend on the government, but the reality is she will probably need a little help. Eight years working alongside many, many advocates and with Members of Congress in a **bipartisan way**, we passed the ABL Act. Rachel opened the first ABL account in Kansas in January. It will help offset some costs but remember we have only been able to open an ABL Account this year. We are limited to \$14,000 per year up to \$100,000 without jeopardizing government supports. Even if we had an extra \$14,000 a year, it will take time to build that enough to help very much. We hope Rachel lives to be an old lady and her ABL account will continuously need to be replenished. Her ABL account will probably not be sufficient to offset all the costs for her to work in a meaningful job and live independently. **The per capita caps and Medicaid block grants proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill will undermine ABL because people will have to use their ABL dollars on long term-services and supports currently provided by Medicaid Home Community Based Waiver Services.**

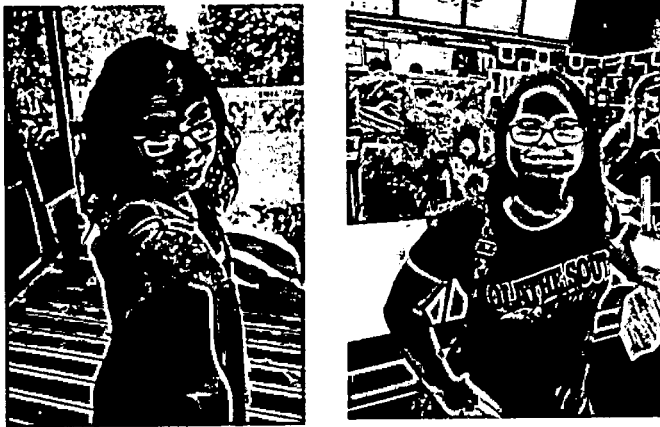
Trust me when I say we don't want to depend on the government. We want Rachel to make her own way and if at some point she doesn't need government assistance, we will be very happy. We would be delighted if we didn't have to meet annually to confirm that she still has Down syndrome and complete an overwhelming pile of paperwork that is equivalent to a part-time job on an ongoing basis. Quite honestly, it can be humiliating and we would be pleased if we didn't have to jump through all the invasive hoops to keep her on a list or to qualify her to receive some of these supports. We have been fortunate because Rachel has been healthy overall, and we have good private insurance. In the not so distant future she will age out of our insurance and we hope she has a

job with benefits at that time. The reality is that depending on the statistics you look at, individuals with intellectual disabilities have about a 70% unemployment rate. She may need Medicaid for her primary insurance, too.

Graham-Cassidy may meet your efforts to save money, but it will be by taking services from our country's most vulnerable citizens. The philosophy is to put this back on states who are already struggling to meet needs. While I'm on that subject, in many states Medicaid pays for some of the therapies in the public-school system. In our district alone, almost \$2 million was reimbursed through Medicaid. IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education) mandates the services be provided so the school system will have to absorb these costs. By the way, the federal government committed to 40% of the funding of IDEA and currently funds it at about 16% leaving the local schools to make up the difference.

I am asking you to please VOTE NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill. My plea is the same as it was when we were trying to pass the ABL Act: Rachel's counting on Congress to **DO THE RIGHT THING**. I am also asking you to please work together, Republicans and Democrats, and fix the issues within the Affordable Care Act without harming our nation's most vulnerable populations.

As you are trying to decide how you will vote, I hope you will see this precious little face:



She's counting on You!

Please remember that Rachel wants to live with respect and dignity and these significant cuts will likely impact her ability to do this.

Sincerely,

Jawanda Barnett Mast
Mom to Rachel and Disability Rights Advocate

[REDACTED]
Olathe KS 66062
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

Bernadette Naquin

████████████████████ Baltimore, MD 21214

Up until this past May, I was never too concerned with our health insurance. My husband and I are both employed full-time at large companies—he is a union member, and I am in healthcare. We have always had employer-provided coverage. We have three wonderful boys, aged 22, 19, and 16. They are fortunate to be covered under the expansion to age 26 created by the Affordable Care Act while they are in college and securing their first jobs.

This comfort level vanished after a single phone call this year. My oldest son fainted a few times this past February, and after much testing, we learned that he suffers from congenital Long QT syndrome. Long QT is a cardiac issue that, when conditions are right, can cause sudden cardiac death. He has the genetic mutation that causes this. We've since learned that his father and 2 brothers also carry the gene. And although this genetic mutation has never caused any issues in my husband and younger sons, all four of them now have a dreaded pre-existing condition.

I understand this bill is not removing the provision for pre-existing conditions. But it will give the ability for plans to charge much higher premiums to those people who have pre-existing conditions. And as we are faced with a society that is more sedentary and more overweight, the comorbidities will continue to expand.

But this is not my only concern with Graham-Cassidy. I am a firm believer that all humans should have affordable access to health care. In fact, I believe very strongly that health care should be a NOT FOR PROFIT institution, the same as most of the other developed countries in the world. Americans should not have to declare bankruptcy when they get cancer. Senior citizens should not have to choose between eating or taking their medication. Get the idea of making a profit on healthy folks out of healthcare.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Thank you.

Bernadette, Jack, Jared, Joshua and Jacob Naquin



**Northern
New England Society of
Addiction Medicine**

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

Statement for the Record by the Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine
11400 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852
Senate Committee on Finance Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson
Proposal

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham, Senator Cassidy, Senator Heller, and Senator Johnson:

The Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine, which represents 107 Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the treatment of addiction, writes to share our serious concerns with several of the health system reforms included in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal. We are very concerned that the GCHJ's proposed changes to our health care system will result in reductions in health care coverage, particularly for individuals with substance use disorders, and we oppose passage of the bill.

We recognize that the GCHJ would require coverage of mental health and substance use disorder treatment consistent with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) as part of the new Medicaid Flexibility Program. However, we do not support many of the other changes to the health care system in the proposal that would result in reduced access to substance use disorder treatment, including changes that would cap federal funding for Medicaid, end the Medicaid expansion, and eliminate mental health and substance use disorder benefit protections for Americans insured through the small group and individual markets. **We have serious concerns with provisions in the proposal that would allow states to easily**

waive Essential Health Benefit requirements, end Medicaid expansion and change Medicaid to a per-capita or block grant financing system.

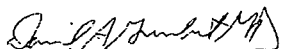
The Medicaid expansion in particular has led to significant increases in coverage and treatment access for persons with substance use disorders and mental illness. In states that expanded Medicaid, the share of people with substance use disorders or mental illness who were hospitalized but uninsured fell from about 20 percent in 2013 to 5 percent by mid-2015, and Medicaid expansion has been associated with an 18.3 percent reduction in the unmet need for substance use disorder treatment services among low-income adults.

Rolling back the Medicaid expansion and/or fundamentally changing Medicaid's financing structure to cap spending on health care services will certainly reduce access to evidence-based treatments and reverse much or all progress made on the opioid crisis last year. Capping federal Medicaid funding through per-capita caps or block grants would strain state budgets and likely force states to cut benefits, lower provider reimbursement rates, and/or limit access to care. These changes would be devastating to states grappling with the current opioid overdose and suicide epidemics. Moreover, the loss of Medicaid-covered mental health and substance use disorder services for adults would result in more family disruption and out-of-home placements for children, significant trauma which has its own long-term health effects, and a further burden on a child welfare system that is struggling to meet the current demand for foster home capacity.

The ACA's Medicaid expansion, Essential Health Benefit requirements for mental health and substance use disorder treatment coverage, and extension of parity protections to the individual and small group market have surely reduced the burden of the opioid misuse and overdose epidemics and saved lives. Substance use disorder and mental health treatment benefits must continue to be available to Americans enrolled in the individual, small, and large group markets as well as Medicaid plans and these benefits should be compliant with the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act*.

As the addiction specialists treating patients in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, we urge the Senate to reject this harmful proposal that will result in loss of coverage, benefit protections, and access to care.

Sincerely,




Daniel Graubert, MD
President, Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine

**Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
September 25, 2017**

This testimony from:

Peter S. O'Connell


Brookfield, MA 01506

I write to oppose the passage of the so-called Graham-Cassidy bill. The health issues in this country require national and state leadership, Republican and Democratic bi-partisanship, public and private partnerships to solve. The Graham-Cassidy bill takes us backward by pitting states against one another and by penalizing states that have provided leadership on health care. It will abandon those with chronic illness or serious health issues who need affordable insurance and health care the most. My brother has had a life-long struggle with mental illness that under the provisions of this bill would put him back on the street when he reaches his Medicare cap limits or when federal health care aid to states expires. His health care would be provided by overcrowded emergency rooms and by police officers who would have to take him there. That is inhumane and ultimately more expensive besides.

Our daughter's best friend had a very premature child that she calls her "million dollar baby" because of the extensive treatment she required over the four years of her life. The provisions of Graham-Cassidy bill will condemn children like Emma and her loving family to poverty.

Voters want bipartisan cooperation over a sustained period on this and other issues - not this insane rush to pass legislation without adequate hearings to obtain fuller understanding of the economic and public health consequences of this bill. The eleventh hour addition to throw more money into the pot to try to persuade a few reluctant legislators to vote in favor of this bill should make all Senators realize that the whole bill should be re-examined thoroughly.

I urge the Finance Committee to vote against recommending the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill to the full Senate. The bill will make the current health care problems worse and the rushed, partisan process used to advance the bill is an example of poor governance.

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, 09/25/2017

Alicia Halbert

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, IN 46220

September 25, 2017

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is Alicia Halbert. I live in Indianapolis, IN, and I am the mother of Rory Halbert, a vibrant, bright 12-year-old girl.

When Rory was 6 years old, my little girl who loved mermaids and swimming, suddenly and inexplicably stopped walking, talking, eating and sleeping. After two years, a team of doctors at Duke University Children's Hospital diagnosed Rory with Autoimmune Encephalitis, a rare, and life-threatening disease where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks neural receptors in the brain.

Rory, who missed most of first through fourth grade, endured a year and a half of infusions of IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) treatments, steroids and oral medications to suppress her immune system. Her treatments were covered by private insurance. With these treatments, Rory is back at school. She is a seventh grader at one of the largest middle schools in Indianapolis. Her favorite subject is art, and she's making As and Bs in her classes. She has made many good friends. Next week, she will go on a class camping trip where she will rock climb, fish and enjoy other activities. I have attached a one-page flyer with photos of Rory.

Her quality of life is good. Because of the ACA, her treatment was covered, and we didn't worry about annual or lifetime caps. Rory's condition is autoimmune, though, so it could relapse at anytime. Without access to affordable quality healthcare, my child's medical cost for IVIG medicine alone would cost \$16,000 a month. The immune suppressant she takes every day — a generic! — costs \$700 a month. No parent should have to choose between the life of their child and certain bankruptcy.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt my child and my family. I strongly urge Congress to reject it.

Sincerely,

Alicia Halbert

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

September 25, 2017

Dear Senators;

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Health Care. If passed, it will result in millions losing insurance and being without healthcare. Thousands of people will ultimately die if this bill is passed.

I urge all senators on both sides of the aisle to vote against this bill.

Cheryl Savageau



Easton, MA 02356

To be included in the hearing record, send this as an attachment, single-spaced with the title (Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal), and the date (September 25, 2017) on the first page along with your name and full address. We would also suggest pasting the same message in the body of the email just to make sure it's seen quickly.



Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
370 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senator
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill (H.R. 1628)

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, we submit this letter opposing passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

Our Council was created by Minnesota Governor Wendell R. Anderson in 1971. Our mission is advocacy, systems change, and capacity building on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities affect 1.8% of the population and is defined as three or more functional limitations. We advocate for people with pre-existing conditions who are truly the nation's most vulnerable people.

We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because the bill reduces access to Medicaid, eliminates services and benefits, and will exacerbate health care outcomes.

Our state has built a system of supports that assist people with disabilities to be more independent, productive, self determined, integrated and included in our communities. This system has been built over 52 years with great care and consideration involving tens of thousands of hours of legislative hearings.

We oppose dismantling our system of services with a 140 page bill that has not had a single hearing in Congress.

Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill (H.R. 1628)
September 25, 2017
Page 2

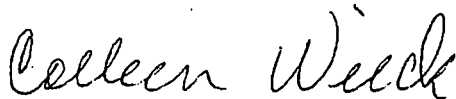
Children and adults with developmental disabilities depend upon Medicaid for a full range of health care services, from physician services to hospitalization. Minnesotans with developmental disabilities can access assistive technology, residential supports, and employment services. We oppose this bill because it will eliminate coverage.

Finally, our Council has carefully monitored health care outcomes including rates of abuse and neglect. Disparities are especially critical for anyone who is a person of color and has a disability (intersectionality). Cutting Medicaid will exacerbate health care outcomes and disparities.

Demographic trends point toward an increase in demands for services. Implementing caps at this point will create new problems for our service systems in terms of demands outstripping resources. Rationing health care is a solution for developing economies, not the United States.

Our Council members have lived through difficult times when there was no federal funding for services. The system was sued to assure basic minimal standards. In 1972, federal standards were ordered by federal judges. We do not want to return to those historical times.

Respectfully,



Colleen Wieck, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Hannah Mehta. Our family resides in Flower Mound, TX. My son's name is Aiden Mehta, age 10. We are providing written testimony today in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Aiden is a medically dependent child. He is a fraternal triplet with a rather lengthy and complicated medical history, including prolonged acute hospitalizations beginning with his first year of life (on and off of life support), and (as we later learned) his history includes a number of congenital abnormalities and other medical issues. Despite lengthy in-patient admissions in critical care units at major Texas hospitals from birth, the majority of Aiden's medical issues were undiagnosed and/or misdiagnosed, resulting in further complications.

His very complex medical needs eventually exhausted our personal resources and required us to seek help maintaining his medical care through the Medically Dependent Children's waiver Program (MDCP), a Medicaid safety-net which, in combination with our private commercial insurance coverage, allows us to provide a hospital-level of care in our home and allows Aiden to remain with our family, in the community, with improved quality of life, and the opportunity to grow up and someday, God willing, be a productive and contributing member of society.

On several occasions, as Aiden lay fighting for every breath on multiple life-sustaining machines, doctors have been told us that there may not be a "tomorrow" for him. Following an acute extended hospitalization which resulted in Aiden being placed in a medically-induced coma on life support in the PICU for months, we were repeatedly told by multiple specialists across the region that they did not know how to help him, and we exhausted local options in the state of Texas.



At that time, Aiden's local medical team knew that he required further care, and recommended in 2008 that he travel via Air Ambulance to the respected multi-disciplinary Center for Aero-Digestive Disorders at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) for diagnosis and treatment. Out of desperation, I left two infants at home in Texas, and followed their advice, despite the significant hardship to our family.

Initially, for the first several years after Aiden's birth, we exhausted our resources and savings trying to obtain the needed medical care for our son and sustain this process, unaware at the time of the extent of Aiden's undiagnosed medical issues. Having depleted our resources, even with private commercial insurance coverage, we were drowning in medical bills and trying to sustain the needs of a fragile child who required 24-7 medical care, frequent hospitalizations, and a plethora of equipment.

Pre-Existing Conditions & Lifetime Caps Restricted Our Ability to Provide for Our Family

Despite having an MBA from an excellent business school, Aiden's Daddy was unable to leave his MBA internship and advance to a more suitable position with increased pay and opportunities for advancement because Aiden's medical needs were considered a "pre-existing condition" and we would have lost his private commercial insurance coverage. In many cases, we were also faced with the threat of lifetime caps placed on private insurance coverage, which Aiden would easily have exceeded in his first year of life.

Secondary Medicaid Allows Us to Provide A Hospital-Level of Care in the Home

You see, despite the fact that we work extremely hard to maintain excellent private insurance for Aiden, and utilize it to the maximum extent possible, there are many critical medical needs which our private insurance company will not cover, including life-sustaining specialty medical formula, vital medications, speech & feeding therapies, and many other essential medical needs which very quickly threatened to medically bankrupt our family. We were uncertain how we were going to continue to meet Aiden's needs, when another family who told us about the Medically Dependent Children's Medicaid waiver Program. We are forced to rely on traditional Medicaid to cover these items so that Aiden's daily needs are met and we are able to provide the care that Aiden needs at home to keep him together with his family and out of the hospital.

Improved Health Outcomes & Access to Life-Sustaining Care = Quality of Life

Over the past seven years, the BCH team has diagnosed and treated multiple missed and mis-diagnosed major congenital abnormalities and other critical medical issues impacting Aiden's health. Although we still do not have an underlying primary diagnosis, Aiden's medical team has identified and treated a multitude of secondary issues, and helped us to develop and establish a much more stable medical baseline for Aiden, thereby drastically decreasing acute and prolonged hospitalizations and the continual need for critical care and resulting in an enormous difference in Aiden's quality of life.

This requires an extensive amount of round-the-clock home care, but most importantly, it has allowed him to spend substantially less time in hospitals and doctor's offices, and more time at home with his brothers, developing suitable childhood skills, such as learning how to eat by mouth! With help from respite workers, we are able to reinforce developmental and therapy training at home while also keeping Aiden safe, to work on achieving milestones that have been missed due to constant acute illness and prolonged hospitalizations.

Key ACA Provisions Allowed Continued Access to Critical Medical Care

When Aiden's dad was laid off from his job and his entire division was pink-slipped, we were incredibly relieved and thankful that the ACA had included provisions to no longer allow denial of coverage due to pre-existing conditions or lifetime caps, which would have meant denial of Aiden's critical, life-sustaining care. This meant that a new job **would** include continued private insurance coverage for Aiden, *allowing us to continue providing appropriate & necessary medical care at home and with our family, and reducing the burden on the secondary Medicaid coverage, while still contributing to our community, paying taxes, and providing for our family.*

Yes, the ACA Needs Reform

We are desperate parents, just trying to keep our children alive and our families together. We are desperate to provide for our children's extreme medical and rehabilitation needs, so that they can one day be contributing, participating members of society, active in their communities, and not be forced to rely on the system as adults. In order for this to become a reality, our medically fragile, chronically ill children **must receive appropriate medical and therapeutic care in a timely manner, and have access to the supports that are needed to provide for their complicated medical needs and keep them stable at home.**

While we are not fans of many provisions of the ACA, and we can all agree that the ACA and current system require significant overhaul and reform, **our son Aiden is alive and living at home with the care that he needs today because we can access the medical care that he needs.**

Yes, the ACA needs to be reformed. But why are we trying to pass healthcare legislation that would gut the most effective parts of the ACA and the most effective parts of Medicaid?

We, as a country, are going to have to spend money on Americans with significant disabilities, whether we want to or not. **Being born with a disability (or acquiring one later in life) should never mean the death of**

your right to liberty and basic dignity. If we are going to make that commitment as Americans, then we should be maximizing people's independence by spending money and making policy wisely, where it counts.

Reduction of Federal Medicaid Funding Means States Will Be Faced with Impossible Decisions

If federal funding becomes insufficient, states will have to make up the shortfalls. In Texas and many other states, that would most likely come in one of three ways: (1) Less reimbursement to providers who would in turn stop seeing patients (something that is already happening under the TX state-mandated cuts to Medicaid in the form of managed care); (2) reductions in services; or (3) tightening of eligibility. Texas is already tied with Alabama as having the strictest eligibility threshold in the nation. There is no fat to be trimmed. The states will be faced with extremely difficult decisions. Who do you choose to cut? Children with extreme medical needs and disabilities? The elderly?

This is A Moral & Ethical Issue. Fragile Lives Must Be Protected.

This has nothing to do with politics, and everything to do with protecting human life. Children with disabilities should be in their own homes, not living in hospitals and nursing homes. President Ronald Reagan recognized the importance of keeping children with disabilities at home and in the community, rather than in institutions. In the 1980s, Reagan created the Medicaid waiver programs in response to the mother of a little girl named Kate Beckett who was living in a hospital due to her medical needs.

Allowing the return of pre-existing condition and annual & lifetime caps for private insurance coverage, and cutting Medicaid funding to states virtually guarantees that these safety-net waiver programs will be cut by states, and that children and people with disabilities will no longer be able to obtain the care they need to remain in the community. Families simply cannot afford to provide an institutional-level of care on their own, even with private insurance coverage.

For fragile Texas children, the proposed changes under the Graham-Cassidy legislation would be devastating and life-threatening. It would mean that **families who are currently able to sustain an institutional level of care in the home** with a combination of commercial insurance coverage and help from safety-net Medicaid waiver programs **would no longer be able to provide adequate care for their child**, even if they declare medical bankruptcy, and would therefore be forced to institutionalize their children just to obtain adequate care. This does not protect fragile lives, and it does not protect these very vulnerable children.

We ask you to consider the onerous burden and incredible duress the proposed changes will place on families who are already hanging on by a thread, struggling to survive and maintain their child's care from day-to-day, to rehabilitate and keep them alive and in the community with maximum quality of life—at significantly less expense to the government. Families like ours, already fighting every day to keep our children alive and meet their significant needs.

No, the current system isn't perfect by any means. We have all had our difficulties and challenges trying to navigate the system and make it work for our children. But the Graham-Cassidy Bill will adversely affect the health and well-being of our country's most fragile and medically needy children, and place more restrictions on children who already face overwhelming challenges and struggle to survive on a daily basis. As taxpayers, citizens and parents, we believe that it is in the best interests of the United States—financially, politically, and morally—to say NO to the Cassidy-Graham legislation.

*Hannah & Manish Mehta
Flower Mound, TX*

CCRF

California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

a project of the Tides Center

PO Box 561271
Los Angeles, CA 90056
510/451-3381 ph
ReproductiveFreedomCA.org
admin@ReproductiveFreedomCA.org

September 25, 2017

To: United States Senate Committee on Finance

Re: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill Threatens Reproductive Health Access and Jeopardizes California’s Gains in Expanding Coverage and Consumer Protections

The undersigned members of the *California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom* write to express our strong opposition to the bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Bill Cassidy (La.), Dean Heller (Nev.), and Ron Johnson (Wis.) (hereinafter “Graham-Cassidy”) to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), eliminate the current financing structure of Medicaid, and restrict access to essential reproductive health services. This bill is extremely similar, and in some ways worse than, the Senate’s failed Better Care Reconciliation Act. We urge you to denounce this bill, which strips coverage from millions, strikes a death blow to Medicaid as we know it, and fundamentally threatens access to maternity care, contraception, and abortion care for women across the state.

The *California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom* is a statewide alliance of nearly 40 organizations working to promote sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice. Rooted in 30 years of experience, CCRF coordinates policy advocacy efforts and information to deepen relationships with advocates and community members to benefit California’s diverse women, youth, transgender persons, and communities.

Thanks to the ACA, California has reduced its uninsured rate by more than half, from 17% to 7% -- the biggest drop of any state in the nation. The ACA has also played a critical role in helping to slow the growth of health care costs, providing critical protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and ending policies and practices that discriminate against women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, as well as racial and ethnic minorities.

Similar to the previous repeal attempts, Graham-Cassidy would:

- rip away health care coverage from millions of Californians;
- result in a decrease of \$28 billion per year from the California health system;
- eliminate critical consumer protections;
- defund Planned Parenthood and restrict reproductive health access; and
- increase health care costs for everyone.

It is undeniable that of all states, California would be among the biggest losers under Graham-Cassidy. This is because the bill intentionally penalizes states that were successful in enrolling millions of people in Medicaid and in the marketplace. According to an Avalere study, California would experience a cumulative reduction of \$78 billion in federal funding by 2026, \$129 billion by 2027, and \$800 billion by 2036. For the sake of our state’s financial stability and prosperity, we cannot let these drastic cuts come to pass.

We urge you to reject and speak out against the Graham Cassidy bill, which among other things proposes to:

- **Impose devastating caps and cuts to Medi-Cal**, undermining coverage for the 14.1 million women, children, older adults, people with disabilities, and others who rely on the program. Medi-Cal funds half of all births in California, and changes to the financial structuring of the program could result in devastating cuts in services or eligibility for vulnerable Medi-Cal populations, including pregnant women. Medi-Cal cuts could also put access to family planning services at risk. California currently offers a robust scope of family planning and related services under Medi-Cal and the Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (PACT) program, thanks to the enhanced federal match rate of 90/10 for family planning care. Eligibility and scope of services under Medi-Cal and Family PACT could be sharply reduced if the state loses federal funding. Lastly, the per capita cap proposed would force the state to shoulder the financial burden of public health crises, including those impacting Californians' reproductive health, such as the Zika virus. Over time, Medi-Cal would cover fewer women and provide less comprehensive reproductive health services to those who remain enrolled.
- **Gut and then end Medi-Cal expansion**, which has expanded Medi-Cal coverage to over four million Californians statewide and has directed an estimated \$2.2 billion per year into the state's health care safety net. Graham-Cassidy first weakens the program by permitting redeterminations for the Medicaid expansion population every six months, and then effectively eliminates the program altogether by reducing the federal match rate to 0% for any state that continues to cover Medicaid expansion enrollees past January 1, 2020. California would likely be unable to shoulder the full cost of continuing to cover our Medicaid expansion population.
- **Eliminate Medi-Cal funding to Planned Parenthood** by prohibiting the organization from receiving federal funds through Medicaid for one year, starting on the date of the bill's enactment. Planned Parenthood is a critical provider of basic health care services in California, serving an estimated 800,000 men and women at 115 health clinics throughout the state. 87% of the men and women who receive services at Planned Parenthood in California are Medi-Cal or Family PACT beneficiaries. Prohibiting Planned Parenthood from receiving federal Medicaid funding for providing health care services to Medi-Cal recipients in California would result in hundreds of thousands of Medi-Cal patients no longer being able to receive services from their trusted provider of choice. Federally qualified health centers have said that they do not have the capacity to absorb and provide care for Planned Parenthood's patients. In many parts of the state, particularly in rural areas and areas with large numbers of low-income patients, people would lose access to critical reproductive health services.
- **Impose draconian requirements on Medi-Cal enrollees**, such as incentivizing states to re-determine eligibility for the Medicaid expansion population every six months, allowing states to implement Medicaid work requirements for most adult enrollees (including women who have recently given birth), and reducing Medicaid retroactive eligibility to two months for most enrollees.
- **Eliminate federal tax credits that help people afford health care**. Nearly 7 million women and girls across the country selected a private insurance marketplace plan in 2016, and the majority of them relied on the ACA's federal subsidies to help make coverage more affordable. The proposed reductions in federal tax credits would result in higher premiums and deductibles, and make it harder for women and girls across California to afford high-quality comprehensive health care that meets their needs.

- **Restrict access to abortion care** by prohibiting individuals and small employers from using federal tax credits to purchase private health insurance plans that include abortion care. These provisions could cause insurance companies to stop offering plans that include abortion coverage altogether, thereby putting abortion access further out of reach for women in the private market. A restriction of this type also directly conflicts with California law, which requires nearly all private plans to cover abortion, and threatens to dramatically reduce the number of Californians who may use federal tax credits to help pay for health insurance coverage.
- **Eliminate the individual and employer mandates**, which would exacerbate and undermine California's risk pool, raise premiums overall, and in the long run risk collapsing the individual marketplace entirely.
- **Allow states to waive coverage of the Essential Health Benefits requirements** for plans in the individual and small group markets, which guarantee coverage for critical basic health services including maternity care, newborn care, and preventive services. Elimination of the Essential Health Benefits requirement would leave many women without adequate maternity care or force them to incur debt in order to obtain maternity care. It would also effectively allow plans to practice gender discrimination by requiring women to pay more for plans that do include maternity care.
- **Weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions** by allowing states to modify or eliminate EHBs, and therefore permit them to offer less comprehensive plans that lack the specific services that people with pre-existing conditions need. The result would be an end run around the ACA's prohibition on discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions. Prior to this ACA protection, health plans routinely denied coverage or charged higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions, which included having had a cesarean section or previous pregnancy, having received medical treatment due to domestic violence or sexual assault, being a cancer survivor, or even being pregnant.

California has made tremendous gains from passage of the ACA, and now stands to have much to lose if the ACA is repealed. The Graham-Cassidy bill proposes to reverse the progress that California and the rest of the country has made on making health care coverage more affordable and accessible across the country. Moreover, the bill fundamentally threatens women's reproductive health access to maternity care, contraception, family planning services, abortion care, and other basic health care services that the state has long championed.

For the above reasons, we strongly urge you to preserve the progress California has made in expanding health access and consumer protections, and oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

The following 26 Members of the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom:

ACCESS Women's Health Justice
Rachel Coe, Public Policy & Trainings
Director

ACLU of Northern California
Phyllida Burlingame, Reproductive Justice
Policy Director

ACLU of Southern California
Melissa Goodman, Audrey Irmas Director,
LGBTQ, Gender & Reproductive Justice
Project

ACT for Women and Girls
Sarah K. Hutchinson, Policy Director

**American Association of University Women
– California**
Nancy Mahr, Chair - Public Policy Committee

**American Congress of Obstetricians &
Gynecologists, District IX**
Shannon Smith-Crowley, Director of
Government Relations

American Nurses Association California
Phillip Bautista, President

**Bay Area Communities for Health
Education**
Heidi Winig, Director

Black Women for Wellness
Janette Robinson Flint, Executive Director

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Myra Duran, Senior Policy Manager

California NOW
Jerilyn Stapleton, President

California Women's Law Center
Amy Poyer, Senior Staff Attorney

**Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice
at UC Berkeley Law**
Jill E. Adams, Executive Director

Citizens for Choice of Nevada County
Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Director

Essential Access Health
Amy Moy, Vice President of Public Affairs

Forward Together
Kalpana Krishnamurthy, Policy Director

Fresno Barrios Unidos
Socorro Santillan, Executive Director

Ibis Reproductive Health
Caitlin Gerdts, PhD, MHS, Vice President for
Research

**If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive
Justice**

Mariko Miki, Director of Academic &
Professional Programs

Maternal and Child Health Access
Lynn Kersey, Executive Director

NARAL Pro-Choice California
Amy Everitt, State Director

National Council of Jewish Women CA
Claire Lipschultz, State Policy Advocate

National Health Law Program
Susan Berke Fogel, Director, Reproductive
Health

Physicians for Reproductive Health
Toni M. Bond Leonard, Director, Partnership
for Abortion Provider Safety

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Gregory Cramer, Legislative Advocate

Positive Women's Network – USA
Ameta Rogers, Policy and Advocacy Manager

**TEACH (Training in Early Abortion for
Comprehensive Healthcare)**
Sara-Cate Jones, Program Coordinator

Friday, September 22, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you as of today's date to express my profound concern regarding the Graham Cassidy act; which if passed will not only have a detrimental life impact upon those whom I support but myself as well. My name is Mat Rice and I am a person with a disability who relies upon Medicaid supports to live his life; I have lived in Towson Maryland since 2006 in my own apartment with drop-in staff supports to help me maintain my apartment; as well as my employment. I have maintained steady employment since 2010 in the developmental disabilities field, first I went to work for a company called shared support Maryland that provides supports to people using the self-directed Medicaid waiver which Maryland has maintained since 2005. in my capacity there, I was a support broker. This means that I helped people we supported to find and recruit support staff. As a person with a disability I also had the opportunity to serve as an example for some of the people we supported, I was able to show that a person with a disability could work, and not just in a menial job at a sheltered workshop or mopping floors, but actually have a meaningful role within a hierarchy. You may ask why I'm telling you all of this, the simple answer is that everything I have outlined would not have been possible without the funding that I receive through Maryland's Medicaid waiver. Eventually, after 4 1/2 years of working for shared support, I moved on to a public policy and advocacy position at People on the go of Maryland. We are a statewide self-advocacy group with over 200 members for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities; in my role at POG I have watched advocates with some very complex challenges step into leadership roles, obtain jobs in the community, go to school and so much more. In Maryland there is a hunger for community-based services and supports which translate into real jobs and real lives for real people; the simple fact is that the people with disabilities that I work for, and I myself, cannot afford any

potential cuts to the supports that we get. Some supporters of the Graham Cassidy legislation, as well as the other pieces of legislation which have preceded it, would say all this is doing is putting the responsibility for Medicaid back in the hands of the individual states, but when you talk about things like block grants, what you're really doing is forcing the individual states to pick winners and losers. The fact is, we can't afford any reduction in funds or Rates for Medicaid Services. There Is a 44% Turnover Rate in the Direct Support Field Right Now, so What Does That Mean ? That Means That People like Me Who Need Support with Day-To-Day Tasks to Maintain Housing, Maintain Employment, and Access the Local Community Have a Hard Time Finding and Keeping Qualified Staff. I Myself Have Been Searching for a Direct Support Staff for over Four Months to Help Me with Personal Care and Work Tasks While on the Job; Fortunately I Do Have One Staff Who Comes to Help Me in the Morning to Get Ready for Work and Then Comes in the Evenings to Assist with Meal Preparation and Housekeeping Tasks, so That I Can Maintain My Apartment. However, Legislative Session in Annapolis Is Coming Soon and Transportation There Is Expensive for the People That I Work for, Not to Mention That I Will Have Access Issues Because of My Cerebral Palsy and Legal Blindness. You, the Reader, May Ask Once Again Why This Is Relevant to a Conversation about Medicaid Reform. The Answer Is, That If I'm Having Problems Now Maintaining My Supports. Life under This Bill As I've Known It, Is Something I See As Impossible . Who Will Want to Work for Me? How Will I Maintain My Employment and the Other Things That I Value? To Me , This Is More Than Just Medicaid Reform. This Is about Civil Rights. Are We Going to Say As a Society That We No Longer Value the Right of People with Disabilities to Live and Work in the Community? Or Are We Going to Reject a Piece of Legislation Which Will Not Improve Quality of Life for Any Medicaid Recipient and in the Long Run Cost More Money, Because It Would Put People like Me and Those I Support Who Work for Our Supports by Paying Taxes out of Jobs .I Ask You Not to Support This Legislation As It Exists



Testimony on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Health coverage and access to behavioral health treatment would be at risk for hundreds of thousands of Maryland residents under the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

The Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland represents 54 mental health and addiction treatment providers. Through commercial health plans, Medicare, and Medicaid, our members offer an array of evidence-based treatments to over 140,000 Maryland residents annually.

A recent study by Avalere Health estimates that the Graham-Cassidy proposal would reduce federal health funding for Maryland by 41% through 2036. The proposal would eliminate health coverage for the nearly 300,000 individuals covered by Maryland's Medicaid expansion. By increasing the number of uninsured individuals, the Graham-Cassidy bill further destabilizes Maryland's health system by threatening the continuation of its all-payer waiver.

Reducing funding, insurance coverage and system stability in the face of Maryland's behavioral health crisis will dramatically restrict access to treatment. Over the last decade, suicide deaths in Maryland have increased almost 20%. In the last five years alone, the number of overdose deaths have more than tripled, now reaching over 2,000 deaths a year.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, every dollar invested in addiction treatment yields a return of up to \$7 in reduced drug-related crime and criminal justice costs. When health care savings are included, the return on investment can exceed \$12.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is bad health care policy and bad economics for Maryland. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy plan. We urge senators to work in a bipartisan manner to address the challenges facing our health care system.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean L Janes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Don't Vote for Graham-Cassidy Death-care

I'm a veteran, as is my husband. Veterans across the country rely on quality, affordable healthcare, without which, many succumb to pill addiction, PTSD, and other mental illnesses. Because of this, and for the sake of my children and their health and future, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I've lost friends to mental illness that was never diagnosed because it can be hard to get good coverage for things like therapy or specialists. We desperately need a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, leaving so many Americans who sacrificed their health and mental well-being to serve us all.

Please listen to the people and medical experts that are urging a 'no' vote. Please put people over money. Our lives have meaning.

Jean Janes
Pflugerville, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Newstat [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kanner, Max (Durbin); McNiece, Jessica (Durbin)
Subject: Cassidy - Graham

The number of medical and insurance groups that oppose this bill is staggering. The number of people who would stand to lose care is staggering. The people of the United States are clamoring for the people in government to work with each other and with those in the industry to fix health care by fixing the flaws of the ACA. None, and I mean NONE us really care whose name is on it. All anyone wants at this point is for the partisanship to stop and for you and your peers to work together for the good of the people, not donors or lobbies or party. This bill is horrible and everyone knows it. It's unconscionable that it is even being considered. Thank you for your work thus far and we appreciate you standing strong against this.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Petrichenko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care legislation

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to vote **NO** on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Proposal. I am particularly concerned about the impact the bill will have on people with mental health or substance use disorders. I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

It allows states to drop the requirement to cover mental health or substance use care. Today, Exchange plans are required to cover essential health benefits, which include treatment for mental health and substance use conditions. Under this bill, each state will have the freedom to drop or change these requirements, putting mental health and substance use benefits at risk.

It shifts Medicaid funding to a "per capita cap" system. Shifting to per capita cap funding (a fixed amount of funding per person) may sound reasonable, but would not keep up with growth in costs and needs. This would result in states being forced to cut Medicaid services and eligibility, which would harm children and adults with mental illness.

It effectively ends Medicaid expansion. One in three people covered by Medicaid expansion plans lives with a mental health or substance use condition. Under this bill, Medicaid expansion would be converted to a smaller, temporary block grant that states could use for health coverage or any other health purpose, with no guarantee of mental health or substance use coverage.

It reduces help to purchase health insurance. Block grants would provide a fixed amount of temporary federal funding to replace insurance subsidies, severely cutting federal help for people to buy insurance. This will leave many people unable to afford the coverage they need for mental health or substance use treatment.

Please vote **NO** on this potentially devastating bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Petrichenko LCSW-C
License Clinical Social Worker

[REDACTED]
Timonium, MD 21093
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ethanpworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother in law has severe neurological problems and is barely able to move her neck. It severely pains her to walk or to sit for long periods of time and she can barely sleep at night. She cannot work and without medicaid she would not be able to receive the medical care that she needs. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Ethan Worthington
Nashville, TN

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I need a better plan than the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

As you consider the Graham-Cassidy Bill today, I seriously hope you will consider the needs of Americans who now rely on the Affordable Care Act to live.

Consider my case:

On April 20, 2012, an aneurysm ruptured in the back of my brain. Neurosurgeons repaired it, saving my life, and in the process, discovered two other aneurysms, both unruptured.

Since that day, I have had three additional brain surgeries, all required after annual brain scans revealed the aneurysms were leaking again and needed additional coils and stents. All total, I have had four brain surgeries and ten cerebral angiograms -- that's 14 hospitalizations in five years. In addition, I spent eight days in rehab learning to walk again after a contaminated breathing tube led to superbug pneumonia, which required 2.5 weeks in ICU.

My healthcare in the past five years has cost more than \$1.2 million, all of it paid for by Obamacare.

By the way, I had excellent health insurance (through Blue Cross-Blue Shield) prior to the aneurysm rupture. Because of Obamacare, I could retain that coverage. I still have excellent health insurance -- thank you, ACA -- although it is expensive. *At least I still have coverage I can afford; at least I can still see my brain doctor regularly.*

Graham-Cassidy endangers that continued care. It allows states to grant waivers for health insurance coverage requirements. Once that door opens, I can guarantee you that Governor Abbot and Lt. Governor Patrick will work hard to limit the health care accessible to Texans who work for themselves. Why? Because, in Texas, less is more is the mantra that rules -- even when hurricanes ravage the land.

Please protect us from elimination of what is good about Obamacare: Essential Health benefits, bans on lifetime/annual coverage caps, age banding, and exclusions around pre-existing health conditions. Work instead, please, to ensure what is moral around healthcare: in America, it's time to treat health care as a right, no longer a political football.

Thank you for reading this, and considering my experience. My life is in your hands.

Sincerely,
Melanie Ormand

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Canavin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My whole family would suffer under any clause where those of us with preexisting conditions are not protected from coverage denial, lifetime caps, or increased premiums. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shannon Canavin
Cambridge, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathi Kouguell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I want to express my strong feelings about the upcoming "new health bill," Millions of Americans who have pre existing conditions cannot....cannot....lose their coverage or be penalized for having conditions that already impact their lives on a daily basis. I implore you to be smart, caring, responsible and "human".....We all deserve that no matter our backgrounds, illnesses, This country needs to show its humanity and stand up for the place which was the shining light that so many refugees over the many years yearned for. Don't take it all way in a rush to get this done. Think.....Empathize.....be smart and humane.
Kathi Kouguell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Woods [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:28 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy, or any permutation thereof

To whom it may concern,

I am an American voter/citizen/taxpayer and I ask you to **not** move forward with the Graham-Cassidy 'healthcare reform' bill. Our healthcare is too costly, thus making our health insurance too costly. This bill does nothing to fix that, and actually makes the situation worse. There are solutions - we can shore up the ACA or even move toward Medicare for all - but this bill is not it.

It's just not it.

No way.

Nope nope nope.

Stand up for the backbone of this country: the middle class. Protect us.

Sincerely,

*Susan Woods
B'ville, NY*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My son is severely disabled and has greatly benefited from the ACA. He requires specialty services and will for the rest of his life. Before ACA, I lost my home and had to file bankruptcy. What little insurance I could get for him was very inadequate and had a lifetime cap. Most of his specialty therapies were not included and the required equipment, such as wheelchair, etc had to be paid mostly out of pocket. My son is now on a Medicaid waiver in addition to having private insurance. For the first time in his life, I am able to provide great care for him.

The ACA saved his life!!! It has greatly improved the quality of his life also. He is able to walk short distances with a walker now. This great accomplishment would not have been possible without the interventions he has received. I am outraged that this bill is being pushed through just for political reasons without doing the hard work of ensuring no people come to harm. Healthcare is a necessity for us and you will indeed hurt and harm my son by voting for this bill! NO to this bill because there should be no healthcare about us without us! A thoughtful process to ensure adequate care for all people is needed.....not a hasty bill for political reasons. I would also like to see those in congress receive the same health care they are giving citizens.....if this bill is so great, please also partake of this great care.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle McGuire
Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Hancock [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I am a family nurse practitioner working in Minneapolis. I am very concerned about your efforts to repeal and replace the ACA. In my experience, the ACA has allowed me to prevent major illnesses that would end up costing our society a lot more in the long run. For instance, I can identify prediabetes in a patient who comes in for a free preventative wellness visit who might otherwise avoid coming to the doctor's office for fear of racking up huge bills. If this person did not come in and receive this counseling/medication, they might show up at an ER 5 years later with full diabetes mellitus type 2, requiring expensive treatments, losing productivity at work, and becoming more at risk for blindness, kidney failure, foot amputations, stroke, and heart attacks. These are all PREVENTABLE and stripping vital services away from our most vulnerable Americans is myopic and in my opinion, cruel. You should be standing up for your citizen's well being, not doing everything you can to undermine it.

Sincerely,

Kristen Hancock, RN, MSN, FNP-C

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Celeste Santamassino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Replacing the ACA

Our Congress should stop trying to replace The Affordable Care Act with shortsighted bills that do more damage than good to our health coverage. The original bill can be made better. Do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Do your job and work together as a united Congress to protect the American people, and stop playing partisan politics with people's lives.

Sincerely,
Celeste Lagrotteria
Union City, NJ 07087

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Stevens [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

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

This bill removes the requirement for insurers to cover maternity care. Texas already has the highest maternal death rate in the developed world. We have the evidence of what happens when we take away health care from mothers and children. How does this improve the lives of all Americans?

This bill gouges Medicaid. Who will care for the most vulnerable Americans if not all of us, working together, through the instrument of the federal government? How do we justify allowing more children, more poor Americans, and more elderly Americans to die?

This bill removes protection for preexisting conditions and eliminates the mandate for employers to provide healthcare insurance. How can increasing the numbers of uninsured Americans be a good thing for our country?

I believe that we — together -- have a responsibility to care for all Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Karen Stevens
Cambridge, MA

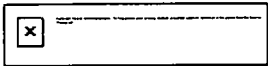
Karen Stevens
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Arthur Andrade [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Affordable Health Care For Disabled Citizens

My Agency supports individuals in Residential Homes and Day Programs and they continue to need the Benefits of Medicaid they receive for their quality of life. Without this they would have no place to live or learn skills to become as independent in their daily lives. They deserve to be treated as contributing citizens in the community. Please continue to oppose this legislation to ensure the continued care of these individuals.

Yours Truly,
Arthur P. Andrade SC
(WCI) Waltham Community Independence.



Arthur Andrade
Support Coordinator | WCI - Work,
Community, Independence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Waltham, MA 02452

[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: K Kozlow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:33 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy!

Finance Committee,

PLEASE convince some Republicans that this new so-called bill is terrible.

And in the hearings please highlight how the KOCH BROTHERS are paying Republicans to pass anything that gives them a tax break!

Thank you.

K Kozlow
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Delran, New Jersey 08075

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glory Forris [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:33 AM
Subject: WordPress, Joomla, Ecommerce, CMS, Core Php

Hello,

My name is Glory” and I work as a **Business Development Manager** with reputed **online** firm based in India. I would like to discuss a business opportunity with you. Since our company offers **Mobile Apps, Web Design and Development Services** to its clients, may I propose a **business association between my firm and yours?**

Our primary focus is around: -

1. Graphic Designing (Logo, Banner, Brochure, Flyer, Poster)
2. Web Designing (Template Design, HTML/XHTML, Web 2.0, CSS)
3. Web Development (WordPress, Joomla, Ecommerce, CMS, Core Php)
4. Mobile Apps (Android, IOS, OS, Window)

If You Get a Price lowers than me, I will BEAT it or MEET it.

We can execute **Web Design or Mobile apps projects on a white label basis** for you at a much lower cost than what it might be in-house! Plus there is **No compromise on quality!**

Kindly reply if you are interested. I would be happy to share our Work Portfolio, Client testimonials and Service Packages. And let me know your phone no. and Skype ID.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kinds Regards,
Glory Forris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kate burck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Both my daughters and I have pre-existing conditions that would be life-threatening if not treated. Just one of the five medications we take would cost \$1500 a month without the ACA. That's more than I make in a month. And remember, that's only one of five medications. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Please do what you have been elected to do – represent and support your constituents – and make a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kate Burch

Forest Park, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Kibler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Please know that as a citizen of the United States I believe we can do much better on legislation to support the health of us all.

Do not support the Graham Cassidy bill.

It is fine to realize "Repeal and Replace" was a mistake. Admit it and move on to other important matters of State.

Jill Kibler

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: andrea trimarco [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Hi,
My name is Andrea Trimarco and I am againsttge Graham Cassidy bill. I am a single 43 yr old, self-employed woman living in New York City. For years, I was unable to afford health care or navigate the insurance system to find affordable health care. Though I've been a lucky and fortunate person of good health, I am entering the age where preventative health care really matters and having insurance is extremely important. When Obamacare was introduced, I was relieved to finally be able to afford health care and have an easy way to navigate the insurance system.

Let me be clear, there are problems with Obamacare. It is not perfect. Instead of repealing it, why not build upon it. Perfect it. Make it better. Or even better yet, why not extend the health care coverage you have as legislators to all Americans. What would that be like? Imagine yourselves on the health care plan you're presenting and ask yourselves, is this as good as we can do? Would this work for me? Do I have pre-existing conditions that would make me ineligible? Why would you put millions of people, including folks like me, in jeopardy of losing their health care? It's very scary.

We pay for your health care and pay your salaries to represent our best interests. Repealing the affordable health care act and replacing with Graham Cassidy is not in our best interest. Do not pass this bill. I urge you to keep working on a bill that is transparent and takes into consideration all Americans. This is not about winning. This is about people's lives. Remember why you are there and your responsibility is to the people of this country, not to get yourselves a "win".

Sincerely,
Andrea Trimarco

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mary jane [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM.
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

In my day job, I work with 100+ agencies across the state that come into contact with the child welfare system. These are predominantly families with little resources and it is generally "neglect" that brings them to the attention of child welfare workers in their communities. My agencies rely on Medicaid to get these families back on track by providing the physical health care and the behavioral health care the children AND PARENTS need to build and support healthy families. As a result of Medicaid and other funding, NYS has dramatically lowered the number of children in foster care and while those numbers have increased somewhat this year due to the current opioid crisis, we have not seen the drastic spike in foster care placements experienced by other states. The Graham-Cassidy bill would keep low-income families from purchasing affordable health care, would gut Medicaid services, and would result in children currently living safely at home being placed in the foster care system, where outcomes are poorer (and expenses are greater). This isn't just morally wrong, it is extremely cost-ineffective.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Dessables
Freeport, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monique Gannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My experience with the ACA

Hello,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I am an artist, a teacher. I was one of the very first to sign up for the Affordable Care Act. At the time it was the only way I could afford insurance. It helped me get the health care I needed at an affordable price for several years as I worked to build my business. Please vote NO!

Thanks.

Monique Gannon
Birmingham, AL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Hlava [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

When my husband was unemployed last year knowing that we could have affordable health care if he couldn't find a job quickly was so important. My husband has high blood pressure and I have liver issues. If we had been unable to afford cobra, we would have become uninsurable as we have pre-existing conditions. We have valued the safety net the ACA provides and would be devastated to lose that.

I am imploring you to put a stop to this horrendous Graham Cassidy bill and move on to fixing the ACA. I agree that it is not perfect BUT it is far better than the idea of kicking 20+million people off health care. The ramifications of 20+ million uninsured Americans are HUGE! Please start putting the American people first.

*Kate Hlava
Suwanee, GA*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Picard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I'm a breast cancer survivor, for now, because of inherited genetics. I'd be on my death bed right now, with a 4 year old daughter, without coverage for my extensive surgeries and chemotherapy. My mother would be dead if it weren't for the affordable health coverage she had on Medicare.

Besides saving our lives, my mother and I were able to avoid bankruptcy and the complete financial devastation our intensive treatments would have caused without provisions in the ACA.

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

Sincerely,

Sara Picard
[REDACTED]

North Providence RI 02904

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madelaine Gogol [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare, so I am writing to OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a number of pre-existing conditions and one very expensive medication and though I currently have good insurance through my employer, I wouldn't appreciate being denied insurance later because of a career change. People in my extended family, including children with cancer, have relied on Medicaid in the past, so please do not cut funding for this vital, vital program.

Thank you,
Madelaine Gogol
[REDACTED]
Prairie Village KS 66208

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Magella [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

The Affordable Care Act should be improved, not repealed and replaced with a slap dash bill - fueled by partisan emotions -that deprives millions of insurance, hurts Medicaid, reduces aid to those most in need of affordable health care, and takes away protections from those with pre-existing conditions. Come out of the back-room and have a collaborative and transparent effort to find a good solution to whatever are the flaws with the ACA. Cassidy-Graham is a travesty that hurts a huge number of U.S. citizens. Please do the right thing and let this one just go away...

Sincerely,
Barbara Magella

[REDACTED]
45133

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Casey Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing today in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

On March 4, 1987, my mother had a routine pre-natal check-up with her doctor. I was not due for another three weeks. Very quickly the doctor discovered that I was in trouble. My brain was not receiving oxygen in the womb. The doctor conducted an emergency C-section before my father could arrive from work. When I was born, I was purple and I wasn't breathing. The doctor diagnosed me with cerebral palsy and placed me in the NICU. It wasn't immediately clear whether I would live or not. The doctor told my parents that he saw a baby trying to survive. After 11 days, I was sent home, but I was developmentally delayed. The brain damage I suffered mostly resulted in problems with my motor skills and an inability to speech and articulate sounds. At twelve months old, I could barely make a sound and showed no signs of being able to walk. Years of speech, occupational, and physical therapies taught me how to walk, talk, and write.

I am now thirty years old. I graduated from one of the most competitive and prestigious public history schools in the country, the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA). I graduated from Hamilton College summa cum laude with honors in history and classical languages. I earned a master's degree in history and will soon complete a PhD in American history from the University of Connecticut. Now I have a job teaching at LSMSA. I am married to a wonderful man. We own a house together with our dog and bunny. But even to this day, I am in pain. I take 4 medications a day to help me cope. Sometimes my hands hurt. Sometimes the muscles in my leg tense up and form knots in muscles making it hard to walk. Sometimes the pain is minor and easily ignorable. But sometimes it is unbearable. Regardless of how I feel, I get up every day and go to work because I love what I do and can't imagine doing anything else.

While some may see me as worthy of pity, I feel very fortunate. My father is a small-business owner and made sure I was covered under our family's insurance. When I graduated from college and transitioned off my parent's health insurance, the ACA guaranteed that health insurance companies could not discriminate against me because of my pre-existing condition. Currently I have healthcare through my employer. Many people with disabilities have not had my advantages. Their parents cannot afford their health care. They face discrimination in hiring because businesses do not want to hire employees with pre-existing conditions. They face these struggles not because of some choice they made in their lives, but because, like me, they were born with a pre-existing condition.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would be a disaster for people like me. While Senator Cassidy and the other supporters of the bill have claimed that they will protect Americans with pre-existing conditions, every health care expert who has examined this bill says otherwise. By leaving a provision that allows individual states to

waive the “essential health benefits, Graham-Cassidy places millions of Americans like me in jeopardy. By eliminating the “essential health benefits” that are guaranteed under the ACA, health insurance companies could charge me more for insurance or deny me coverage altogether because of my disability. How is that fair or just? How does discriminating against the disabled and those with pre-existing conditions help Americans get better or more affordable healthcare?

Please oppose Graham-Cassidy and protect the lives of millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Skiba [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Health care in the USA requires a thoughtful bipartisan approach, not an attempt to rush through a repeal. Please work towards a cost-effective healthcare approach with bipartisan support.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Noreen Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern:

Please do NOT support this wretched bill. It will impose unknown suffering and put citizens' lives at risk. And because it is being pushed through without the usual discussion, input, and adjustments, the fallout cannot be wholly known. The ACA, in all of its shortcomings, has brought affordable healthcare and peace of mind to Americans with pre-existing conditions, maintained coverage without caps, and kept students and young adults on their parents' coverage giving them to time to establish a more stable income themselves.

Please vote with your conscience and the benefit of your constituents, and do not be swayed by those whose bottom line is their own pockets.

Noreen R. Smith
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sent from my iPhone
Knit Stitch Love

[REDACTED]
Great Explorations Childcare

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings." Ann Landers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Feldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden and Sen. Toomey, I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not guarantee coverage for Americans with pre-existing conditions, it will significant cut Medicaid which is vital to seniors and others, and it does not provide funding for some aspects of women's healthcare. Also, this bill did not go through the proper process and has not been reviewed by the CBO. Consequently, it is not fit for a vote at this time and any vote in favor of this bill will be a disservice and injustice to all Americans. Thank you!

Sen. Casey and Rep. Boyle, thank you for representing the best interests of your constituents and protecting their rights to affordable healthcare.

A. Feldman
19002

Alison Feldman
19002
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: charlotte hord [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

I write to register my opposition to the Graham -Cassidy bill, which would have devastating consequences for people throughout the country. I believe that all Americans should have the same ability to seek and obtain affordable healthcare without worrying that a pre-existing condition or a lifetime cap will eliminate that possibility. This bill would be a disaster for millions of Americans and as someone who lost her job last year and am not yet old enough for Medicare, I am personally worried about my future health coverage.

Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to proceed to a vote.

Charlotte H Smith
Carrboro, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SHARON THOMPSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill will create even further hardships for most Americans. Please vote against this bill

Sharon Gill
[REDACTED]
Lancaster, VA 22503
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glen Berger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

My family and I are grateful for the protections that the ACA have provided. The Graham-Cassidy bill would remove these protections and therefore threaten the welfare of my family. My son has asthma, and I am self-employed. My father was a doctor for 40 years and has educated me on the finer points of health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for considering these comments, and please do not allow the GC bill to become law.

Sincerely,
Glen Berger
Ghent, NY 12075

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Schultz [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whom it may concern:

My family, friends and I all rely on quality, affordable healthcare. We are a nation that should support those in need, not create a program that benefits only those approving it - one that has been denounced by every major health care group in the country. 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,

Danielle Schultz
[REDACTED]

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. I am 56 years old, I have diabetes, and I own and run a small business. I would be unable to run my business with the increased health care costs this bill would cause

John Scott Wright
Marietta, Georgia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please keep and strengthen the ACA!

I have myself used the ACA to lower my healthcare costs after I was kicked off the COBRA plan provided by my union. The premium cost was significantly less than COBRA, and thousands a month less than insurance purchased on the open market, and that was WITHOUT A SUBSIDY. The Cassidy-Graham bill blatantly punishes NY for having the audacity to try to help the poor and sick pay for healthcare, takes our money and gives it to states that support that embarrassment of a "president" currently in the Oval Office.

The "free market" never has imposed any kind of cost control to health insurance costs, and everyone knows it. The theory of a free market applies if a consumer has a choice; BUT NO ONE HAS A CHOICE ABOUT NEEDING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE. We can't wait for an illusory free market to lower prices, since that is not where the mechanism is effective. NEGOTIATE as a GOVERNMENT with the providers to lower prices. Back off the tax cut for the richest Americans, and strengthen the ACA.

Cassidy-Graham is cruel. It is dismissive of all the real factors affecting medical costs today, and divides our country even further.

The ACA is a lifesaver. Let's keep it.

Susan Jacks
[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10036

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Ikeda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Shirelyn Ikeda
Waianae, Hawaii

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Hoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017
From Julia Hoy, Strongsville OH

Dear Chamber Members,

I am writing to ask you not to support the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. This bill is wrong. It is wrong for America, it is wrong for Americans, and it goes against the basic principles on which this country was founded. What happened to "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses"? What happened to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"? When did our government decide money was more important than people? This is a first world nation. Until recently, we were considered the leader of the free world. We are also the only country in that position without a single payer health care solution. We are going the opposite direction. Our legislators seem to believe that too many people have health care or that life is a privilege for the few.

Let me tell you a story. In 2002, a young girl graduated high school in suburban Michigan. She attended a state university to minimize her student loans and worked on campus year round all four years. She went on to graduate school and earned two masters degrees, working again for all but one of those years. She got married and she and her husband both found employment in the fields they had studied. This couple worked, paid their taxes, and sought new jobs to improve their position. They bought a house in the suburbs and had 2 children. After 32 years of doing everything "right", I was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer in February. I am fighting it hard and responding well to treatment. I refuse to allow my 3 and 1 year old to grow up without me. However, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal may condemn me to just that. The estimated premium increase for metastatic cancer patients is over \$140,000, which is more than double my salary and more than our combined family income.

I ask you to tell the Senate to do their jobs. Go back and work together to find a solution that does not punish the sick. Design a plan that is not a death sentence for millions of Americans.

Thank you,
Julia Hoy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Geismar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

It is already hard enough to find the quality, affordable healthcare my family relies on. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would effectively reduce federal funding to my state, New York, and would potentially send me and my neighbor's healthcare services into a tailspin. Rather than helping Americans like me, this bill would hurt all of us. Frankly, I find it hard to believe that any Senator who supports this bill actually believes it would help their constituents. It should be rejected for what it is - a slap at the very americans who need it most.

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

Sincerely

Peter Geismar
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LISA GIOIOSA [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Urgent Request

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill that would dump America's health care bill into the laps of the states. This is literally passing the buck to the states, leaving them to sort through the broken pieces of our health care system. Graham-Cassidy will cost our state \$3.5 bilion in lost federal revenues over a six year period beginning in 2020. Our Medicaid program will have to be significantly cut back, since we were an expansion state under the ACA. Poor people should not be targeted in any health care reform. "Revise and Restore" the Affordable Care Act!

Thank you,
Lisa Gioiosa

Lisa M. Gioiosa, SHRM-CP, PHR | HR Director
[REDACTED] | Jamaica Plain MA 02130 | (Main) [REDACTED], x333
(Office) [REDACTED] (fax) [REDACTED] (email) [REDACTED]



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeffrey Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare.
Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
I am a cancer survivor. Without affordable health care I would have died.
I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
I dont know why you are trying to destroy ACA instead of fixing its problems

Sincerely,

Jeff Jones
New York New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cherie Spino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

I urge you to dispense with the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill has been opposed by most major medical groups, insurers, physicians, not to mention thousands upon thousands of Americans. The lack of protection for those with pre-existing conditions, the loss of Medicaid funds...there are myriad reasons why this bill is just plain bad. But even more, the process is flawed. As Sen. McCain and others have said, an issue that comprises one-sixth of our economy deserves a fair process. It deserves hearings and a full CBO score. It deserves to have input from both sides.

This bill and this process are unconscionable. No one -- not your constituents or insurers or medical providers -- knows what will happen in the health care world. And this upheaval isn't good for anyone.

Table this flawed bill and gather everyone -- from both sides -- into the room to get the job done in a more productive, humane way.

Thank you.
Cherie Spino
Toledo, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vanessa Grubiak [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Stop for a moment and think about how many people will be:

1. Put out of work. Our CDPAS program employs over 700 people, some of those people living in hard to reach areas where work is scarce. This will mean many more people from just our small CDPAS program out of work. That does not include the team that administrates the program. There is a staff of 6 internally that will be out of a job as well.
2. Think about how forcing someone to live somewhere they are not comfortable, or happy, will effect their quality of life. How would you feel? Your home taken away and now you MUST reside in a place that maybe care if mediocre, on a good day. You are one of 10-25 patients in the one worker's schedule. CDPAS allows for 1 on 1 care, allows the consumer to stay in their HOME, where maybe they had a whole life with their loved ones (most still do!!), and still allow the loved ones to care for their ailing family member while making a (somewhat) livable wage.
3. The liability comes off the governments shoulders with CDPAS. The assumed risks involved in consumer-directed homecare lie with the consumer, not with the state.
4. Its more cost effective in the long and short run- paying room, board, food, skilled nursing etc. is much more costly than allowing a person to remain home, where they receive minimal, if any, assistance with food, housing and utilities.

Please rethink this. Its damaging and truly dehumanizing to the participants of the CDPAS program if you force them into what can at times be compared to prison.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vanessa Grubiak

Vanessa J. Grubiak

[REDACTED]

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Independent Living, Inc. is a consumer directed, cross-disability organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Our vision is a barrier-free society with opportunities for all persons to achieve their maximum potential.

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Tkaczyk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill hearing

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee re Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill hearing:

I am telling you my healthcare insurance story because I want you to know just what the proposed changes will do to my family. Please include my statement in the Committee's record for this hearing.

Although there are many things wrong with Graham-Cassidy, the worst for us (for now) is that it will allow states to discard the ACA's requirements that all insurers cover certain benefits -- such as maternity or mental health services -- and abandon its prohibition against insurers charging higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions.

The bill says that states will have to claim that they will maintain access to "adequate and affordable" health care for people with pre-existing conditions, but it is hard to imagine how they will do this if they allow insurers to drop benefits that people with pre-existing conditions need or allow insurers to charge them unaffordable rates. And there is no enforcement mechanism for states that do not live up to their claims. This is a far cry from the simple, basic rights that we all gained under the ACA.

I was a healthy professional woman who is now recovering from a necessary and thankfully successful spinal fusion. With the care that I receive from my Surgeon and physical therapy, I am able to control my recovery pain and continue to heal with a positive prognosis. I look forward to returning to work soon. However, I will have this condition until I die. Because I, and many Americans like me, carry this diagnosis and are at risk for a recurrence and/or future surgeries, we are also at risk for much higher health insurance premiums in the future. If insurers are allowed once again to consider "pre-existing conditions" for their rates, I will be unable to afford health insurance. At this point, my husband and I are using our savings to pay for my current medically necessary appointments. After that is depleted, we would have to find this extra money somewhere, most likely from our retirement savings. Depleting retirement savings is not good public policy for American families! The bipartisan hearings spearheaded by Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray in the Senate HELP Committee, and by Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden in your Committee, focused on market stabilization and other critical issues, represent a promising first step towards addressing our country's health care challenges. I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy and instead, continue on the bipartisan path to addressing ACA reform. This is what the majority of Americans hope you will do!

Christine Tkaczyk
Haddam Neck, CT 06424
9/25/2017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Faybn Cheek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi,

I'm writing about the Graham/Cassidy bill. Which, by every measure, is a bad bill.

Firstly, I ask that Congress not hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on proposed legislation without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans?

Secondly, weakening protections for pre-existing conditions is unacceptable. I am a mother of a child born with a pre-existing condition. If we are priced out of care and he loses access to services, all progress we've made, all dreams he holds, will effectively disappear unless I go bankrupt trying to pay out of pocket.

Thirdly, I am very distressed by the proposed cuts to Medicaid which would cause costs for seniors and those with disabilities to skyrocket.

This bill will not bring coverage to more Americans- in fact, over 30 million will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA, people will be forced to choose between buying groceries or having healthcare. People will die.

This proposed bill is heartless and mean. Rather than helping our fellow man, we will hurt those that are the most vulnerable.

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. Instead, we need to return to regular order and work in a bi-partisan manner to repair the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Faybn Cheek
Lake City, Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hazel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have good coverage now through my employer, but am nearing retirement and am concerned about the future of Medicare and my cost of healthcare after retirement. My husband and I both have pre-existing conditions and I worry that coverage for those is impacted by this bill. We have two children, one in high school and one in college, and I am definitely concerned about their ability to get affordable healthcare once they are no longer covered by our family plan.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. After the July vote, it appeared that a bipartisan effort was finally underway and I was very hopeful.

Sincerely, Hazel King
San Anselmo, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Paulson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son's family can not afford increases in their health care and my domestic partner goes without tests to try to keep health costs manageable. I know our country can do better and in the collective American spirit, come together to solve this problem. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Kathryn Paulson

St. Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I implore you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It would be detrimental to thousands of our American citizens.

"Let's go singing as far as we can go; the road will be less tedious."
Virgil

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Fitzgerald [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: dump GC

Do not allow Graham-Cassidy to move forward. The American people are hurting and this bill kicks them in the teeth.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doreen Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please be careful!!!!!!

I am one of 5 children. My youngest sister has rheumatoid arthritis and her son has Crohn's Disease. The current design of the healthcare bill is very troubling. I can't even begin to understand how we could threaten so much of our fundamental coverage. While yes there is no 'change' in the preexisting clause, there is also no explicit directive to the states to maintain it and frankly I have no faith in the states all embracing that coverage. And what would happen if you moved?

I have no illusions that this is a big task and that expenses need to be controlled but this process is so troubling. I am requesting that you work together as you were elected to do and come up with a bipartisan bill that corrects the deficits of ACA and moves forward with affordable, appropriate coverage.

Town of Catskill, NY

Doreen Davis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madison Org Hauenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Arc Tampa Bay's response to the Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Responding to Graham-Cassidy.pdf

To whom it may concern:

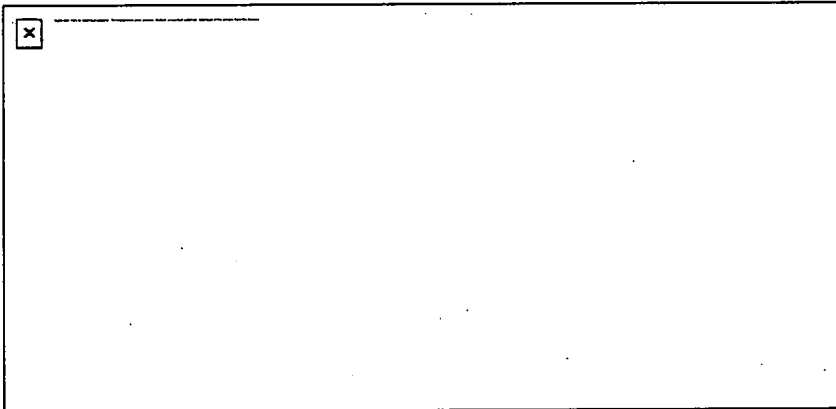
The Arc Tampa Bay and The Arc Tampa Bay Foundation staff and Board Trustees wish to share our response to the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill.

The Arc serves a special niche of the population with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Graham-Cassidy Bill would have a devastating effect on the essential services our organization provides and would negatively effect each life we care for.

Please consider the points made in the attached document.

With gratitude,

Madison Hauenstein



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Clearwater, FL 33765
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: linda rubenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Health Care Bill

Please be mindful that this bill affects ALL Americans and playing favorites for red states and senators you are trying to bribe for a yes vote is irresponsible and cruel. You were elected to serve for the good of all, not for your reelection or gaining a legislative win. This bill is a disaster and will bankrupt families and states. **THROW IT AWAY AND START OVER WITH BIPARTISAN AND REGULAR ORDER.**

Linda Rubenstein
East Brunswick, New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lisa willinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't take away our healthcare!

My life was saved by world class healthcare paid for by my dual union provided health insurance when I came down with a rare pregnancy complication that gave me a stroke which put me in a coma and ruptured my liver. My policy paid for over \$2 million in care to save me and return me to normal functioning.

Please don't make patients' family members have to choose between saving a loved one's life and losing their homes!

Sincerely,

Lisa Willinger
Wife, TV Editor
Union Member, Mother

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: antoinette laveccchia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FROM THE ENTIRE MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT TO REPUBLICANS:

FROM THE ENTIRE MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT TO REPUBLICANS:

The following statement was jointly released on September 23, 2017 by the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson legislation.

We represent the nation's doctors, hospitals, and health plans. Collectively, our organizations include hundreds of thousands individual physicians, thousands of hospitals, and hundreds of health plans that serve tens of millions of American patients, consumers, and employers every day across the United States.

While we sometimes disagree on important issues in health care, we are in total agreement that Americans deserve a stable healthcare market that provides access to high-quality care and affordable coverage for all. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill does not move us closer to that goal. The Senate should reject it.

We agree that the bill will cause patients and consumers to lose important protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing conditions. Without these guaranteed protections, people with significant medical conditions can be charged much higher premiums and some may not be able to buy coverage at all.

We agree that the bill will result in dramatic cuts to Medicaid and a funding cliff in the future, fundamentally changing the way that states provide coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens. This means that millions of patients will lose their coverage and go without much-needed care.

We agree that the individual insurance market will be drastically weakened, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans. By not providing all states with sufficient funds to support working families who need help buying coverage, millions will go without it.

We agree that the bill's current implementation timelines are not workable. State and industry leaders will need to completely transform their individual insurance markets and Medicaid programs in little more than a year – an impossible task.

Health care is too important to get wrong. Let's take the time to get it right. Let's agree to find real, bipartisan solutions that make health care work for every American.

Thank you for your time,

Antoinette LaVecchia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allison Gunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son was born with a heart murmur. He is doing well, but I am always afraid about what could happen to him if there is a complication. Taking him to a cardiologist when he was 5 days old was stressful enough, I could not imagine how upset I would have been if I had to worry about paying for a visit as well (if my insurance did not cover the visit). I am in a position where I have great benefits, but am terrified about the changes that have been put forth in this horrendous, uncaring bill. Americans deserve to live and this bill would force people to watch their loved ones die. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Allison L. Gunn

Williamstown, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamie Ball [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Any legislation which limits access to healthcare for people with pre-existing conditions is unacceptable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ball
Kirksville, Missouri

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanna Cair [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments; Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov; Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT PASS 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, Massachusetts, 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. I take care of women with cancer and I KNOW the huge difference access to care makes in their survival and the survival of their families. Without this, women are faced with choices like--not getting radiation therapy for their cervical cancer because they can't pay; they avoid screening tests that could have caught it before it was invasive; and they choose to NOT have expensive hospice care to "save their family the costs" as one patient said--who died in pain and suffering. Is that what you want for the women and Mothers we should be caring for and who we need to survive to raise their families and add to the work to continually advance our country?

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. I see the desperation in their eyes as it is. Anyone with a cancer diagnosis is facing enough--and now you would make their suffering immensely greater.

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 and moving forward with a bipartisan review of real options for all our citizens to have stable health care.

Sincerely yours,

Joanna M. Cain, MD

Gynecologic Oncology
[REDACTED]

Worcester, MA 01605
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Marks [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

For as long as I can recall, my family has relied heavily on quality, affordable healthcare and currently the situation with my parents is dire as they rely heavily on Medicare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Both my parents have illnesses that require constant medication and my father is retired though he takes odd jobs when he can while caring for my mom who has steadily progressing alzheimer's. All of their issues would be considered pre-existing and would place us as a family in a financial situation where it would be impossible afford to keep up with thier medications and care not to mention caring for our own families on top of it all. This bill would essentially be a death sentence for my parents. My son's only grandparents. How can you even think that this is ok?

I cannot fathom how much it would cost to even just maintain what little health they are holding onto currently not to mention what lies in the future for us.

I beg you to create instead a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Claudia Marks

Bronx, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Gorman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy "Healthcare" bill

Millions of American citizens, from our youngest children to our aging seniors are relying on a fair, equitable, affordable healthcare system. The Graham /Cassidy proposal will negatively impact our most susceptible fellow Americans. The disabled, seniors, women, and all people with pre-existing conditions will suffer. Block grants will only shift \$ from one state to another. It won't work! This is another cynical, cruel attempt to yank the support that we need. Health care IS a fundamental requirement for the well being of us all, therefore it is a fundamental right!

Christina Gorman

Retired teacher, Beaufort County School District, SC Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Glazer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal theACA

I rely on the aca for my healthcare. I am employed by a company too small to offer a group plan. I'm 63 years old and need health insurance. If you repeal the aca I will not have an affordable choice. Please do not pass this new bill. It is inhumane! Too costly and too restrictive. For someone my age of course I have a pre existing condition as would anyone of my age. I beg you to allow me to keep my AFFORDABLE plan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Gross [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Granham-Cassidy hearing

To the United States Senators:

I rely on the ACA for my coverage. I am 61 years old, with a diagnosis of Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer. I have survived since 2009 thanks to the changes the Affordable Care Act brought to health insurance: particularly, the ability of insurance companies to rescind coverage or to decline coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,

Pamela Gross
Brunswick, Maine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Siegel, Daniel M. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy

My Mother outlived her assets and savings, raising 4 kids as a single mother, working into her mid-70s, paying taxes, owning a home, and finally in her late 80s, all of her assets had been used, along with Social Security and Medicare in paying for her health care and assisted living. She passed away 2 weeks ago, after having received 3 weeks of Medicaid, in a nursing home. She was a lifetime Republican.

She would have asked – and as we do, for you to help keep our seniors healthy with dignity.

We need Medicare and Medicaid and health care available – and Graham – Cassidy cuts funding dramatically and will cost lives.

Please vote against Graham-Cassidy and work on bipartisan legislation to improve healthcare for all Americans.

Dan Siegel
Richmond, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzie Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My husband and I run a free healthcare clinic in our community. We have seen the terrible situation it is to not have healthcare. We have also seen the difference the ACA made in the lives of our patients.

We had a lady with potential ovarian cancer receive life giving surgery to remove her tumor. she now has a chance to live a full life being the single mother of 4 children. This is LIFE CHANGING.

I sat with a man who cried when we told him when he got ACA coverage he could have the back surgery he needed so he could return to work.

These people are not free loaders. These are human beings, working hard to make ends meet and being sick or injured should never be a privilege for the rich or well to do.

I have story after story of how the ACA helped our patients. I cannot urge you strongly enough to defeat the terrible Graham Cassidy bill and work with BOTH SIDES to make the needed changes with the ACA.

Thank you,

Suzie Bell
Eureka Christian Health
Eureka Springs, AR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacey DeGooyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Pre-existing conditions, multiple job changes and affordability are common in my family and for many Americans. Do not head the middle class and low-income earners towards bankruptcy and sickness with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely,

Stacey DeGooyer
[REDACTED]
Petaluma CA 94952

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bette Elsden [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal: testimony
Attachments: Graham-CassidyTestimony.pdf

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have attached testimony to this email for the upcoming hearing on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. For convenience, I have also pasted the content into this email. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this crucially important proposal, which I urge you **not** to support.

Bette Elsden, M.A.

**Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal,
September 25, 2017**

Bette Elsden

[REDACTED]

Florence, MA 01062

• **62-year-old single woman with multiple disabilities cannot afford to lose access to reasonably-priced health insurance that covers pre-existing conditions and mental health care – a loss which would result from passage of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. This proposal especially burdens those aged 50 to 65 with increased costs, affecting those who are often forced out of employment and who have difficulty competing for jobs due to age discrimination, but who are too young to receive Medicare coverage.**

• **The Affordable Care Act needs repair, not repeal. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson is not the way.** As Sen. John McCain and many others have said, we need a careful, considered, bipartisan process such as the one put together by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray to steer American healthcare into an affordable, sustainable future.

I am writing to present testimony regarding the proposal referenced above.

I am a 62-year-old woman with multiple disabilities, including widespread chronic pain and PTSD. Despite the obstacles, I have been an active, working taxpayer virtually all of my adult life. I am proud of my contribution to my country's economy and of my active participation in the political process through voting. In my last position, I was Director of Graduate Student Life at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Unfortunately, in early 2015 symptoms of my disabilities increased to the point that I needed to take extended sick leave. Studies show that in cases like mine it takes a *minimum* of one year to truly recover, and in most cases more like two years or even longer, and so it has proven for me. I was informed in April, 2016 that my department needed to reduce its budget, and as a result my position was being eliminated and I was being laid off. This notification caused a setback in my condition, lengthening my time to recovery. Although I have worked hard to recover and have made significant progress, I am still unable to work.

When I was laid off (effective in early July, 2016) I lost my union benefits, including health insurance coverage. I was offered a COBRA plan to maintain my health insurance for a limited time. But the COBRA plan would have cost at least \$500 per month, for individual coverage. With no source of income outside of long-term disability insurance benefits from a policy I had purchased through my employer, this was out of reach for me. (When I called Social Security I was told that although I have some retirement benefit waiting for me, I'm ineligible for Social Security Disability Insurance because of the amount of time since I'd contributed to the system – I believe 11 years – due to the way the Commonwealth structures withholding for public employees.) As I am ineligible for Medicare until I reach age 65, I had to use the Massachusetts Health Connector system (Massachusetts' Affordable Care Act arm) to discover how I was going to obtain health insurance coverage.

At this point, I want to say that I thanked God that the Health Connector exists at all. I had heard frightening stories about MassHealth, the Commonwealth's system of Medicaid, as an increasing number of physicians refuse MassHealth patients. While MassHealth is a vital safety net – which is

now threatened with drastic cuts that would be caused by passage of the **Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal**, the area where I live – far from Boston in the western part of the state – switching to MassHealth can be disastrous, as we have a limited number of physicians and other practitioners in this area. For example, my mental health care provider, a trauma specialist who is my primary provider when it comes to the PTSD, does not accept MassHealth. Losing that connection at this point in my recovery would be devastating.

It is clear that the ACA needs to be repaired. The number of plans available to me in western Massachusetts are far too limited, and premiums have risen alarmingly (mine doubled this year). This has been widely acknowledged by virtually everyone, regardless of party affiliation.

But **Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson is not the way.** As Sen. John McCain and many others have said, we need a careful, considered, bipartisan process such as the one put together by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray to steer American healthcare into an affordable, sustainable the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the proposal.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kerstin Maroney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Kerstin Maroney and my 22-year-old daughter Brooke has a profound intellectual disability and severe autism. She requires assistance with all her daily living needs and receives supported living services through Medicaid. These vital services enable Brooke to live in her own home with regular community access.

The Medicaid expansion of Obamacare allows people like my daughter to live in comfortable home settings and be a part of their community. Divesting in these life-saving services would result in isolation and institutionalization for the more severely disabled.

The cruelty and blatant dishonesty of those promoting this bill is a national disgrace. Block grants and caps will ultimately result in far fewer funds to support people like my daughter in favor of tax cuts for the wealthy.

I respectfully ask that you make a bipartisan effort to find a more suitable alternative. Denying my daughter her life-giving services is not acceptable. Please seek a more compassionate response and put people ahead of profits.

Sincerely,

Kerstin Maroney
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dovy Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill. I rely on accessible, quality, affordable healthcare. I am a small business owner and primary income provider for a family of four. Between the four of us, we have multiple pre-existing conditions, from a rare chronic disease (which has only ONE form of pharmaceutical treatment, which costs thousands of dollars a month) to a sports-induced bone injury and seasonal allergies. The affordable care act allows us to keep on going - pay reasonable premiums for reasonably priced treatments that allows us to go to work, and school, and live productive lives. Should we be shut out of health insurance plans because of pre-existing conditions, or priced out of health insurance plans, we will surely lose everything. 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,

Dovy Friedman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Penrice [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To the Majority: Please show some guts and simple humanity and tell the Kochs you will not strip tens of millions of Americans of access to health care by advancing this cruel bill.

Daniel Penrice
Cambridge, MA

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care repeal bill

I help a family who are legal immigrants. Mom has severe health problems. She does not have Medicaid because VA is very stingy. Please don't take away health care from people who need it. Telling the states to run their own programs may be OK in some states, but not in most.

Do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sheila Allen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Taylor Caffery [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Last minute changes to Graham Cassidy require normal Senate procedure

There is not time for the committee to fully --or even partially-- vet this bill. It's not just the CBO score, it's the opportunity for committee members and Senators and staff to arrive at their own independent understanding of the bill's long-term ramifications. Please put a hold on this bill so it can be heard on the regular calendar.

Sincerely,

--Taylor Caffery, Attorney at Law
[REDACTED]
Baton Rouge LA 70808

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JJ Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Title of Hearing: Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

Jennifer Jo Thompson
[REDACTED]
Athens, GA 30606

Dear Senators,

I am writing to provide comments about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

I am deeply concerned that this bill will not solve the problems with the US health care system, but rather will exacerbate them.

Our goal as a nation should be to make health care more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Instead, this bill will cause millions of Americans to lose their health care coverage, and will likely leave millions more under-insured.

By encouraging states to seek waivers to the ACA's Essential Health Benefits, this bill will open the market to sub-par plans that don't actually cover patients for the health care they need: this will mean that women may not get the maternity care they need, people with depression, anxiety, or worse may not be able get the mental health care they need, people may not have coverage for hospitalization when they need it. As someone who has studied health care and health insurance for 15 years, I can tell you that this will lead to people postponing needed care, until it is more expensive and more life-threatening. In the end, this will cost States far more than it will save them.

Perhaps most egregiously, this bill will open the door to plans that charge patients more for plans that cover their pre-existing conditions -- a disastrous situation that the ACA remedied. This will leave women who have survived breast cancer, like my mother, in a situation where they may not be able to afford ongoing coverage to detect recurrence. This is unconscionable.

By converting the current ACA and Medicaid funding to state block grants, this bill will hurt the working poor who currently depend on Medicaid and ACA subsidies. As the Federal funding for Medicaid is capped, States will have to choose who will live and who will die. This is not an exaggeration.

Certainly, the ACA is not perfect. But this bill--which will reduce the number of insured, and drastically cuts federal funding for health care that Americans desperately need--does not solve the problems. This bill is no more than an attempt at political expediency. Instead, please work together with Senators across the political spectrum to come up with a solution that truly improves the access and affordability of health care for all.

Thank your for your consideration.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sabra Kurth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday September 25, 2017

Gentlemen and Ladies,

The proposal to repeal key aspects of the ACA will increasingly be detrimental to the common good of this country. Jobs lost, unnecessary death, widescale financial hardship. Why is the US ranked 38th in the world in quality of healthcare? I don't think this bill will improve that standing. Our nation has real problems to solve and ACA needs some repair, but this bill harms the most vulnerable members of our citizenry. It hurts women, children, those who already have preexisting conditions. Our nation can do better for its citizens!

Sabra M. Kurth
[REDACTED]

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keri Kennedy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill hearing

Keri Kennedy
Hudson, Wisconsin
54016

I VOTE! and YES, I make certain and vote with my wallet via donations to opposing candidates when I am unhappy with my own reps and via boycotts, too.

So I'm writing today to ask that I do NOT want the Graham-Cassidy health care bill to replace The Affordable Care Act aka Obamacare. I would rather see a bipartisan effort to make changes and fix what isn't working about ACA.

Since I made my feelings known in the subject, you may not be reading this, but on the off chance that you will, here is my story:

My husband is a cancer survivor (pre-existing condition) who was able to start his own business because of the ACA. I'm sure you've heard countless stories about this, so I won't go into details, but it basically means he would have to go back to working in a large company again for little pay in order to obtain insurance (which won't cover PEC) or try to buy a costly private plan (which won't cover PEC). We're stuck between a rock and a hard place here.

And then there is my grandson and his little family. He was born in January with hemimegalencephaly (another pre-existing condition, born with it like Billy Kimmel). Most people don't know what this is, but it is a genetic disorder in which half of the brain grows disproportionately faster than the other half. It means intractable seizures (uncontrollable even with multiple medications). It means disabled for the remainder of his life. He was diagnosed in early March and had to have a functional hemispherectomy in May. He is the light of our life but he will have challenges forever and may have to have more surgeries (most hemi kids do) to keep him alive and thriving. He will need assistance which will cost money that will be more than my daughter can afford and they will be unable to have two full-time jobs because he needs someone with him all of the time and always will.

The new GC bill is not going to help these situations. You know it. ALL of the health care groups that have come out against the bill know it.

The changes that have been quickly written in to appease certain Senators aren't going to fix it.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

Regards,

Keri Kennedy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kirsten Bates [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare for pre-existing conditions

To Whom It May Concern:

I have just turned 65. About twenty years ago I was diagnosed with Bipolar Illness. At the time I had no idea how devastating this illness it would be, or how much it would affect my life. Fortunately, I had had jobs in the film industry that paid well, and was able to draw on Social Security Disability to help me survive financially and to help with medical expenses. Without that, I would some time thereafter, and certainly by this time in my life, been living on the streets.

Medical care needs to cover mental healthcare and preexisting conditions. This can strike anyone. I have been treated for minor illnesses in both Canada and Germany, where their healthcare systems work so well there is no thought to leaving people inn the gutter, or in misery, only consternation that a country as wealthy and powerful as the United States would not be able to solve the problem of taking care of its populace.

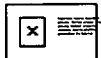
People who do not understand how critical this issue is to humans, like me, are heartless and without humanity. Please look deep in side yourselves before you vote on these issues and think of what our nation is supposed to stand for: LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Do not think that this only happens to some anonymous persons out there; think of your own families, think of your country.

Respectfully,

Kirsten R. Bates-Renaud
[REDACTED]

Athens, NY 12015
[REDACTED]



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Stier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say No to Graham Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern,

My husband and I are self-employed small business owners in Wisconsin. We have individual insurance, which is affordable and for which we are extremely grateful. Prior to the ACA, I was denied insurance coverage due to a preexisting condition, and our state's then-existing high risk pool insurance option was cost prohibitive and would have denied coverage of my preexisting condition for a period of 6 months. Without insurance, my prescriptions alone total \$15,000/month. With an annual income of less than \$100K, this would have been financially devastating. And without those medicines, I would not be alive. For those with a serious condition, this bill isn't healthcare. This is a recipe for a medical crisis, financial devastation, or both.

Any bill that increases the financial burden on those with preexisting conditions (which, in time, will be most Americans) and keeps lifetime limits intact is unacceptable.

Any bill that provides insurance companies with loopholes that enable them to deny coverage of essential health benefits is unacceptable.

Any bill that fails to address the root cause of our skyrocketing healthcare expenses (pharma, to name but I've) is unacceptable.

Any bill that is supported by a single party without input from the other is unacceptable. Our government should represent all of America, not just those with the deepest pockets for party donations. Without bipartisanship, healthcare will remain at the whim of whomever is the majority party. There will be no stability, no lasting solutions, no improvement in care and, ultimately, Americans' lives will inevitably suffer.

The ACA was a literal lifesaver for me and my family. But I would happily support any plan that improves the ACA. This is NOT that plan. I'm disgusted that my senator, Ron Johnson, is part of this push for healthcare replacement that will so clearly hurt those in our state and our country. The "forgotten men and women" will still be forgotten. He has clearly forgotten me.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our country. We need our representatives in the Senate now more than ever to step in and stand in the gap for America's people.

With great respect,
Meredith Christensen
Verona, Wisconsin 53593

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Mounayar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments [REDACTED]
Subject: PLEASE say NO to Graham-Cassidy!!
Attachments: 20170615_145656.jpg; 20170418_101540_001.jpg; FB_IMG_1504539143367.jpg

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My son Alex has multiple special needs that will require life long treatment. Thanks to the Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid my son is able to get the medical services and therapy he needs to thrive and grow. My son is now 11 and is the happiest little boy you'll ever meet. Alex is able to attend school a few days a week and is on homebound a few days a week. He is able to do all of these things because of the services he receives through Medicaid!

This is our life :Alexander, was born full term , no problems during delivery . When Alex was 2 weeks old when he was first sick ,and has been for 8 yrs ,he had pneumonia ,RSV ,and double ear infection , has had MRSA and other skin infections . Alex had many trips to different drs and hospitals ,he has gone to UVA , NIH , many specialist Severe Asthma ,Eczema,sleep apnea, restlessleg syndrome, Hypermobility that causes him to have joint swelling and pain and at times he needs a wheelchair to get around due to the pain and shortness of breath, he has braces for his knees ,arms and feet that he wears ,Melebotic disorder Cystic Fibrosis (diagnosed 11-2014), Growth Hormone deficiency (A shot to help him grow , he gives himself the shot daily, Food Allergies, a unknown Immune Deficiency.

Alex pick's up everything he comes in contact with and it takes longer for him to get over illnesses longer and stronger and longer dose of antibiotics .Alex was diagnosed with Eosinophilic Esophagitis also known as(EE or EoE) 12-14-11. Most nights Alex doesn't sleep due to the itching of the eczema , or pain from the EE , and having to take breathing treatments to control his severe asthma, his lung functioning has been down in the 80% making it hard for Alex to breath he has had pneumonia and a sinus infection since August.

Alex has 50 medications (that we use on his skin , breathing machine ,and by Gtube and a few by mouth , xolair shots 3 every 2 weeks , and has eleven doctors and he sometimes has to go weekly or monthly visits.

If this awful bill is passed it would threaten the availability of these services to my son, other children within the disabilities community, elderly, our veterans and possibly you! You never know if there will come a day that you and or someone you love will be affected with or by a medical condition that requires special services.

My family deeply appreciates your time and consideration! Attached is a photo of my husband & I with our amazing son Evan!

PLEASE say NO to Graham-Cassidy!!

Lisa Mounayar

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is an allergic inflammatory disease characterized by elevated eosinophils in the esophagus. EoE is a newly recognized disease that over the past decade has been increasingly diagnosed in children and adults. Eosinophilic esophagitis is a rare disease, but increasing in prevalence to an estimated 1: 2000. This increase is thought to reflect an increase in diagnosis as well as a true increase in EoE cases. Fortunately, the medical community is responding and new scientific information is emerging to guide management of this disorder, which often persists with ongoing or recurrent symptoms. Eosinophilic esophagitis is characterized by a large number of eosinophils and inflammation in the esophagus lining (the tube connecting the mouth to the stomach). The eosinophils are usually only seen with the aid of microscopes and special diagnostic procedures. These eosinophils persist despite treatment with acid blocking medicines and other standard treatments. People with EoE commonly have other allergic diseases such as rhinitis, asthma, and/or eczema. EoE affects people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Males are more commonly affected than females. In certain families, there may be an inherited (genetic) tendency. In individuals with EoE, the eosinophils cause injury to the tissue in the esophagus. EoE can be driven by food allergy or intolerance: most patients who eliminate food proteins from their diet (by drinking only an amino-acid based formula) improve or other environmental factors that researchers are beginning to understand. Eosinophils are not normally present in the esophagus, although they may be found in other areas of the gastrointestinal tract. Diseases other than EoE can cause eosinophils in the esophagus including gastroesophageal reflux diseases (GERD), food allergy, and inflammatory bowel disease. A gastroenterologist can diagnose EoE based on clinical symptoms, number of eosinophils present, and tissue inflammation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gwen Garnett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Please do not repeal the ACA

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.

Sincerely,
Gwen Garnett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline McGraw [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I'm writing to ask the Senate Finance Committee to rigorously and meticulously question every aspect of the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill affects 1/6 of our nation's economy, and should not be waved through without extensive hearings, amending, and questioning. The hurry around getting this bill to a vote is worrisome to me, and so many Americans who are not wealthy and rely on the protections of the ACA for our wellbeing.

Thank you for your time,

Caroline McGraw
New York
[REDACTED]

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Liesel E. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

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.

Sincerely,

Anneliese Euler

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barry Gott [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments

I tried to buy individual health insurance before the ACA. I couldn't. Every single plan was unaffordable and didn't cover what we needed. The guarantees and protections of the ACA have saved my family's health and finances. This bill would throw us back to the wolves. My wife is a cancer survivor, my son has autism, and I am self-employed. We cannot afford to pay what insurers would charge us under this bill, nor can we survive without health insurance. For the love of God, kill this cruel bill and resume the bipartisan process that might actually help instead of hurt my family. Save the guarantees and protections of the ACA, and make sure it is fully funded! There is nothing more important for the lives and well being of millions of Americans!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Mosk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Dump Graham Cassidy

My family relies 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.
Sincerely, FMoskowitz
Port Washington, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: show Tale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Kenneth Hake
Chico, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Reding [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please don't let this bill go to a vote. It is another attempt to deny people healthcare instead of providing them coverage. I have heard much analysis on this bill and it is not worthy of a vote.

--
Nancy Reding
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherry Rindt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pleases Vote No on Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill and any similar bills which would decrease Medicaid, allow states to "decide", or allow insurance companies to rate up for pre-existing conditions.

As a former ADRC Assistant for Waupaca County I worked with dozens of households that had a family member in need of some form of health insurance. Most of these people had a great work history until an illness or injury changed their world. Most of these people were clean and polite. Most of these people kept a clean home and most of these people tried very hard to pay their bills on time.

But, they are the kind of people greedy insurance companies do not want to cover. That's why they rely on Medicaid or a combination of Medicaid and Medicare to obtain healthcare. And because they have access to affordable healthcare, most of these people continue to work at least part-time, most remain clean and polite, most help care for other family members, and most make a positive contribution to our society and our economy.

Passing a bill that would reduce Medicaid funding, and leave it up to the states to decide how it will be spent could spell disaster for thousands of Wisconsin residents. We already have thousands of residents that lost healthcare coverage when Gov. Walker declined the Medicaid expansion and dismantled the BagerCare Basic program. This same governor has also implemented new rules that makes it more difficult to obtain Medicaid eligibility. And, he has tried to dismantle some of the long-term care programs funded through Medicaid.

Please vote against this bill. It is too risky and lacks compassion or understanding of long term care needs.

Thank you..

Sherry Rindt
[REDACTED]
Marion, WI 54950
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Overholtzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy plan

Please reject this cruel, rushed attempt to secure a "win" for Trump. Members of my family have serious - chronic illnesses, and it's clear that under this bill, states could exempt themselves from current requirements to provide ADEQUATE coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

Furthermore, the bill is an unprecedented massive shift of responsibility from the federal government to the states - this is just copping out on our responsibility to take care of our citizens.

Jeff Overholtzer
Staunton, Va. 24401

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Berger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senate representatives,

I rely on the Affordable Care Act for ongoing healthcare, including prevention and maintenance of several pre-existing conditions. I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy Act, which severely restricts coverage for me and many others in the United States who will have no other options for affordable healthcare under this act.

As a freelance writer, I rely on income-based private insurance to keep me healthy and alive. I am also glad to subsidize health insurance for others, knowing this will only make things better for me and the country. A healthy population is key to a sustainable democracy. People can't work when they're sick, and when people don't pursue early treatment of symptoms because of cost barriers, the costs become much higher to them - and to American taxpayers and the government - down the line. Keeping the ACA is a win/win situation. I realize the ACA is not perfect, but please take measures to improve it - don't repeal and replace.

Thanks very much.
Sincerely,
Amy Bergen
Portland, Maine

--

There is calmness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy. - Ralph H. Blum

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Jacobsen Comer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong OPPOSITION to the hateful and harmful healthcare bill currently being considered by the Senate.

If you think BUYING OFF Alaska and a couple of other states is the way forward, YOU ARE WRONG! I am hoping that Senator Murkowski and Senator Collins will not prostitute themselves to the GOP leaders and will stand up like Senator McCain and do the right thing and VOTE NO. The GOP leaders have shown themselves to be less than honorable human beings and certainly NOT patriots. Senator Graham, you are a disgrace to put party before country.

Anyone who votes yes should be ashamed of yourselves to wish harm on millions of Americans simply to make a political point for a hateful loudmouth President. You would be voting yes for a few loudmouth hypocrites, big pharma, the top 1% and corporate oligarchs. This is NOT ABOUT HEALTHCARE. This is about giving a cash handout to rich people. It is pathetic and we all know what you are doing!

I have been hoping, during this entire Trump disgusting mess, that at some point Republicans would show they care about our country and its citizens more than the disgusting Republican party that has sold its soul to Russia.

VOTE NO OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER AND OUR MEMORY WILL BE LONG.

A United States Citizen, Registered to Vote, and who wishes to help Americans, not kill them.

Marcia Comer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Coupeville, WA 98239
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill McAuliffe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy bill. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs. It is disconcerting and disappointing that you would consider imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields and throw so many citizens off of health insurance. From what I've read and heard, *not one industry involved in the medical field is in favor* of this law.

What we need is a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion of how to improve the ACA and how to finance it so that as many Americans as possible can have basic, affordable health care.

Healthcare should NOT be reserved for the healthy and wealthy in America.

Thank you,

Jill McAuliffe



Jill McAuliffe | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rodney Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies 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.

Rodney Cooper
[REDACTED]

Macon, GA 31201
[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Curran [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Please do everything you can to not allow this bill to even come to a vote. This is a disaster, a travesty and would do great harm.

Thank you,
Christina Curran
11946

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Keithahn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham Cassidy bill

Friends,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill, on these issues:

1. I support an open, transparent, bi-partisan approach to improve the Affordable Care Act that has already improved healthcare for millions of Americans, rather than this frantic partisan attempt to push through a bill without allowing time for appropriate hearings and discussion of possible ramifications of its contents, and without listening to the arguments against it from the medical providers, insurers, and patients. Party politics should not take precedence over serving the needs of our people.
2. I oppose cuts to Planned Parenthood and maternity and other health care for women. The idea that women's health issues are less important than men's issues (i.e. Viagra coverage) or don't affect them shows a surprising lack of understanding about human biology. Men are as responsible as women for the results of sexual activity and should share in the financial responsibility for the results! And what has happened to our basic American value that we share in the responsibility to care for all our people's health needs, not just our own gender or other interest group?
3. I am 83 years old, widowed for 31 years, and grateful for Medicare coverage and the supplement I have through my professional group coverage, but I have 3 children who are in the 55-65 age group liable to be affected by increased premiums. Who in that age group does not have some pre-existing conditions? My daughter was widowed at age 42 and has been the sole support of herself and her two children since then. Her health insurance has always come from her public school teaching job, and she is in a profession where older, more experienced and better educated teachers are often let go in favor of younger, less qualified teachers who can be hired at less pay. I am concerned about what will happen to people in her situation under this bill.

I urge you to vote against the Graham Cassidy bill, and concentrate on fixing the Affordable Care Act where it needs changes.

Thank you.

Mary Nelson Keithahn

Rev. Mary Nelson Keithahn

[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD 57702
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Garvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: save the ACA

My friends and family rely on high quality, affordable healthcare. Their stories are many: pre-existing conditions, like cancer, like multiple sclerosis, like premature birth. One of them retired before age 65 for various health reasons, and now depends on ACA for health insurance. Others, like increasing numbers in our economy, are freelancers, and cannot get health insurance through their jobs. They also depend on the ACA for their health insurance. Certainly, there are better ways of framing health insurance – Medicare for all would be the best direction to go. The Graham-Cassidy bill, however, will, will do nothing to improve the ACA. It is a cruel and greedy way of demolishing it, while handing over the supposed savings to the very wealthy. Remember, however, that these are not real savings. Pushing millions of people out the window, will result in massive untreated health problems across the country, all of which will have uncounted but entirely predictable horrible effects on people's lives.

You can demonstrate that you are not greedy and cruel by working to improve the ACA, and making it more like Medicare for all, rather than repealing it or destroying it.

Sincerely,

Ellen Gruber Garvey, Ph.D.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Baggett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Rebecca Baggett
Subject: Fwd: Graham-Cassidy

Title of hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017
Rebecca Baggett
[REDACTED]
Athens, GA 30605

Dear Senators:

Nine years ago my youngest sister went through a double mastectomy, chemo, and radiation. On September 14th, she finished chemo for the recurrence no one expected. She will have infusions of a new drug her oncologist hopes will prevent another recurrence, since tamoxifen did not, and six weeks of radiation. Since her first cancer appeared, she has become a single mom with two kids nearing college age. She will struggle to pay her medical bills, but without healthcare coverage for pre-existing conditions and AFFORDABLE health care for those who have them, she would be bankrupt. Without mandatory funding for PREVENTIVE healthcare for women, she would not have had the mammogram that discovered her invasive breast cancer when she was premenopausal and in her forties. She would be dead, and her children would have lost their mom when they were eight and six.

Without Medicaid my mother, who began working at sixteen and only retired in her seventies, would not be covered for the skilled nursing her advanced Alzheimer's makes necessary. Our family is not wealthy, and we all work -- we would be bankrupt trying to compensate for a lack of care. Any changes to Medicaid, to women's health care, to coverage for pre-existing conditions that allows insurers to place those needing it in a "high-risk" pool with premiums unaffordable to the average American, whether it comes directly from this bill or from unpalatable funding "choices" made by legislators state-to-state directly impacts my family and many others i love.

This bill appalls me and should appall you if you can imagine what it means to be an ordinary person in this country, someone who is neither wealthy nor in a position where they are guaranteed the kind of health care you and your family enjoy. It is past time you stopped spending our tax dollars on a vendetta against President Obama's legacy and worked together on sincere bipartisan efforts to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Baggett
[REDACTED]
Athens, GA 30605

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RICHARDKING123 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am a local church pastor, and my church and denomination are increasingly feeling the effects of rising premium costs, which would be mitigated by Federal efforts to stabilize the individual insurance markets. In addition, my son has pre-existing conditions: depression, anxiety, and Tourette's Syndrome, for which is treated with medication, which requires medical supervision, and counseling. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Rev. Richard D. King

[REDACTED]

Longmont, CO 80503

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Hehman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham.docx

To Whom it May Concern:

The following is my statement regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, submitted for inclusion on the record of the Senate Finance Committee hearing today. (Also attached as Word document.)

Thank you,

Michelle Hehman

**Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM EST**

From:

Michelle Hehman, PhD, RN
Ct.

[REDACTED]
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Dear U.S. Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Michelle Hehman and I write to you again today as a concerned citizen regarding the latest Republican health care bill, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. As a nurse married to an emergency medicine physician, healthcare in our family is both our passion and our livelihood. As the mother of three small children, access to adequate preventive services and essential benefits have kept my kids healthy and thriving. And as an individual with a pre-existing condition, the ability to keep and maintain health insurance has literally kept me alive.

I have been a neonatal intensive care (NICU) nurse for eleven years now; long enough to remember practicing in a large tertiary care hospital before the Affordable Care Act became law. As the regional referral center for the most premature and acutely ill newborns, it was common to have patients in the hospital for weeks, months, and sometimes years. During their stay, these babies would endure physical struggles most adults could hardly fathom, and be given cutting edge, quality, compassionate care by providers working their hardest to help them survive. More infants than I care to admit ended up with hospital bills in the millions- not an unexpected result given the number of diagnostic tests, surgeries, treatments, and medications given to them during their extended stay. Parents, already distraught and struggling to help support their sick children, would often be devastated to learn that their newborn had reached their lifetime limit for health insurance reimbursement before that baby had ever seen the outside of the hospital. If these infants were lucky enough to be discharged home, many of them required expensive therapies and medications throughout their childhood and potentially for the rest of their lives. How could these families possibly feel with such a heavy burden to bear, all while watching their child simply fight for life? The Affordable Care Act changed all that by removing lifetime limits on health insurance, and also helped millions of families through its generous Medicaid expansion. In my current home state of Texas alone, 50% of births are covered by Medicaid, and this figure is without the state legislature approving a Medicaid expansion. Passage of the Graham-Cassidy-

Heller-Johnson proposal would not only risk the reinstatement of lifetime caps, but also gut Medicaid funding across the nation. For my patients, the smallest and most vulnerable among us who have no voice of their own, this bill would be disastrous.

With both a personal and professional incentive to stay informed on healthcare policy, I have watched in horror as members of Congress have cavalierly and irresponsibly approached healthcare reform throughout the current legislative session. I do not expect each of our elected officials to be experts on every issue upon which they will have to make policy decisions. However, I do demand that they make every attempt to educate themselves on these issues and weigh input from actual experts in those fields. It appears that Republican leaders have made every attempt to exclude virtually every stakeholder group throughout the healthcare policy development process, assuming that a very small, exclusive, and homogeneous group of legislators is somehow equipped to properly and adequately reorganize one-sixth of our national economy. If anyone on the committee is still interested in the expert opinions of leading professional groups, patient advocacy organizations, and even health insurance companies regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, I offer them now:

The American Medical Association: "...the Graham-Cassidy Amendment fails to match this vision and violates the precept of 'first do no harm.' Similar to proposals that were considered in the Senate in July, we believe the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care."

The American Nurses Association: "This plan—which rips coverage from 32 million Americans, guts Medicaid, and kills pre-existing conditions protections—would be devastating to patients. The American Nurses Association denounces the latest Senate proposal as its worst yet. Patients deserve better and we won't rest until they get it." – ANA President Pam Cipriano

The American Academy of Pediatrics: "I must speak out against this dangerous, ill-conceived policy on behalf of our 66,000 pediatrician, pediatric surgical specialist and pediatric medical sub-specialist members, and stop it from advancing... This bill may be disguised under a different name, but it contains the same dangerous policies as the legislation that failed to advance out of the Senate earlier this summer. In fact, Graham-Cassidy goes even further in its attacks on Medicaid." – AAP President Fernando Stein

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: "ACOG condemns the latest effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act by ignoring regular order and rushing the harmful Graham-Cassidy bill to a vote. This latest effort is the most dangerous bill to date, threatening to strip health care from millions of Americans and end Medicaid as we know it."

The Association of American Medical Colleges: "During the long debate regarding health care reform, the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals have continually advocated for a number of key principles as fundamental cornerstones of any successful health care system. These principles include offering high-quality, affordable health insurance to all; preserving and fortifying the safety net through Medicaid and other policies; and encouraging innovation in the delivery system, among others... The current proposal does not meet these principles and will almost surely lead to dramatic increases in the number of uninsured patients nationwide and put important existing patient protections at risk. Additionally, a proposal like this—a complete overhaul of the health care system—should be fully and adequately examined by the Congressional Budget Office before it is brought to a vote."

The Children's Hospital Association: "The nation's children's hospitals stand in strong opposition to the most recent legislative proposal introduced by Sens. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., Bill Cassidy, R-La., Dean Heller, R-Nev., and Ron Johnson, R-Wis. Their legislation would slash funding for Medicaid, the nation's largest health care program for children, by one-third, reducing access and coverage for more than 30 million children in the program."

The American Heart Association (and 16 other patient and provider advocacy groups): “Affordable, adequate care is vital to the patients we represent. This legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health. In fact, much of the proposal just repackages the problematic provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which we opposed. Fortunately, the BCRA was voted down by Congress earlier this year.”

The Public Health Institute: “The Graham-Cassidy proposal is just as bad as previous versions of ACA repeal—it would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, gut Medicaid funding, weaken current protections for people with pre-existing conditions and make meaningful coverage unaffordable for many.”

The Alzheimer’s Association: “The proposed changes to Medicaid outlined in the Graham-Cassidy Amendment could have a drastic impact on this vulnerable population given that more than 1 in 4 seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are currently on Medicaid. The Alzheimer’s Association and AIM are also alarmed by the potential impact of this legislation on Americans living with pre-existing conditions, including the 200,000 Americans living with younger-onset Alzheimer’s.”

AARP: “Overall, the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill would increase health care costs for older Americans with an age tax, decrease coverage, and undermine preexisting condition protections. In addition, this bill would jeopardize the ability of older Americans and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes as they age and threaten coverage for individuals in nursing homes.”

The National Association of Medicaid Directors: “Our members are committed to ensuring that the programs we operate improve health outcomes while also being fiscally responsible to state and federal taxpayers. In order to succeed, however, these efforts must be undertaken in a thoughtful, deliberative, and responsible way. We are concerned that this legislation would undermine these efforts in many states and fail to deliver on our collective goal of an improved health care system.”

The American Hospital Association: “This proposal would erode key protections for patients and consumers and does nothing to stabilize the insurance market now or in the long term. In addition, the block grant to provide support for the expansion population expires in 2026, thereby eliminating coverage for millions of Americans... For these reasons, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy plan.”

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association: “The [Graham-Cassidy] bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions. The legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans’ choice of health plans. Legislation must also ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable.”

Kaiser Permanente: “At Kaiser Permanente, we believe that changes to our nation’s health care laws should increase access to high-quality, affordable care and coverage for as many people as possible. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not meet any of those tests... The block grant proposal in the bill would erode coverage of needed medical services and pose major issues for state budgets. Repealing the individual mandate without alternative incentives for enrollment will lead to fewer people enrolled and higher premiums.”

America’s Health Insurance Plans: “[The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal] would have real consequences on consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for preexisting conditions; not ending taxes on health insurance premiums and benefits; and potentially allowing government-controlled, single payer health care to grow.”

I implore the Senate to wholeheartedly reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal and attempt to develop a bipartisan proposal for healthcare reform that includes numerous open hearings and

assistance from health experts, professional groups, and patients alike. Our healthcare system certainly needs reform, as costs continue to rise and our health outcomes continue to lag behind most developed nations. The current proposal does nothing to reduce costs, will strip coverage from millions of Americans, and destabilize the insurance market. Passage of this bill would be unconscionable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle C. Hehman, PhD, RN

--
Michelle C. Hehman PhD, RN

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature and any handwritten notes that might have been present.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Shanower [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Good Morning,

Even in affluent Northern California with an extremely low unemployment rate, we rely on affordable healthcare. I am currently covered by my employer, I am a single mother and was a consultant for years and relied on the ACA to keep my family healthy and happy. My son was very ill and needed extensive tests and doctor visits at UCSF Medical. The bills were astronomical, but nothing is more important than your health. If I had been responsible for covering all for these costs, it would have impacted my ability to support college tuition. 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,

Lisa Shanower

Mill Valley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Casidy bill

PLEASE DO NOT pass this horrible bill! Please improve, not replace the ACA!

Thank you!

Beth
Fischer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DIANE PEPPER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As the parent of a disabled adult daughter I am extremely concerned about the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter relies on Medicaid for healthcare, therapies, and job coaching. Reformulating Medicaid and allowing States to implement it is a very concerning prospect. I know the elderly, people in nursing home and the disabled will be hurt by this legislation.

Please encourage a bipartisan solution and do not allow this legislation to pass, especially without the CBO score.

Thank you,

Diane Pepper

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J H OBERNDORF [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comments

To Whom It may Concern,

Quality, affordable healthcare is essential for my family. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My life, and those of my immediate and extended family, has many instances where quality healthcare has made a tremendous difference in our well being and financial health too. I had surgery at the beginning of this year for a badly broken wrist, and without my coverage would not have been able to receive surgery and therapy. My livelihood depends on being able to use my hand and wrist, and I'm grateful that I was able to go to specialist and receive the care I needed. I could continue to list multiple instances among family and friends- including long term cases of living with cancer (sister and mother-in-law) requiring care that would not have been possible without good insurance coverage. The current Braham-Cassidy bill is terrifying, to say the least. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours Truly,
Joan Oberndorf
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Manda Chandler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is a NO!

My husband has been with the same company for 20 years. We maintain excellent health coverage. In 2008 we were blessed with twins. They each had some health concerns and spent time in the NICU. That bill was over \$250,000.00. Thank goodness we had insurance coverage. We would have lost everything. Months later we received devastating news about the youngest twin. His care took a dramatic turn with a high price tag. We're it not for the insurance we had, there would have been no way to save him. Down the road as time progressed, we were picked up by Medicaid Waiver. We had just run through our savings, and because of Medicaid we could keep my son home with family. My son passed in 2015 at the age of 7 1/2 years old. Had we not had Medicaid, we feel like his life expectancy of one year might have been more accurate. Taking away Healthcare from families is not in line with Family Values. Removing safeguards for vulnerable families is the opposite of valuing families. It is morally and ethically wrong. This is a nation that was once a beacon to others. Let your light continue to shine by doing the right thing. Say NO to Graham Cassidy!

Sincerely,

Amanda Chandler
[REDACTED]
Cottondale, AL 35453

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alisa Waibel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare not Wealthcare...Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

As a physical therapist in the state of Oregon, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I am highly concerned about the negative impact this bill would have on all Oregonians, but especially my patients. The state of Oregon will be hit very hard with deep cuts, because we embraced the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion to protect so many of our residents. Throwing millions of recipients off health insurance in the state, and around the country, will have a devastating impact on our collective health as a nation. Those with pre-existing conditions will no longer be able to afford the higher premiums as their costs continue to inflate. Worst of all, it will further weaken those who are already most vulnerable—elders, children, pregnant women, and people with life-threatening or chronic diseases which are otherwise treatable. Finally, block grants to states and gutting Medicaid even further will only lead to mismanagement of funds, with less and less money going to the people who actually need health coverage. Let's call this what it truly is: tax cuts for the wealthy, at the cost of millions of lives. It is reckless and downright unethical to push forward a bill which would lead to decline and death to so many, in a rushed effort to garner enough votes, without going through due diligence of public hearings, debates, consultations, and reviews. Please work together in a bipartisan process to arrive at more suitable options that provide healthcare to all Americans, not just the wealthy. Please put people ahead of profits and lobby interests! Americans deserve law makers that will work together to provide us with high quality affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,

Alisa Waibel, PT, DPT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Westbrooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

Deborah M Westbrooke
[REDACTED]

Hinesville, GA 31313

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge the Senate to forego the partisan effort to push through a radical reform bill that will affect a large segment of our economy and adversely affect millions of Americans outside the regular order of thorough hearings, debate, amendment, etc. If a bipartisan attempt had been attempted and failed, we would all be more sympathetic to this approach; that is not the case.

In my personal opinion, the most disturbing effects of this bill, if passed, would be the potential loss of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions and the impact on the most vulnerable among us who depend on Medicaid. Please do not take us back to a time of year-long waiting periods for coverage of pre-existing conditions or lack of available coverage. I lived painfully through that time as a young adult without an employer sponsored health insurance policy. All I could afford was catastrophic coverage that would not pay for comprehensive health care. As a result, I waited through months of fearing I had cancer, unable to go to the doctor for fear of pre-existing condition rules and restrictions. As a mature woman, now have many other pre-existing conditions to worry about!

My other concern is Medicaid coverage for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. Even though my state of Georgia did not extend Medicaid, the program still is vital to these citizens.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 1,852,108 Georgians who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Studies have found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036. Approximately 1,218,107 Georgian children are currently enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, whose care could be at risk because of the funding cuts in Graham-Cassidy.

Please take these comments into account when making a decision on this bill.

Respectfully,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doreen Crowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren); Katie Vozeolas; [REDACTED]
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal

Good morning,

On behalf of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Schools are part of the safety net for children and Medicaid plays a significant role, particularly in the funding of needed medical services for children in special education under IDEA through their IEP, but also for those students without IEPs who are eligible for Medicaid. The proposed bill will impact the ability of students with disabilities and students in poverty to receive many critical health services in schools that enable them to learn. This includes services provided by the school nurse, for example, vision and hearing screenings and management for students with diabetes and asthma, as well as other chronic health conditions.

We strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill as it will be harmful to the children of the commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Doreen Crowe, MEd, BSN, RN

NASN Director, MA School Nurse Organization

Board of Directors, National Association of School Nurses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Poutsiaka, Debra [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov'; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

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 as injurious to the health of all Americans as the ACA repeal efforts that came before. My home state of Massachusetts 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 exposed to a loss of care, especially the most vulnerable. My extensive experience in caring for uninsured or poorly insured patients has illustrated the harm and EVENTUAL INCREASED COST of inadequate healthcare.

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.

Sincerely,
Debra D. Poutsiaka, MD, PhD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment and the security of the information contained within or attached to this e-mail before printing or saving to an insecure location.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joann Buonomano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Unethical Graham - Cassidy Health Care Bill :Physician response

To the state finance committee,

The current efforts to repeal the ACA will have significant , devastating public health and economic consequences.

Access to timely and appropriate medical care is a human right and not an economic privilege. Every citizen should have access to a primary care provider and team. This will ultimately reduce overall cost and improve the health of our population.

Universal access to primary care is critical, moving forward.

The current bill will completely destabilize the nations Federally Qualified Health Centers. We have long been the point of last resort care for so many of our most vulnerable citizens. We have a known track record of providing timely and cost effective, quality care.

I urge you to stand on the side of an ethical and compassionate opposition to the propose Graham - Cassidy Bill.

Dr Buonomano MD, CPE, FAAFP
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashley DeNegre [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing comment

Dear Sir or Madam,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My story with a pre-existing conditions is as follows: When I was in graduate school, I was told I would need a surgical procedure. Due to a related pre-existing condition, I was initially unable to obtain coverage for the surgery. While I eventually fought successfully with my insurance company to receive coverage for the procedure, I was in pain for many months during the fight. Had I not had to fight for coverage in the face of a pre-existing condition, I could have had the procedure sooner, and saved myself months of unnecessary pain.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Ashley DeNegre

Martinsville, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emma Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Johnny Isakson; Comments, Perdue (Perdue)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

Emma L Jones

[REDACTED]
Winterville, GA 30683

To the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Johnny Isakson,

The current bill under consideration should not be passed. It will irreparably harm millions of American citizens through a lack of access to health care, medical bankruptcy, losing independence and possible death. It is unconscionable that in the richest nation in the world we cannot care enough to provide health care to all of our people.

The model you are proposing, including the block grant method to allow states flexibility has some merit, but the pace of this bill, and the lack of debate and the lack of amendments and the purely partisan nature of this effort will fail. If this type of plan is what you really believe in and what you want then you should be able to defend it on its merits. You should be able to hold a normal committee process and open hearings (more than one) and bipartisan negotiations. Pushing this bill through with 50 votes through budget reconciliation is an act of desperation and we can all see that. If what you really wanted was to fix the health care system in this country you would not be doing it this way.

Medical care is like food or water. We all need it and we should not withhold it based on a persons ability to pay for it. We have SNAP benefits for this reason, and Medicaid as well. Medicaid does SO MUCH GOOD in this country, pays for so many births, for people with disabilities to stay in their homes, for special needs children to receive therapy, for the elderly to afford long term care. Which one of these groups would you like to see cut off by the cap on spending? Because some of them will.

I urge you to vote with your heart, to recognize that this is a moral issue, not a political one. My Senator, Johnny Isakson is on this committee and I truly hope that you can see your way to realizing the harmful nature of this legislation and vote against it.

Regards,
Emma Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Mayer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I have lost friends and family who died prematurely because they did not have access to healthcare. Laura was my third grade sweetheart who grew up and married a farmer. She died about 20 years ago from a cancer that could've been caught early enough to save her life. Trump care is not a healthcare. It is death.

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.

[Your name]
[City, State]

Sent from Thom's iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ardyth Krause [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017
Attachments: Ken Citizen of the Year 001.jpg

Dear Senators,

As you consider whether or not to pass the GCHJ Proposal for changes in our medical care, I hope you will consider the following example of how your action would affect people like my late husband, Dr. Kenneth Krause. Ken died two years ago, but had he lived to today, he and I would be severely affected by this bill—as will millions of others who are hard working older Americans who have become severely disabled and need nursing home care.

My husband contracted polio at 16. It was severe, but he worked hard to develop and find new ways to use the few muscles he had left.

He worked as a dishwasher to put himself through college, went on to get his MSW and later earned his Ph.D. He worked from the age of 15 to the age of 75. His last full time job was to be a professor of social work at the University of IL at Chicago. After he became too old for people to hire him anymore, he did volunteer work in the community. I am attaching a picture of him receiving an award the students he helped as a volunteer had created just for him—Citizen of the Year. He was 81 at the time of this pic.

He had a physical disability that grew worse over the years. When I married him in 1987, he used crutches. By 1991, he need a manual wheel chair for mobility. In 2006, he needed a power chair. As the years passed, he could no longer stand. At the end, he could not turn over or get out of bed. He died at the age of 85 from this post polio when his swallowing muscles finally gave out.

He needed nursing home care. There was NO WAY I could have lifted his dead weight body to clean him, change his diapers or to turn him every couple of hours to avoid bedsores. We did not even make the \$7000-\$10,000 we would need for private pay for nursing home care. Nor could we afford the \$25,000 a month we would need for homecare.

Although he died before he needed this care, if he were in this situation today, if this bill passed, he would be forced to die a slow death at home—probably of an infection or bedsore from my useless and inadequate attempts to provide care by myself for my man.

NO PERSON deserves to die in such a manner. We are Americans and we are supposed to care for our needy.

Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you
Ardyth Duhatschek-Krause, MSW, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]

Darien, IL 60561
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Teitelbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill!

As a middle-aged American who is far from the age of being eligible for Medicare, I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to dramatically overhaul our health care system.

I am a single parent supporting my family as an independent contractor. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at least 20% of American workers are independent contractors/self-employed and rely on having affordable and high-quality individual plans. Until ACA came along, I was unable to do this. I beg you not to repeal it--rather strengthen it by expanding the Medicare age, continuing to expand Medicaid, and bring down drug prices.

The terrible Graham-Cassidy bill would do none of that. Millions of people, myself included, would be unable to afford insurance for ourselves and our families. It would remove protections for people with preexisting conditions like asthma, cancer, and diabetes. And it contains an age tax which could cost older Americans thousands more per year. Please find your conscience. You know what the right thing to do is. Please vote no on this legislation.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Eliminate this despicable bill

There isn't a reason in the world for anyone to vote for this hateful, ridiculous, stupid mess the Republicans are labeling a "health care bill."

If you vote for it, first amend it so that it includes all government employees – including you. That would be a HUGE fiscal savings! It's despicable that we middle-class taxpayers are forced to spend millions for your Cadillac health care and private plane travel!

For you to design an insurance system simply to get election donations is sick.

You were elected to serve the people – not to only benefit yourselves.

Your constituents include the chronically ill, the poor and the disenfranchised, and women who need health care, birth control and abortion services for reasons you are not qualified to pass judgement upon.

Most of you loudly claim to be "Christian," yet are willing to sentence the poor to death, to force women to have children they cannot afford or who are multi-handicapped. (Often because they have relationships with men who are "too manly" to use birth control – and not responsible enough to support their spawn.)

Every single segment of the health care community is against this bill.

I encourage you not to follow the example of the Narcissistic Rapist by issuing ignorant hate-based edicts, but to use the approach that worked for President Obama and Hillary Clinton: collaboration, cooperation and motivation to do good for the masses.

Not all of us in McConnell's district support his greed, selfish and hate-based proposals.

May anyone who votes for this mess, get what you deserve.

Stop wasting our money with special sessions and obscene benefits for yourselves.

Cutting Congressional benefits would be a wonderful first step for the Senate Finance Committee.

Attempt to behave as if you were responsible adults, concerned about fiscal balance and SERVING YOUR CONSTITUENTS, rather than squalling, fighting spoiled brats trying to get all you can get from hard-working middle and lower-class taxpayers!

Jennifer Warner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Lipins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill hurts families and denies health care as a right to ALL.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Lipins

Lincoln, NE.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anthony Fainberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill is clearly a hoax, being more draconian in cuts to the health care of average Americans than earlier versions and apparently devoid of thought and planning. Obviously much worse than "socialism." This is a step towards destroying the country.

It is an insult to the American people that anyone in Congress would consider approving such incompetent and evil legislation, just to show that "something" could get done, to paraphrase Sen. Grassley. It seems that it doesn't matter if it is good or bad; one just cares that SOMETHING be passed.

Are you guys kidding?

Please don;t let this monstrosity to the floor.

Anthony Fainberg
Bethesda, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. It will, quite literally, cause the death of people who won't be able to afford the preventive care and treatment they need, and in a developed nation such as ours, that is morally indefensible. The bill's main tenets are grossly unpopular. Please do what is right and oppose this bill.

Rebecca Wright

Northampton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Grigsby [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't rush healthcare!

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please don't rush a healthcare bill that hasn't been properly scored by the CBO. Healthcare is far too important and represents too large a segment of our economy to be rushed. I can think of no issue that matters more in both to individuals and to the country at large.

Having a single hearing with only the authors of the bill as witnesses makes a joke of our democracy and our institutions.

In addition, the Graham Cassidy bill doesn't do the bare minimum necessary. It removes pre-existing condition coverage. It will cause millions of people to lose healthcare.

This bill is a travesty. Please vote no.

Thank You,

Jason Grigsby
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Crum, Elisa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: [REDACTED] Crum, Elisa
Subject: #GrahamCassidy (comments)

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

Thank you for opening up a forum for lay people to comment and tell you specific ways in which the Graham Cassidy v2 bill will impact our lives. I think this is a bold step that will help you make better, more informed decisions about the impact of the legislation.

I have 2 almost grown sons, one that has just graduated from college but does not yet have a full time job with his own insurance coverage, and a son that is in his freshman year in college. Both of these boys /men are currently covered under my health insurance plan to make sure that they receive adequate coverages. It gives me great peace of mind to know that my son with a dangerous peanut allergy and another son with asthma can be assured they are medically covered no matter where they are studying in the country; an individual state by state mandate most surely will limit that coverage to the state in which I reside and not cover them where they are studying (if there would even be a plan that would allow me to cover them at all). This would be a tremendous hardship for me and would also mean that I would then need to separately satisfy the yearly deductible and co pays for each of their medical insurance plans in addition to my own—again a tremendous financial burden.

As you can see from the previous paragraph, my family has pre-existing conditions that might even preclude us from having coverage at all or that coverage might be financially prohibitive. I ask that you consider how many people, like me and my sons, will be excluded from the most recent version of Graham Cassidy because of a pre-existing condition before making your final decision on the merits of this bill.

Lastly as a woman, I find it unthinkable that your committee members would not cover maternity , prenatal care, as well as preventative medical appointments. Without these types of visits people will only seek treatment when they are at their sickest, making the cost of their care exponentially more expensive. This is analogous to the “broken windows” theory of policing—if you take care of the small crimes you can prevent the bigger crimes from being committed. The same theory holds for receiving medical coverage.

I beg you to vote with your conscious and think of the people your vote will be impacting; surely there is a way to contain the cost of the current ACA without jeopardizing the health and livelihood of so many.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Elisa Emperor Crum

[REDACTED]
Lancaster, PA 17602
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ELISA PIERCE [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senators,

I ask on behalf of my fellow American to please reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. The current bill does not provide protection for pre-existing conditions. This protection is actually a vital component of any comprehensive health care legislation. Without this protection, you place our most vulnerable citizens at the mercy of insurance companies' bottom line. Decisions about the cost of coverage for people with pre-existing conditions will be determined by actuaries not by the values that our country holds dear. We, as a nation, have a long history of fighting to the underdog, coming to the rescue, and standing up for the little guy. We are a nation with a lot of heart! We often donate more than other nations when we see people in need. This bill does not reflect that national character. It is a bill to repeal the ACA for the sake of saying it was repealed, not for the benefit of the citizens for which you represent. That distinction is critical as history will judge this moment to see where we stand on the ideal of people first, not politics first. It is evident to every citizen in this country that the ACA is in need of review and repair. It is not the will of the nation that we repeal and replace. That has been witnessed by the many demonstrations, letters written, phone calls made and voices crying out for our leaders to take care of us.

As a registered independent, I cannot move forward in support of the republican agenda if the only agenda is to meet political needs and not represent the needs of your constituents. The effort put into this repeal and replace effort could be better spent to stabilize the insurance markets and meaningfully reduce the burdens on our small businesses and individuals entering the insurance market.

As I read about the individuals that will be harmed by this bill, it is astounding to me that this group can turn a blind eye for the sake of politics. The reductions to Medicaid will be a direct hit to our most vulnerable communities and citizens. I heard on the news today that our post-partum mortality rate is the highest among first world countries. The reasons cited under the study of over 700 deaths of women after delivery was lack of access to prenatal care and post partum care. The largest spike in maternal deaths were in Texas, a state that has not expanded Medicaid to its vulnerable populations. The answer to this embarrassing national statistic is not to reduce Medicaid to some states to give to others, but to bring everyone up in funding so that our country can lead the way in child and maternal health and in support of our neediest populations. I am very fortunate to have the means to take care of myself and my family. Part of counting my blessings includes the understanding that my country will be better, richer, and more productive when all of our citizens are healthy with access to health care without worrying if the next illness will confine them to a life sentence in the high risk pool or will doom their families to bankruptcy.

Please senators, this is the time to stand up for our common values, even if doing so will come at a personal cost. For the love of God and country, please do what is right. Stand on the side of the people, not on the side of profits and politics. Please give our system of government the chance to work this out. The process was designed to be messy, but it has stood as a beacon of promise and hope to so many people around the world. As messy as it is...it is perfect in its messiness! Do not forsake our people and our system of governance for a quick, short-lived political gain.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Pierce

Registered Independent Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marksearch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Devistation

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

I am one of many Americans who will be harmed by this devastating bill due to many health issues. Under Graham-Cassidy, I will be penalized by my history of pre-existing conditions. I am incredibly fortunate that my auto-immune disorders (cancer and thyroid diseases) have been in remission for many years. I also tremendously lucky to say that I am a breast cancer survivor. Because of our current humane health policies, all of the screenings that I must regularly receive are covered by my healthcare.

Healthcare is a right; solid preventative care for all is something that our nation of abundance must provide. I had my most recent cancer surgery when my son was less than a year old. He is now nearly 9. I want to be healthy and strong to see him flourish into adulthood.

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

Sincerely,

Sue Mark
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jocelyn Bridson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass Graham Cassidy

Dear representatives,

I have no history of cancer in my family, and neither does my husband. If we did, we might even think twice about having children.

All ultrasounds were normal. It was 2015 and we were thrilled to give birth to a healthy baby girl. Nine days later, she cried uncontrollably and inconsolably. It was about 4am on a Sunday and the on-call nurse couldn't diagnose over the phone. Off to the ER we went. She quieted down in the car, I thought maybe she is ok. Entered the ER and the nurse quickly whisked her away. She was going downhill fast. They allowed us to be in the ER room as she did CPR, breaking one of her ribs but saving her life in the process. Because they are a regional hospital they flew her to UCSF where they could try to figure out what happened to her.

In the end, they found she had neuroblastoma cancer on her right adrenal gland. This made the flight or fight chemicals surge through her body, almost killing her. Somewhere in her first 9 days she somehow also contracted viral meningitis. Double whammy for our little girl. We continue to have scans and treatments.

Her total hospital bills for about 3 weeks in the NICU was over \$1 million dollars.

I have health insurance provided by my employer. I still was charged \$50K for an "out of network" helicopter, which I spent most of my maternity leave fighting. Fortunately, we were able to get that down to a reasonable amount. I cannot imagine the additional stress if we didn't have healthcare.

Two years later, my second child has been born. 2 under 2. I would LOVE to take just a few years off of work to take care of them, rather than pay >\$2,000 a month for childcare. But I cannot, because I need to keep my health insurance for my family. My husband owns his own business and would have to get healthcare on the open market. We are willing to do this however, it is a major gamble. With congress voting seemingly every-other-month on whether you will or wont allow for pre-existing conditions, my life is literally at a standstill and my heart breaks as I have to return to work full time.

I would love to be a stay at home mom, just for a few years. Or at least just work 3 days a week. But this dream, of spending quality time with my kids before they enter the school system is shattered because I need to hang onto healthcare that I have as I have no idea if a market for insurance will exist, and if it does how affordable coverage will be for a 2 year old with cancer.

I can imagine that the President thinks of making America "Great Again" something along the lines of healthy families, stay at home moms, small business owners. Well, he is ruining that dream for my family.

If we bail out Florida from a hurricane or Texans from flooding, and they know that they live in hurricane areas or flood zones (and all it would take would be to MOVE) why dont we bail out the smaller percentage of people that have NO CONTROL over whether they get cancer or other health ailments.

THIS IS WHY I WRITE TO URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frances Matthew [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

All Americans should have access to quality, affordable health care. People with disabilities should have coverage that allows them to live independently and with dignity. Every other developed nation on earth guarantees its citizens this care. Do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill. Stop playing politics with people's lives and well-being, and start working together towards single payer health care coverage.

Frances Matthew
[REDACTED]
Oakland CA 94611

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barry Bussewitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable health care

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because we want the quality we have from our employer for ALL families! Please commence a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Yours,

Barry Albert Bussewitz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fairfield & Vallejo, California

please contact me at my home/office:

[REDACTED]
Petaluma, California 94952
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynne Weynand [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham bill

I am against any form of this bill. It is not for everyone. Just the rich.

Lynne Weynand
98239

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jenny Giering [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Letter for public comment on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

September 25, 2017

Senate Finance Committee via email

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to add my voice to the multitudes of American families who will be devastated by the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill.

In many ways, we are a typical American family. My husband and I have two children. We own a home. We have no consumer debt. We paid back every dime on our student loans. We are fiscally responsible people.

Where we differ is that my husband and I have spent our careers as freelancers. I write music. My husband is a playwright, a novelist and a medical writer. We appreciate the flexibility of being one's own boss and take seriously the extra burdens that come with being self-employed, including making our own social security and Medicare and tax payments. Bigger tradeoffs include foregoing those things that people who work for companies take for granted: getting paid vacations, matching-funds retirement accounts and health insurance. Despite the enormous price tag, we have purchased insurance – insurance we have never let lapse – for our family on the individual market our entire adult lives.

When we moved our family out of Brooklyn to western Massachusetts, we were shocked to discover health care in Massachusetts was financially out of our reach. Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we didn't qualify for assistance toward our premiums; and a new, Massachusetts-based plan would have tripled our costs. For years, we kept our insurance in New York and drove to Brooklyn every time we needed to see a doctor.

The Affordable Care Act increased the income caps to qualify for direct premium support enough so that we were able to purchase a heavily subsidized plan on Massachusetts' Health Connector exchange. But in the

bumpy roll-out, Massachusetts' state health insurance exchange website had serious problems communication with the federal site (healthcare.gov). When it became clear Massachusetts couldn't solve the problem right away, the state put everyone with a pending application on MassHealth (Massachusetts' version of Medicaid) until they could solve the problem.

MassHealth's coverage was the most comprehensive health care we had ever had. For two working artists who had regularly shelled out \$10,000 a year in premiums alone, it was a miracle. There were no deductibles or co-insurance. We paid \$3.65 for prescriptions. Care for our two children was completely free, as was dental care at our local community health center.

Which was a great thing because in 2014, just as our new policy kicked in, I was diagnosed with whooping cough. And then my husband lost the top of his finger in a hockey accident. My son suffered though a bad case of pneumonia. And then my husband got Lyme Disease. Any of these things would set us back thousands of dollars under our old plan. Under MassHealth, we didn't pay a dime. For the first time in our adult lives, we had medical coverage that wouldn't leave us with enormous bills should we face with the worst.

And then that September, I was diagnosed with widespread DCIS, an early form of breast cancer. I endured four surgeries including a unilateral mastectomy and reconstruction.

We had no idea how complicated my medical journey would become back then. The day I got my diagnosis, I was working with our navigator, a local public health official trained to help with the application process, to complete our application on Massachusetts' now-functioning health care exchange. He told me about Massachusetts' Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, a Medicaid initiative designed to cover middle and low-income women through their treatments. We were relieved to discover I qualified. My husband landed on a subsidized exchange plan for \$123 a month. Our two children maintained their enrollment in MassHealth and their care continued to be covered as well.

It was the single event that saved our family from financial ruin.

Almost immediately after my mastectomy, I developed serious, chronic complications. Since then, I have come to learn I was in the early stage of a complex autoimmune condition unleashed by my silicone implant – a condition that still lacks a name. Despite having the implant removed more than a year ago, the most serious symptoms persist. For two years I have suffered near-constant joint pain and exhaustion. Severe cognitive impairments are a hallmark of this disorder and I have serious problems with my short-term memory. Holding the thread of a conversation is incredibly difficult, and I experience blinding headaches if I write music for more than a few hours at a stretch. Frequently it feels as though someone has reorganized my brain but forgotten to leave me the instructions. It's frustrating; it's terrifying. The battery of medications I take do little more than keep my pain at bay, permitting me to drive my son to school or shop for groceries, but not much more. At this point, my team of devoted doctors is increasingly unsure whether I will ever be well again.

Only one thing has made it possible for me to survive this at all: the coverage I received through MassHealth.

Now, all that stands to change. The latest draft of the healthcare bill guts protection for pre-existing conditions; so although I may have “access” to health insurance, chances are it will be well beyond our means to pay for it. The subsidies we receive to cover my husband’s insurance (which we buy on the exchange) will crumble as well. Even as universal coverage has strong bi-partisan support in Massachusetts, the reality is that we don’t have the state-level funds to run the exchange and provide the subsidies without help from the federal government.

The passage of the ACA did more to shore up and make secure our little family than any other piece of legislation in my lifetime. It has enabled me to face my grave illness without worrying whether cost would be a factor in my treatment or whether I could try the next medication my doctors prescribed to relieve my pain.

Now, Republican plan leaves us with more questions than answers. Will we have to spend down our savings to afford the premiums and deductibles? How will I come off the \$1,000 worth of drugs I take every month when we can no longer afford to pay for them? What happens when my immunologist says I need more infusion therapy at \$90K a dose? In my darkest hours I have contemplated suicide to spare my family.

It took months of careful, gentle prodding by my doctors to get me to accept that I am now disabled. Having taken up that mantle, it’s hard not to feel like the new health care bill is designed to destroy me. It’s filled with financial instruments clearly dispatched by those who don’t have to rely on their health care for their very lives. Although it’s impossible to know where the machinations of congress will eventually lead the bill, assuming the new health care law returns us to the days before the protections of the ACA, and the Medicaid expansion at some point goes away, we are anticipating a premium price tag of \$2,400 a month or more – what insurance would have cost us in Massachusetts before the ACA. That’s twice our mortgage payment. On top of that, we accrued \$15,000 in medical expenses not covered by MassHealth this year, which, by the way, is also the year our daughter starts college.

Republicans often talk about “self-reliance” with regard to healthcare. Between the lines, the message is that those of use with major health conditions who rely on Mediciad are freeloaders and undeserving of the assistance that makes it possible for us to treat our issues and live without fear of destitution. When premiums return to their pre-ACA levels they will consume 30% or more of our income. We will also be on the hook for substantially higher co-pays and deductibles in addition to five figures of uncovered costs. I wonder the GOP thinks this is enough skin in the game.

Medicaid is on the chopping block not because it's failing but because the people who benefit from it too often fail to speak up on their own behalf. Their silence has nothing to do with a lack of will or words. They are simply too busy struggling to survive.

Medicaid benefits our poorest, yet it also assists those slightly higher up the income ladder – people like me who would vastly prefer to be thriving without it. Many more people than you suspect have turned to it in time of need. They are your friends and neighbors. They are families whose lives have been upended by illness. This is what happened to my family. And with a single diagnosis, it could be your family, too.


I implore you to return to bi-partisan talks. Please shore up the markets; please make the subsidies more generous and decrease the mammoth deductibles to help more families. Simply rolling back the government's responsibilities in our current health care system won't make the problem go away, it will only exasperate the problem of the most vulnerable succumbing to financial ruin. As our leaders, it is your job to help all Americans, not just the super rich. And certainly not the Koch Brothers, who line your pockets with campaign contributions.

This bill will do a generation's worth of damage. Please go back to the drawing board and craft legislation that does more than gives a tax break to the 1% and leaves the rest of us with no options and nowhere to go.

Sincerely,

Jenny Giering

Worthington MA



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debby Wechsler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators:

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family includes three young adults with serious lifelong medical conditions -- my son with an autoimmune blood disease and two of his cousins with Type 1 diabetes. They all developed these conditions shortly before the ACA became law, while still on their parents' insurance. As they became adults, without the ACA, they would essentially be uninsurable on their own, with limited options other than to take a job with a large company that guaranteed their health insurance. They could never have any gaps in insurance, never have any opportunity to start their own business, be self-employed, or work for a small company that did not provide insurance.

As we were watching to see if the bill would pass, I asked my son what he would do if it didn't. He said, "I'd move to Canada." And it would have been a smart decision. Is that what we want bright, responsible, productive young people to think of as their only option?

When my son graduated from college, he got a job with a small company that did not pay his insurance, and willingly paid his own premiums. He has been self-supporting and gainfully employed ever since. His older cousin benefited from Medicare in Colorado as she started her own business. His younger cousin's family has been able to cover her expenses through an ACA plan through her teen years and into college. The ACA has opened up the future for these three young people. They can approach it with hope, not dread.

We, as a society, need to take the premise of insurance seriously -- that the healthy thank their good fortune and help pay for those who are not so lucky. At the same time, we of course need to improve preventive care, reduce costs, and improve outcomes. There are many ways to improve this system, but it is working. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Deborah S Wechsler

North Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theta Pavis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject the proposed anti - ACA bill

My sister was just about to turn 30 years old when a terrible car wreck changed our lives. She was in a coma for six weeks. She was not expected to live.

She made it through, but she is not the same sister I had before. She has a severe traumatic brain injury. She cannot walk, drive, or work.

Repealing the ACA is cruel, especially for people like my sister.

Please don't do it.

--
Theta Pavis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: F Howe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators

I write to plead with you to please, do not support the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

This bill would cause serious harm to many millions of Americans. It will cause severe financial hardships, bankruptcies and many deaths.

The ACA needs to be fixed so that it is better for all, more affordable, and covers everyone, but this bill is NOT the fix. This is a disaster that will only do harm.

Please, vote NO, many lives depend on you.

Thank you for your time.

D. Faith Howe

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Enkoji [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our affordable health care

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My 90 year old father and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. But I am not opposed to this bill solely based on my own experience of struggling to afford health care through much of my life. I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill because all people depend on constant health care that is affordable. [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] If we were to have health care that is affordable it is more likely that more people would have regular check ups and constant access that could possibly save their lives. Without affordable health care, any catastrophic illness could be financially devastating. And yes this means that it is a matter of life or death. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Nancy Enkoji

Oakland, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Verges [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Sirs/Mesdames:

As an active voter and registered Republican in PA, I urge a strong NO vote on Graham-Cassidy. It strips protections for pre-existing conditions, which affects 75% of Americans aged 45 and older, and uses block grants as a funding model, which is a cost-saving tactic, not through improved efficiency, but severely limited resources that simply deny care to sick and injured people.

Let's work together to fix the Affordable Care Act and not rob tens of millions Americans of access to coverage.

Lisa Verges
19038

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tanya Stone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senators,

I am an American citizen. I vote in every election. I live in Chaplin, CT.

I am against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. It will hurt Americans. It allows for age discrimination, loss of coverage for people with pre-existing, and guts Medicaid - the largest healthcare provider to our most vulnerable populations

Kindly find a new way to fund your 2018 reelection campaigns. Don't do it by passing a political bill that harms millions of Americans under the guise of "healthcare".

Thank you for your time,

Tanya Stone
[REDACTED]

Chaplin, Ct 06235

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Drew [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am a resident and voter in New Mexico. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill because it will increase the costs of healthcare and make it impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to get affordable coverage. Americans need a single-payer healthcare system for everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

Charles Drew

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sunshine Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "NO" to Graham-Cassidy bill

"NO" to Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is immoral and is against all that Christianity and the American people stand for in caring for our brothers and sisters.

Sunshine Jones
[REDACTED]

Madison, WI
53711

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anita Schmitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Vote No!!!!

My extended family and I strongly oppose the Amended Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate. We have family members, one with a brain tumor and another with a spinal cord injury who have been saved by AHC. On the other hand, your bill puts tens of millions in Pa and across this country at risk needlessly. The only justification you have is payback for rich donors. This is beyond political. It is vindictive. Your constituents are telling you of their pain and desire that you vote NO !!!

Thank you.

Anita Schmitt

19460
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnee Binker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement on Graham -Cassidy to SCF

Statement Submitted by Bonnee Binker

Senate Committee on Finance

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

September 25, 2017

As someone who has a **grandchild with cystic fibrosis**, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years.

My 7 year old granddaughter, Delaney, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at just 15 days old. In her short 7 years she has taken over 50,000 pills, has spent hundreds if not thousands of hours on a nebulizer while being attached to a percussion vest and has spent many days in the hospital and at doctor offices. We know that because of all of this, Delaney has the chance of living to see her 30s and hopefully beyond. We can only provide her with all of the medicine and care and treatments because we have amazing healthcare coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. People with CF require a complex and demanding care regimen, and need access to high-quality, specialized care. **I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** because it would roll back protections for people with CF and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect our community and is absolutely unacceptable for people with CF because it would:

- a. **Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF** by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.
- b. **Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program** by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.
- c. **Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps**, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people

with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place.

- d. **Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits.** Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans needed by people with CF, which provide more robust benefits.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like CF, cancer, asthma, diabetes, or arthritis. Our health care system is far from perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance.

I urge all US Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

Thank you,

Bonnee Binker
Miami Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy HealthCare Bill -- ACA Repeal and Replace

Good evening,

I am writing to express my thoughts on the current healthcare replacement bill. To use this bill as a "win" for some states while others "lose" is reprehensible. All American citizens need and deserve good, affordable healthcare, not just some of those fortunate enough to live in a state that Republicans feel is deserving. There is no room for partisanship in this. Everyone, no matter the state of their health currently, is at risk of health issues and should not have to fear seeing a doctor due to financial concerns.

There are issues in this bill specifically targeting women, which is completely unacceptable. We make up more than half the population and should not be again fighting the battle over birth control, maternity care and abortion.

Despite the false Republican claims that the ACA was rammed through with no discussion, this bill truly is being pushed through with no debate, no discussion, no input from anyone other one group. This is something that affects every citizen of this country as well as 1/6 of our economy. It should not be taken lightly and treated as just something to win regardless of the outcome. I understand there is still deep resentment against President Obama and the Democrats who made this happen, but that childish resentment needs to end. People's lives and livelihoods are at stake.

We are the only industrialized nation to have such an antiquated healthcare system and while the ACA needs improvement and corrections, taking us back to the system we had prior to 2010 makes no sense at all. Taking away healthcare access for millions of Americans and raising the premiums on older Americans is not the solution. Taking away the guarantees of coverage for pre-existing conditions and reinstating lifetime caps does not benefit anyone and hurts millions of families. You are not elected to Congress to do harm to the American people.

Bribing Senator Murkowski so Alaska can keep the ACA while depriving the rest of us of its benefits is unAmerican and dishonest.

I urge all senators, and particularly those of the Republican party, to stop this nonsense and work in a bipartisan fashion to correct the problems with the ACA.

I honestly never thought that I would have to beg my elected officials to keep health care. Get a hold of yourselves and do this the right way.

Trust and believe that I will do my best to ensure that every single Senator that votes to kill Americans by depriving them of health insurance loses office and spends the rest of their days embarrassed and ashamed. That's what they deserve.

Sincerely,

Pamela Crouch

[REDACTED]
Irvine, CA 92606
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerry Socherman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Statement Submitted by Jerry Socherman

Senate Committee on Finance

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

September 25, 2017

As someone who has a god-daughter with Cystic Fibrosis, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that effects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years.

My 7 year old god-daughter, Delaney Jade, requires a tremendous amount of care to treat her CF. She has taken over 50,000 pills in her short lifetime, spends hours each day taking treatments by a nebulizer, and more hours with Chest Physio-Therapy loosen the mucous in her lungs.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. People with CF require a complex and demanding care regimen, and need access to high-quality, specialized care. **I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** because it would roll back protections for people with CF and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect our community and is absolutely unacceptable for people with CF because it would:

- a. **Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF** by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.
- b. **Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program** by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.

- c. **Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps**, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place.

- d. **Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits**. Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans needed by people with CF, which provide more robust benefits.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like CF, cancer, asthma, diabetes, or arthritis. Our health care system is far from perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance.

I urge all US Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Manes-Meunier [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding ACA vote

Senators: I'm writing in reference to the upcoming vote on the Graham/Cassidy bill proposing to 'repeal and replace' the ACA. I can't think of anything more harmful to the people of this country, especially those that are older or in the lower income brackets.

I have several requests:

First, I ask Congress NOT to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the U.S. economy without having a CBO score - how can you vote on legislation without fully understanding its impact on the lives of all Americans?

Next, I'm extremely concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions, including people being treated for cancer and other catastrophic illnesses who wouldn't be able to afford the costs for ongoing/future treatment. There needs to be a uniform set of standards across the country that needs to be met, rather than each state deciding what the criteria will be. If you need any more persuading, please read:

deathofthepressbox.com

I'm also distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, causing costs for seniors and the disabled to skyrocket. Many states cannot afford to make up the difference in costs and so will have to curtail support for these populations, leaving them untreated or undertreated and vulnerable.

From what I've read, Graham/Cassidy won't bring healthcare to more Americans - in fact, predictions say that upwards of 30 million people will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA was enacted, they'll have to choose between feeding their families and getting healthcare. And people will die.

Finally, this bill is simply mean and heartless. It's just a way for the GOP to pay for the tax cuts they're giving to the "1%". And rather than helping Americans, it will hurt many - both the middle class and the most vulnerable in the lowest income brackets. Not acceptable to me.

As an alternative, please work on improving the existing law in bipartisan committees. Even Medicare and Social Security weren't perfect when first approved. They needed reforms and revisions when all the 'flaws' were found. Give the same consideration to the ACA. And ensure that more than a simple majority can uphold or defeat such an important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your attention.

Ellen Manes-Meunier
[REDACTED]
Medford, MA 02155

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ana Maria Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Health care bill inadequate

Dear Senate,

My family would live to rely on affordable healthcare. We pay \$30,000 before our costs get covered. All our mental health services are out-of-pocket and can range an extra 20-30k a year. One year is was 75k. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions had me checking things thrice before having children. Now current disabilities might make health care completely unaffordable for our children who are 19 and 21. They beed us to pay for their healthcare but with pre-existing conditions they will be marked for life. Isn't it a deep pleasure not to worry about healthcare? Why not help the rest of us enjoy some benefit like what you have now? Look to examples like Canada where single payer has not enslaved doctors as recently feared by Rand Paul in his slippery slope argument.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I am sure that you can come up with something righteous.

Sincerely,
Ana Maria Moore
NY, NY

Be the change that you want to see in the world- Gandhi

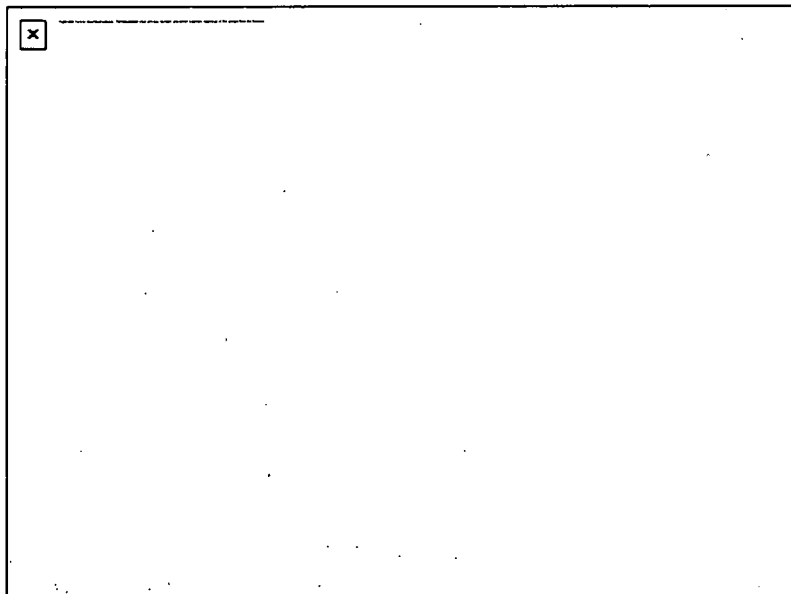
Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Downes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on repeal and replace of Obamacare

It's time the Senate leadership actually led. Pursue a bi-partisan effort to reform the health care system. Repeal and replace is a craven effort to appease wealthy Republican donors. The only campaign promise Republicans care about are the ones they've made to their sponsors, not their constituents. This bill - like the last two - is cruel, appalling and unpopular. Almost as unpopular as congressional Republicans themselves, who the American people disapprove of 69% to 31% - more than 2 to 1 think Republicans in Congress are doing a bad job.

Any Senator who votes in favor of this bill should be ashamed to ever set foot in a hospital or health care center ever again, or to look any American with a health condition in they eye and say you faithfully represented their interests.

For the record, I am a healthy white female with employer-sponsored health care, a decent salary and no adverse health conditions. But that is not the case for members of my immediate or extended family, co-workers, neighbors, community members or friends. Everyone is affected by health care. It's time the Senate took it seriously.



Mary Downes
Durham, NH
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Fealy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments; Joe Fealy
Subject: Graham Cassidy comments

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Jessica Fealy, MD. I am a Physician, a Pediatrician to be specific, and I provide Primary Care services to an economically and culturally diverse patient population in Ann Arbor, MI. Despite living in a well-educated and reasonably affluent area, >30% of my pediatric patients (less than 18 yo) depend on Medicaid for their health care coverage. Slashing Medicaid funding would limit my patient's ability to access care for their well child exams, sports physicals, developmental screening and immunizations. Since the establishment of the ACA, I can now count on one hand the number of families who decline immunizations in clinic or developmental screening, because they're "too expensive". Instead, families are able to do what is medically best for their children without having to make the decision about what is more important in their family budget.

As a Pediatrician, I believe that affordable access to a high-quality medical home is not only a human right, but the best way to decrease our health care expenditures in the future. My role as a primary care physician is to detect and prevent illnesses like diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia at an early age, offering counseling on physical activity and nutritional guidance during a child's formative years. By offering vaccines against the HPV virus we are able to decrease the incidence of future chronic diseases like cervical cancer. I can only estimate how many children have decided not to smoke or drink and drive or choose to wear a seat belt because of guidance they have received from their pediatrician, but; I'd like to hope it's a few. It helps me sleep better at night. Every single day, I counsel young parents about the risk of SIDS and the proper car seat they should use (Rear facing until 2, please!) to decrease risk of fatalities or devastating disabilities in the event of an accident. Working at an academic medical center, I also care for children with the rarest of medical conditions, I help coordinate their complex medical care. Many of my patients see even more than 10 specialists who work together to help our patients and their families optimize quality of life for children with cancer, congenital heart defects, complex genetic conditions and complications related to prematurity. Many of these children would have hit "lifetime caps" in a matter of weeks; but because of the ACA, they are thriving. I am confident that many of them will go on to become leaders in our community, others derive the greatest joy from life's simple moments; all have a role in our community. I know that Medicaid funding, SCHIP funding, Essential health benefits, and coverage for pre-existing conditions are crucial to my patients and their health, and likewise, the health of my community.

I also write as the mother of a child with Autism and a chromosome abnormality. I have been the parent making crucial medial decisions based on what our family can afford. My husband and I have spent late nights and tearful conversations examining our family budget and services available and figuring out "how to make it work". Before I was a physician, we were students, paying off loans (well, we still are), scraping together money from odd jobs to pay our rent on a tiny one bedroom apartment. We consider ourselves blessed that now the money is a bit less tight, but it still factors into our choices regarding therapies. And I speak with many other families making these agonizing choices every day. How do you fund one child's therapy over another child's food or medication? How do you pay for co-pays and medications and deductibles, even if you have "the good insurance"? I also know that the wonderful therapy my child gets at school is partially funded with medicaid dollars. This supports not only my son, but many others in our district, working to maintain our children in "mainstream" classrooms where they may be part of a peer group and their community. I challenge

you to watch a group of "normal" children come to your child's birthday party and sing him "Happy Birthday" and make him laugh when he is nervous and not tear up, to not see the hope I see in the future of our great nation. Medicaid services help my child remain in a main stream classroom, where he helps teach his peers lessons of kindness and compassion they cannot learn from a textbook. Lessons, I feel children need more than ever in these times when even the adults around them cannot remember to speak kindly and be compassionate.

I also write as the daughter of a mother with Multiple Sclerosis, who thanks to my father's military service is able to access some of the best care our area can provide. I write as the granddaughter of grandparents with medical histories that include hearing impairment, cancer of various types and cardiac disease. And dementia. I have watched my family and my in-laws as they struggle with the medical conditions living older and longer affords. I have seen the stress and decisions that come with this as children struggle with their parent's independence, placement and medical decisions.

Most of all, I write to you as an American, as a woman proud of our great nation. As a person who has benefitted from military health care system, from public schools and public universities. From medical training that occurred at a publicly funded institution and whose children benefit from public school. I believe that we are tasked, as Americans, with taking care of one another, of providing each other a hand-up when needed and a safety net when necessary. I believe in compassion and kindness. I ask you to believe in the same, in fact, I expect that your constituents do as well. This Pediatrician, Mother, Daughter, Grand-Daughter and American urges you to VOTE NO ON CASSIDY-GRAHAM. Work to re-vamp the medical system, hell, even ask a few pediatricians (or parents) we have some awesome ideas.

Sincerely,
Jessica L. Fealy, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara McCarren [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Barbara McCarren
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy DeathCare Bill

Please vote no on this travesty. We all deserve a thoroughly examined and fix of the ACA.

Respectfully,

Barbara McCarren
Cancer Survivor
Venice, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Courtney Shelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Courtney Shelton
Allen, TX

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linus Glenhaber [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy

My aunt and cousin both have chronic illnesses, and need health care supplied by Medicare. If Graham-Cassidy were to pass it would be possible that my cousin could never get Health Insurance after age 26 because of pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time,

--

Linus Alyosha Glenhaber,
Somerville, MA, 02144

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Pace [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahm/Cassidy

We need bipartisan legislation for healthcare. It really needs to be done right. Please don't do this. My grandchildren didn't have insurance before the ACA. Please reconsider. Thank you
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Ruoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO GRAHAM CASSIDY

Non Graham Cassidy
Healthcare is a right for all!

Jane Ruoff
Rochester, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Fiaschetti [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham- Cassidy

I am writing to express my opposition to Graham-Cassidy.

While I understand that its sponsors may be motivated by a desire to reduce government spending, it is in fact profoundly fiscally irresponsible to rush such a significant bill without many elements of the normal review process. Outside analyses have revealed how damaging this bill would be for for most Americans, independently reaching very similar conclusions. We also know that protections for those with pre-existing conditions will be lost, despite mistaken or misleading claims to the contrary by supporters of the bill.

Not all of the financial costs can be accounted for. Emergency rooms, charities, and informal networks will scramble to mitigate the harm to the best of their abilities, even though they will not be able to address the level of need this bill would create.

The direct negative impact on American lives should matter to those elected to represent us. In addition, I believe that the impact of this bill on the American workplace has yet to be fully considered. I am a chef and have worked in kitchens for more than two decades. My teams have been made up of some of the toughest people I've met - they work through injuries and illnesses that would send most people home. But they are not invincible, and most of them can't afford to take on major medical expenses:

In a kitchen, we work closely together as a team. When one of us is missing, we all feel it acutely. When my team members can't afford to keep themselves healthy, when they skip or postpone treatment that would speed up their recovery or protect them from long-term harm, it hurts all of us. Members of Congress would do well to remember that that is true outside of the kitchen, too.

I support the bipartisan effort to stabilize insurance markets and improve the ACA, and sincerely hope that members of Congress will reject Graham-Cassidy and return to doing the work of the American people.

Michael Fiaschetti
Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lance Stotts [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Lance Stotts
[REDACTED]
Charlotte, NC 28209
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianne Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: * Graham-Cassidy

I oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Lincoln NE 68516

Marianne Williams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harriet [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments

as a concerned citizen I implore you to stop this illegal process to repeal ACA.Threats.bribery,refusal to consider the consequences all to appease the Koch brothers is treason

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: mojoyoga.1@aol.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern

I am an ER doctor and oppose this bill because I am worried its passage would increase the number of patients who will be without access to health care. I was practicing before the ACA and after the ACA and I have seen what happens if patients do not have insurance and cannot afford treatment. They routinely have to be admitted which will definitely increase cost. Additionally, patients not being able to afford medications will have worsening effects on their health leading to more complications, increased cost, and earlier deaths. The people will turn to the ER instead of Family doctors and we do not provide the same preventative care as their family doctor. This will also lead to increased overcrowding and delays to care for strokes, heart attacks, and other illnesses because of increased wait times.

Cuts to Medicaid which helps pay for nursing home care may limit the ability of patients to be discharged to nursing homes. If hospitals are unable to discharge these patients more hospitals will reach capacity and be unable to accept new patients.

Please vote down this bill and get to work on improving the ACA. Maybe start with putting a stop to HHS purposely sabotaging the current law. Too many people will be hurt and I do not see any upside that is gained for our patients if Graham-Cassidy passes.

Respectfully,

An Emergency Physician Abiding by the Hippocratic Oath to protect our patients and Do No Harm! Sen Cassidy you are proposing Harm! Shame!

Dr. Abhinav Chandra, FACEP

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Iseman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PA SILC : Disability Concerns over Graham -Cassidy Healthcare Legislation

Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC, www.pasilc.org) would like to submit the following concerns on the proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare legislation being discussed today. This proposal will harm people with disabilities of all ages while not actually addressing the root causes of healthcare costs:

- Per Capita Caps on Medicaid
- Cuts to Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Programs which are more cost effective and what most people want.

Both Medicaid proposals would potentially harm people by forcing people with disabilities of all ages- children, adults and seniors- to lose services and potentially wind up institutionalized. Cuts would happen because nursing institutions and other institutional care are sadly Federal entitlement programs.

- Elimination of Medicaid Expansion support to states that expanded Medicaid
- Waive protections for people with disabilities and others with chronic health conditions under the ACA Health Exchanges and reduce their funding, making them less affordable.

In addition, we would note that over 700,000 Pennsylvanians have accessed healthcare coverage. More than 400,000 Pennsylvanians have received coverage through the Health Exchanges. Many of these have disabilities and others provide support for people to live the community, such as attendants and other human services professionals. Many people who are covered under both Medicaid Expansion and Health Exchanges have therefore been able to gain successful employment.

We would also remind members of Congress and the President that nursing institutions and other institutional care is an entitlement that needs to be fixed, it is often 2-5 times more expensive than alternative community-based settings and this legislation does nothing to address the real healthcare cost drivers. Home or another community based setting is more cost-effective and are the locations where most people want to live.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Felicia Willems [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments from MomsRising
Attachments: Lifesaver Book - Final 1.5.17.pdf; Medicaid Storybook 2017.pdf

Dear Senators,

Over the last few months, MomsRising members have taken hundreds of thousands of actions across the country to speak out against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to Medicaid.

There is nothing more important to mothers than ensuring that their loved ones have access to healthcare when they are sick. We are very concerned that the US Senate is preparing to vote on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill that has had virtually no analysis or public scrutiny. The children and families of America deserve better than this. We urge you to vote, "No."

In urging you to vote, "No," we join the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Hospital Association, AARP, the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, and virtually every other patient or health association in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Access to quality, affordable health care coverage is critical for the health and economic security of our nation's families and country as a whole. Health care is no place for playing politics when our families' lives are on the line. Attached to this email, I am submitting two collections of stories, submitted by some of our over million members, that underscore what's at stake for families and show the positive impact that both the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid have had on families in all 50 states of our nation.

Sincerely,
Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Felicia M. Willems

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maegan Badham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We should be able to have access to healthcare, regardless of pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Maegan Kish

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Dunbar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I oppose this Bill.

--
Sarah Dunbar

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lana Temple Plotz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter to Senate Finance Committee re: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson
Attachments: Ltr_SenateFinanceCtte_GrahamCassidyHellerJohnson_092517.doc

Please find attached a letter outlining Nebraska Children's Home Society's opposition to this proposed legislation.

Lana Temple-Plotz, MS
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Communication | Woo | Connectedness | Activator | Arranger



Nebraska Children's Home Society
[REDACTED]

Omaha, NE 68137
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: SnakEyes Man [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Snak Eyes
Los Angeles, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kat [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017

Kathleen M. Gordon
[REDACTED]
Fontana, CA 92336

As I struggle for words to discuss healthcare I am overwhelmed by the dangerous instability of a deranged and illegitimate president installed with the assistance of an enemy state and a GOP so hungry for power that they are willing to accept destruction of our country through threats of war, race baiting and denial of healthcare.

It's truly disgusting watching the GOP working to kill healthcare through such reprehensible means as bribing senators with better healthcare for their states to support Graham-Cassidy while wealthy GOP donors provide pressure by withholding donations so that they can get tax breaks on the backs of Americans whose healthcare has been stolen to make them wealthier.

As of today, though not perfect, we have a healthcare system that is working and has succeeded in reducing uninsured to around 15 million people. In a country of greater than 300 million people this can only be considered a great success that should be built upon rather than destroyed.

Healthcare is a right all Americans deserve. Destruction of the ACA is fiscally and humanitarially irresponsible. Moving forward it is imperative that the ACA should be improved and built upon, in a bipartisan effort, until every American is covered.

Respectfully,
Kathleen M. Gordon

Kathy Gordon
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eric Le Gaulois [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Eric Le Gaulois
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Slavin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Valuable act for AMERICANS

My sister relies on quality, affordable healthcare. She is 75 and is dependent on MediCal to provide healthcare. Without this coverage, she would not have been able to replace her hip and afford physical therapy afterwards. Her partner of 24 years (82 years old) would not have been able to afford care after he fell and broke his hip. He would not have been able to afford the care he needed at a rehabilitation facility which also offered dementia care. Both of them lived on Social Security payments to cover housing and food costs. In California, that circumstance is very difficult to do. We need the ACA for people like my sister as well as everyone else in the country, especially those who do not have employer-provided insurance. We need universal healthcare in our country.

Please work to improve the ACA — it's a good start towards universal healthcare, but it needs improving. Don't put your political objectives on the backs of Americans.

VOTE NO to repeal or replace the ACA.

Martha Slavin
A constituent of America, residing in California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee Members,

The latest version of "TrumpCare", the Graham-Cassidy Bill, is unacceptable. Too many people will lose their health insurance. Too many people will see their rates and co-pays increase. Medicaid and Medicare will take too many cuts. Americans will die. Many health associations have come out against the bill.

I am an American citizen and I vote. Please don't take away my affordable healthcare. Fix the ACA if necessary but do not repeal and replace it.

Sincerely,

Jill Baker

[REDACTED]

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. -Max Ehrmann

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Velandy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Blumenthal, Dick (Blumenthal); Scanlon, Sean (Murphy); nicholas.d.boreen@gmail.com
Subject: Petition to US. Senate Finance Committee about the Graham- Cassidy Bill - Testimony in Opposition to its approval in the Committee, passage and enactment- That is unthinkable. I document my reasons in this petition.
Attachments: Graham Cassidy -MHSUD Ltr Graham Cassidy Sept 2017.pdf; GRAHAM- CASSIDY 5.docx; Graham Cassidy Bill-2.docx; Graham Cassidy 3.docx; Graham Cassidy 4.docx; Graham Cassidy APA.docx; Graham Cassidy key senators.docx; Graham Cassidy-AMA and AACP.docx; GRAHAM- CASSIDY 5a.docx; Graham Cassidy- 50 State Directors oppose the Bill.docx; Graham Cassidy- Alasks can keep its Obamacare.docx; Graham Cassidy- Deception.docx; Curriculum Vitae 07 31 17.docx; We had to destroy the Village to save it.docx; Kaiser Health-Impact on State.docx; Kaiser Health Tracking Polls 2017.docx; Kaiser Health- Impact on medicaid coverage.docx; Summary-of-Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson-Amendment.pdf; CT Mirror OP ED June 2017-Plus.docx; Joint Letter (AHIP, BCBSA, FHA, AHA, AMA, AAFP) opposing Graham-Cassidy
Importance: High

Petition to Finance Committee, US Senate

Hearing on the Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson Bill

09 25 2017

Velandy Manohar, MD

Distinguished Life Fellow, Am. Psychiatric Association

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Not always turned on because of the nature of my work]

Respected Chairman, Vice Chair, Ranking members of the Senate Finance Committee

Good afternoon,

I was urged to place my testimony on the Graham Cassidy Bill on the record with Senate Finance Committee by people familiar with my work and the issues
I wish to place this response on the record with the Senate Finance committee. How do I offer this official Testimony? I have attached my CV to better acquaint myself to the member of the Committee and am prepared to provide the detailed preparatory background information I sent out to about 30 Republican and democratic Members of the US Senate starting early this year in Feb-March 2017. I have been providing testimony since the first term of Mr. Clinton at various stages in the development of Health care reform Legislation.
I welcome your comments.
Best,

Semper Fi
May God bless the USA
Velandy Manohar, MD
Distinguished Life Fellow- Am. Psychiatric Association

NB: I am copying this message to the two the honorable Senators from my State and the Congressman who represents my District. I always keep them on the same page when I pursue legislative Goals that benefits all of our fellow Americans bar NONE!

Introductory Statement

<https://www.ahip.org/joint-letter-graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-legislation/>

The following statement was jointly released on September 23, 2017 by the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association regarding the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson legislation.

We represent the nation's doctors, hospitals, and health plans. Collectively, our organizations include hundreds of thousands individual physicians, thousands of hospitals, and hundreds of health plans that serve tens of millions of American patients, consumers, and employers every day across the United States.

While we sometimes disagree on important issues in health care, we are in total agreement that Americans deserve a stable healthcare market that provides access to high-quality care and affordable coverage for all. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill does not move us closer to that goal. The Senate should reject it.

We agree that the bill will cause patients and consumers to lose important protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing conditions. Without these guaranteed protections, people with significant medical conditions can be charged much higher premiums and some may not be able to buy coverage at all.

We agree that the bill will result in dramatic cuts to Medicaid and a funding cliff in the future, fundamentally changing the way that states provide coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens. This means that millions of patients will lose their coverage and go without much-needed care.

We agree that the individual insurance market will be drastically weakened, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans. By not providing *all* states with sufficient funds to support working families who need help buying coverage, millions will go without it.

We agree that the bill's current implementation timelines are not workable. State and industry leaders will need to completely transform their individual insurance markets and Medicaid programs in little more than a year – an impossible task.

Health care is too important to get wrong. Let's take the time to get it right. Let's agree to find real, bipartisan solutions that make health care work for every American.

Graham- Cassidy Bill – This must be brought down for a hard landing. because...It is over the Top as an exemplar of cynicism and ultimate in redistribution of wealth from the have nots to the haves.

I am offering you a number of documents to persuade you to vote against the Graham Cassidy Bill.

- I. **A. This petition is signed by 469 organizations opposing the passage of Graham - Cassidy Bill to Hon. Sens Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson**
- B. Joint Letter AHIP, BCBSA,FHA, FHA,AHA, AMA, AAFP opposing Graham- Cassidy Bill**

II. A. A description of the provisions of the Graham Cassidy Bill and the adverse consequences of its impact on the health care systems on the medical and financial health of our fellow Americans especially the older, poorer and less well members of our American Family. **Poll: only 24% of Americans approve of Graham-Cassidy**

B. This is also a very specific report on the features and short comings of the Graham Cassidy Bill.

III. A. Hon. Sen. John McCain declares his opposition to Graham Cassidy Bill.
www.medpagetoday.com/Washington-Watch/repeal-and-replace/68094

B. Catholic Advocacy Network (Minnesota Catholic Conference- Protection of Health Care for the Poor and Vulnerable).[Sent by e-mail]

IV. A. Am. Psychiatric Association Urges vote against Graham- Cassidy[Posted on Line]

B. Am. Medical Association and Am. Association of Community Psychiatrists recommends voting against the Graham Cassidy Bill [Posted On Line]

V. "Other Republican plans create a poorly funded version of Obamacare. This one blows the law up entirely." It provides a detailed analysis of the momentum the Graham Cassidy bill garnered that made it the last best hope for the Sen. Republicans. Graham-Cassidy isn't moving forward because it's centrist. It's getting traction because it's the last option left. CBO is CBO and they're saying they need weeks," Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) told CNN Tuesday. "I just reject that notion. And I think we can pretty well decide based on the information we have." This bill isn't about building a health care system that works better or returns power to states. It's about moving forward because it is the last bill on the table and there is apparently still a strong drive among Republican senators to pass a bill before their September 30 deadline. Or, as Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas told Vox recently, "You need a car to get into, and this is the only car there is."

Sen. Grassley rationale for supporting the Graham Cassidy Bill- You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered," Grassley said. "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." Over the Top in Cynicism

VI. A. Exemplar in Cynicism: Alaska can keep its Obamacare if Sen. Lisa Murkowski *will vote for TrumpCare*

B. Ultimate in Deception: Sen. Mitch McConnell is prepared to destroy Obamacare for everyone in 49/50 states to preserve it for the people of Alaska

C. "We had to Destroy the Village-Ben Tre to save It." The 3/39 Inf. battalion had suffered nearly 100% casualties in 1968 when they ran into withering fire from the entrenched enemy when they called in the Artillery barrage.[I have been watching Ken Burns' soulful elegiac classic exposition "Viet Nam"

In the current political eco-system of the Senate it is justifiable to destroy Obamacare in the whole United States even though access and health outcomes have improved while protecting

the People of Alaska from the ravages of TrumpCare in terms of loss of coverage, decimation of State Exchanges and destruction of the Medicaid systems proposed in the 50 states.

VII. A. 50 State Directors of Medicaid oppose Graham Cassidy provisions.

B. Doctor, hospital, and insurance groups [Am. Health Insurance Plans] oppose Graham Cassidy

I submit letters from 469 organizations and scores of other organizations including AHIP, BCBSA, FHA, AHA, AMA, AAFP, Catholic Advocacy Network individually and cumulatively rejects this rationale-

I urge you to vote against this fraudulent dangerous health care bill that is at its rotten core a massive income re-distribution scheme that can be considered as an improvised incendiary device that blows up state exchanges, mechanisms for funding Medicaid and the safety procedures that ensure equity, justice and fairness in the delivery, funding of health care as well with respect to access, experience of health care, affordability and health care outcomes.

Velandy Manohar, MD

Distinguished Life Fellow: Am. Psychiatric Association.

Addendum: Vital Background Data that must be reviewed and evaluated carefully to determine if passage of the G-C-H-J Bill as promulgated is against the best interests of, family, neighbours, patients, Physicians and Care providers who depend on stable, sustainable reimbursement systems to offer the high quality of treatment across the life span regardless of the age, gender, race and national origin.

VIII A. Kaiser Health News: **Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Plan to Replace ACA Funding With a New Block Grant and Cap Medicaid** Would Decrease Federal Funding for States by \$160 Billion from 2020-2026; Then a \$240 Billion Loss in 2027 if the Law is Not Reauthorized. Redistribution of ACA Funds in the New Block Grant Would Lead to \$180 Billion Loss for 31 States That Expanded Medicaid and a \$73 Billion Gain for 19 Non-Expanding States through 2026.

VIII B. Kaiser Health News- **Tracking Polls-** 1. The September Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, fielded largely prior to the most recent Republican effort to repeal the 2010 health care law, **finds three-fourths of the public saying it is important for Congress to work on reauthorizing funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health care coverage for uninsured children.** 2 A majority of independents want Democrats and Republicans in Congress to focus

their efforts on improving the way the ACA is working rather than focusing on either a national health care plan or repealing the ACA.³ Two-thirds of the public – including majorities of Democrats and independents – say Congress should guarantee the CSR payments in order to help stabilize the insurance market. 3. While overall favorability increased over the past year, this month finds a return to a divided public that characterizes most of the last seven years. 4. This month’s Kaiser Health Tracking Poll examines public support for a variety of competing health care policies aimed at improving or replacing the 2010 health care law, including plans to allow people to “buy in” to Medicaid or Medicare. 5. Sadly [my words] Overall, about seven in ten Americans are *not* confident that President Trump and Congress will be able to work together to make improvements to the ACA marketplaces.

VIII C: 5 Ways the Graham-Cassidy Proposal Puts Medicaid Coverage At Risk

- 1. Ends federal funding for current ACA coverage and partially replaces that funding with a block grant that expires after 2026**
- 2. Massively redistributes federal funding from Medicaid expansion states to non-expansion states through the block grant program penalizing states that broadened coverage.**
- 3. Prohibits Medicaid coverage for childless adults and allows states to use limited block grant funds to purchase private coverage for traditional Medicaid populations.**
- 4. Caps and redistributes federal funds to states for the traditional Medicaid program for more than 60 million low-income children, parents, people with disabilities and the elderly.**
- 5. Caps and redistributes federal funds to states for the traditional Medicaid program for more than 60 million low-income children, parents, people with disabilities and the elderly.**

Concluding remarks about Medicaid cuts planned by Kaiser Health News: With regard to Medicaid financing changes, **caps on federal funding could shift costs to states and result in less fiscal flexibility for states. States with challenging demographics (like an aging population), high health care needs (like those hardest hit by the opioid epidemic), high cost markets or states that operate efficient programs may have the hardest time responding to federal caps on Medicaid spending.**

Faced with substantially reduced federal funding, states would face difficult choices: raise revenue, reduce spending in other areas, or cut Medicaid provider payments, optional benefits, and/or optional coverage groups.

With this I rest my case. I believe I am justified in my conclusion that I inserted in Subject Line above; The Graham- Cassidy Bill - Must be brought down for a hard landing. because...It is over the Top as an exemplar of cynicism and ultimate in redistribution of wealth from the have nots to the haves and must be brought down for a hard landing. **I pray that you will consider casting this Bill aside and take up the Patient Freedom Act of 2017 sponsored by Sen. Cassidy, Collins, Capito and Isakson. It is a creative, potentially workable and enactable Bill [My comments on this Bill in CT. Mirror is attached. Forbes' Avik Roy wrote favorably about PFA of2017]**

Sincerely,

Velandy Manohar, MD

Distinguished Life Fellow: Am. Psychiatric Association.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorimasielle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health bill

I'm in my 50s with a middle class income but an employer that doesn't offer health benefits. I participate in the ACA and pay my premiums and do not qualify for subsidies. It is a heavy financial burden to bear especially knowing that when I have a claim until I pay an outrageous deductible, benefits do not kick in. However, I AM covered in the case of an emergency or catastrophe, with no life time limits and will not be bankrupted by the potential costs of healthcare. The new plan guarantees me nothing. In fact it takes away all of the safety nets.

I, along with the majority of my fellow Americans want Congress to improve the ACA.
You are there to serve the American people and to make our lives better.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patsy Sympson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vite NO!

Vote NO for the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It's a disaster. PLEASE think of the American people & vote NO!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ILuv TheCougars [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT SUPPORT GRAHAM/CASSIDY!!!

Dear Senators,

The American people are relying on you to provide the citizens with a health care system that is accessible and affordable. The current bill being considered (Cassidy/Graham) does neither of these things. It is a purely cynical last ditch effort for the Republicans to "fulfill a campaign promise" at the expense of many vulnerable Americans. The cuts to Medicaid, the elimination of protections for the 52 million Americans with pre-existing conditions (Kaiser Family Foundation), and the obvious funding cuts to blue states (again, there's your politics) signal to me an ill-thought out - piecemeal approach to policy making by a group of people who obviously know NOTHING about health care policy!

When you have practically every major Medical Association, Hospitals, and even DOCTORS speaking out against this bill. You'd think that'd be a HINT that there's something wrong here. Not to mention that this bill is trying to be pushed through without a CBO scoring so that Americans can at least know how they are being screwed.

For sake of the American people - DO WHAT IS RIGHT! You have a bi-partisan committee being co-chaired by Washington Sen. Patty Murray and Tennessee Sen. Lamar Alexander who have been doing amazing work. You have bi-partisan Governors in Democrat John Hickenlooper and Republican John Kasich with great ideas which would IMPROVE and REPAIR the ACA. But, instead - this committee is holding hearings on a bill which is pure politics. The fact that only Senators Cassidy and Graham have been allowed to testify is proof enough that this is a FARCE!

It is time for you to show some integrity and trash this bill full of bribes to get those Senators like Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Rand Paul to change their No vote.

REPAIR do NOT REPLACE with a bad bill.

Sincerely,

Shannon Valdivia

[REDACTED]
Gresham, OR 97080

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Toni Reiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I believe in affordable healthcare for all citizens. Please

MY daughter with severe disabilities relies on quality affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it decimates healthcare for the neediest among us. Lifetime caps, lack of coverage for pre-existing conditions, limits to preventative care are all backward steps. I support bipartisan efforts to improve upon the ACA . There is no need to repeal ACA when it can be improved without causing harm to those who benefit from it.

**Sincerely,
Toni Reiss**

Toni Reiss
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vindya Alahapperuma [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy bill

Dear Senators

My my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I believe pretty much all americans have some sort of health issue that could be considered a pre existing condition. I come from a family with a history of high cholesterol and diabetes. No matter how hard I try to take care of myself (I eat right and exercise four times a week), my cholesterol is high and I have a pre-diabetic condition. My mom has osteoporosis. My dad has hypo-thyroidism in addition to high cholesterol. I really believe every american family would be affected by your bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Vindya Alahapperuma

Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennie Spector [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to REJECT Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan legislation 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 Americans -- children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with pre-existing conditions.

We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Jennie Spector
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Rein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I write to express deep concerns about the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Apart from the content of the bill, which I also object to, I am shocked that after three failed attempts at repeal, the GOP would continue to push for a vote prior to proper evaluation by the CBO and without even a show of bipartisanship or ordinary debate.

Anyone who has read the bill understands that its supposed benefits are purely ideological. It will strip access to healthcare from millions of Americans, including many children and elderly. It will punish those states which have worked hardest to protect their citizens. It guts the patient protections written into the ACA. It destabilizes insurance markets. It damages the economy. It increases long-term costs to taxpayers. How can you seriously think of pushing this forward?

Nathan Rein

Nathan Rein

19460
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ariella Ben-Dov [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee, the newest version of the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill includes the same parameters that will strip millions (MILLIONS) of Americans of their live saving health care. There may be some new elements that privilege Alaska and Maine which happen to be the states where senators are holding out against the bill but overall it is not good for the American people. Please do not allow this hurtful and frankly offensive bill to pass. It is not good business and it is truly unethical.

Please do the right thing. Do your job to support all Americans.
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Ariella Ben-Dov
Working mother of 3

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Albert J. Mallinckrodt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Deathcare

Dear Republican Party,

Can we please stop the charade? Do you honestly think that ANYBODY is fooled by the completely preposterous claim that Republicans are trying to "improve the healthcare system"? What, by bribing SOME states with wavering Republican Senators with permission to keep the system we'd ALL have if those senators simply voted "no"? By baldfaced lying about what the bill does and doesn't do?

This is as unprecedented in American politics as it is despicably dishonest and indecent.

Shame on you and shame on ANY American who doesn't see through this completely transparent scam to kill low income Americans in order to lower taxes YET AGAIN on the unimaginably wealthy.

If this bill passes you all will richly deserve to burn in the hell that you obviously know doesn't exist.

Sincerely,

Dr. A. John Mallinckrodt
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacob Rosenzweig [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senator,

I know so many people whose well-being depends on the ACA. They have gained access to health care that would not have been affordable otherwise. I myself would not be able to afford health insurance if the ACA, in its current form, did not exist. I recognize it is not a perfect program and I am all for efforts to improve health care in the US. However, Graham-Cassidy will not make the improvements we need.

- Allowing states to waive the individual and employer mandates or to charge higher prices for pre-existing conditions would make health insurance prohibitively expensive, which would lead to unnecessary suffering and even death.
- If states were to use their block grants to create differing systems of healthcare, people could effectively be trapped or forced to move in order to attain affordable medical attention. That would be a severe limitation on people's basic freedom to choose where they want to live.
- Furthermore, a bill of this magnitude should not be passed without a CBO score. A bill that prioritizes careful budgeting should itself be held to a high standard of careful budgeting.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,

--
Jacob Rosenzweig
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Faulkner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to this latest version of Trumpcare.

To Whom It May Concern,

The Congress must vote down this most recent version of Trumpcare- the latest attempt to gut Medicaid and strip health care from millions of Americans and get back to work creating a bipartisan improvement of the ACA, not just toss together a political gift to please the insurance/health industry and those who hate anything that has former President Obama's name attached to it.

Sincerely,

Matt Faulkner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Marx [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Dan Marx
Subject: Thank you for your service

Dear Senators and Committee Members,

Most officials who accept positions in public office do so with the intention of serving the public and making not only our state but our great country a better place for all of us to live and to improve the quality of the lives of their constituents. It's likely that a position such as yours takes a great deal more time and energy to fulfill these goals than an ordinary 9-5 job. Thank you for being willing to make these sacrifices for our family. Truly.

You must receive thousands of letters asking you for assistance. It is our sincere hope that there is time to review this one because it pertains to a population that you serve that has no voice, our medically fragile children.

The new Graham-Cassidy-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill proposes cuts to Medicaid that endangers the lives of our precious children's health by failing to cover the necessary home health nursing and therapies these beautiful children and their families depend upon. It also overturns one of the most valuable programs, the Katie Becket Medicaid waiver which allows families that would not qualify for Medicaid to do so, enabling them to receive care for their loved ones at home, rather than forcing our beloved children to be institutionalized. Even though we are both full-time working college graduates and have paid taxes for over 60 years combined, our private insurance policy does not come close to covering all of our son's needs. Our son is an incredibly gifted, intelligent, and kind child who is in a motorized chair. His life at home with us depends the availability of this funding as do many children in the state of North Carolina in our wonderful country.

Reducing/cutting this funding may have been an oversight when drafting the bill. It is difficult to imagine that a person such as yourself, who has dedicated his or her life to public service, would knowingly agree to passing legislation that fails to protect our most fragile population, our medically fragile children.

Please know that we are healthy parents. There is no genetic link that has been found that is the source of what our son has been dealing with his whole life. Over the years we have learned that anyone, at any time, may find themselves with a child whom they adore, who becomes medically fragile. It could one day be your niece, nephew, children or grandchildren. These programs that are now at risk are the only lifeline for families like ours. The untold grief of watching your own child suffer cannot be measured. It is like living daily with PTSD. The helplessness that comes with this is indescribable. Having the resources currently available reduces some of the emotional burden and drastically reduces the financial medical burden to our family as it does many others. Our sincere hope and prayer is that you will stand up for and fight for our medically fragile children, for what is right.

We truly hope that we can count on you to continue to protect our children in need.

Yours,
Dan and Robin Marx

Kind Regards,

Robin Marx

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Schorsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Hello,

This bill is absolutely disastrous and should not be considered. The millions of people that would be left off healthcare in the coming years is appalling and would lead to many needless deaths. Work to overhaul the ACA and stop trying to push through a terrible bill so that a "victory" can be won, as it will surely be a dark spot in American history. Please be on the right side of history and strike this bill down.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanna Rives [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote "NO" on Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee members,

Vote "NO" on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It compromises the health and vigor of the of the American people and will result in compromised national security, and economic robustness. There is no wealth without health and no populace is more vulnerable that a sickly one.

Sincerely,

Joanna M. Rives, BSN, MSN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Lovin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal vote

While Graham-Cassidy is heads and shoulders better than #ACA, we need big government out of our lives and out of our healthcare.

Nothing short of FullRepeal is acceptable to Americans.

B. Terry Lovin
Delaware

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Coleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Late for health reasons - STOP Graham-Cassidy

I have a lifelong neuromuscular disability. I still work full time, but set my own hours because of my health issues. I use a motorized wheelchair and breathing support. I was on Medicaid as a young person, now have employer based insurance, but will soon need Medicaid again as my disability progresses and both my husband and I age. As our society ages, the cuts inherent in Graham-Cassidy would force me into a nursing home instead of providing less costly but "optional" home care. It would price me out of healthcare for pre-existing conditions, and could remove coverage for essential benefits I need. Reject this bill.

--
Diane Coleman, JD, MBA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Rochester, NY 14608
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Whitney H Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass bill

Hi all,

Medicaid expansion and Obamacare saved my life. I was able to get inpatient treatment for my substance use disorder at a time when I was homeless and very sick. Now I am almost three years sober with a beautiful baby girl and a family I love. I am able now to sponsor others suffering from addiction and offer them hope and a way out. If you have any compassion for those suffering from addiction (which is a public health epidemic and absolutely negatively affects the economy more than any affordable care act) please vote no. Do not dismantle a system (albeit imperfect) for reasons of electoral politics.

Thank you for your service and I am so grateful to live and work in America.

Sincerely,
Whitney Brown

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fermi kos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy bill

Please, take in consideration that We oppose this bill.

Fernando & Miki Osuna
Utah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Wolfe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I'm sending you a quick note as a retired librarian devoted to serving my fellow man and as a dedicated and informed voter of many, many years to express my distaste for and rejection of the Graham-Cassidy bill. I thank you for your service to our country as legislators and hope that my trust in your integrity is well founded.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wolfe

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you

Stacy Rooker
Council Bluffs Iowa

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Lange [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No ACA repeal!

Hello,

I am a nurse who visits families on Medicaid. I know first hand how destructive it will be for my clients to lose their healthcare. I remember when single women and men could not get covered by Medicaid before the ACA. These are people who work, but their jobs don't offer insurance or it is too expensive to buy it. These are people with health problems like diabetes. Many finally have had the opportunity to address their mental health issues that we now know are strong determinants of developing future health problems. The ACA made it possible to find mental health providers who take Medicaid. Don't pull the rug out from under my clients!

Block grants for Medicaid will destroy this essential program! It is shameful that we are not committed as a country to providing healthcare for all.

The newest version of the ACA repeal/replace bill is immoral and I urge all Senators to vote NO!!

Sincerely,

Holly Lange RN
Deschutes County
Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Warren [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Jennifer L Warren - Graham-Cassidy bill.

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!

Rushing through a bill that has not been researched just to get a win puts lives in jeopardy.

Congress should have the same insurance that they vote for OR americans should have the same healthcare that Congress has.

Sincerely,
Jennifer L Warren
St George, Utah

"To create one's own world in any of the arts takes courage." ~Georgia O'Keeffe

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe Adams, Ph.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Kill the Bill

Dear Senators:

The proposals for block-granting healthcare will do irreparable damage to the healthcare system in America. We need a better solution than this.

States are ill-equipped to deal with these issues. We need a better plan. We are growing weary and angry about the way this is being handled. Our well-being does not appear to be part of the discussion.

Please reconsider and have hearing in the normal order of business.

Sincerely,

Joe Adams, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]
Birmingham, AL 35222
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. We believe that if the Graham-Cassidy Bill is passed, our healthcare options and costs will increase, and millions of others will lose healthcare all together.

Our story is probably quite common, we tend to build our lives and jobs around health care coverage. My husband decided to become a teacher (as a second career around age 43) not just because he felt he could make a difference, but because of the excellent insurance coverage teachers were offered at the time. We were just starting a family at that time and were using my self-employed, high-deductible insurance coverage to have our first child. We could see that this was going to be un-sustainable for our family if we wanted to have a second child.

As my husband is nearing retirement in a few years, I will be needing to look for health insurance coverage for myself and children yet. I am still self-employed, and many of my self-employed colleagues have taken advantage of the many offerings the ACA has had for people like ourselves. Many of these people I know never had health insurance until the ACA.

I urge you to work in a bipartisan, congressional effort improve the ACA, not repeal it. All American citizens need healthcare, please do what you can to work on ways to cover ALL individuals and families by improving the ACA or even considering moving to a single-payer system. It is exhausting having to change jobs and livelihoods based on healthcare coverage.

Sincerely,

Jean Wells
[REDACTED]

Brown Deer, WI 53223

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hank Lowenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

I am writing as a former CEO in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors of the health care industry. I was also a member of "Who's Who in California Healthcare" in the early 1990's. In my respective tenures as a health care CEO I reviewed many insurance plans, and consulted with many patients and families about their coverage. The Graham-Cassidy legislation is a sick joke. It destroys Medicaid as we know it, takes away the guarantee of coverage for pre-existing conditions by giving states the right to charge completely unaffordable rates for people with serious illnesses, and will leave over 30 million people without insurance over the next 10 years. In addition, Graham-Cassidy removes many coverages guaranteed by Obamacare, such as maternity care and care for children with disabilities. This bill stinks to high heaven, and so does every senator who votes for it!

Henry A. Lowenstein
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Earl Weaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 PM ...
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and replace obamacare

This new Republican plan to repeal and replace is criminal. The damage to the current health system will be a albatross around the necks of the Republican party for generations. If your purpose is to end any real power the Republican party has then this bill will be a success.

Be smart and stop this bill before it can even come to a vote. By making Republican senators vote you will hurt any chance of re-election when the time comes.

Thank You

Earl Weaver

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Law <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 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. I am the mother of a child with Cystic Fibrosis. Her life and the path she travels down is harder than most Americans can possibly understand. It was not her choice to be born with CF. It was not our choice for her to be born with CF. There was no history of CF on either side of our family. Without the existing rules and regulations regarding preexisting conditions and the removal of caps on her lifetime spending, she would have to declare herself disabled and doom herself to a life solely dependent on the United States government. With the current provisions in place, she has opportunity and hope for the future. She is planning to go to college because she has a future. The Graham-Cassidy bill would create an entire class of individuals dependent on the US government for support. This is not what she wants in her life. She does not wish to be relegated to being considered a subhuman individual defined by a condition of which she has no control over. The passage of this bill would effectively designate her as a 2nd class citizen not worthy by our government of contributing and being a part of our society. Her life and future will be bleak. She can not function without proper health care and a guarantee that despite her health condition, she will be able to get a job and work. Please help insure she has a future as a productive member of our society and not push her into becoming a lot member of our society. Thank you! Maria Law

Maria Law

19426
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maria Law [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:46 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. I am the mother of a child with Cystic Fibrosis. Her life and the path she travels down is harder than most Americans can possibly understand. It was not her choice to be born with CF. It was not our choice for her to be born with CF. There was no history of CF on either side of our family. Without the existing rules and regulations regarding preexisting conditions and the removal of caps on her lifetime spending, she would have to declare herself disabled and doom herself to a life solely dependent on the United States government. With the current provisions in place, she has opportunity and hope for the future. She is planning to go to college because she has a future. The Graham-Cassidy bill would create an entire class of individuals dependent on the US government for support. This is not what she wants in her life. She does not wish to be relegated to being considered a subhuman individual defined by a condition of which she has no control over. The passage of this bill would effectively designate her as a 2nd class citizen not worthy by our government of contributing and being a part of our society. Her life and future will be bleak. She can not function without proper health care and a guarantee that despite her health condition, she will be able to get a job and work. Please help insure she has a future as a productive member of our society and not push her into becoming a lot member of our society. Thank you! Maria Law

Maria Law

19426
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryke Longest [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Mendacity in health care policy

Insurers, doctors and hospitals all oppose the Graham-Cassidy health bill. There is no sound policy support for any of its proposals. Instead, it is merely political theater, which will injure, bankrupt and kill many of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

You cannot call this proposal anything but what it is: starvation politics. You plan to starve the system of resources and force the hard choices on states. Meanwhile, you plan to build a new carrier and all its attendant goodies. Meanwhile, you plan to build a wall to "protect" us from one of our largest trading partners. Meanwhile you plan yet another tax break, another regulatory rollback, another round of gerrymandered insanity.

I weep for the future that this bill has a serious chance of passage. Shame on Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy for bringing this forward.

Best,

Ryke Longest
Raleigh, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Candace Raderman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please don't destroy the good that the ACA has done for this country. If portions of the ACA need to be adjusted I understand but not repealed and replaced!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alicia Buffalo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My story with [Medicaid, coverage caps, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

One area of additional concern is with prior authorizations by insurance companies. My family has experienced life and death delays while waiting DAYS for insurers to approve or disapprove a physician ordered medication or test. THIS IS WRONG AND NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED in what ever bill is ultimately put forth.

Furthermore, Employer health insurance for Seniors should NOT transition to an ADVANTAGE program connected to a private insurance company. Employer health coverage should be a supplement to MEDICARE and NOT a SUBSTITUTE for it. Nor should the private insurer dictate what is covered by MEDICARE.

Sincerely,
Alicia McDevitt
[REDACTED]
Sloan, NY, 14212

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Strauss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: PastedGraphic-3.tiff

From: Karen Strauss, [REDACTED], Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I know you're hearing thousands of healthcare insurance horror stories. While I don't personally have one (thankfully), I am incredibly stressed out over my own healthcare insurance because of the unknown. I was laid off 15 months ago and my Cobra policy ends on December 31. I never thought I'd want to be older sooner but I am still nine years away from Medicare. I live in Arizona. My state is not equipped to use healthcare block grants responsibly. Yes, one of our Senators is standing tall and strong (shame on Senator Flake) but I don't trust that—if the bill passes--our Governor will mandate that all those with pre-existing conditions will be covered.

I am shocked and frightened to learn that you are about to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, which aims to "repeal and replace" the ACA. This GOP-only proposal would erase numerous consumer protections for me and other people I know.

I am alarmed that Kaiser Health News says the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal is the most disruptive of all the measures proposed by the GOP Congress so far. It is also opposed by **almost every major medical and health advocacy group, 50 state Medicaid directors, and leading governors.**

I urge you to vote "No" on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal and any measure that will raise insurance premiums and healthcare costs on Arizona/American families while cutting millions of people off of their health insurance, hurting work-place insurance systems and our national healthcare economy.

In closing, I urge you to protect the ACA, our 10 essential health benefits, protections for pre-existing conditions and against life-time caps, long-term and level funding of Medicare, CHIP, community health, and Medicaid.

I urge you to concur with Sen. John McCain and protect our democracy with "regular order" in Congress (i.e. bipartisan support, more than one public hearing, a process for amendments, and thorough "scoring" from the Congressional Budget Office).

I urge you to resume bipartisan discussions on real "repair" measures to the ACA to reduce premiums for individuals and small businesses and fund our existing national health care system by Sept. 30. These include efforts undertaken by Sen. Lamar Alexander and Sen. Patty Murray in the Senate Health Committee as well as those by Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Ben Nelson.

Finally, I urge you to stop scaring us all by threatening to cut off our healthcare. I Congress has accomplished nothing this year to improve our health, our healthcare system, and our lives in this respect. So far, it has only made an urgent problem worse.

Respectfully, we deserve better.

Sincerely,

Karen Strauss

[REDACTED]
Scottsdale, AZ 85258



[REDACTED]

Karen Strauss

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Poindexter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Health bill is heartless, expensive and unacceptable.

Dear Senators,

I am writing to voice my dissent and disgust with the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I disagree with its passage for a number of reasons, only some of which I have listed below.

Passing this bill would mean people could be excluded from coverage due to pre-existing conditions, or make coverage so outlandishly expensive, as to make getting coverage impossible.

Your bill would allow opportunistic insurance companies to raise rates when a patient receives a new diagnosis, there-again, making insurance coverage a thing that only the rich and healthy can enjoy.

The bill would allow states to cut funding for, or let insurers exclude:

- * maternity services
- * hospitalizations
- * laboratory tests
- * dental benefits for children
- * mental health services
- * substance abuse programs

Individual states will be allowed to prevent women's clinics from charging Medicaid for services like cancer screenings and birth control.

It shifts billions of dollars of costs onto states, giving them incentive to cut the above items.

It lets states spend block grants on non-healthcare spending.

Federal aid for Medicaid would plummet.... and I live in a state that has repeatedly chosen NOT to expand medi/medi coverage-!

Insurers would be able to double their surcharge on elderly customers.

The ACA's insurance subsidies would be GONE.

What the Republicans have created, through the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill, is another heartless, uncompassionate, money-grubbing, exclusionary, economically inadvisable plan. The results of implementing such a plan would be devastating for the elderly, the very sick, the mentally ill, the learning disabled (like my child and the children of some of my friends), the poor, young women seeking reproductive health and education, mothers, mothers-to-be, and those planning to be parents, and the very young.

The ONLY people that stand to benefit from the GC Health Care Bill are the wealthy and the healthy.... and that is not the majority of America.

Vote NO, for me, my children, my parents, and all Americans.

Regards,

Katherine Poindexter
Richmond, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

I stand in opposition to the current health care bill because:

1. there have been no real and open debates in the Senate about it
2. there is no estimate of its cost from the governmental office charged with providing those figures
3. it gives state leaders the right to cancel requirements related to pre-existing conditions, women's health, poor people's access to Medicaid
4. it is being warped today to provide what are clear bribes to some members for their votes
5. it does not "fix" the ACA's shortcomings
6. it is solely a closed-loop political action with little or not concern for American citizens

Susan Shea

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rick williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Email GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My family, as do virtually all Americans, rely heavily on quality, affordable healthcare. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not provide this coverage and, in fact, takes away the coverage we now have and replaces it with coverage that will be far more expensive for most and prohibitive for those with pre-existing conditions. I urge you to reject this destructive bill and work on a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Rick Williams
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Rasmussen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: How is it possible . . .

To vote on this bill without Full CBO analysis?

To simultaneously guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing conditions while leaving the matter in state hands?

To ignore the letter submitted by the Medicaid directors in all 50 states?

--

Michael Rasmussen, Portland Oregon
Be Appropriate && Follow Your Curiosity

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Yetter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

David Yetter
Portland, OR

Dispatched from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill at 2 p.m. September 25th, 2017

Dear Senators:

We need to revise the healthcare financing system in the U.S. because if we do not do so, we will likely go bankrupt. However, cutting benefits from millions of Americans including the poor and the elderly on Medicaid, is not the way to fix our healthcare system. Health care is complicated. We can't fix it in a week or two. Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill and begin the serious bipartisan effort that is needed to bring the U.S. healthcare system up to a par with that of other industrialized nations. Other countries spend far less money than we do and yet have better health outcomes and are simultaneously able to cover all of their citizens. If other nations can do this, America should be able to do so as well.

Thank you,

John Mullen

[REDACTED]
Poway, CA 92064

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: starangel0912 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Please Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. We need healthcare to include any health issues that may arise. We need pre-existing illnesses to have GUARANTEED coverage on this bill. Please work bipartisanly to come up with a plan. Thank you very much for taking time to hear my voice.

Thank you!

Danielle Greenough

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8+, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

Healthcare should be a fundamental right, especially in a country like ours. Individuals and families should not have to worry about losing all they have worked for because of an illness. Children should not have to spend their lives labeled a pre-existing condition because they have asthma, or down syndrome, or simply because they are female.

If you change the law that protects people with pre-existing conditions, if there is even a small loop hole, then people with pre-existing conditions are no longer protected.

Protect your citizens. Work together to improve the ACA. Stop capitulating to drug companies and insurance companies.

Sincerely,

Pamela Smith
Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christina Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Christina Evans

[REDACTED]
Helena, MT 59602
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Colvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote for the health of Americans, not party loyalty!!

Please Vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham bill.

Healthcare for Americans deserves a bipartisan solution

Jean Colvin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Leonard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is just another attempt to deprive us of the health care that we all need in order to raise money for tax cuts for the very rich. It has no other purpose. If it passes, everybody who voted for it will be guilty of the deaths of thousands of people who need medicine, other treatments and doctors but can't afford them.

Margaret Leonard
[REDACTED]
Tallahassee, Fla. 32303

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rosa venezia [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

Title Of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Rosa Venezia

Address: [REDACTED] 80302

please vote NO.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Ronner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: It is a terrible bill - I do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill

I have been a practicing physician for 29 years. The ACA is far from perfect but many of my patients who never had health care have it now and are receiving life saving care - they were diagnosed early and treated in the early stages of their diseases.

Let's fix what we have - it can be done with bipartisan support, but this is NOT the bill that will fix anything. Please do not advance the Graham-Cassidy bill. Many people will lose coverage and suffer.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wanda Ronner
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joan Caplin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Sept. 25

My family, like the vast majority of families, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is exclusionary, ill-considered, superficial and unacceptable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I strongly believe this is possible

Sincerely,
Joan Caplin
New York, NY

--

Joan Caplin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Reklis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

In particular, I am concerned about my father, a lifelong Republican and evangelical pastor. While he is one of the healthiest and most active people I know, due to genetic proclivities, he suffers from high blood pressure. He had a major heart attack two years ago. Because he also works for small churches and as an independent Christian counselor, he does not have health insurance through his job. He and my mom have coverage through the ACA, which was hard for him at first (lifelong Republican!!), but is now a lifeline for them both. They live month to month, but in joy and peace because they believe they are serving God as God would ask of them. If they lose their ACA coverage, they would not be able to find affordable health insurance. With my dad's preexisting condition - and living in North Carolina where insurance companies are likely to have free reign to charge whatever they want - they would be priced out of any affordable option. I seriously worry about what would happen to them without the ACA.

All of our citizens deserve affordable, full coverage regardless of income or employment. I am ready to start living in a developed country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please devote your energy to giving us a BETTER ACA, not taking it away.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Reklis
[REDACTED]
Durham, NC 27705

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy so-called health bill

Gentlemen:

You cannot, as men of conscience, endorse this bill. It takes health care away from the most vulnerable: children, people in nursing homes, people with pre-existing conditions (including my children, who are both Type I Diabetics), and many others.

Block grants do nothing to address these issues.

How can you possibly endorse this bill before the CBO issues its final report? Is it because then you could claim, "We didn't know"?? But you DO know. And you are proceeding "for the win"--even though this means DEATH for tens of thousands of American citizens, including my children!!

The craven gesture of adding money for Alaska and Maine in a bald attempt to buy the votes of their dissenting senators simply defies justification. If you continue on this course, you proclaim yourselves to be utterly indifferent to the fates of tens of thousands of American citizens, as well as completely morally bankrupt.

Consider your mortal souls, gentlemen. Oh, and consider that you WILL be voted out of office for this.

Kathryn Fields

Registered voter

02446

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aidan Mc Garry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I implore you to consider the millions of Americans who rely on the ACA to save their lives!
In particular my 14 year old son.

My son was diagnosed with Crohn's disease at the age of 10. Crohn's is chronic inflammation that causes pain and ulcers throughout the entire digestive system. Indirectly, it affects the entire body. Some of these side effects are anemia, Lupus, arthritis, fatigue and even Cancer. My son requires a biologic infusion medication that currently costs \$9,416 every 8 weeks.

Under this new bill, my family will not be able to afford to care for my son due to the fact that this new bill will :

- Discriminate against persons with pre-existing conditions by charging higher premiums based on age and health status.
- Offer plans without adequate coverage including plans that don't provide prescription drug benefits.
- Reintroduce annual and lifetime caps on services states choose not to include in the Essential Health Benefits package.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score of similar plans, the above components would increase the cost of insurance as well as out of pocket costs for individuals with pre-existing conditions. This would make healthcare unaffordable and inaccessible to the chronic illness community subject to those marketplaces. It is critical that solutions to the healthcare system continue to support the community by maintaining the patient protections implemented in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and ensuring that plans meet basic coverage standards.

Please consider my son's situation and protect his rights...protect his LIFE.

Sincerely,
Aidan McGarry
Cedar Park, TX

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: niky Port [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I was going to write to my senator and to the committee. As I was writing I asked myself whats the point anymore? Just deleted it all. Trying to explain to you how changing healthcare is not good for my family with every reason. I realized as I was stressing about trying to get my point across to all of you. Your minds have already been made up. No matter what I say I am just an ant in your agenda. They do not care about the people. They only care about the rich anymore. Who will fund there next trip, who will give them more money etc. If they cared about the people every person representing us would say that they have not in any way worked together seriously, to make healthcare work a positive way for each individual, family. How irresponsible of all of you. if one parent left their child unattended or didn't get them care you would have thrown them in jail or taken their child away under the guise off neglect or abuse. Why isn't the government held to the same standards they pose unto the people?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Maloney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family and I count on reliable healthcare and am opposed to the graham Cassidy bill. I have a genetic condition that puts me at a greater risk for breast cancer. This bill would make healthcare unaffordable and unattainable for me and other members of my family. Americans want to live.

Please do as the founders intended and work in a bi-partisan manner and work through regular order to did and improve the ACA - not repeal it.

Thank you,
Charlotte Maloney
Salt Lake City, UT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cyndi Scheib [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

As an American citizen, I believe that health care coverage in the US requires federal oversight and protections so that Americans do not experience variable coverage as they cross state lines. Americans' health care coverage cannot be left up to the whims of state politicians.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate the following protections currently provided under the ACA. The Graham-Cassidy bill:

- Eliminates *guaranteed* protections for people with pre-existing conditions
- Eliminates the *requirement* for essential health benefits
- Lifts the prohibition of charging people more as they get older
- Lifts the prohibition that insurers cannot spend more than 15% for administrative expenses
- Guts Medicaid and the Medicaid expansion. Takes money from states that expanded Medicaid (like Illinois!) and gives it to states that didn't.
- Eliminates the individual and employer mandate
- Defunds Planned Parenthood

In addition, the routine process for passing bills of this magnitude has been bypassed in the Republicans rush to repeal and replace ACA before the end of September. There will only be one hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill, and the CBO has indicated there is not enough time for a full analysis of the impact of this bill before it comes to a vote. Multiple health care organizations, health insurance companies, and all 50 state Medicaid directors have expressed their opposition to this bill that would be destabilizing for individuals, the healthcare market and our economy.

This bill would have devastating consequences for millions of Americans. I am urging the committee to oppose the passing of the Graham- Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Scheib
[REDACTED]

Lombard, IL 60148

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Nicoloff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill

I implore all members of the Senate to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Health care is a tremendously important subject, and a major expense for all of us in this country. It is too important an issue to be considered without the care and deliberation it deserves, and without having all of the necessary information available to those who must vote on it. I urge you to wait and work in a bipartisan manner to think through and make any appropriate changes to the current health care system.

You know that the American public overwhelmingly believes that members of Congress should work together. Be a model for all of us, and start doing that again.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Martha Nicoloff
Olympia, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susan mckee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

The Affordable Healthcare Act is not workable. It cannot be remedied.
The ACA MUST BE REPLACED.

The Graham/Cassidy Bill is the only opening we have to get needed healthcare for all.
GCH gives us the opportunity to "fine-tune" healthcare. To improve and remove.
You must pass this NOW before your constituents lose ALL hope.
In healthcare and in YOU.

IF GCH IS NOT PASSED, WHAT THEN?
WHAT HAPPENS WITH ACA?
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
PASS GCH. PASS GCH NOW!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alan Kirpas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren)
Subject: A view of the Graham-Cassidy proposal

Thirty-two of the thirty-three developed nations have universal health care; the USA is the lone exception. No matter whether conservatives or liberals control those 32 governments, healthcare is supported by the government. South Korea, for example, has had an insurance mandate since 1988. Slovenia has had a single payer system since 1972. Since 1977, Ireland has had a two-tier system, where the government will pay for a certain speed of healthcare, but the individual may purchase private insurance.

Here in the USA, with its vast economy, the government currently is backing away from involvement in providing a path to healthcare for the poor, the elderly, the disabled. Compassion has become almost a partisan issue.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal has decided that healthcare will meet the needs of tax relief for the oligarchs, and for the rich. First Obamacare, then tax reform, has been the government's motto. No other balancing reductions/increases will do. The money for tax reform must come from government-supported healthcare. If you are determined to hurt the poor, why not raises the taxes on gasoline and heating oil instead?

My two daughters, in their 30s, need frequent medical attention. One is not able to work. From my reading of the Graham-Cassidy proposal, your intention is to reduce my daughters' importance in the USA. Likewise, for 30 million others. What would you do if it happened to you?

In the end, I suspect the trick will be to find out why American healthcare (not health insurance) is so costly, and make changes to reduce the cost of care.

A.P. Kirpas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lesli.k.Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Our health care is too important to be a political football. Time to be Senatorial again and return to regular order and full hearings.

Lesli Johnson
Athens, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrice Swiontek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not vote for the Graham Cassidy bill. It will devastate millions of Americans.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Pierce [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy -Heller

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill does not protect citizens with pre-existing conditions. We need to protect the federal funding for Medicaid. So please do not pass this damaging bill.

Thank you,
Steven Pierce

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Chapman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I have narcolepsy, which is considered a "rare disease" and rare disease patients, like me, and our families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. Even under the current ACA, my insurance is denying to cover a medication that would help make my disease more manageable, and therefore help me live a more "normal" life. The Graham-Cassidy bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against people like me with rare diseases by charging us premiums based upon our health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients like me and our families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for me and the rest of the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Jessica Chapman

Ms. Jessica Chapman
[REDACTED]
Jackson, MS 39211
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Risa Horn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Committee,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I rely on affordable public healthcare. I was recently in an auto accident and sustained lasting injuries. Without public healthcare I would have had to pay for my emergency and follow up care out of pocket, expenses I could not afford. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Risa Horn

Bethesda, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hanley Kanar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Hanley Kanar and I have MS. Please have mercy in those of us with preexisting conditions. Before the ACA, I was uninsurable. States cannot be trusted to take care of us, or will be unable to, cover people like me without it.

Please do not pass this. You will be hurting a lot of people.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

As an American who has been turned down for individual health care for reasons including childhood asthma and being adopted (therefore no family medical history) I count on the ACA to enable me to receive quality, affordable, dependable care. My two nieces are special needs and rely on Medicaid and the ACA for their very independence.

I'm literally begging you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy, which WILL send us backwards to those times when hard working Americans who do not get insurance through jobs to have to choose between treating an illness and eating, or treating a sick child and paying their mortgage.

Certainly this is not the America that you want. Please, please, move us forward with a bipartisan answer to the ACA. Don't take our care away, don't make us afraid again.

Sincerely,
Dana Baldinger
Renton, Wa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esther Wahlberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:36 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 becausefor a number of reasons, chief among them is the lack of a guarantee of fair, affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. The elimination of Medicaid coverage and the implications of that for the handicapped, learning disabled, and those in need of mental health support also concerns me. There is so much more.....The Republican desire to gut reasonable healthcare for the American people is truly a disgrace.

Esther Wahlberg

17603
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Marchand Collins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my opposition to this bill, and to any bill that results in cutting Medicaid. I am a divorced mother of two teenagers. We rely on Medicaid for necessary services.

My twins were born sixteen weeks before their due date, at only 2 weeks gestation. They spent the first four months of their life in the NICU at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence. When they finally did come home, they were on oxygen for several months.

They were nearing their lifetime cap from our insurance company before they even left the NICU.

Coming as early as they did, they each have a handful of disabilities and diagnoses. They both have Cerebral Palsy and have hearing loss. My son also has Autism.

David is able to walk short distances with a minimal amount of support, but needs his manual wheelchair. His Autism makes it hard to assess his abilities. He is fascinated by the alphabet and loves visiting the library.

Elyssa uses a cochlear implant to hear and a power chair to get around at school. She is an auditory learner, loves chorus and horseback riding and dreams of one day becoming a wildlife biologist.

I work. The services and supports they receive -- services that are ONLY accessible through Medicaid -- make it possible for me to maintain a part-time schedule at a very understanding employer.

If this bill goes through in any of its forms it would cut Medicaid and therefore the services that make our life possible.

My children's services might make it through the first round or two of cuts, but eventually cuts this draconian could not fail to impact our lives.

I would have to give up working to care for them, losing the remaining time for me to earn or save for my own retirement.

Please. Defeat this cruel measure.

Remember why you chose public service in the first place. I sincerely doubt it was to hurt people. But this bill will hurt families like mine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Marchand Collins

[REDACTED]
Johnston, RI 02878

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blair Brooke-Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Hello Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge and beg you to hold your oath to protect the general welfare, and vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

This bill will be a potential death sentence for sick and vulnerable Americans.

thank you for keeping our best interests in heart.

Peace,
Blair Brooke-Weiss
Constituent in 98177

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Schriesheim [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Legislation

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to vehemently oppose the ill-conceived and frankly heartless legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy to repeal the ACA. Estimates are that 32 million Americans will lose their healthcare coverage as a result of the bill, if passed; ultimately, many millions more will lose their coverage.

The bill unconscionably allows HHS Secretary Price, rather than the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Administrator to allocate the block grants to states. Given Price's egregious misuse of taxpayer funds in requisitioning USAF jets and pilots to ferry him around the country, there is absolutely no way he should be allowed to make any decision affecting Americans' health insurance and block grant allocations.

In addition, this cruel, reckless, pandering bill would strip Americans of vital protections regarding pre-existing conditions coverage, annual and lifetime spending caps, and more. Senator Cassidy has lied on television to try to cover up these awful provisions; Senator Graham blathers on about "federalism," while attempting to gerry rig block grant proposals to bribe Alaskan senators to vote for this monstrosity. This is arguably a violation of the Constitution's Uniformity Clause.

The bill also obfuscates how Medicaid spending is counted now versus in the bill to try to cover up how great the reduction in that spending would be.

This bill is a reflection of the moral decay of the U.S. government under Trump. It is a disgrace, and should be thrown into the trash can of history.

Kristine A.H. Schriesheim, Esq.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

What part of Republicans' common sense and concern for voters thinks it's okay to eliminate health insurance for millions and millions of Americans? Do NOT repeal Obamacare. Stop threatening to take away health insurance from millions of Americans. The idea that changing ANY aspect of Obamacare would be a "win" for Republicans is a farce. If we, American voters, lose coverage, you - our elected leaders - lose as well. Our family is counting on you to support single-payer Healthcare (medicare for all, Americare). You have been given the privilege of healthcare for your lifetime. American voters have not. Health insurance should never be a for-profit product. Let all Americans be insured under YOUR watch.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Kill the Bill! Vote down this healthcare bill!

Ruth Harris 08035

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

D. Ross
Dearborn, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jack Lechner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, just like the rest of America. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would disrupt American healthcare, remove the ACA's protection for people with pre-existing conditions, and return us to the bad old days of spiraling healthcare costs. What we desperately need is a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jack Lechner
New York, NY

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Segal, Jeremy [PTH] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please be reasonable

Dear Senators,

Please don't take us backward on health care. Let's help all people to get covered in a reasonable way.

For example, if you just allowed companies the option to buy Medicare coverage for their employees, you could solve Medicare's financial problems and establish a mechanism to spread Medicare to more people, even with grants paid for by the profits garnered from corporate payments.

The net result would be a system that took zero increase in taxes and led to trillions of dollars in reduced health care expenses. Please try to do something smart. Please vote "no" on the new Cassidy-Graham bill.

Regards,
Jeremy Segal

Jeremy P. Segal, MD, PhD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chicago, IL 60637 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy O [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comments

Dear Senators,
Vote no on Graham Cassidy.
Our nation is in a cruel state of decay at the moment.
This bill is cruel exponentially, so are those who vote for it.
WE will be at the voting booths in 2018&2020.
Walk away from cruelty to America and the economy and Mothers and Babies
and Elderly and Disabled and Pre Existing.

With support from: Doula Kathy O'Brien
CD(DONA), HCHI, -almost 1500 birthing families served [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"There is only one beautiful Child in the world and every Mother has it" Chinese Proverb

"If a Doula were a drug, it would be unethical NOT to use it." Dr. Kennell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Liu [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: fullsizeoutput_837.jpeg; fullsizeoutput_632.jpeg; fullsizeoutput_7e8.jpeg

Dear Senators,

PLEASE look at their faces. Their future lies ahead of them. They need you to do the right thing and #opposeGrahamCassidy. We are a hard working middle class family in California. We work hard, made sacrifices, pay our fair share of taxes and save for our kids' futures.

Yet, my daughter with Down syndrome, her access to the American dream is legally limited.

There is a legal limit to how much we can save for her.

There is a legal limit to how much she can earn in a year.

Everyday, she faces the bigotry of low expectations from the education system and yet she fights on. She thrives in spite of these hurdles.

And now, her healthcare is at risk. Healthcare, a basic human right!

We benefit from the Medicaid waiver. It is our secondary insurance that helps cover out of pocket expenses for her various therapies. Medicaid also helps pay for school supports like nurses, therapists and aides, which benefit ALL kids. It has kept us from living pay check to pay check. A strong middle-class is the heartbeat of America.

But you know this! You know how the Graham-Cassidy Bill will hurt millions. You know that this is a tax cut for the rich. You know this bill does not fulfill the promises you made to improve the healthcare system.

You know the CBO score will not be released in time. You know there have been no bi-partisan debates, no expert testimony, no regular process, no amendment process, no support from over 250 medical, disability and human rights groups. You know this. You know this bill will hurt the two kids, Sammy and Jack, in this picture.

So PLEASE, don't be bullied or bought.

Stand on principal.

Protect our care.

#SaveMedicaid.

#RiseUp4Healthcare.

Be on the right side of history. Save our care. Preserve your legacy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinne Falotico [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill hurts women, families, seniors, etc.

Dear Senator Graham and Senator Cassidy,

I am disgusted that the only goal of President Trump and the Republican Party is to rollback on all the progress President Obama's administration made for Americans. Specifically, this has meant repealing the Affordable Care Act. Since its passing, the ACA has improved the lives of millions of Americans. When Trump and the GOP fight to repeal it, they are fighting against Americans and for big business.

Your bill, the Graham-Cassidy bill, is your party's latest effort to "reform" healthcare, but it's difficult for me to believe that the bill was actually written in the interest of people's health. There are many examples of how the bill would actually hurt millions of Americans. The Graham-Cassidy bill would:

- End employer-provided health coverage for many Americans.
- Eliminate subsidies that help middle- and low-income people purchase health plans.
- Dramatically cut funding to support states' Medicaid costs and allow states to impose work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries, an attack that could leave millions of people with disabilities and low-income families without health coverage.
- Give states the power to remove more expensive health services like maternity care from the list of essential benefits that insurance providers are required to cover.
- Allow insurance providers to charge more and reduce the quality of care for people with pre-existing conditions.
- Defund Planned Parenthood.
- Increase health care premiums for seniors.

Graham-Cassidy would also replace federal funding for Medicaid expansion and health care subsidies with a state block grant that would shrink over time. The block grant gives states the power to design their own health programs but less money to run them. Many Democratic states like California, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and the federal government gave them more funding to cover the cost of new and more Medicaid beneficiaries. Graham-Cassidy would force states to absorb the cost of expanding Medicaid and eventually roll back the expansion.

By 2026, states that expand Medicaid would have 50 percent less federal funding to keep the program going. Republican Sen. Rand Paul, who opposes the bill, has called Graham-Cassidy's block grant scheme a "game" to take away federal funding from Democratic states. It is also an insidious attack on the health care of more than 15 million low-income people covered under Medicaid expansion.

I urge you to put the health and well-being of your constituents first and take this bill off the Senate floor. The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel and heartless and would gut health care for millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Corinne Falotico
Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Savage, Deirdre [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Attachments: BCBSMA letter on GC.pdf

Attached please find comments from Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Massachusetts on the Graham-Cassidy proposal which is the subject of hearing today.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Deirdre

Deirdre W. Savage
Government & Regulatory Affairs
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Candace Hibbard Lillie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham/Cassidy Act

This act will leave millions uninsured and raise costs for the rest.
This is a BAD act.

What is needed is correction of the flaws in the current system or a Single Payer Health Care system. This Graham/Cassidy Act provides neither. This is harmful and will not promote the health of the citizens of this country.

Candace Hibbard Lillie

--
Candace Hibbard Lillie
The M.A.D. House Artists
[REDACTED]
Eucha, Oklahoma 74342

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Agnes Zellin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

We need affordable, highest-quality health care for ALL. Make the ACA better, DON'T sign the Graham-Cassidy bill. Kill the bill and save the patient!

Thank you,
Agnes Zellin

Agnes Zellin, MA, NBCT
Building Confidence, Competence, and Creativity
Education Consultant/Tutor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Pearson: Into the Wilds [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Repeal

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my opinion that I am strongly opposed to the Republican repeal effort. It seems that, yet again, politics comes before people. We needed better, more affordable health care that does not punish humans for being human (getting sick; having pre-existing conditions.).

This is, yet again, another rush job that has not considered the people of this nation.

Thank you,
Mike Pearson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucille Penner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my horror at the idea that ANY senator will vote for the the Graham Cassidy bill repealing the ACA. Every responsible healthcare organization has registered their disapproval of this awful, unkind bill. Republicans who vote for it show that they were willing to hurt millions of people. This is a great shame to the Republican party and to the country.a

Lucille Penner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Shiffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy proposal

As a women's health care physician I strongly oppose this proposal that takes away the health care of women with pre-existing conditions and disabilities.

I urge the Senate to consider a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and provide universal health care for all Americans

Thank you for your consideration

--

Rebecca Lisa Shiffman, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jami Jacobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say 'No' to Trump Care

I am a proud New Mexican who has had many health issues and has a family of 3, a sister, mom and dad....all who have had and survived cancer in one form or another in the past few years. IF Trump Care passes and eliminates coverage for pre-existing conditions, it will be targeting me and my family in a way that can be fatal. I already struggle to pay my bills and keep my insurance going. Having to pay out of pocket for care for the myriad of health issues I have will bury me, financially and eventually, literally. I understand that you want anything with 'Obama' written on it wiped away. That is not a solution for the millions of Americans, like me, who have been able to have treatments and OPTIONS for the first time in a long time. Don't take our lives from us. Write a bill that gives ALL Americans the coverage, treatment and options they need and deserve. Be our leaders, not our punishers. Stand up to ignorance and prejudice. Stand up for the little guy. Give us the same health care you have. Our country needs you, your actions to support and uphold us when everything is falling apart around us. Please don't make a mess of this just because POTUS is threatening. Let him yell. Isn't my life worth it?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia L Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT repeal ACA Obamacare - collaborate across the aisle, and actually make health care BETTER!!!

To whom it may concern:

I understand that the Finance Committee will be holding a hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill on Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 at 2 pm EDT. So, I must voice my opinion, since you didn't seem to hear it the first 60+times you tried to ruin healthcare for the marginally employed by degutting ACA.

The lame Graham Cassidy bill is yet another in a series of travesties! The authors of the repeal legislation should be ashamed. Nowhere in any of the so-called cost-cutting measures did you actually look at the big picture: COST OF MEDICAL CARE. Nowhere in the submission were there ANY ideas about efficiencies through integrated healthcare computer systems,...or through reduction of REACTIVE versus PROACTIVE/PREVENTIVE healthcare. Likewise, there was nothing to address illnesses brought on by big, polluting industries: coal miners with black lung, flint lead water, etc. There is nothing of actual value in your bill -- it is a whack-a-mole-inspired attempt to secretly push some of the burden off one group of people (those able to pay) and onto others (those not able to pay, given the new rich-favoring paradigm, since those more poor will be losing their coverage and the entire country will still be paying more).

Please watch Lewis Black's take on the lack of understanding by GOP for HOW INSURANCE WORKS, which was aired on The Daily Show. Namely, insurance is NOT Paul Ryan's divisive "one group paying for another," it's NOT healthy people paying for the sick people (as though the ill "get what they deserve for their poor health habits"); rather, it's the healthy people paying to slow down *their own* inevitable demise. Giving a lousy "choice" for something this important is like saying, "We don't need to pay for the fire department (or FEMA) because our house is never going to catch on fire (or a disaster like a tornado or hurricane is never going to require you need help).

Stop the secrets, the closed session vanilla-group-think, followed by rushed, poorly-thought-out bills. You only prove you have lost the ability to govern.

Thank you for your consideration and dismissal of your own bad ideas. Fail fast and get back to collaborating with others who support ACA and Obamacare's objectives. It's your only hope.

Please let me know if I may further assist. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Claudia

Claudia L. Gibson, B.Sc.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerry Maletsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill is bad for Americans

I am concerned American citizen who outraged that you would try to push through a bill that throws many Americans off health care as well as allowing our system of poor health coverage get worse not to mention that you don't know how much it costs. I urge you not to pass this badly structured legislation.

Jerry Maletsky | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Norma Brockman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Bill

I am appalled that you would consider a bill that will so negatively effect the lives of millions of people. You can put lipstick on a pig and it is still a pig. Your job (and you do work for us) is to put all Americans in the best and safest position. This bill is a nuclear war on anyone poor, sick, old or even middle class. To state you do not even know fully what is in the bill, that you just want to pass something shows you are incompetent to do your job. So remember next election as our also incompetent president likes to say, You're fired. We have long memories.

Best,
Norma Brockman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Beale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: To the people responsible for decision making on Healthcare

I am a hard working single mother with 2 children 10 and 12 and my family relies on quality affordable healthcare and it is key to me and my family that pre-existing conditions are recognized and that healthcare stays affordable for the average family - I would like to see bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA not repeal it. Affordable healthcare should be our right not a luxury!

Yours sincerely

Karen Beale
Tiburon, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deepa Srinivasavaradan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop Graham-Cassidy bill to protect Medicaid

Greetings!

My name is Deepa Srinivasavaradan. I am a resident of Swedesboro, NJ. I have a son with a disability and I am also an advocate for persons with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for health care and community support. The Senate is considering a bill, the Graham- Cassidy Bill, that proposes devastating cuts to Medicaid and removes protection for people with pre-existing conditions. 11 million people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for critical services that help them live and participate in their community. I am asking Senator Menendez and Senator Cory Booker to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, or any other bill that cuts or caps Medicaid.

Thank you,

Deepa Srinivasavaradan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin O'Hearn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham,Cassidy,Heller bill

Dear Senators,

I am beyond furious that you continue to put the wishes of a handful of your well-heeled donors above the needs of tens of millions of American citizens.

As has been demonstrated numerous times, this bill is not about healthcare, but rather about enacting a huge tax cut for those same donors. You want the money to pay for tax cuts, and are more than happy to take it from the hides of your constituents, especially those most vulnerable (women, the poor, disabled, and veterans).

I currently enjoy employer provided healthcare, so I am one of the lucky few. However, I have a colleague who has a toddler who was born with a congenital heart defect. Her last surgery (and I think it was her third), cost \$750K. If your bill passes, her father is likely tied to this company forever, if he wishes to keep her insured. I'm sure she has already surpassed any lifetime cap that might exist, and would never pass muster with an insurer concerned about pre-existing conditions. She would be thrown off of any policy not required to cover such instances.

And I'm not naive enough to believe that once the bottom falls out of the private market thanks to this bill, that employers won't follow suit.

Prior to this job, I was in the private insurance market myself. In order to have what I would consider a "catastrophic care" policy, I paid over \$900 per month (this is 6 years ago, it would be significantly more now). That policy did not include drug coverage, and at the time I dropped that policy, it included a 40% co-insurance provision. No coverage for basic wellness provisions I enjoy now, like Mammograms, colonoscopy, wellness visits, or emergency room care. I can do basic math. Under that policy, I was one major illness or injury away from bankruptcy.

You have decried the fact that individual premiums and co-pays are through the roof under the ACA, and even falsely claimed the system is in a death spiral. Obviously you have selective memories and don't recall that the insurance companies were in the business of gouging and denying coverage long before the ACA. Obamacare, on the other hand, has provided countless people with basic lifesaving checkups and care they never could have received otherwise. I'm sure there are people who are finding premiums higher, but they were rising by double-digit percentages every year prior to the ACA as well.

The authors of the GCH bill are also busy buying off senators on the fence about the provisions of this disgusting bill. Whether this is legal or not, it is certainly immoral. But the bottom line is all of us will lose come 2026 and beyond when the supports you're willing to fund for the time being will end.

the GOP is presiding over the death panels that you once decried when trying to fear-monger Obamacare. The way to address this problem is not to throw the baby out with the bathwater, but to fix what is wrong with the current plan. I support the efforts of Senator Alexander and Senator Murray to come up with a bi-partisan method of fixing the ACA. Please put your energy into that, instead of this boondoggle.

I implore you, please vote no on the Graham, Cassidy, Heller monstrosity. This bill is shameful, and it is a disgrace. If you do vote for it, I can only hope that you or one of your loved ones are in desperate need of healthcare, and can't get it. It doesn't do anything to improve healthcare, and people will die as a result.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposition

Hello,

Many of my family members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am fortunate, and currently have accessible, affordable healthcare, which has left me free from worry about this essential need and enabled me to focus on other areas of life, including caring for my family and serving my community.

On behalf of those for whom accessible and affordable healthcare is a daily uncertainty, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your dedication to this most important effort.

Sincerely,

Beth Hinton, Carlisle, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corissa Osuna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: 21083692_10154746658471587_3028763061512339275_o.jpg; 21731386_10154782447401587_4912983375335802131_o.jpg

I am writing to tell you that I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This bill would be absolutely devastating to not my own family, but millions of families in Utah and the rest of the country.

My son Aiden was born with a rare type of dwarfism - Spondyloepiphysial Dysplasia Congenita. When I was 20 weeks pregnant, I was told to abort my pregnancy. I said absolutely not. After a very hard 10 month journey in the NICU at Primary Children Hospital, he is now home and thriving. But will be severely disabled the rest of his life. We rely heavily on Medicaid for him to receive necessary services so that he can continue to thrive and develop. And thanks to these services, although he will always be a little person, his other medical needs will be temporary and he will be able to go on and lead a happy life where he can contribute to our society and have his own family one day. Without these services, that wouldn't happen.

How can your party preach to me that I shouldn't have aborted my son, but then refuse to give him the life he deserves afterwards? How can you stand for such hypocrisy!? Shame on all of you!

If you pass this bill, you will be ruining his chances at life.

I am no longer a part of the republican party because of the hypocrisy that plagues the GOP. Why vote for a party that will cause my family harm?

I OPPOSE THE BILL.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Bamford [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Medicare cuts

Dear Sirs/Madams, I am a Program Coordinator with the Institute of Professional Practice in Merrimack, New Hampshire. We work with individuals with disabilities and we have been notified that Governor Sununu predicts that funding for people with disabilities could be cut by '10 billion dollars over the next ten years.' As an advocate for our individuals, I just wanted to point out that any amount of budget cut would impact people and could have a devastating effect on their lives. Services could be cut, or lost, leaving a vulnerable portion of our population at risk. Any funding lost for children's services, education, the elderly or infirmed, and people with disabilities would be devastating. Things that they rely on, including staff, health care, housing and supports, could be altered and create a hardship for people who are dependent upon these things. I understand that legislators are looking to make the budget work for the greater good, but I am asking for you to consider, or reconsider, the possible drastic effect that cuts to Medicaid, which is so important and fundamental to the members we support, could be. Thank you for your consideration to this matter and for your time. Sincerely, Joseph Bamford

This communication may contain privileged and/or confidential information. It is intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are prohibited from disclosing, copying, distributing or using any of this information. If you received this communication in error, please contact the sender immediately and destroy the material in its entirety, whether electronic or hard copy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jenniferbass [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Very concerned and oppose bill

I oppose the bill to repeal the ACA via GrahamCassidy.

As a self employed woman of 58 years old, I will no longer be able to afford health insurance. Graham Cassidy eliminates individual plan subsidies in favor of block grants.

States will have the miserable choice of giving funds to children or the elderly.

This is a cruel bill.

I favor more attention given to the bi-partisan discussion that Graham Cassidy has effectively shut down .

Graham Cassidy needs to be voted down, unequivocally.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Bass

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beal St. George [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony: Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

My aging parents and aunt rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. My aunt has health care because of the ACA; without it, she wouldn't. My parents are getting older and I need to know that they have good health care that is affordable, into retirement. This is a basic human right and should be available to all Americans.

I like the ACA; it means that I can have healthcare through age 26 through my parents, and it means that my parents can get care into their aging years.

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

Sincerely,
Beal St. George
Burlington, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Rodil [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter and I have pre-existing conditions. In the past I was forced to pay more insurance because of my condition. Since the ACA this is no longer an issue for me. I worry that my daughters asthma and skin condition will make her insurance more expensive for her under this bill. I don't understand why the GOP is so intent in ripping healthcare away from millions of people? And coming up with bills that every healthcare organization say will cost Americans more or not give enough coverage and put peoples finances or lives on the lines. I am ashamed of my country and this bill is a disaster like the last bills proposed by the GOP. STOP making this a partisan issue and get something done that will fix the faults of the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Laura Rodil

San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Fast [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strike this down

I urge all senators to vote against this, it is unconscionable to consider preexisting conditions and to allow medical costs for patients to skyrocket.

Also to treat pregnancy as it is in this bill would cost families an outrageous amount.

This bill basically uninsured Americans at a huge cost.

Fix the ACA, strike this down.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our care

Please vote no on this abysmal failure of a bill. Without the protections of the ACA, my entire family would be rendered uninsurable by one son with Down syndrome.

Judi Hayes
Orlando, Florida.
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Death Bill

I am totally disgusted with the unprofessional, haphazard way that healthcare is being dealt with by Senate Republicans. This bill is nothing short of a disaster for Americans, especially those who have recently obtained insurance through the Affordable Care Act. It is becoming increasingly difficult to believe that in the America I knew and loved, that politicians play political football with the lives of our citizens. If you want to produce a good healthcare bill, do it, but this is not it. You can and should do better. If fixing the ACA is a path to solving problems, do it. Just don't ask us to fall for this pathetic excuse for healthcare that will throw millions of citizens off of healthcare.

Have you ever had a sick child? I have. My son, Adam, died at the age of 18 after battling severe heart and vascular disease all of his life. I have fought with insurance corruption until I could hardly breathe from the stress. I have had a hospital threaten to put a lien on my home when Medicaid and insurance couldn't agree on who was to pay the bill and experienced my husband being fired from a job when the employer realized that my son's medical expenses would raise insurance rates for the company he worked for. Health insurance should not be associated with one's employer and it should not be different from state to state. Healthcare should be portable so that it works no matter where you live, are transferred to, status of your job, age, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Our humanity must be part of the equation. Do the right thing - - not what you are bribed to do by corporate money. Get Koch money out of politics once and for all - - that will go a long way towards our ability to elect legislators who are not corrupt.

Vote against Graham Cassidy. Stop your lying. We, the people, are not that stupid. We have researched this bill and know that you are lying and misrepresenting the contents of this bill. Shame on you, Senator Graham. I always thought you took the high road. Senator Cassidy is another story.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Berman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: amy edelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance bill

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of the United States of America I fully encourage the Senate to reject this bill for a change to the Affordable Care Act. There has not been enough time for the CBO to determine the costs of this bill. We need to act like a leader in the world and ensure all US citizens affordable access to healthcare Sincerely Amy Edelman, [REDACTED], Bala Cynwyd Pennsylvania 19004

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Bryant [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care act

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health care act. As a physician, I have seen first hand how the Affordable Care Act has immeasurably improved the lives of most of my patients- through access to insurance, coverage for essential preventive health services, and no exclusions for preexisting conditions. Taking this away will spell disaster for millions of Americans, not to mention cause many deaths. The proposed "replacement" for the ACA will lead to millions of people being left uninsured, and no guarantee for coverage or for preexisting conditions.

There are definitely flaws with the ACA, but these should be addressed and fixed through a bipartisan effort. Ramming through an unpopular health law is exactly what Republicans accused Dems of doing 7 years ago- yet by comparison, the Dems' process was incredibly inclusive, and had the support of all the major health organizations. This bill does none of that, and should be allowed to rest.

Sincerely,

Amy Bryant, MD, MSCR
Durham, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Stossel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

To the Senate,

Do not pass the GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL.

It is a terrible bill and recognized by many Republicans as such.

When you deprive people of health care, you create a nation of sick people. It also impacts on the workforce and it is a public health problem. As the world's greatest democracy, it counters everything we stand for as Americans. Whether for selfish or humane reasons, DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS BILL.

J. Stossel,
Brooklyn, NY I

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing Comments

To whom it may concern:

All American need quality healthcare and comprehensive insurance is the only way to guarantee access to care. Because of this I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

In early 2010, my husband an active, seemingly healthy, father to two young sons, and job creator for our economy (he founded a company that now employs more than 300 people) was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer (stage 4). He needed emergency surgery and spent three weeks in the hospital. That surgery and hospital care incurred costs of more than \$300,000. At the time, I thought we had good insurance - though the deductibles were very high (\$10,000). After a second surgery that year (with two weeks in the ICU) and life prolonging chemotherapy later that year, I realized with a panic that we were within months of exceeding our lifetime max - with the result that we would have to choose between keeping our home or treating my husband's cancer. Passage of the ACA lifted that burden by eliminating the lifetime maximums so commonly a part of health insurance plans. The treatment we were then able to continue meant that my boys had three more years with their father - long enough that they were old enough when he died that they will at least remember their dad. Moreover, his health crisis and subsequent death did not subject them to the added burden of living with housing or food insecurity. All Americans should have this benefit and there should be no question of whether health plans will cover pre-existing conditions, have lifetime caps, or in fact if all Americans will be able to afford quality healthcare and health insurance.

It is unconscionable and shameful that we as a country can't figure out how to care for all of our citizens. I strongly urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill and work towards a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve and strengthen the ACA.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Smith
San Mateo, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esti [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham Cassidy

This bill can not pass otherwise people like me will be left without healthcare since I am both a woman and have a pre-existing condition. Don't push through something so hurtful.

Elise Goldman

Sent from my iPad by Esti Goldman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Yudell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass Graham-Cassidy

As a long-term cancer survivor, as a public health expert, and as a someone who loves this country and all of its citizens, Graham-Cassidy could threaten my life (I have a preexisting condition) and will threaten the public's health (but making health care more expensive and by harming the insurance market).

Please find a bipartisan solution any of the shortcomings of the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,
Michael Yudell
Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I do not support the Graham Cassidy Health care bill

I am a person with a developmental disability and I am very concerned that the Graham Cassidy bill on healthcare as it exists will not meet my healthcare needs. I am concerned about the coverage for people with pre-existing health issues, the cost of getting health care, and that this bill will create a bigger gap between those of us who have pre-existing health needs and those who do not. Will I be able to get the care I need at a price that I can afford?

We have the most inefficient and the most expensive healthcare system in the world and we continue to struggle with how to provide health care to all Americans. Perhaps a single payer system that exists in most countries is the most efficient. Have you seriously studied and considered other systems of healthcare? I would like to see an efficient and affordable system of health care in this country that is available to all.

I am not in favor of the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Stephen Schumacher

[REDACTED]
Reno, NV 89511
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Bryant [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: the Graham-Cassidy atrocity

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is cruel and will add undue hardships to the lives of American's struggling the hardest to remain financially stable. I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It is time for America to grow up and act like an adult on the subject of healthcare in this country. Be the adults in the room.

David Bryant
[REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97223

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Nicole Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

I have several pre-existing conditions which I have under control because of my current health insurance coverage. Please understand that if I have have a life changing event and have to switch insurance companies and my treatments are not covered I could get very ill and potentially end my livelihood and end up on disability. I would much rather work and earn my living.

Thank you,

Nicole Harris
North Chesterfield, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mercedes Rosa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 11:57 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Greetings:

My name is Mercedes Rosa and am a parent of two children with special health care need. I am very concerned that the passage of the bill will result in decreasing access and quality services that my children rely on to lead fully integrated lives.

This bill is deplorable in every way and I would like all representative to vote NO and continue to work in a bipartisan way to develop an acceptable bill that considers the most vulnerable populations and will not result in loss of coverage for anyone.

Sad this is an assault on the poor and disabled!

Best Regards,

Mercedes Rosa

Speak Up! Take Action! Create Change!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Weber [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against the Graham Cassidy bill

I am deeply opposed to this bill and the lack of transparency in how it was crafted. Health care is too important to be devised behind closed doors with the sole intention of repealing Obamacare to appease the minority of citizens who oppose it. This bill does nothing to expand healthcare services or quality and in fact, appears to do the opposite. Of course if we had the CBO study results we would know more, but the Republicans are so desperate to pass a bill, any bill, that they refuse to wait for the analysis of costs and benefits.

Please remember that the Affordable Health Care bill was a conservative idea devised by the Heritage Foundation and passed in Massachusetts under Governor Romney. If this bill had been passed by President Bush instead of President Obama, the Republicans would love it. It's become solely a political battle due to hatred of Obama and with the impact on average Americans an afterthought.

Please do your job as our nation's top deliberative body and work on this in a public and bipartisan manner. Our lives depend on it.

Thank you,

Mary Weber

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tatiana Kouguell-Hoell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No to Graham- Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

It's vital to vote no to the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill. It's important that the central components of ObamaCare will not be undone by the new health care bill proposed. This will cut Medicaid, and leave millions of people uninsured. We need to keep ObamaCare and not try to repeal or replace it with a bill that will only benefit insurance companies, not people trying to pay their medical bills. I have Chronic Lyme disease which requires medications that are only covered by ObamaCare and will not be covered under the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill. In the past when I have not received the proper medications, I was unable to walk due to inflammation and excruciating pain and I relied on the use of a wheelchair. I am a 21- year old college student, I have dreams of becoming a writer- I refuse to write from a wheelchair the rest of my life. Millions of people have stories like mine and I ask you to consider us when voting today.

Thank you,

Tatiana Kouguell-Hoell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rev. Duchess Dale [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hear our pleas, please

Good morning, I am unable to be there in person.

Please except this email requesting you to stop the Graham – Cassidy bill and revisit an alternate plan that will support our Americans.

Not only am I a minister who knows a congregation of people that rely on healthcare in their senior years, I am the wife of a Vietnam vet. Currently, what this bill is proposing will do grievous harm to many.

Thank you for hearing my plea. Godspeed.

Blessings,

Rev. Duchess Dale

Musings. Sent from my iPad often w/o spell checking. ☺

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy or Larry Saltz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep Obamacare

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.

Sincerely, Kathleen Dier

Kirkland, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Ebacher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill does not represent an improvement over the ACA. It would not provide insurance or better health care to more Americans - quite the contrary. The bill is not representative of the spirit of democracy that distinguishes us as a nation and a people. We must provide equal opportunity to all and this bill does the opposite by taking away the benefit of health insurance and health care for our most vulnerable - the poor and the elderly. We must do better. We can do better. No to Graham-Cassidy.

Colleen Ebacher
Monkton, MD 21111

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eternallyhounded [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Linda Luster
Midlothian VA

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Santandrea [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Scott, Shannon, Eliza and Violet Santandrea San Jose CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eustacia Vye [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Melissa Kaplan
Medford, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Mark Sedway
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of the ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions, affordability, etc. are very much a concern of mine.

I am not poor. I would fall into the struggling middle class. I pay out of pocket for my insurance. I have a husband who is dying from Frontal Temporal Lobe dementia. I have had breast cancer, kidney issues because of a deformed ureter (birth defect). I work and am a full time caregiver for my husband. Not only is this not a christian bill it is evil.

For 9 years we heard about but never saw a better plan. Not once. Now you are willing to let not only the poor but children and yes the middle class die. Speaking personally I do not have an option to pay more for insurance. It will not be a choice (no matter what you say).

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. That is what we need! Even Obama knew it was not perfect.

Sincerely,

Christine Griffiths
Snohomish, WA

Note: Graham-Cassidy appears to be a last-ditch effort to repeal the ACA. After September 30, 2017, the Senate will need 60 votes to repeal it, not 51. Their urgency is real. Use your voice today. Copy and paste the template above into a new email and be heard.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Aronchick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

[Your name]
[City, State]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Goodman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

As a U.S. citizen who believes in the democratic process, I write to express my conviction that any bill that affects 1/6th of the U.S. economy should only be voted on by the Senate after *thorough* consideration, debate, and the “regular order” that Senator McCain is calling for. The Graham-Cassidy bill not only impacts 1/6th of the U.S. economy but also tens of millions of American lives. The attempt to rush it to a vote without proper vetting and debate makes a mockery of our democracy, and a mockery of our lives. You are elected by voters, not by the donor class. Pay heed to the massive opposition to this bill — which includes not only the vast majority of Americans but also virtually every organizational stakeholder in the U.S. healthcare system — and commit to engaging in the arduous bipartisan process of solving problems for your constituents, as you were elected to do.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy bill VOTE NO

Know what? The extra money you allocated to the military complex (already run by mobsters with mansions) would cover the costs you jerks claim you don't have the money for.

Anyone voting "yes" needs to sell their mansions and move the hell to Russia...in a canoe. Yo

Lauren R. #American

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Lechner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I am one of those millions of people who had no health insurance for years due to a pre-existing condition. In my case it was a genetic anomaly making me susceptible to developing liver disease. I do not have liver disease, but for seven years I could not afford to go to a doctor - neither for preventive care nor for another painful illness that I suffered with for two years. The ACA enabled me to get insurance coverage and I was able to get preventive care and establish a relationship with a primary care provider in the year before I finally qualified for Medicare.

My son has a number of pre-existing conditions. He is self-employed, a father of two, and has a business that provides work for a half dozen other people. If he becomes unable to afford insurance and medication he will become disabled and will probably die a premature death. The effect of that would not only be a tragedy but would end up costing the government more money in the long run in loss of taxes, and lower productivity of those he helps and of his children. This is just one tiny story among the tens of millions of stories I hope you will hear.

This bill, as you must know yourselves, is morally bankrupt and only exists as a form of revenge. Be bigger than petty partisanship. Defeat this terrible bill.

Thank you,
Sarah Lechner

--

The sincerely credulous are perfect suckers...

- Kurt Andersen (in How America Lost its Mind, The Atlantic)

By the time of Andrew Jackson's presidency... [h]ow could belief in freedom as a universal human right be reconciled with the exclusion of blacks from liberty in the South and the rights of free men in the North, and of women from political participation and the opportunities of free labor? As democracy triumphed, the intellectual grounds for exclusion shifted from economic dependency to natural incapacity. A boundary drawn by nature itself was not really exclusion at all. Of course, as John Stuart Mill once asked, "was there ever any domination which did not appear natural to those who possessed it?"

Eric Foner (in The Story of American Freedom)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: barbara obrien [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP Cassidy-Graham

Cassidy-Graham MUST be STOPPED! I have too many family members and friends as well as myself who have relied on Medicare for it to ever be reduced or heaven forbid eliminated! After my mother broke her leg at age 83 and was released from the hospital she went to rehab for 3 months until she could walk again. There is no way my working class parents could have paid for this despite the fact that they both worked hard their entire lives, raised their kids and a couple extra, lived frugally, saved their money - it was not possible to save enough money to cover the costs of such a catastrophic injury.

Same with Medicaid! My friend's granddaughter was born severely brain damaged. Medicaid is keeping her in an excellent care facility where she will need to live for however long she stays alive. She will not be able to stay there when Medicaid is cut and again - there is no way her single mom can pay for this care. She will have to be made a ward of the state and go into state care.

The stories go on&on - I could easily write a book of examples I personally know.
STOP THIS BILL!!

Barbara O'Brien
[REDACTED]
Palmyra, VA 22963

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Kahn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: KEEP ACA all people need health care

I am a breast cancer survivor. Having affordable health care is crucial to me and my piece of mind as I grow older. I am concerned about the changes to health care if the ACA bill is repealed.

The Graham Cassidy bill is NOT what American citizens need for adequate health care.

Elizabeth Kahn
New Orleans, LA
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christy Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

I have a niece with Down Syndrome and a nephew with Cerebral Palsy / seizure disorder. They cannot afford to lose access to care or services. I am terrified for them if Graham-Cassidy-Heller passes.

Christy Ward
South Dakota

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Hubbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy/Improve ACA

My sister relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. She does not work because she cares for my elderly parents. She went for several years without healthcare, but because of ACA she can now get quality healthcare at an affordable rate. What our country NEEDS is a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please do not pass a poorly thought out & potentially harmful bill just to say "we repealed ACA", this is the wrong reason. Work together to make ACA work better.

I am a nurse and the importance of healthcare is a priority for me. Please do the right thing!

Sincerely, Jane B Hubbell

Davidson, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: philomena Nana [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Mina Anyangwe
Bowie,md

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Taylor Richier [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Taylor Richier
Naperville, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cristina [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a senior citizen and a former registered nurse. Many of my senior friends over the years have developed serious debilitating diseases, diseases that will get progressively worse. These friends are all recipients of Medicaid and without these precious resources they would be unable to receive the care they need.

I know and have cared for children with disabilities that rely on Medicaid. I know folks who are mentally ill and require Medicaid funds for their medical and psychological care and medications.

The suggestion that block grants would be provided to the states and caps imposed brings fear to all these people. The message they have expressed is at they have no value as human beings, and worse, they are freeloaders. When children and others require surgeries, numerous surgeries, monies for their care will easily be exhausted. In states that have limited resources, how will the plan work? In states not having a good track care for caring for the mentally ill, who will provide needed resources.

Cassidy and Price and others who have a medical background should be acutely aware that medical and psychological care are necessary for a good quality of life. As a former registered nurse, I have seen over and over again the graft and dealings that occurs between the medical profession and pharmaceutical companies, shameful behavior that jeopardize patient care.

Bottom line, what big business will profit from passage of this bill? Most medical and hospital associations are against this bill. Please do not allow Graham-Cassidy to be passed. A better plan would be to work, to work hard, to repair flawed portions of the ACA. Citizens of the United States that have no financial resources of their own need help to care for their medical and psychological needs. There is more than enough money in this country to help its citizens in need.

The battle cry for this and similar bills is one of "conservatism" and slashing "fat" from the government.

Our Congress needs to do serious soul searching and rather than take away financial resources from those in need, it should look at the waste in their own offices, in their own pet projects and in the money used to support lobbyists... that is real waste in these places, the terms conservatism and cutting the fat should begin in these areas which only fill the pockets of a few and deprives monies to so many citizens who are not looking for a hand out , but rather look to be treated with dignity and respect.

Respectfully,
Cristina McCoy
San Antonio, Texas

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Gruber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Scott Gruber
Los Angeles, California 90026

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rohit Vakil [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Nikki_hurt@markey.senate
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a physician in Worcester, Mass. and I strongly oppose the pending Graham-cassidy Bill and I urge you join me in opposing this bill in the senate.

Sincerely

Rohit Vakil M.D.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators: Please do not rush this bill through the Senate without time for examination, debate, or the CBO score. What we need is a bipartisan effort to revitalize the ACA exchanges, to improve the system in place. Many hospitals and medical providers are against this Graham-Cassidy bill. Please do not pass it.
Thank you for considering my opinion,

Nancy F. Wilkinson
Everett, WA 98204

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: KILL THE BILL

The American public you serve wants you to stop trying to kill Obamacare. We all agree that Obamacare has issues that must be fixed. Any major law must be adjusted thru time to ensure it serves the needs of the public. Stop trying to serve only the small Republican base. You do not work for them only, but for the whole country. We demand you work together with the Democrats to serve all!

M E Martinez

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: taco [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

From:

Jeffrey Edgar Snelson

[REDACTED]
Grottoes, VA. 24441

I am totally opposed to this Graham/Cassidy act bill. This bill is not a repeal and replace. It is only a repeal, and will do nothing to help

the people of this country who need help the most. Rather, it will hurt the poor working people who need affordable healthcare the most.

The only people who will be helped are the wealthy, and they don't need any help, as they are doing quite well already.

If this bill is allowed to pass many people, myself included, won't be able to afford health insurance, or healthcare. Healthcare should be

a basic right for ALL people, not just the wealthy. A single payer healthcare system, similar to Medicaid, would be best for the citizens

of this country. We will never have progress towards solving out nations healthcare problems as long as our government system remains

broken, as it is now. One side fighting against, and opposing anything that the other side tries to do. Bipartisan cooperation to work

together towards solving the healthcare mess, and many other problems facing our great nation, is the only real solution.

I urge all involved in this, to vote NO on the Graham/Cassidy act bill. Repeal of the ACA, without a real, workable replacement, will only

make things worse for the poor, and common working class people of this country. After voting no on this bill, I also urge all involved,

to work together, without partisan politics getting in the way, to fix healthcare, and the other serious problem facing this country today.

PLEASE, think about the many poor working people in this country, and cast your NO vote on this bill. There is nothing in this bill that

I can see, that will help anybody who needs affordable healthcare. All this partisan fighting over this, and other things is not only

ridiculous, it's shameful, and is a reproach on this country. I also hope the people, the voters, can see that a change of power

balance from one party to another doesn't necessarily bring good change, and can bring much harm. I hope that we, the voters in

this country, will remember those trying to pass this bill, when the votes are cast in the upcoming election cycles.

I thank you for your conscientious vote on this upcoming bill.

Jeffrey Edgar Snelson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Yahoo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy bill.

As a United States citizen, I have always been proud to call the USA home. This year it has become increasingly difficult to wake up every day to such uncertainty due to the infighting and egos of 100 people that I am not even sure understand what it's like to be a good citizen. I have no problem helping my fellow citizens when they need it. And right now, many Americans are suffering due to the back and forth from the senate. This bill would create even more uncertainty in the insurance markets and cause a "Wild West" situation, where hospitals (for example) would have to decide to help a heart attack patient in the throes of an arrest, but who doesn't have the money or coverage to pay for emergency care, or that person who just needs a dose of tamiflu and some rest, because they have the cash in hand to pay for the hospital bed, and the hospital needs to find a way to keep the lights on while a shell shocked and underfunded state government decides on how to administer the block grant that they have been so hastily given. Healthier people would have no incentive to buy insurance, and that would cause insurance companies to almost assuredly be unable to stabilize their rates. Think back if you will, to before we had automobile insurance. I'm sure that when the government began to implement a system in which one was to at least carry liability insurance or be fined, many people balked at such an idea. The price of auto insurance was higher at first, but as more and more people started purchasing insurance in order to avoid the penalty, the market stabilized, and the rates went down. The ACA runs on the same basic principle, and if allowed to at least continue with that provision, I'm positive we would see results. The issue is and always will be getting people to accept the change. When was the last time you heard someone complain about having auto insurance due to the fact that there was a penalty involved for not having it? Exactly. Most people now a days don't even think about the potential penalty and just pay for the insurance because it's figured into the cost of owning a vehicle. Instead of focusing on repeal and replace, how about the senators work together to find long term solutions that would use these funds and other tax funds to get hospitals and insurance companies back in the black? We should be focusing our efforts on trying to get the most people on paid insurance plans before the federal money runs out. That way you wouldn't have to worry about finding funds to continue to help make up the difference because the people's rates would go down. You are wasting time that is vital to getting the market stabilized by squabbling over repeal and replace without having a viable solution. If the government had done a better job explaining the way insurance markets work to the American people in the first place, I'm sure we would have had way more people signed up to paid insurance plans now, and you would have happier constituents, insurance markets, and health systems. Thank you for your consideration of my comments and I hope that you can come to a bipartisan consensus with regular order soon.

Sincerely
Stephanie Alanis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shirley Nelsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 PM
To: .gchcomments
Subject: proposed ACA bill

I am concerned that more and more citizens will be denied health care. There are many flaws in this bill, which might have been resolved if the committees could have been bipartisan. I am afraid this bill will hurt your constituents. You may be out of office by then but there are so many flaws in this bill, and especially the pre-existing conditions language. Please vote no. Think of the citizens, their health, and think of the predicted future cost of this bill to all of us. Try not to think of only our party. This is too important to let politics influence your vote.

Shirley Nelsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashby Gurgon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO

Hello,

I am a mother of four from Indiana. I am writing to ask you to please vote "No" on Graham/Cassidy. This country is supposed to be by the people and for the people. Passing this would kill many. We have to do better, please help your people by voting, "no."

Thank you,

Ashby Gurgon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Odgren [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Drop the GC Healthcare Bill

It will hurt so many people. Senators Graham and Cassidy should be ashamed. No control on insurers, increases premiums for prior conditions ; and most of all, no CBO score. Use your fiscal responsibility responsibly.
Ruth Odgren

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Digital Left [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I strongly oppose a congressionally-mandated block grant of federal Medicaid spending, which would shift costs and risks to states. Such a cost shift would severely undercut our ability to provide health care to our residents and adequately pay providers.

A Medicaid block grant imposed unilaterally by Congress on all states that would cap the federal government's share of costs and provide annual funding below the projected growth of program costs is simply unacceptable. The inadequacy of funding would grow over time and would be exacerbated by unanticipated increases in health care costs or enrollment. The costs of population increases, aging populations, economic downturns, natural disasters, new diseases or epidemics would all be shouldered by states.

States would be forced to bear all costs after hitting the annual cap just as the 'baby boom' generation is entering their retirement years with a likely steep increase in their health care and long term care costs over the next few decades. The ensuing funding shortfall would leave states with an untenable choice between increasing taxes, cutting other state programs, or cutting eligibility, benefits, or provider payments.

Consequently, we shall encourage the states, health providers, and those receiving health services from the program to rise up in unison and oppose the federal imposition of Medicaid block grants.

Any good con has three parts: the mark—the one who is conned; the take—what the con man gets; and the fake, the illusion or purposely distortion of reality. The bigger the take, the more marks conned, and the grander the fake, the bigger is the con. We will not be conned out of our health care, nor our fellow US citizens.

Sincerely,
Amanda Robertson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:55 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 will strip Medicaid from the poor, elderly in Nursing homes, disabled children, woman, and must not pass! The Senate needs to write a bill that protects those with preexisting conditions and cover essential care not those stripped down bill.

Why are we the only industrialized nation without universal health care??

Senator Cassidy, I am shocked that you would put your name on a terrible, uncaring bill like this.

You need to follow the rule of law and write a bill that is good for all Americans and not give the rich another tax break.

Susan Rice

19060
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Cleto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear 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.

Sara Cleto
Columbus, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Crowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The latest attempt to force a health bill through.

Gentlemen,

I find it very amusing, this United States, a country, a wealthy country, is unable to do what is right for the population.

I am not a person of wealth, I have a debilitating disease in both of my hands. Some years ago I went to the local hand specialist, I was told it would cost me twenty some thousand dollars to have the surgery required to correct the issue. I would not have the use of the hands for six or so weeks.

My daughter lives in France, I looked on the internet net to see how this issue is dealt with in Europe, as it is a common issue there. In Paris, I found a doctor who I visited, it took her thirty minutes to correct the issue, the cost, one hundred twenty dollars.

God, what is WRONG WITH AMERICA???? All human needs should not be handled by the private enterprise sector! Does our Federal Government not have a responsibility to the population which it governs???

Health care should be, must be, a mandated single payer system!!!

But, oh God, we are FREE here in America to choose to be unhealthy. We bristle at any attempt for our government to suggest we should conduct our lives in a manner beneficial to healthy living. Is it no wonder health care is such a huge problem??

Best regards,
Terry Crowell

PS: 78 years old, mows properties to supplement his SS, works as an ice skate guard twice a week, three hour sessions. I am active and healthy, it is my choice, and I work hard to remain healthy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nathan Peel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Nathan Peel
Lehi, UT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave's Gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Proposal

To whom it may concern,

As a father and a son, I oppose passage to the Bill proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy. I am concerned that a bill opposed by experts in the American Medical Association, American Diabetes Assn, AARP, senior executives in insurance companies and many other reputable experts would be considered as a replacement for the ACA.

I, along with millions of Americans, seek to have affordable quality healthcare available to all Americans regardless of their wealth. I fear I might have a pre-existing condition some day that forces me to leave my state to get quality medical attention. I do not support lifetime caps, and this bill does not protect against those.

I worry my daughters may not get proper maternity and pre-natal care. I worry someday I will lose my job and my family will lose quality healthcare.

Please vote this bill down and work to build a healthcare system worthy of American pride.

Best regards,

Dave Anderson
Austin, TX 78747
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Kaser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am extremely concerned about the future of my health care coverage and am against the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Two years ago, I left a 20 year career in teaching (with full health insurance benefits) to join my family's farm as a full time employee. The Affordable Care Act allowed me to make this change. Because of my change in income, I was eligible for the subsidy provided by the ACA. As a result, our small business was able to help pay for our insurance coverage and that of our foreman.

Just recently, my husband had a life-threatening emergency that took us to the emergency room and put him in the hospital overnight. Because we are able to afford our insurance coverage, we will be able to pay for the care that he received. Please, please, consider keeping the ACA intact and working within the current law to fix the problems.

The only way to fix this is through bipartisan cooperation, NOT repealing the ACA. When I was a teacher, I took my lessons and continually tweaked them and refined them year after year until they became what I thought they should be. That's how I became a better teacher. If I were to throw them out every year, there would be no chance for me to improve. You need to look at the ACA in the same way - a starting point that needs to be tweaked and refined until you get it right. If you see starting over as the only solution - there will always be problems. People are tired of being afraid of losing their health care. Health is not a political issue - please take the higher ground and agree to work together on the system that is already in place and is helping so many people afford their insurance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Kaser
The Dalles, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Zukowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

Please let this be recorded that I am vehemently opposed to the proposed bill that will strip health coverage from Millions of Americans, make it unaffordable for many people that had only recently been able to buy coverage under Obama care at a reasonable rate, and discriminates in trying to buy the votes of the Alaska and Hawaii senators by exempting them from the requirements. The congress as a whole seems to have a very poor and rudimentary understanding of insurance and risk. The root cause of the problem is no controls such as are found under Medicare, or in the Maryland DRG law that helps to even the playing field.

As a personal anecdote, seeing my sister in debt due to two emergency visits and an emergency hysterectomy from which she almost died all because she could not afford to buy insurance as a self employed small business owner.

A bipartisan effort to fix what is in place and adequately fund the risk adjustment mechanisms in the current law would go much further in stabilizing the market

Susan Zukowski
Registered Independent voter in Massachusetts

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Rankovic [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass the Graham bill...

Because Congress hasn't given it time or thought and that's not the way to run a country or make policy.

Don't pass what you don't understand and that can harm Americans!

Catherine Rankovic

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tonya Osinkosky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am lucky to have health insurance through full-time work now, but in the years that I had to piece jobs together, I relied on the ACA to be able to go to the doctor and get prescription medication. My sister is just healing from Lyme's Disease, and ACA was a lifesaver for her. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Tonya Osinkosky
Richmond, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sean Linsley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Sean Linsley
Dallas, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My story

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I will tell my story again because it is imperative that you understand. We are just people. We grow and study and work and participate in our community. We participate in our society, whether paying taxes or putting out fires.

We also happen to have a genetic pre-disposition to cancer. My dad died when he was only 47. When my younger sister got her genetic test more than a decade ago, she went to a private doctor and did not use her health insurance and did not want anyone to know the results. Because she knew this day would....might come and that she did not want to risk her ability to get insurance. My brother got the cancer and they removed his entire intestine and he is surviving.

I got my first cancer 5 years ago. I had JUST lost my job and my daughter was in college and I had made the decision to keep her in school and pay her tuition rather than go on COBRA, as I could not afford both. So I had no insurance when I started feeling the pain in my gut. I changed my diet to no avail. I finally could not stand the pain and went to my gyn. He looked me over -- for free-- and told me what he thought. I tried to confirm it through an MRI I paid for out of pocket (\$895). The results were indeterminate, but suggestive that I have surgery and remove whatever it was.

My gyn would do it, but recognized that if it was cancer, I'd better have an oncologist.

Finally the ACA kicked in and I got coverage and 9 months after my first trip to the doctor (and more than \$1000 in out of pocket expenses despite the fact that my doctor did everything for free, bless him forever) I was able to see an oncologist.

My golf ball sized tumor grew into a grapefruit in that time. By the time they removed my ovaries and uterus, I had ovarian and endometrial cancers (stage 2). I had a great doctor, thanks to ACA, and had chemo and survived (but with a colorectal cancer two years later (that's two years ago)0. So I am back to working and paying taxes, but still have no insurance from my job, which barely pays my meager bills. I live simply, and I want to keep living.

If you take ACA away, you will, in short time, take away my life, and the life of my nieces and nephews, at least some of them, who will have the same gene. We have this amazing situation where the cancer that killed my dad in 1982 can be cured now. Why do you want to take that cure away from people? Why are you trying so hard to write a death sentence for me and so many other Americans who need and DESERVE medical care?

I'm sure you read (if you read these) many stories of people like me. I don't claim to be unique and I do not want to be unique. None of us should be. I don't want to be exceptional. I just want access to the medical care that will keep me alive, and happy, and productive.

Stop trying to end ACA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Myler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill
Attachments: Senate Committee on Finance Testimony.docx

Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Senator Wyden, I have attached my testimony for the consideration of the Senate Finance Committee.

Thanks,
Denise Myler
Disabled Advocate

[REDACTED]
Ammon, Idaho 83406

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sjselzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please, please, please focus on bipartisan solutions that will increase coverage, lower costs and improve care.
Graham/Cassidy is not the answer!

Sincerely,
Sandra Selzer
Colorado

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rene Suarez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy corporate tax breaks.

Finance Committee,

I understand, the newest version of Trumpcare —known as Graham-Cassidy—has hidden it a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject any bill giving tax breaks to corporations. It's time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future.

Rene Suarez
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Buena Park, California 90620-3008

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marygolsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Current health care option

Please vote against the new bill to repeal and replace the current health care option. My family depends on the terms of the current options and I fear for their safety if it is repealed. Mary Olsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jghiretire [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My story.

I am a 62 y.o. woman. I'm a type 2 diabetic, I've had atrial fibrillation, a heart attack and I have sleep apnea. Currently I'm on expanded Medicaid. (Thank you Washington State).
I will die if I lose my healthcare. I have a few pre-existing conditions.
I take 8 or 9 medications daily.
I'm not sure I could work a full time job, even if employers did offer healthcare. Or would even hire me. I might be able to work part-time but I probably wouldn't qualify for any subsidies and would be ineligible for Medicaid. I volunteer as much as I can to help any way I can.
I find it sad that I and millions like me, will die because the Republicans vote party over people. People like me matter.

Thank you.

Susan Hamilton

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elaine Lawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I am writing to urge defeat of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare disaster of a bill. The ONLY reason I have insurance coverage is because of the ACA! I am 63 and years away from Medicare....if it still exists when I am eligible!

Again. Like millions and millions of other Americans...stop this bill! Please!

Thank you.

Sarah Lawson

Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Quiroz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with autoimmune disease as pre-existing condition has been a long term adult struggle that I could not have overcome without adequate affordable health care. I give fully to society as a full time employee now as a middle aged adult because of restored health.

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

Sincerely,

Helen Quiroz
Northridge, CA.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Orange Hoodie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill

Dear Finance Committee:

There is absolutely no reason to vote for the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. This bill should not move forward in anyway as it threatens the health of the entire nation, which will have enormous costs socially, politically, and economically. I will activately work to make sure that anyone who helps move this bill forward is never elected again. A vote for the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill is a vote against the health and we'll being of all Americans, and is simply unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Navarre Oaks
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat Fisher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

VOTE NO ON THE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Benner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have a pre-existing condition due to an aortic valve defect which resulted in a valve replacement surgery. in 2008 This surgery may have to be repeated to keep me alive and leading a normal life.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Benner

Alexandria, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rubita [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare <3

Hello,

My name is Heather and I live in Manassas, Virginia. I just wanted to tell a story about what the ACA has done for me. Approximately five years ago, I became homeless. At the time, I made about \$32K a year. In the DC area, that's simply not enough for two people to live on. I had one income to support myself and my boyfriend (who is disabled but was not receiving any benefits at that time) and simply not enough money to pay for his medical care, my rent, my utilities, and my car. All my boyfriend's medical needs as well as food and clothing came out of my paychecks. Any one hardship, such as hospital visits, automotive breakdowns, or family emergencies (my grandmother being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and needing to be moved out to West Virginia with my mother was the big one during this time period), was enough to devastate us, financially. Eventually, the number hardships mounted and I had to make the hard choice to give up our home and move into my car.

We remained homeless for just over two years before a friend was able to give us a leg up and charge us a very low rent to live in her basement. From there, I was able to begin saving money again and we found a home to rent, closer to my workplace. Shortly thereafter, the Social Security administration finally agreed that my boyfriend (who suffers from PTSD, Panic Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, and Anxiety Disorder, among others) is, in fact, disabled and he began receiving social security disability as well as Medicaid.

Since then, we have remained in stable housing and have been keeping up with our bills. The car we were once living in broke down for good early in 2017 and I was able to finance a newer car. A big part of our continued success has been two things:

1- When my boyfriend needs to go to the doctor, he is covered under Medicaid. He doesn't abuse his benefits. He has gone to the hospital exactly one time since becoming eligible for Medicaid, for pneumonia. If he were ineligible for Medicaid (as so many in Virginia are), that one hospital visit might have cost enough to devastate us once again, forcing us back onto the street. Cutting Medicaid would be a disaster for us. Medicaid helps protect my boyfriend from both the foreseeable (his panic and anxiety attacks) and the unforeseen (like pneumonia).

2- Under the ACA, my health insurance is required to provide one of every type of birth control at no charge to me. As you might imagine, I had absolutely no desire to become pregnant while I was homeless, so I purchased birth control pills. After some time, my doctor determined that the pills were causing a dangerous rise in my blood pressure and recommended that I switch to an IUD. By that time, my plan had finally become compliant with the ACA and I was able to get an IUD and have it placed for only the cost of my copay. Paying for an IUD out-of-pocket would have been financially devastating, as would be the alternative of doing without and risking pregnancy. The ACA has allowed me to continue to stay homed and working. I'm still able to save a bit of money and, hopefully, I can reach a point where I own my own home and feel secure enough to start a family, responsibly.

I'm hoping my story makes a difference in Monday's hearing and any future hearings on this subject. Behind me, there are countless others who benefit from the system as it exists right now: My friend, who owns her own business got her first-ever insurance plan through the healthcare exchange; my mother, who turned 65 this year and is using her Medicare plan to finally find out why she went blind in one eye late last year; my cousin, who purchased a plan on the healthcare exchange that doesn't punish them for having the pre-existing condition of cancer-causing HPV; and on and on. These are good people, deserving of life and the opportunity to live, work, and care for others. Thank you for not taking away their access to healthcare. Thank you for reading.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Elliott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal Plan

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the Graham—Cassidy bill which would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care.”

This bill is not viable. My family and I urge you to vote no on the upcoming bill and request that there is a bipartisan effort to reform Obamacare, rather than repeal it.

*Laura Elliott
San Rafael, CA 94901*

Many medical groups have spoken against its passage including the following:

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

“The [Graham-Cassidy] bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions. The legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans’ choice of health plans. Legislation must also ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable.”

Planned Parenthood

“The Graham-Cassidy bill is a serious threat to the health care of millions of Americans. This bill is the worst Obamacare repeal bill yet: Millions of Planned Parenthood patients could lose their health care if the Graham-Cassidy bill were to pass — millions more would lose their coverage through Medicaid, and could lose essentials like maternity care and coverage for prescription drugs. Policy on women’s health care should not be written by a small group of male politicians behind closed doors. Enough is enough. With this latest version of Trumpcare, Americans will pay more and get less, but women will pay the biggest price of all.”

Kaiser Permanente

“At Kaiser Permanente, we believe that changes to our nation’s health care laws should increase access to high-quality, affordable care and coverage for as many people as possible. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not meet any of those tests.

“The block grant proposal in the bill would erode coverage of needed medical services and pose major issues for state budgets. Repealing the individual mandate without alternative incentives for enrollment will lead to fewer people enrolled and higher premiums.”

America’s Health Insurance Plans

“[The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal] would have real consequences on consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for preexisting conditions; not ending taxes on health insurance premiums and benefits; and potentially allowing government-controlled, single payer health care to grow.”

American Heart Association and 16 other patient and provider groups

“Affordable, adequate care is *vital* to the patients we represent. This legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health. In fact, much of the proposal just repackages the problematic provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which we opposed. Fortunately, the BCRA was voted down by Congress earlier this year.”

Association of American Medical Colleges

“During the long debate regarding health care reform, the nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals have continually advocated for a number of key principles as fundamental cornerstones of any successful health care system. These principles include offering high-quality, affordable health insurance to all; preserving and fortifying the safety net through Medicaid and other policies; and encouraging innovation in the delivery system, among others.

“The current proposal does not meet these principles and will almost surely lead to dramatic increases in the number of uninsured patients nationwide and put important existing patient protections at risk. Additionally, a proposal like this—a complete overhaul of the health care system—should be fully and adequately examined by the Congressional Budget Office before it is brought to a vote.”

HIV Medicine Association

Senators Cassidy and Graham’s proposal, like the ACA repeal proposals before it, would put the health and lives of tens of thousands of persons living with HIV at risk. We appeal once more to our senators to stop once and for all efforts to repeal the ACA and turn to improving rather than dismantling critical health coverage reforms.

The Alzheimer’s Association and Alzheimer’s Impact Movement

“The proposed changes to Medicaid outlined in the Graham-Cassidy Amendment could have a drastic impact on this vulnerable population given that more than 1 in 4 seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are currently on Medicaid. The Alzheimer’s Association and AIM are also alarmed by the potential impact of this legislation on Americans living with pre-existing conditions, including the 200,000 Americans living with younger-onset Alzheimer’s.”

American Cancer Society

“Our analysis indicates the bill could allow insurers to:

- Charge cancer patients and survivors far higher rates to make coverage unaffordable
- Eliminate coverage for cancer care in their health plans
- Re-institute arbitrary caps on annual and lifetime coverage”

National Association of Medicaid Directors

“Our members are committed to ensuring that the programs we operate improve health outcomes while also being fiscally responsible to state and federal taxpayers. In order to succeed, however, these efforts must be undertaken in a thoughtful, deliberative, and responsible way. We are concerned that this legislation would undermine these efforts in many states and fail to deliver on our collective goal of an improved health care system.”

American Hospital Association

“This proposal would erode key protections for patients and consumers and does nothing to stabilize the insurance market now or in the long term. In addition, the block grant to provide support for the expansion population expires in 2026, thereby eliminating coverage for millions of Americans.

For these reasons, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy plan.”

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

“ACOG condemns the latest effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act by ignoring regular order and rushing the harmful Graham-Cassidy bill to a vote. This latest effort is the most dangerous bill to date, threatening to strip health care from millions of Americans and end Medicaid as we know it.”

Children’s Hospital Association

“The nation’s children’s hospitals stand in strong opposition to the most recent legislative proposal introduced by Sens. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., Bill Cassidy, R-La., Dean Heller, R-Nev., and Ron Johnson, R-Wis. Their legislation would slash funding for **Medicaid**, the nation’s largest health care program for children, by one-third, reducing access and coverage for more than 30 million children in the program.”

Public Health Institute

“The Graham-Cassidy proposal is just as bad as previous versions of ACA repeal—it would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, gut Medicaid funding, weaken current protections for people with pre-existing conditions and make meaningful coverage unaffordable for many.”

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I just had a baby and without insurance that is required by federal law to cover maternal care, my bill would have been nearly \$20,000. Women deserve equal access to the care they need regardless of employment; everyone does. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Kara Knight

St. Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Procter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

**Dr. Atul Gawande's new New Yorker piece:
If the U.S. Senate Adopts the G.O.P.'s Health-Care
Bill,
It Will Be an Act of Mass Suicide [MURDER]!**

--

A.Jo Procter
[REDACTED]
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Judy Humowiecki
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham- Cassidy bill

Passage of this bill would negatively affect hundreds of thousands of people who desperately need to have access to health care. Try to improve the ACA but do not pass this bill which would gut any assistance to those who cannot afford healthcare insurance on the private market. We know this bill would be disastrous to our economy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Macy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am an entrepreneur and I have relied on Obamacare for the last 2 years so that I could afford insurance. Without Obamacare I would probably have to go without.

I do hope that there will be a bi-partisan effort to work out the kinks in Obamacare. I have very high deductibles, and, as everyone knows, the website is a mess. But, it is a way for many Americans to have health care. Now is the time for senators and representatives from all parties work together to provide an efficient, effective and sane health system.

Thank you very much.

Lisa Macy

[REDACTED]
Dunwoody GA 303381
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Onewithcats [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family's healthcare

Hello,
My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.
The Graham-Cassidy bill will destroy lives and cause chaos in the healthcare industry.
I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.
Congress MUST work together as they have done in the past to fix any problems with the ACA so that
Americans can continue to have the good quality, affordable healthcare that we all deserve.
Do not repeal ObamaCare!!

Thank you,
Deborah Beattie & Family

Michigan



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Sigman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment re Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have been helped tremendously by the Affordable Care Act; before that I did not have access to affordable insurance or health care. I am an artist. I am college educated but have a low income because of the nature of my career choice. I was exposed to an occupational hazard through my work and the ACA has allowed me to get the care that I need. With the Graham-Cassidy bill I would not be eligible for care. I cannot afford to pay high premiums out of pocket.

I think it is extremely important that we continue to make health care possible for ALL Americans. We are a developed country with the economic wealth to support the health of our population.

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

Sincerely,

Jill Sigman

New York, NY 10025

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louise Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do NOT support this atrocity. Millions will be thrown off their health insurance; the states cannot manage health care given less money to do so and this bill has not been adequately discussed and vetted in Congress.

Thank you,
Louise Miller
Kent County Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Theresa Lacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham - Cassidy

I'm not entirely sure who the congressional leaders are working for these days. I was under the impression that our elected representatives worked for us - the ordinary American Citizen. However, given the lack of support for this bill from citizens, citizen advisory boards, industry boards.... pretty much everyone who represents the ordinary American Citizen, I sincerely doubt representatives work for us.

It is completely mind-boggling to me that you can represent this bill, with a straight face, as good for America. What in this bill is good for anyone???? Senior citizens will likely have their premiums increased to an *incredible* amount, pre-existing conditions will, once again, be excluded - where most of those pre-existing conditions are in no way the fault of the person (yep, I "caught" cancer said no-one ever).

You should be *ashamed* of yourselves for putting this bill in play. My bet is that most of you don't *even* understand it fully, but will try to ramrod it through.

Bless your little christian heart. I truly hope you get what you deserve when you meet your maker. You'll see a lot of your buddies hanging out with the devil.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Sheire [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Daniel Sheire Statement for Senate Finance Committee hearing on Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: ArloNOGrahamCassidy.jpg

Daniel H Sheire

[REDACTED]
Alexandria, VA 22305

U.S.A

RE: Statement to Senate Finance Committee Hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill, Monday September 25, 2017.

I, Daniel Sheire, am the father of a seven-year-old child with Down syndrome. I obtain our family insurance through the individual market and our son benefits from Medicaid as both our secondary insurance and through services offered to him at his public school.

I would ask Senators on the committee to vote "NO" on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill.

To the Senate Finance Committee:

In 2010, my son Arlo was born with Down syndrome. My initial reaction to the news was a combination of despair and fear. For the first few days, it did not seem possible to keep a thought straight, as there was so much new information to absorb. After two weeks in intensive care, Arlo was handed to us and we were told to go home. Truthfully told, I hoped that one of the nurses would come home and live with us.

The nurse did not come home with us, and we were left on our own, with a loose plan in place to assemble a medical team including a pediatrician, geneticist and cardiologist. In addition to these doctors, Arlo now has an ear, nose and throat specialist as well as an immunologist. In short, Arlo has the very best the state of Virginia has to offer in medical services that I know of and that we can afford.

Doctor visits will increase Arlo's life expectancy. They do not, however, advance Arlo's development in any specific area where he is showing physical and mental delays. The doctors treat medical problems as they arise. Due to their time constraints and number of patients, they cannot give any solid or meaningful advice as what to do about Arlo's specific mental and physical development. In this respect, we are left with the therapists (speech, physical and occupational) who are doing their best for Arlo to live to his full potential.

Arlo's physical therapist is showing us ways to overcome his low muscle tone. His speech therapist is monitoring the way he moves his mouth and tongue and how to encourage him to expand his vocabulary. When he does something new, we discuss it with his therapists. When we find new information online about a new study released, we are able to implement those into his routine instantaneously.

My plan is to work with the programs at our disposal in order for Arlo to live to be as much of a contributing member of the community as possible. Through my research, I am convinced that raising Arlo at home, and learning as much from his doctors and professional therapists is the absolute best thing for him.

With the help of Virginia's Medicaid program, this is exactly what we are doing now and will continue to do as Arlo continues to grow. We have been put on a path that will most certainly lead to Arlo being a more independent and self-sufficient member of society.

Nothing is free, however, and the costs associated with Arlo's care are significant. I've seen our marketplace plan almost double in cost (now over \$1,600/month) and the idea of Medicaid being cut to the degree that is being proposed is absolutely terrifying (one of Arlo's immune treatments is over \$10,000/month). Moving forward with less therapy than he is receiving now would have a detrimental effect on the progress he has made.

I would like to leave you with one thought as told to me by a geneticist whom I asked to speak to when Arlo was born. He told me that there is nothing we could have done about the Down syndrome and that we are not to blame for it. As far as he knows people with Down syndrome have been with us for thousands of years. People with Down syndrome are as natural to this world as any one of us. What has changed, however, is the way society is now dealing with the condition. He told me that we are in the middle of a real awakening. People with Down syndrome are doing more today than ever. He encouraged me to be a part of that awakening and to take Arlo home, and to treat him like any other child. With the proposed cuts to Medicaid, home based services and therapies to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities will surely be cut to make up for the shortfall. Please, please, please do not let that happen. Please vote "NO" on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare bill.

Respectfully yours,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Innes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT pass the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. (With attachment.)
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Bill-Testimony-9-23-2017.doc

I am sending this again, with my statement written as an attachment.

Charlotte Innes

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

From: Charlotte Innes <innes1212@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 23, 2017. at 8:35 PM
Subject: Please do NOT pass the Cassidy-Graham Healthcare Bill!
To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

I think passing the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill would be a disaster. Millions of people would lose coverage. Medicaid would be cut. And allowing the states to decide individually how to use the money is crazy, because of course some states would be kinder than others.

In my own case, I benefited very much under the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare). I was laid off from my teaching job in 2012, and was unable to find another full-time job. I was doing part-time work (several jobs) and after my COBRA health payments ran out, Covered California (the CA program under the ACA) saved me. For half the amount I was paying under COBRA, I was able to get the health care and medications that I needed. And I had a PPO plan with no deductible.

Other than free health care for all--a brilliant idea!--the current ACA is the best plan so far. All the GOP plans have been much more unkind to poor and middle-class people.

All best,
Charlotte Innes

Ms. Charlotte Innes
[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA 90026
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Please do not pass this healthcare bill. It would be disastrous for millions of Americans

Sincerely
Lori Brown
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Archy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

A Sane American
Ny

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leah Greenwald [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment on Graham Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I understand comments are being collected on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Here's mine:

This is a cruel, slapdash piece of legislation being rammed through to keep a cynical political point. It will cause great financial hardship, make many millions lose their health insurance, and only satisfy two groups: the wealthy tax-avoiders whose money makes it possible for the bill's proponents to get elected, and those so ignorant and selfish that they believe their current health makes them bulletproof and they resent paying the penalty for refusing coverage. The fact that an Alaskan bribe is being added to it to get one more vote indicates that its authors know how bad the bill really is.

Also, the speed and secrecy of Graham-Cassidy's review process is simply un-American.

The ACA has imperfections, and its *improvement* should be the subject of discussion by a bipartisan and demographically representative group of legislators taking testimony from a wide range of sources. Graham-Cassidy is a travesty and an insult to Americans.

Leah Greenwald
[REDACTED]
Lexington, MA 02420

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Evenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alleged Health Care

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ACA needs help. Graham-Cassidy is not that help.

My wish would be for it to go down in flames, 95-5 or so. Its death has to be so clear, so complete, that nobody - nobody - could miss the message. We, your constituents, HATE this bill. We hated the BCRA. We hated the Repeal & Replace attempts. The passage and implementation of any of them would kill many of us.

We DO NOT WANT what you are trying to sell. Grassley bleats about "we gotta get to 50 votes." No, you don't. You need to get rid of all these egregiously flawed, improperly prepared so-called proposals. Then you need to grow up and get busy running the government. You have failed miserably so far. Considering you dominate the House, the Senate, and the White House, this is beneath pathetic.

Any health care bill needs to be:

Bipartisan.

Sane.

Comprehensive: that means it covers EVERYTHING.

Universal: that means it covers EVERYBODY.

Affordable for EVERYBODY, if not free.

Not-for-Profit: that's what is killing us now, unlike every other developed nation.

Nothing else is acceptable. You will have neither our support for anything else, nor our votes, if you cannot get this done.

WE are YOUR bosses. We can and will fire you for not doing your job. That is not a threat. That is a promise.

--Lynn Evenson
DFL, Minnesota

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Grossman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of continuing work toward a bipartisan bill such as 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, children and people with disabilities.

Cheryl Grossman
Columbus, OH
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RUTH MCCULLOUGH [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill—NO!!

Stop the Graham-Cassidy bill that would provide states with funding to establish health insurance programs outside ACA protections and mandates, an approach that can force millions off insurance rolls.

You are aware that the bill would significantly cut federal funding for health coverage over the next decade, and the cuts would grow dramatically in 2027, when the bill's temporary block grant (which would replace the ACA's Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies) would expire and its Medicaid per capita cap cuts would become increasingly severe. Cassidy-Graham Block Grant and Medicaid Per Capita Cap Would Cut Federal Funding for All States by 2027.

Shall we talk about pre-existing conditions? How many among us don't have a pre-existing condition the way they're being defined that would causing premiums to skyrocket, making insurance unaffordable?

Why is healthcare for citizens something many other countries can solve and not ours?

This is terrible for the American people. Don't even consider it! Stop the politics around healthcare decisions. Work on bipartisan solutions. Invite in those organizations whose members represent different facets of healthcare. Whatever you do for the country should be exactly what you accept for yourselves and your families. How would *you* be harmed if Graham-Cassidy is signed into law?

Ruth McCullough

[REDACTED]
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mindy S. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I would not be able to afford necessary health care with the current ACA replacement being offered currently. I have friends who could die. Many will go bankrupt. Therefore 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.

Mindy Sampson
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eugene Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Vote No

Dear Senators,

My name is Gene Williams. I am 60 years old and I live in Santa Monica, California. I buy insurance on the market. I pay full price, about \$1,000 per month, and I receive no subsidies. It takes a big chunk, about one-fifth, of my income. But I am happy to pay it because I know that I will not go broke and lose my family's house if I get really sick. I know I will be covered -- that means no caps on benefits and no being denied coverage for a preexisting condition.

Sure, I would like to pay less, but Graham-Cassidy is not the answer. In fact, this insane exercise of "repeal and replace" that the Republicans in congress have been putting the country through this summer has only made matters worse for me and millions of other Americans. When my premiums go up next year, I will blame the Republican congress and not Obamacare for the added financial burden.

Every iteration of the GOP's replacement plan does nothing to bring down costs or give people like me the coverage and protection we need. In fact, every reasonable analysis indicates GOP health care would do the opposite.

It's time to stop fooling around and work quickly to make some immediate fixes to the current law, which is the ACA. You need to stabilize the markets and start working to bring costs down. That would be a good and realistic place start. And after that, you guys should work with all the stakeholders and congress members of both parties to come up with something better for future.

President Trump said he would deliver better health care to more people for less money. If you guys can do that, I am sure the country will get behind it. We don't care who gets the credit or what it is called. Every American deserves quality, affordable healthcare -- and that means not going back to what we had before the ACA, when people like me were at the mercy of the insurance companies.

Respectfully,

Gene Williams
Santa Monica, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Levitin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

As a physician, I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy ACA repeal. It is a terrible bill that will undo many of the gains made with the ACA and undo many improvements in health care in my state of Massachusetts. Graham Cassidy is a giant step backwards in our efforts to improve health care for all.

David Levitin, MD
Worcester, Mass.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tia Bohannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy Health Care Bill

I do not support the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danny Dyche [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our health care. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest Republican health care bill would deprive 32 million people of health care, devastating working families and reversing the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in American taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. You also must require wealthy corporations to pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

All necessities must be removed from the private sector and made to work the way fire departments do. Any cost of living is extortion.

Danny Dyche
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl McDermott [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

Sirs,
I was without health insurance for 20 years due to pre-existing conditions: degenerative joint disease, glaucoma with vision loss etc. Not one insurance company would give me affordable health insurance. The lowest premium from Blue Cross Blue Shield was \$4,000 a month! Finally, with the ACA, I was able to get affordable health insurance and more importantly, peace of mind.

As I age (66 years old now) I am worried that the Republicans will do away with our Medicare program too. But, more importantly, I am frightened for all the Senior citizens in the US, many of whom are in nursing homes, who will be harmed by the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Many Seniors are now living in fear that Medicaid will be drastically cut and they will no longer be able to get health insurance. Some might be kicked out of nursing homes! It is so heartless and cruel. Why would you do something so hurtful to these innocent, elderly people? Shameful indeed.

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,
Cheryl McDermott
Charlotte, NC 28226

Sent from my iPad.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana Sulit [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm especially concerned about the likely prohibitive premiums for my family members with pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Signed,
Dana Sulit
Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J. V. Rich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony on Graham Cassidy Bill: Our Family's story

Dear Sirs and Madams,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. It gives us peace of mind to know that when the going gets tough, we have access to healthcare without it bankrupting us. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Prior to the ACA, our family of three was paying as much as \$24,000 a year in health insurance premiums for high deductible coverage. Because I have glaucoma, had skin cancer a decade earlier, and had a breast biopsy that was benign, I was informed that if I left my expensive health insurance, I would be uninsurable. This was despite the fact that I never came close to meeting the deductible for my health insurance because contrary to my health insurance company's opinion of me, I am healthy and rarely need to go to the doctor. Our daughter, who is now 26, gets migraines and has celiac disease and gets kidney stones. She would also be uninsurable without ACA. My husband is on Medicare and I will be in a matter of months, but we worry about our daughter's future if ACA is repealed and replaced. Will she have a health care safety net? Or will she have to pay outrageous health insurance bills like we had to? Under Graham-Cassidy, her health care coverage will depend on whether the state she lives in can afford to provide her with the same coverage that she was getting under ACA for a reasonable price. Will she have to choose which job to take and which state to live in based on what health insurance coverage she can get? Will she have to live with unrelenting pain because she cannot afford health insurance or the cost of the doctors and medicine that she needs? The truth is we have no idea because this bill is being rushed to a vote before assessing the impact of this bill on American citizens. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA, along with hearings and debate and due consideration, not a blind rush to repeal it.

Thank you,
Jackie Rich
Phoenix, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Yang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comment

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When my work did not provide healthcare, I had healthcare through the Affordable Care Act; without it, I would not have been able to afford healthcare at all. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Emily Yang
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Wachtman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Patricia Wachtman
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Neis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Cassidy-Graham-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.

Emily Neis
Placentia, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that of a small business owner who had no access to a group health plan. Then came the state exchange and I could afford to have health insurance. In 2012 I was diagnosed with Triple Negative breast cancer and without the ACA coming online, I most likely wouldn't have been able to afford my insurance or could have been denied coverage in the future. I certainly believe that my preventative care was responsible for finding my cancer so early. It saved a lot of money and my life.

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

Sincerely,

Pam Massey

Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

The American people deserve quality and affordable health care.

My husband was hit by a car three years ago and was severely injured. While the other driver was found at fault and my husband's health bills were covered, he now has an extensive list of what can be deemed pre-existing conditions related to that accident. He has mostly recovered, but would be un-insurable under the Graham-Cassidy bill. It was not his fault that he was injured and he fought very hard to recover. While he is currently the picture of health, he would most certainly lose his coverage under Graham-Cassidy. It is nothing less than unjust that he not only suffered through the recovery from injuries sustained by someone else's carelessness, but now, he runs the risk of also losing the financial assets that he depends on for his retirement.

Congress needs to make a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Michelle Johnson
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Sinden [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: warner-info@warner.senate.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

What is WRONG with you, GOP? You've had 7 years to come with compromises, ways to improve or rewrite a fair revision of ACA.

This bill affects my entire family, my friends and their children. You are condemning several of them to a slow, painful, expensive death if passed.

I read the news and see your GOP mega-rich donors are demanding that this bastard bill get passed so they can save money.

SHAME ON YOU!

I do not understand why you are against ordinary Americans but I will work hard to defeat your bill and elect people to Congress who will work for us and not "donors."

Lori Sinden
[REDACTED]
Charlottesville VA 22903
Yes, THAT Charlottesville!

Sent by magic

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (5) Story submitted to GC hearing

Good morning –

My Indivisible organization spent last spring collecting health care stories from around our state to be shared with Senators Murray and Cantwell. This participant requested that I share their story with the SFC to be part of the record for the Graham-Cassidy hearing taking place on 9/25.

Douglas Hathaway
98105
[REDACTED]

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease last year. Fortunately, I was covered by Medicaid expansion. Before ACA, I bought catastrophic insurance, which would not have covered most of the expenses of this chronic disease. I am able to work because of the medications, physical therapy, and neurologist's visits that are covered by Medicaid under ACA.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Franklin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay McHorse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordabable Care Act

You must not repeal the Affordable Care Act.....it was designed to help the lower socioeconomic individuals have some form of healthcare....and not use the ER as their only source...the most expensive source! Many individuals and families will be left with no access to medical care or medications, due to the expense of each.

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

Kay McHorse
Austin, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Karl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Karl
[REDACTED]
Boring, OR 97009
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Zipp [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Ccassidy

Hello my name is Jessica Zipp. I live in Clarksville Indiana. My 3 children and my mother all have medicaid. The cuts to Indiana alone would be 4 billion dollars. We as Americans cannot afford to lose medicaid. Please consider me and millions of Americans. Vote no to Graham Cassidy. Be a patriot. Fight for us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Gildersleeve [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Cynthia Gildersleeve
Columbus, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Bogue [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Health Care Story

I have the same diagnosis as John McCain, and the same treatment, which seems to be working. I can't do chemo again (it crashed my bone marrow, and I'm still in a holding pattern. waiting for it to fully come back), or radiation; already had my full lifetime exposure. Last year, my daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer, had surgery twice. I took care of her after discharge from the hospital; drains, dressings, medications, etc. 2 weeks after her drains came out, while I was driving my grand daughter (her daughter) to school, my hand froze to the steering wheel; couldn't move it. I safely delivered her to school, drove myself to the local E.R., walked in, and said "I think I just had a stroke". They rushed me off to get an MRI, found a brain tumor, rushed me via ambulance to UCSF (San Francisco), where I had surgery 4 days later. I went home 5 days later, and underwent outpatient treatment; oral chemo and radiation every day for 6 weeks. I took the chemo for 4 weeks, whereupon it decimated my bone marrow. I ended up in the hospital again, for a month; my Oncologist said it was too difficult to try to get me back on track as an outpatient. I had almost daily blood draws, very frequent platelet and blood transfusions, and MRI's every month or 2. I was vomiting daily, could keep very little food down, and lost approximately 25 pounds. My daughter was unable to drive or lift anything due to her surgery, and needed to depend upon her step-father to drive her to appointments, and the child to school. If we both had no MediCal, we both very likely wouldn't have made it. My daughter could not work during her recovery, due to her inability to lift anything, and MediCal is her only form of Health Insurance. I have Medicare and MediCal. Without the both of them, I wouldn't be here now. Glio Blastoma is a serious diagnosis; finding a non-invasive form of treatment which I can tolerate is wonderful, and expensive. I need to continue. Please do not dismantle the ACA! There are millions of Americans in a position similar to mine. "Pre-existing conditions" can hit you out of the blue; without warning, you find you have one, through no fault of your own, in any way at all. There but for fortune...

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Berlin [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I don't understand why you Republicans are trying to keep us poor, keep us uneducated, and most of all, trying to kill us! All health organizations oppose this bill! It will be a disaster for America and all of its people. It must not pass! Your daily reminder that we the people do not support the Graham Cassidy bill and that November 2018 is not that far away.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare.

I am writing to you as business owner No, we are not a huge employer. We own four businesses and have 21 employees. One of the hardest parts in business is balancing profit over employee benefits. We want all our employees to have a good quality of life but sometimes as with health care the cost to the company may exceed what we can afford. We do pay 50% of our employees healthcare insurance. Here in Ohio (zip code 44023) we find that the same insurance through our provider is 35% higher in cost than the same or sometimes better plan through the same provider but directly to the employee. Under current law we can not pay half the premium to the employee directly. It makes no sense. I have spoken to business owners and manufacturers in Canada and they do not understand how an American company that competes globally (our businesses do not) can possibly be competitive with the products of companies that have single payer health care.

Why does our country tie the hands of businesses and restrict their growth?

Sincerely,

Dawn Clemens

[REDACTED]
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Plan

Hello,

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care plan. I work for a nonprofit, and thus am not in a high income bracket, and have used a Planned Parenthood for my annual OBGYN exams. This new "health care plan" would bar states from reimbursing Planned Parenthood for these sorts of regular exams, increasing the chance I might miss a crucial sign early -- not just for myself, but for many other women across the country.

Please reconsider the harmful repercussions this bill will have on millions of Americans. Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee in regard to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care bill meeting on Monday, September 25th.

Thank you,
Becca Smith
Austin, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Poague [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Gillibrand, Kirsten (Gillibrand); schumer, scheduling (Schumer)
Subject: Comments for US Finance Committee regarding Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill
Attachments: Senate Finance Committee Comment POAGUE.docx

Attached and below are my comments to the Finance Committee:

United States Senate Finance Committee

Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA

Meeting of 2:00 p.m., Monday, September 25, 2017

215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Submitted by Beth Poague

[REDACTED]
Beacon, NY 12508

I am writing to comment on the proposed Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCJH) Bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA. I am opposed to the GCJH Bill on the grounds that it causes undue fear, uncertainty, and loss of healthcare coverage and protections for millions of Americans now covered under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. By their own admission, the framers of the bill are motivated primarily by a desire to get rid of the Affordable Care Act with little or no regard for improving healthcare coverage and services for U.S. citizens.

Out of vengeance and anger, you have bypassed all of the functions of our lawmaking system, which ensures that bills like this are presented, discussed and revised, among a broad spectrum of stakeholders and experts. I learned this from watching "I'm Just a Bill" on School House Rock on Saturday mornings as a child. Perhaps you and your colleagues need to revisit your elementary education, now that you have the fate of millions of Americans at your fingertips.

Access to affordable health care is not a privilege; it is a right. We are all human beings, and you, as public servants, should be working your best to provide that right to all of your citizens, the most healthy and the most vulnerable.

I have a four-year old son, Finnegan, who was born with a rare genetic disorder called PACS1 Syndrome. He is one of 54 people in the world with this diagnosis. There are probably many more, but it is diagnosed with Whole Exome Sequencing (WES), which is an expensive test (though the cost is going down by the week). As a result, he has global developmental delays, but little else is known about this syndrome or the implications of it. Finn is a joy of a kid, who charms everyone he meets and I have no doubt he will make a huge mark on this world. He has a 10-year old brother, Charlie. They are both healthy kids and they love each other dearly.

If the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill is passed, which gets rid of the protection for pre-existing conditions, you are saying that Charlie is worth covering at an affordable rate, and Finn is not. You are saying that Finn is not valuable enough to have access to affordable health care, you are saying that, solely because of a small gene mutation in utero, he doesn't deserve it. They are children – who are you to decide that one is more valuable than the other?

We can all understand that insurance is a system that spreads the risk. If we all participate then the risk is minimal to any one person. This protects not only those born vulnerable, but those who are hit with a devastating illness later in life. In 2017 alone, I have had three friends get devastating breast cancer diagnoses, know people with a multiple sclerosis diagnosis, a child born with a hole in her heart, a ten-year old diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

These are your children, your parents, your friends, your colleagues, your neighbors. WE ARE ALL VULNERABLE. And we need to protect us all. If we can't do that, we have lost our humanity.

Furthermore, I want to discuss what I have learned as a patient advocate for a child with a rare disease. I have spent hundreds of hours so far learning about genetics and rare disorders. As a parent group, those with children with PACS1 Syndrome have raised tens of thousands of dollars and coordinated with genetic researchers to study our kids. Now please understand, our kids cannot be “fixed.” Their syndrome expresses itself in utero, and even with the advances in genetics that are sure to come in the next decade, it is unlikely that they will come soon enough for our kids. However, our cohort is exceptional in that they all have the exact same pinpoint *de novo* mutation, and researchers are very excited about the potential of studying them. As a parent group, we all believe in science and the greater good, and are willing to take our time to participate in studies of our kids genomes, which may lead to discoveries that we can't even predict. It may lead to cures to diseases that affect tens if not hundreds of thousands more, or even millions, diseases not even related to our kids syndrome. We are willing to take time and money for the greater good and for humanity at large. Why are you not willing to do the same, and protect everyone in the United States?

Part of this process is that we see our health care professionals regularly to keep an eye out for symptoms and issues that come up as our children grow. There has been feeding issues, reflux, late onset epilepsy and heart issues all associated with PACS1. Any one of these issues effect the quality of life of the kids, and any treatment and diagnosis testing could devastate one of our families in one fell swoop, whereas early treatment can be effective and often inexpensive, and ultimately reduce costs over the long term. These kids are putting the healthcare system no more at risk than someone who gets a cancer or diabetes diagnoses, and with regular routine care, the effects would be even less so. If they are prevented from accessing the health care system because of their single gene mutation, then the consequences could be devastating or life threatening, they will certainly be more expensive. Now I am speaking of one mutation – this is one of hundreds of thousands mutations that are being discovered every day. As we progress and gain this knowledge we will be able to screen and detect so many issues earlier and earlier, and increase quality of life while reducing costs. But

this is only if people are seen by health care professionals and participate in regular screenings. These are cost effective strategies to reduce costs overall. This bill does the opposite. It reduces a patient's ability to access even the most basic care, and puts us all in a position of losing from increased costs and missed diagnosis.

In addition, I want to talk to you about the Medicaid waiver services we receive. We are lucky in the state of New York to receive Medicaid waiver services because my son is a person with a developmental disability. We receive much needed respite care services, help with copays, medication, and the ongoing cost of diapers as my son will likely use them for several more years. We also receive some therapies that are not currently covered by our private health insurance (our son, who is nonverbal at four, does not qualify under our private health insurance for speech therapy – however he would qualify if he at one time had speech and lost it, as in the case of a stroke). When he is old enough, this service will pay for community rehabilitation services that will get my son out into the community, get job training, participate in sports and social activities, do volunteer work and allow him to contribute in a positive meaningful way to our community. We are hoping that we will be able to finish high school and even go to college, but this will only be possible if he receives supports throughout his life. These services we receive are minimal, but have a huge effect on our ability to provide quality of life to our son. No one is getting rich here, no one is bilking the system. Therapists who take Medicaid payments are receiving minimum payment for their services, a fraction of what they could get privately. Our families are taxed and tired, and this small amount we receive helps us just a little bit more to get through each day. New York should not be seen as problem that needs to be fix – money that should be taken away as a punishment for providing good care to its residents, but as a model for other states to strive to reach. Medicaid isn't a handout. It's a safety net and a bridge, allowing families to keep their jobs, to work, to have coverage when it's needed and to remain contributing members of our economy.

To speak to the cuts to Planned Parenthood, in my early twenties I did not have health insurance and Planned Parenthood was the only place I could go for my well-woman visits. These visits screen for many health issues including cervical and breast cancers. They also screened for mental health issues and provided information on preventing unwanted pregnancies. **THEY DO NOT PROVIDE ABORTIONS.** It is absolutely irresponsible to be prolife, yet cut health insurance and then limit access to these services. Woman will die. It is that simple.

Lastly, I want to speak to the lifetime cap in this bill. I have many friends who have and premature children. This bill as written could create a situation where a baby meets their lifetime cap at six months and would be ineligible for health insurance for the rest of their lives. Again – I can't stress enough – this could happen to you, your child, your neighbor, your employee. It is INHUMANE.

I URGE YOU TO LOOK FOR YOUR HUMANITY AND DO YOUR JOB. DO BETTER – TAKE THE TIME TO CREATE A BETTER BILL THAT WILL HELP PEOPLE. The answer is simple, in my opinion. Ask yourself – are you willing to give up your health insurance offered as a member of congress and switch to this? If not then the only thing you can do is throw it in the trash.

BTW, I'm sure many of you haven't actually read the bill, but there are many reporters who have, so here are some very good summaries:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/if-the-us-adopts-the-gops-health-care-bill-it-would-be-an-act-of-mass-suicide>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/22/opinion/graham-cassidy-lies-healthcare.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lidyann [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sirs:

I write to say that we do not want a repeal of the ACA, but want fixes to it. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is unethical and immoral. Its cost reductions give tax cuts to wealthy Congressional donors and take health protection away from the elderly, children, and those in need.

Medicaid has been a life saver to many, including our 26-yr-old granddaughter, who HAS a degree but cannot find a full-time job with benefits. She has lots of student loan debt because the family could not afford to pay her college tuition. Medicaid is protecting her until she finds a job with benefits. She is a substitute teacher almost every day of the week, and holds two other part-time jobs. There are thousands like her, and you would be depriving them of healthcare if you pass Graham-Cassidy.

I also personally know two women whose husbands left them with very young children. They were both helped by Medicaid, as well as other Federal Government programs until they could get on their feet. They both earned degrees, got teaching jobs, and were productive, tax-paying citizens until they recently retired.

I have many friends whose parents spent the last years of their lives in nursing homes, and were able to stay there after their funds were depleted because of Medicaid.

Graham-Cassidy is a slipshod attempt to replace the ACA, which Republicans want to repeal because it is a successful program of President Obama. It's time for Congress to do what American Citizens sent them to do - work TOGETHER for the good of their constituents, not be bribed by donors and special interests.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Lidyann Spinola,
Kettering, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shel Horowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (attachment enclosed)
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham Cassidy Johnson proposal.docx

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

September 25, 2017

Shel Horowitz
[REDACTED]

Hadley MA 01035
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My family members rely on quality, affordable healthcare, as does the rest of the Nation. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would remove at least 20mm Americans from healthcare coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA (preferably via a true single-payer plan), not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shel Horowitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Derr [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My family's healthcare
Attachments: Untitled

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My maternal grandmother and my aunt both passed away from breast cancer. My mother is now older than both of them and relies on frequent screenings to check for this aggressive cancer. She is one year from retirement. Without the ACA, she will not be able to retire after spending her life serving special education kids. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Nicole Derr

South Berwick, ME



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Coen Brian M [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

Dear Senators

I am emailing you in regarding to the upcoming vote on the Cassidy-Graham Bill. I believe our healthcare system is broken and needs fixed, but it needs to happen in a way that doesn't take away healthcare for people with pre-existing conditions. I have 2 siblings with Type 1 Diabetes. They are both the hardest working individuals I know. One of them is driven to own his own business or take over our small family owned furniture store that has been in the family for 100 years. Today with unknown situation in the healthcare arena he is unable to take this risk and go out on his own, because the cost of his health insurance would bury him from day one. This is something that no one should have to worry about to live out their dream... the American dream of free enterprise.

I urge you to fix the healthcare bill in the right way, a way that doesn't limit the future of people with pre-existing conditions!

Kind Regards,

Brian Coen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Johnston, IA 50131
Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerome Lindauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:39 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 for several reasons.

1. It is based on the premise that medical care is optional, based on discretion if states.
2. As ALL 50 state Medicaid Directors have stated, it fails to allow states time to plan for such dramatic restructuring, resulting in chaos.
3. It is opposed as unworkable by all private health insurance and medical professional organizations.
4. It substantially reduced federal financial support for medical care with no mechanism for reducing cost.
5. It will eliminate health coverage for millions of citizens.
6. It will force drastic reductions in Medicaid services to disabled and elderly citizens.
7. The abnormal process used is an insult to democracy.

Jerome Lindauer

19027
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adam Jarrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to ask that you do NOT pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I understand there was a bi-partisan effort underway which was squashed by Mitch McConnell in an effort to move Graham-Cassidy forward. It is incumbent upon all of our representatives in Washington to work together to improve the Affordable Care Act. While there are those on both the right and left who want to stand alone, you are setting a horrible example for the rest of the country.

In addition, there are so many reasons that our healthcare costs are so high -- ask the doctors and the hospital administrators. Yes, I know there are many hospitals flush with cash, but there are hospitals which are barely getting by and it is not because they are poorly run. We should look to other countries who have better health outcomes with less cost and please stop saying that we have the best health care in the world because we don't! Open your eyes. Every person deserves health care coverage as a right, not a privilege. And the entire country will be better off.

Eileen Jarrett
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elisa Cruz Torres [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill!!

As an educator, consultant and therapist for individuals with disabilities and their families, I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill being proposed.

Many of the individuals I work with rely on Medicaid not only for general health care but also for independent living services, such as personal assistants. Under this bill:

- Medicaid spending would be capped (Per Capita Cap) eventually resulting in significant cuts in coverage and services for beneficiaries;
- States could charge individuals with pre-existing conditions unaffordable premiums;
- Home and community based services under Medicaid would be on the chopping block;
- Waitlists for waiver services under Medicaid, such as community support, would grow;
- Institutional care would be incentivized over community support.

Medicaid recipients in Florida are already limited with the support they receive, especially behavior therapy. To further marginalize them would be catastrophic to their futures.

I strongly implore a vote of NO to this bill.

Regards,



www.coe.fau.edu

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or
[REDACTED] of Exceptions
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Boehm [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I beg you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. It is unacceptable for millions of Americans to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid, harming some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

Thank you,
Michelle Boehm
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Kerlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Emily Kerlin
Urbana, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michèle Fandel Bonner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please vote against the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michèle

Michèle Fandel Bonner

[REDACTED]
Marblehead, MA 01945
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Olga Vannucci [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would raise premiums and hurt many with pre-existing conditions.

2/3 of Americans in nursing homes rely on Medicaid because they have run out of their own savings. We all know someone in those circumstances.

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

Thank you.
Olga Vannucci

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bess Lovejoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for today's hearing

My family and I, like most other Americans, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother, a rabbi and Jewish education teacher, needs health insurance to deal with multiple chronic health issues (fallout from a stroke, back injuries, and fibromyalgia), and this bill could mean a devastating change to her financial life. Our family isn't sure how we'd be able to handle it. As a young freelancer in New York City, I also relied on the ACA to get affordable health care while I was struggling with Lyme disease.

Large parts of my family come from Canada, and our relatives can't believe the way the government jeopardizes our health over here—regardless of their political stripes, they see health insurance as a basic right in this day and age. If this bill passes, we may have to consider leaving the country and emigrating to join them. But I would much prefer to stay in the country we love.

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

Sincerely, Bess Lovejoy

Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my mobile device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Craine [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Colleen Craine
Park Ridge, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Bryant [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill on health care. While there are problems with the current situation, the way to repair them is not through a quick bill that has not be thoroughly vetted with the American people. This is not democracy.

Suzanne Bryant
Austin, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Dabbs [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My youngest daughter, Taylor, has Down Syndrome. Taylor and so many others with disability rely on Medicaid for to help fund services that enable them to live and participate in the community. Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions is allowing states to waive protections for anyone and everyone with a disability.

Families like mine are already stretched thin to deal with the extra needs of our loved ones with disabilities. Please don't put this extra stress and pressure on us. It could be financially and emotionally devastating.

Thank you,


Diane Dabbs
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Supporting and strengthening youth, young adults and families
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

OmahaHomeForBoys.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Save the Date!



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti Broun [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 [IMPROVE THE ACA-DO NOT REPEAL IT]

To The Senate Finance Committee:

I am a tax-paying, and hard-working US Citizen-and-I rely on my healthcare and on receiving quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Recently I turned 60 years old. Almost any person reaching to and past middle age will have health conditions that will be labeled pre-existing. As I begin to hope I am able to plan to retire in the next 10 years, I am terrified that I will not have adequate and remotely affordable health care.

In recent months I have experienced an acute condition. It has been really scary as my doctor has worked towards a diagnosis and a way forward. This condition will be with me for the rest of my life. And of course bills have stacked up event with good insurance coverage from my employer. What would happen to me if coverage caps, pre-existing conditions coverage were to disappear? I am not an affluent, wealthy person – I would quickly not be able to pay my basic costs of living. As a 60 year old single woman without family where I live, I am not sure what I would do.

Fix the law – TOGETHER – work for the good of the American people – not to make it so tens of millions have no insurance at all and for the rest of us substantial coverage cuts.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Congress needs to do its job – serve the American people to benefit not hurt them.

Patricia Broun
[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA 90064

To: GCHcomments@finanace.senate.gov

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Mon, 25 Sep 2017 08:37:36 -0400

Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sirs and Madams,

The best way that I can express my view is to share a facebook post that I sent out last week.

"Ya'll may find it amusing or annoying that I am posting about politcs again, specifically the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Let me explain...if this passes, I may as well lie down and prepare to die. I am not being dramatic. I make a decent income but my health insurance will no longer cover the thousands of dollars a month that my meds will cost and may not cover the specialists I see to stay functional....not healthy...functional. Even after my 2nd surgery next Tuesday (which definitely wouldn't be covered) I will still need to care for the 5 auto-immune conditions I live with daily. Now, consider those whose are not as fortunate personally and financially as I am. Hence my concern and activism. Please read and understand this bill....it has nothing to do with party affiliation in my mind. Until those in Washington have to carry the same healthcare as the rest of us, this nonsense will continue. I am not looking for personal sympathy...just pushing awareness and activism. Please contact those that represent your interests!"

I do believe ACA needs some work, but repeal and replace is not the answer. A common sense bipartisan discussion, that also holds insurance companies accountable, is needed. The American people want to see government working together to make things better instead of squabbling to hold the party line.

Janice Rockwell

Newport News, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Silberman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose the Graham -Cassidy health care repeal effort

I call on all senators to stand against this bill. It is not a solution to fix the problems with the ACA. All it will do is take health care away from millions. There has been no vetting by the CBO so the cost is unknown. This is not how the government should be making such important life and death decisions. Shame on all of you who support the bill.

Hilary Silberman

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Sheridan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: Patrick Sheridan comments on Graham-Cassidy.docx

Esteemed Senators,

Please find my comments on the Graham-Cassidy bill attached. I hope they will cause you to think deeply about the decision you face.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sheridan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Foss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 9:35 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cut to Medicaid unexceptable

This bill would make huge cuts to and place caps on the Medicaid program, end the

Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies in the ACA, and allow states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

This bill would be devastating to people with disabilities and their families, women and children, seniors, low-income Americans, and threaten access to community living, employment opportunities, & educational supports.

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL IT WOULD HARMFUL FOR ANYBODY THAT HAS A DISABILITY. Shame on you to even consider such a proposal.

Dawn Foss

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Chamberlain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not allow this bill to go forward without full scoring by the CBO. To do so would be a slap in the face to every American, to announce to all that you do not care how much harm it might cause.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Libby Sweatt-Lambert [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

Good morning,

My husband, my daughter, and I all have pre-existing conditions. My husband is a contractor and I run a nonprofit - both are full time jobs. We both have used less than two sick days in the last year.

However, because of my family's diagnoses, our insurance costs would be out of our reach if we could no longer have access to our current plans.

In business, we have to weigh the costs of our decisions. We have to evaluate the overall impact - positive and negative - that our decisions make.

The impact study that you need to evaluate reportedly will not be ready until after the deadline that you are rushing to meet.

How in good conscious can you make a decision without knowing how many Americans this will adversely affect?

Libby Sweatt-Lambert
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Herro [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill to Repeal ACA

I am registering my displeasure with the Senate for continuing to repeal the ACA. I do not like the proposal and do not like the fact that millions of people will lose their health care coverage. I also do not like the fact that the Senate continues to, what I feel is waste, my taxpayer dollars on the time spent not fixing what is already in place! I believe the Senators need to work together, in bi-partisan way to fix what is helping millions of people stay healthy! Please work together. Represent ALL people of this great country, please.

Jennifer A. Herro
V [REDACTED]
Hartland, WI 53029

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Bowman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Ann Bowman
Medford, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: trixee6 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy "health care" bill: VOTE NO

To Whom it May Concern-

It disturbs me that Congress is even considering this bill for Americans. Creating a financial crisis for rural hospitals, like the one near me in Sullivan County, NY, will cost people their jobs and harm rural economies throughout the US. Please follow the recommendation of the AMA, American Society of Pediatrics, AARP, American Hospital Association, and every other concerned health care group and VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Joan Osborne

[REDACTED]
Callicoon Center, NY
12724

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonah Flicker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Healthcare hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with the ACA is that I am and my wife are both freelancers with two small children who would not be able to afford healthcare without the ACA. Having affordable healthcare has allowed us to have our children, deal with illness, and live our lives without the fear of going bankrupt from sickness. Please do not allow the ACA to be repealed and replaced with a heartless plan that does not help people with low incomes. I strongly oppose Graham-Cassidy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jonah Flicker
Brooklyn, NY

--
Jonah Flicker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Montu Patel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Question

Thank you for taking my thoughts and question regarding the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill.

My family and I own a small business and used to provide health care to our employees. The cost was too high and my employees and our family were unable to afford it. Only 6 people out of more than 200 employees chose to participate. Due to the Affordable Care act many more employees were able to obtain health insurance at a reasonable cost and were provided a tax credit.

Why would we want to go backward and provide those making less that \$82k less opportunity at getting healthcare? How would a family of 4 afford a \$1,200 health insurance cost monthly? Why are legislators not concerned with mower middle class and middle class health care needs? While prices are not affordable today the subsidy provides a solution until our countries Legislators work toward fixing the cost and reducing Health Insurance company profits.

Why have health insurance company's delivered blockbuster profits? Why aren't they required to be non profit? Find a solution for lowering our cost of insurance by cutting the fat in health insurance and medical providers by setting the rate. If the government set the rate the medical and health insurance providers would have to be more efficient. Help foster innovation in this space.

This is not about politics. This is about doing the right thing and moving our great Democracy forward. I agree with Universal health care with Medicare for all with thoughtfully negotiated cost with medical and drug providers.

Please help make our country great by improving on the Affordable Care Act and not tearing it apart.

Regards,
Montu Patel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maura Perry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:59 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA!!

Importance: High

Dear Senators,

Please allow this letter to serve as my sincere appeal that you should not pass the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill!

Back in the late 90's through 2005, being self-employed, my former husband and I purchased our insurance on the individual market in Ohio. The plans that were affordable to us (\$800/month, which was more than our mortgage), was a high deductible HSA plan (\$5,000/ea). Once our deductible was met the plan was subject to 80/20 coinsurance. Our health plan was riddled with exclusions such as: well-woman care, pregnancy, Rx and in our case "claims arising from dangerous activities" as our business was involved in motorsports. This last exclusion was particularly disturbing as nowhere on the application for this plan were we asked to disclose "dangerous activities". The health insurance carrier gleaned this information off our life insurance applications which were made a year or two earlier with a wholly different insurance carrier! By the way, our disclosed "dangerous activities" were *not* excluded on our life insurance policies.

Fast forward to 2011, now single and unemployed I found myself needing to purchase insurance on the individual market again. The MA Exchange offered me the option to purchase a health plan that was identical to any group plan being offered to employers – without any of the dreadful exclusions, caps, and deductibles that my previous OH plan had. Currently, for a single policy *without subsidy*, I am paying \$340/month for a Tufts HMO policy that has a \$2,000 deductible with a \$7,100 total out-of-pocket limit.

The MA Exchange is alive and well and has been since it was Romneycare!!

As a woman over 50 with a few medical problems that most 50+ woman face, the passage of this heinous bill means I will not be able to afford health insurance next year. This is especially troubling as I was recently diagnosed with a torn rotator cuff and will need surgery to repair it not to mention my Gynecologist has been following me carefully for pre-cancerous conditions.

In addition to my story, I need to share with you my Grand nephew's story. Baby Beniah was diagnosed at 22 weeks gestation with Spina Bifida. Beniah's SB diagnosis came with the news that he had encephalitis and hind brain herniation – both of which were to certainly have caused brain damage without treatment. At 25 weeks gestation Beniah underwent fetal surgery to repair the defect on his spine. Miraculously, my niece was able to stay pregnant with him until 35 weeks when Beniah was born. Today Beniah is a very happy and relatively healthy 2 year old who has just learned to walk! If not for the amazing team of physicians, nurses, and therapists at The Cincinnati Children's Hospital Beniah would have had a very different life. For Beniah, the passage of this heinous bill will mean the end of his continuing care as he knows it now, as he not only has preexisting conditions but will have certainly reached a lifetime cap.

Please DO NOT pass this bill!!! If not for woman like me - think of the Beniah's of our Country whose entire life is in front of them....

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chase Gregory <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:57 AM
To: gchcomments

Senate Finance Committee,

In light of your "hearing" on the impending Graham-Cassidy bill today, I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I and many others hate this bill and everything it stands for. Whether it's cutting federal funding for states, favoring some states over others (esp. red over blue), or screwing up Medicaid and pre-existing conditions protections, this bill is so wrong on policy ALONE.

But, not content to be wrong on policy, it's also abominable on PROCESS. The idea that the senate is trying to jam through a major bill affecting 1/6th of the economy in less than a week with no full CBO score, major revisions, only one sham hearing, and only 90 seconds of debate is completely unacceptable.

PLEASE. I beg of you. Step back from the ledge here and cease this absurd process. Instead, focus on a bipartisan healthcare act. You know: something that people ACTUALLY want.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chase Gregory [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

In light of your "hearing" on the impending Graham-Cassidy bill today, I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I and many others hate this bill and everything it stands for. Whether it's cutting federal funding for states, favoring some states over others (esp. red over blue), or screwing up Medicaid and pre-existing conditions protections, this bill is so wrong on policy ALONE.

But, not content to be wrong on policy, it's also abominable on PROCESS. The idea that the senate is trying to jam through a major bill affecting 1/6th of the economy in less than a week with no full CBO score, major revisions, only one sham hearing, and only 90 seconds of debate is completely unacceptable.

PLEASE. I beg of you. Step back from the ledge here and cease this absurd process. Instead, focus on a bipartisan healthcare act. You know: something that people ACTUALLY want.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KATHY JONES [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill.

This bill is an 11th-hour, designed-in-secret, partisan attempt to please wealthy GOP donors. The people who represent us and support this bill have completely forgotten their oath and moral responsibility to the people who elected them. The Graham-Cassidy bill is 140 pages long, and I've read every line of the bill several times. It is a gigantic, horrible, archaic, cruel, big hot mess. It will leave millions uninsured. That means higher death rates. It will decimate Medicaid, which means that millions of our elderly, disabled, and children will die. This also means that bankruptcy rates will increase as we try to pay for the healthcare of our most vulnerable.

It allows states to redefine EHBs, which will remove our protection for pre-existing conditions, annual, and lifetime caps. It will increase premiums, starting with senior citizens. All of these results absolutely terrify and infuriate me. I thought you were the party that values life. On top of all of these horrible elements of the bill, you plan to give a huge tax cut to medical device companies. They don't need a huge tax cut! I know you are doing this to appeal to your large donors like the Koch Brothers. If you vote "no" for Graham-Cassidy, you won't need those big donors, because your constituents will be so grateful that you saved their healthcare, that they will re-elect you.

I have no problem with repealing and replacing the ACA, as long as it's replaced with something better. Graham-Cassidy is far worse, and will bankrupt my family and seriously jeopardize our health. Why can't you make the ACA better instead of turning everything upside down and making things worse?

I am watching you. I will remember how you vote. Make it count.

Best regards,

Kathy Jones

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dallas, Texas 75219

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am 30 years old and was recently told I might have cancer. While treatment is almost guaranteed to be successful and leave me with a normal life span and quality of life, even the best case scenario will leave me with a condition that will require lifelong medication and many follow-up appointments and tests.

The bills have been piling in. There have been so many appointments and tests. I'm having surgery in a couple weeks, so the biggest bills have yet to hit. Fortunately I have great insurance and a high income so I am not affected too badly. But they stress me out all the same as I am trying to reorient my life around my health issues. I can only imagine how people less fortunate than me (most people) feel as their bills come in, and seem impossible to pay. My husband and I are forgoing a vacation to pay for my treatment. Others have to choose between medical bills and necessities.

To add to it all, I am about to become one of those people who would be negatively impacted if insurance companies could deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. It might affect my ability to participate fully in the economy because I could be stuck at my job for the rest of my life. Or if I ever lose my job (something patients with more aggressive forms of cancer may face), I could face financial ruin. And there are a lot of Americans without my job security or savings who would face this a lot faster than I.

Almost everyone I know over age 25 has a pre-existing condition of some sort. Not all health problems are visible or disabling--and they can still be expensive. I cannot fathom how certain members of Congress think this wouldn't affect them or their loved ones (or don't care if they do).

There is so much to worry about when you are first diagnosed with a major health condition. How to afford treatment should not be part of that.

Even though I now receive health insurance from my employer, I remember a time I spent without insurance in my early 20s, before the Affordable Care Act. Thankfully I had no major health problems! But I did once get sick with what I believed to be strep throat during that time. Because I was uninsured and could not afford to miss work, I went to work at my job, where I interacted with the public all day, exposing them to my illness. I also rode public transportation that day. Truly affordable health care is not just a financial issue, it is a public health one. And the people with trouble affording care are in many cases people with public facing jobs or who take public transportation.

When I told them about my recent health concerns, my friends, family, and colleagues told me not to worry about other stuff and to focus on getting healthy. Money counts as "other stuff", yet many people have no choice but to worry about how to pay for treatment. No one should have to set up a GoFundMe page to pay for the care they need to live a full life. No one should have to worry about losing coverage of they change jobs or lose their job.

When I have surgery in two weeks, I don't want thoughts and prayers and flowers. I want people like me to be free of the financial stress that comes hand-in-hand with being sick. Being sick is enough stress in its own.

The ACA isn't perfect. But it's something. The Graham-Cassidy bill puts that something in jeopardy. I know my senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, have been doing what they can to fight this terrible bill, and I am grateful for it. Every member of Congress should do what they can to protect the majority of us who have or have a loved one who has a pre-existing condition.

Regards,
Valerie Hill
Stafford, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juliedelara [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:58 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote "No" on Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill
Attachments: IMG_0950.JPG; ATT00001.txt; FullSizeRender.jpg; ATT00002.txt; FullSizeRender.jpg; ATT00003.txt

This is Michael as a toddler. He is now 13 years old, attends school and charms all who meet him. He is adored by his older brother Daniel who is pre-med and dreams of becoming a neurologist so he can cure his brother disorder. Michael is the light of our lives.

Michael has Dravet Syndrome a catastrophic seizure disorder with life threatening seizures and the potential for psychomotor retardation. Death rate is 20% before adulthood.

Michael has benefitted from having no lifetime caps, no increase in insurance premiums because of the illness he was born with and Medicaid which picked up the cost of medicines, therapies and doctors that were not paid by employer health insurance. Without all of these safeguards in place, Michael would be dead or institutionalize.

Vote "no" on the. Graham/Cassidy and let kids like Michael live.

Julie Corbier de Lara

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Autism and Parkinson's, my young adult child and my husband will never be cured/never get better. But with good doctors and appropriate medicines, both are manageable, Both will be considered pre-existing conditions. I and my husband have worked all our lives, two/three jobs at times, to just have health insurance. Now at 56, ACA and Medicaid is our only hope. As my husband is still working with 2nd stage Parkinson's ,our lives are dependent on ACA future. As my boy has autism, his Medicaid is in peril. For us, ACA is about fighting for our lives, literally. Help us and millions like us to live like human beings and die with dignity as all Americans deserve. Let us not go back.. Please, we beg you to reject this new HC bill, and keep ACA. thank you for your time.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betty Alzamora [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment: opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. All of us have pre-existing conditions, and in one case, ACA saved the life of my partner and allowed for sound follow-up care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Betty Alzamora

Forest Park, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tricia Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. It would also completely undercut the ability of people with pre-existing conditions (like me--similar to Sen. McCain's) to get/retain the care we need. Every human will face an illness, theirs or a loved one's, at some point, sadly.

Tricia Connell
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Lieb [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I am asking you to oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill because it puts services to people with developmental disabilities at risk.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: susan white [REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing

Please do the right thing, the correct thing, the logical thing. Slow down, research, debate TOGETHER. Strengthen the ACA. Drop the egos. Save us.

Susan White Edmondson

[REDACTED]
Maryville, TN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Wolf-Barnett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

When I was pregnant with my daughter in 2015, my husband lost his job and I was working on my own business. I was facing no health care during a critical time in my pregnancy. The ACA allowed us to find coverage that we could afford, get through those couple months my husband did not have a job and was able to cover my tests/coverage for that time. I am not sure what would have been done at that time, but am happy that it was there and we had access.

In addition, I work in health care, my father is a dentist and my brother is an actor. We all live in different parts of the country. My dad has type 1 DM, 2 kidney transplants and now is facing congestive heart failure. He is 74 years old and I fear that that this health care bill could damage his coverage now that he is retired and depends on a certain amount from Medicare. If he lost coverage of some of his medications, it would mean death. My brother was diagnosed with a terminal illness 3 years ago and also relies on medication to keep him healthy. If this bill goes through, his coverage of his meds will be in question and therefore could jeopardize his health sooner than later.

It is shocking to me that this is still a topic and that Congress is not trying to figure out the issues with the current system rather than debating a harsh, new proposal that would send shockwaves across the US, including my family. Please, I beg you, please stop traumatizing us mentally with these scary proposals that threaten our way of daily life. I have a 2 year old and fear what this bill will mean for her growing up.

--

Confidentiality Notice:

This email message and any attached files are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient or person responsible for delivering this confidential communication to the intended recipient, or if you have received this communication in error, then any review, use, forwarding, printing, or other distribution of this email message and any attached files is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email message and permanently delete the original message. If you have any questions concerning this message, please contact Erin Wolf-Barnett MS RD LD. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter O'Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony to be included in the Senate Finance Committee hearing record
Attachments: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill.doc

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal sent by email to GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov.

Testimony to be included in the Senate Finance Committee hearing record.
September 25, 2017

This testimony from:

Peter S. O'Connell
[REDACTED]
Brookfield, MA 01506

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wendy Allred <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy

Please VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy. This is a terrible bill and we do not want it!!!

Wendy Allred
Midlothian VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Paas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:56 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hi -

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm a life long asthmatic - I'm also a freelance filmmaker & am responsible for carrying my own insurance as that's not something that I'm provided through work. I'm appalled that that with this new bill, states would have the right to discriminate against me because of my pre-existing condition. And I'm not alone - many Americans who work hard will be unable to afford health insurance if this new bill goes into affect.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anne Paas
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: karen barker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't take away my daughter's healthcare!!!

My daughter has a pre-existing condition and she is dropping off of my husband's insurance plan next month because she is turning 26. She may never be able to work full-time so she will always have to pay for her own insurance, which means my husband and I will have to pay for it or go bankrupt financing her healthcare. If she cannot get affordable insurance with her pre-existing condition, we are in serious trouble. I am also concerned for my son who is going into business for himself when he graduates college in 2 years and will also be 26. He is doing well, but he has been diagnosed as being bipolar from one event that happened 2 years ago. My husband is going to need to retire soon and we will not be able to pay for expensive insurance for ourselves and our two adult children. Please do not take away the ACA.

Karen Barker

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna La Tourette [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone with COPD who relies on a daily inhaler I both have a pre-existing condition and have to pay for this very expensive medication each month. I, and others like me, need to retain affordable health coverage that does not penalize us for an illness not of our choice. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Donna La Tourette

Fair Lawn, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise Turgeon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal bill
Attachments: IMG_2371.JPG

Before the bribes to specific states (which are unconstitutional according to lawyer friends) is not smart finance. Attached is a quick summary of some of the reasons I oppose it. In addition to those listed, the ACA already allows the states to come up with custom solutions, as long as the over-arching requirements of the ACA are followed. Ending Medicaid is not an option. I've been paying into this system for my entire life. I want some return on that investment. Given that a new version was released on a Sunday night, and refusing to allow the CBO score, it's clear what the GOP is trying to do. That has **nothing** to do with health care.

Denise Turgeon
Lewiston, ME

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:55 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My story. Our story

Dear Finance Committee Representatives:

By the Republican description, I can afford healthcare. I have great coverage through my employer. But pre-ACA, that great coverage would have included an annual maximum that truly catastrophic illnesses would surpass. And couldn't begin to afford such excess.

There are many other reasons, but I wanted you to see that even the best coverage I "earned" isn't enough without the ACA.

Thank you for your service.

Sally Johnson
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Mirek [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. This bill removes all the protections and expansions that people need to get and stay covered. It is nothing more than a blatant misuse of power.

Debra Mirek
Orlando, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peg Bullers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

Please think of the most vulnerable among us and the consequences this bill holds for them.

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, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bullers
Franklin, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorette Vetusi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am the parent of an adult child with Autism who benefits greatly from Medicaid, due to the fact that he has been unable to find a full-time job with health care benefits. Also, in order to be successful in the workplace, my son requires support from a job coach. I am strongly urging you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy Bill, particularly because of the highly detrimental impact that this legislation would have on children and adults with special needs. I am aware that this latest proposed version of repeal-and-replace health care plan would result in a \$15 billion cut in federal funding to states by the year 2026, along with a 15% decrease in funding for people with disabilities. More specifically, this proposed legislation would leave people affected with Autism at a high risk of losing critical services and supports, which have enabled them to live as independently as possible in their homes and in the community.

Please, please vote NO on this horrific bill, which so unfairly penalizes people with disabilities and their families. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lorette Vetusi
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Hoeltke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the Affordable Care Act

As a mother of a child with stomach issues, a wife to a man with an anxiety disorder and a woman who's had minor heart attacks since 15 years old, I beg everyone to reconsider repealing the Affordable Care Act. It needs work, but could we please allow professionals in the medical community to make those changes?

Let's bring in doctors who run free clinics in low income areas as well as large hospitals to weigh in on what America needs. Listen to what the American people are asking for. Consider preventative care to be medically necessary instead of waiting until someone is sick. Don't punish people for illnesses they cannot prevent. The people you serve deserve the best. Give us what you would want your family to have at their lowest point. Please don't allow this bill to pass.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D. Amarel [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Martha Crawford
Subject: Vote AGAINST Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Please vote against the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill.

My wife, Martha, has a chronic cancer in her nervous system (CLL). She and I are both self-employed as psychotherapists and we pay for our own "individual" family plan through United Healthcare, in New Jersey. Although ours is technically a Marketplace plan, we receive no subsidy for our premiums due to our family income. Nevertheless, we are both terrified about this new proposed bill because if we lose PRE-EXISTING CONDITION protection, we are in real danger of losing coverage. Martha requires ongoing chemotherapy to keep the cancer at bay.

Please DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE the Affordable Care Act. Like millions of other Americans and hundreds of Congress members, I agree that the ACA can be improved—but that does not mean gutting it, or eliminating it. Such attempts to dismantle President Obama's hallmark accomplishment are spiteful politics, disregarding the needs and security of millions of Americans.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION coverage is critical and the loss of that protection could be devastating to my family and to so many American families.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely-
David Amarel (56 years)
Martha Crawford (53 years)
Eli and Lucy Amarel (14 and 12 years)
Home:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

David Amarel, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]
Office:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 2005
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Zeller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Devastating

Graham Cassidy bill would devastate the already struggling inner cities of Pennsylvania. Pres. Trump, said during the campaign "What do you have to lose?" to an African American crowd. The answer is healthcare a cornerstone of our community to assure that we can be productive members of society.

Amy Zeller
19140

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Shulman <hshulman@hshulman.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

As an artist living and working in a small town in New Hampshire, I am deeply concerned about the deeply negative impact the current bill attempting to repeal the ACA will have on me and my fellow citizens.

Except for the sheer nastiness of partisan politics, there is nothing keeping both parties from working together to address the aspects of the ACA that need to be improved!

Please consider:

- This is a vote to reorder one-sixth of the US economy without a CBO score. The bare minimum required for beginning consideration on this bill should be a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score.

- **All 50 Medicaid Directors have come out against this 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," NAMD's board of directors wrote in a statement Thursday.

- The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections and undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing conditions.

- The bill reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans.

- The bill does not ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable Americans.
 - With only a few legislative days left for 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.

Please use a bipartisan approach to improve and mend the ACA for the sake of all in need and many hardworking average Americans like myself who will be gravely harmed.

Thank you for considering the views of The People who do not want you to destroy their opportunity to have healthcare.

Sincerely

Helen Shulman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mguroff@gmail.com on behalf of Margaret Barnett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please protect American citizens - reject Graham-Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am an American citizen, a taxpayer, a cancer survivor. It is infuriating and terrifying to watch this Congress attempt, over and over, to undo the gains to health and financial security made by the ACA. The recent changes to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill only make it worse. I implore you to reject this bill and seek bipartisan strategies for making health insurance and health care easier to get.

Yours very truly,

Margaret Barnett
Bethesda, Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anna Worrall [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Schumer, Senator (Schumer); Senator (Gillibrand); McCain, Senator (McCain); Senator Collins; senator@murkowski.senate.gov
Subject: Oppose 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. I can't fathom what the lives of people with pre-existing conditions will look like, people in my own family who are reliant on the ACA, if this bill passes.

Please, please, please. Reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Anna Worrall
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shawn Yospin <[REDACTED]@gch.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My story

Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. Before the ACA, I was paying \$630/month for health insurance for just me, no spouse or dependents and that did not include dental. This year, I paid \$330/month for my plan through the ACA which was pretty much the same plan I had before. I was also able to get dental insurance for another \$20/month. My rent is \$600/month. I use my insurance so would be considered to have pre-existing conditions. I will be impacted by the new bill in a very negative way. Please, do not pass it.

Thanks,
Shawn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shannon Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Submission
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy.pdf

I have attached comments from the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Shannon Hall
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Chisholm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Multiple sclerosis is a long and difficult one. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Kathleen Ann Chisholm

Newark, Delaware

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Beth Morgan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:52 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Cuts! No Caps! Save Medicaid!

No Cuts! No Caps! Save Medicaid!

Mary Beth Morgan, BSW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Philadelphia, [REDACTED]

Phone# [REDACTED]

Fax# [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Solomon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to ask the Senate to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This Bill will hurt more people than it will help. Every American deserves to have the best health care coverage- including those with pre-existing conditions and a low income.

Please listen to the American people and vote NO on this Bill. And then, find a way to work TOGETHER to improve Obamacare. Just stop with this "repeal & replace" nonsense. While Obamacare is not perfect, it is already in place and working for millions of Americans... Now it is your job to make it better and help it to work for ALL Americans.

Sincerely,
Jill Solomon

Sent from my iPad.
Jill Ann Solomon
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Absalom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

It is beyond me how any senator could even consider voting for the currently proposed bill. How is it possible that any American could put their party over the good of all Americans. Is there anything that I can say that would convey to you the worry we all suffer when it comes to health care?

The Graham-cassidy bill WILL affect all Americans:

1. Coverage for pre-existing conditions is in question.
2. The structure of Medicaid will be transformed (and not in a better way). I live in Texas where we are the most under insured in the nation.
3. It would be up to the states whether to offer Essential Health Benefits. Would you want your healthcare to be up to your governor and state legislatures? You don't have to worry about that now, but I do.

All of the threats and health care proposals have negatively affected the health care market. The Trump administration has cut 90% of advertising dollars for publicizing open enrollment for the coming year. Shame on you for letting this happen.

This bill would cut taxes on the wealthy and corporations and the poor and middle class will pay with their health and possibly their lives.

You must withdraw this bill and work with the Democrats to find a way to make healthcare work for all. You owe it to the American people.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Absalom
Carrollton, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ACA REPEAL!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I **oppose** the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My husband has ulcerative colitis and takes a very expensive medication to keep the condition under control. This new bill would allow health insurance companies to deny him coverage because of this pre-existing condition, and I'm not sure that we could afford his medication without insurance coverage.

We have decided not to have children, and I have been on birth control for several years. Because of the uncertainty in health care coverage for reproductive care, I am going to my doctor tomorrow to get an IUD. I cannot tolerate the constant threat to my reproductive rights, and this is the only way I can guarantee that I will be able to live my life the way I have chosen.

Our country deserves a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Teresa Benson

Forest Park, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Kirkpatrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill will deprive millions of Americans of the healthcare they need. It is an unbelievable exercise in heartlessness, proposed by people whose wealth and position means they have themselves no worries about healthcare for themselves or their families.

I have a son who is disabled and who also has lymphoma. Expanded Medicaid through Maryland's insurance program for employed persons with disabilities made it possible for him to receive excellent care when he was diagnosed with lymphoma.

I am 77 years old. I wake up at night in a cold sweat worrying about what will happen to my son after my death. Will he get the care he needs when his lymphoma recurs? Not if this cruel bill is passed.

My son is just one of tens of millions of people who will suffer under this bill--a bill created so that those to whom much has been given can be given more.

The recent cynical modifications attempting to suck in senators Collins and Murkowski shows how totally depraved this effort is.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anika Kumar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Committee,

I am a pediatric hospitalist in Cleveland, Ohio. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I care for children with serious and chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, seizure disorders and pneumonia who need access to continuous, affordable, quality healthcare. I also work at a rehab hospital for children where I care for kids who have been hit by cars or sustained serious injuries. My patients **cannot afford to lose insurance coverage for any period of time.**

I am deeply concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill would eliminate the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) health insurance **subsidies** and Medicaid expansion and replace them with state block grants. The estimated **block grant funding under the bill is substantially below what is necessary** to meet the health needs of Americans covered.

I am **concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill's changes and cuts funding to the Medicaid program.** If enacted, the bill's reductions to Medicaid would result in billions in funding cuts to the program over time, meaning states would be forced to make significant reductions to Medicaid benefits, enrollment and provider reimbursement leaving millions, including children with chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes, without affordable health coverage.

Finally, the bill **would permit states to waive essential health benefits** and allow insurers to charge much **higher health insurance premiums for people with pre-existing conditions,** measures which would result in children with chronic life-threatening conditions being priced out of the insurance market.

Lastly, **without a full appraisal from the CBO** and appropriate assessment, measures such as this should not be allowed to pass. **I URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL AND INSTEAD ENSURE CONTINUOUS AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE OF ALL AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.**

Thank you for your time and considerations of my concerns as a worried pediatrician caring for Cleveland's patients and member of a national organization that staunchly stands against the bill, the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Regards,
Anika Kumar, MD
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:51 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal- Sept. 25, 2017

B.Smith
3605 Cool Crest Drive
Jefferson MD. 21755

This proposal is Trumpcare. Trumpcare is Deathcare.

It will cut \$300 billion from the ACA.

It would gut Medicaid and take insurance away from tens of millions of Americans , and bring back preexisting conditions discrimination. Tens of thousands of Americans will die.

Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson have blatantly lied to the American people and their colleagues concerning the contents of this bill! Trump has threatened and bribed Republican Senators who might oppose it. All to fulfill a campaign promise! All to undo what President Obama has done. Despicable!

This bill is inhuman and immoral.

Please don't let this bill pass.

Thank you,
B. Smith

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Whyte, Cheryl [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child I have no choice but to fight for her rights as she emerges in to adulthood as a valuable and valued citizen.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism and epilepsy) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my daughter, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

Cheryl Whyte

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rick Francolini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Bill Keating
Subject: Graham Cassidy - Please Vote NO

Dear Committee,

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy. We do not support a hodgepodge of 50 different healthcare plans and value the security provided by Obamacare. The majority of health industry stakeholders are opposed to this bill as are the majority of citizens.

Obamacare is not perfect but a bipartisan effort will improve it. Please commit to having the parties work together as opposed to ramming down a change while capitalizing on arcane senate rules and providing minimal transparency.

thank you, rick francolini

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Wolff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I implore the House to vote no on Graham-Cassidy. As a young woman who developed a chronic illness in her early twenties and relies on health insurance to pay for the medications that help me manage my symptoms, my life would be severely impacted if this bill were to pass. I am currently able to work part-time while studying for a graduate degree; without healthcare, I would be unemployed and forced to live at home as a burden on my parents.

Sincerely,
Alice Wolff
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Breanne Hart Johnsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:50 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people and OUR sacred responsibility to fight for the Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY."

#KillTheBill

Yours,

Breanne Hart Johnsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Griffith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear senators,
I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the mother of two children with special needs, I can assure you that Medicaid has saved my children's lives. This program is a basic safety net for our country's most vulnerable citizens - the poor and the disabled. And IT WORKS.

Please, please believe me when I tell you that my son would have died last year without the medical interventions he received, funded by Medicaid.

And despite many false claims to the contrary, Graham-Cassidy removes the pre-existing conditions protections my children will always need, carrying multiple diagnoses- including autism, a brain tumor, and mental illness. These kids didn't choose this. They're living with the hand dealt to them. Please don't punish them - and all of the kids like them - for their illnesses and disabilities.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my daughter, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Best,
Kate A Griffith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Settle-Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:46 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strengthen the ACA through bipartisan discussions

Dear Decision-Makers,

Access to quality, affordable healthcare is literally a matter of life and death. The G-C bill now being proposed is unspeakably cruel. We all know the ACA can be improved upon. Let's work on improving it, as well as our entire healthcare system, with input from both parties. More important, let's get input from health care providers, insurers, physicians and nurses, patients and others who have a deep understanding of health care needs.

This is far too important to the health of America as a country, and to individual citizens, to be rushed through without thoughtful input and discussions. The Koch Brothers have far too much power. Let's bring the power back to the people of this country who will be most affected by these crucial decisions.

Thank you,
Nancy Settle-Murphy
Boxborough, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Victory [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy. Graham-Cassidy 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.

My husband and I are seniors, both with pre-existing conditions. Our insurance costs are likely to increase times 5! That is unacceptable.

The Affordable Care Act needs to be tweaked; it does not need to be abandoned.

Julie Victory,
Stroudsburg, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Hoyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I would be gutted

NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

I am a 56-year old self employed female married to my husband of 30 years who is employed by a small British firm with only 3 employees here in the US; they provide minimal benefits. Our youngest daughter, a senior in college, is still on our health insurance plan. All three of us are fit and healthy but have pre-existing conditions which would raise our rates under the proposed Graham-Cassidy plan...to the point where we would probably have to sell our modest house. When my job relocated overseas 2 years ago I went into business for myself. We trimmed our budget accordingly. We are not frivolous people. Please do not take away more of our hard-earned money by allowing insurance companies to gouge us and penalize us for conditions we were born with or acquired with age due to hard work and stressful life circumstances!

Please vote with your heart and humanity, not with your political affiliation to a system that is NOT supporting the middle and lower classes in America!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Katherine E. Hoyer
Newton, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rob's Personal <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because I'd this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I, like many Americans, have a pre-existing condition and am very concerned that this bill leaves coverage of pre-existing conditions up to each state.

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

Robbie Bauer

[REDACTED]
Spokane, WA 99223

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Dayan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Rebecca Dayan
Yonkers, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: AMBER BLAYLOCK [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal statement

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my staunch opposition and grave fear regarding the proposed Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal.

The first and foremost concern I have with this bill is easily the impact it will have on pre-existing condition coverage. While people who have pre-existing conditions (like myself, and 1/3 to 1/2 of the US population) may still have their right to purchase insurance legally protected, the provisions of this bill remove the effective access to this coverage by allowing states to receive waivers to opt out of existing ACA provisions.

While the bill does state that any waiver application must include a description of "how the state intends to maintain adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions", it does not adequately define what constitutes adequate and affordable coverage. What percentage of income constitutes "acceptable"? And it sounds as though the new version doesn't even require that much.

Furthermore, as states may at the same time waive the Essential Health Benefits requiring insurance companies to provide services such as emergency services, prescriptions, maternity care, mental health care and substance abuse (among other benefits I omitted here), it's entirely possible that someone with a pre-existing condition may see the services meant to treat that condition omitted from their coverage. For example, take my migraine disorder. If I cannot get prescriptions or emergency services, then while I may technically have insurance, I do not have any access to treatment for my migraines. This is even worse in the cases of life or death situations such as for someone who is HIV positive. HIV prevention drugs are incredibly expensive without insurance, but someone on lifesaving treatments could be denied prescription drug coverage under this bill.

I'm also concerned by the changes being made to Medicaid - as, apparently, are the Medicaid directors of all 50 states. This program would gut Medicaid and the Medicaid expansion by taking funds from states which have expanded it to give to states that chose not to. Arguments that this constitutes a "fair" distribution of funds make no sense: the states which will (temporarily) receive more funds under this bill may choose to accept the Medicaid expansion at any time in order to receive additional funds. Perhaps an argument could be made that states should be free to choose to receive either the Medicaid expansion or funds equivalent to what they would have received under the Medicaid expansion, but this is not that bill. This bill actively takes money from other states which have taken measures to insure a large portion of their populace.

Further, the funding provisions do not account for a number of factors, the foremost being that medical care simply costs different amounts in different states, and a dollar for health care in California may not go as far as a dollar in Alabama. It also does not provide future funding at a rate commensurate with inflation and rising medical costs, meaning that the effective funds will decrease substantially each year. Nor does it include provisions to account for epidemics which may emerge in states and require additional funding, such as the opioid epidemic we see now or the recent Zika virus epidemic in the Florida area. To claim that this bill empowers states to do what works best for their individual situation and then fail to account for the fact that each state is its own individual situation is ludicrous.

Even more ludicrous is the additional burden that this bill places on each state. Currently, only some states run their own insurance marketplace, with many others using ones run in whole or part by the federal government. This bill would force state governments to create and manage their own health care system, in many cases from scratch, within a very short window. Recall, if you will, the growing pains of the ACA marketplace, with website outages and more. Now imagine that multiplied 50 times over, each time orchestrated with more resources than before. It's not a pretty picture.

Nor is the plan to defund Planned Parenthood. While I am pro-choice, I sympathize with the desire of pro-life individuals not to have their tax dollars fund abortion. However, the Hyde Amendment already ensures that no federal dollars go to fund abortion services, which make up only a fraction of the services they offer. Far more of their time and money is spent providing basic services including not only birth control, but prenatal care, cancer screenings and more. For many low income families, and especially for low income women, Planned Parenthood is the only place where they may receive that care; many other clinics in Planned Parenthood areas have spoken up and clearly said that were Planned Parenthood to close its doors, they would be unable to handle the resulting influx of patients. This hits especially hard when combined with the provisions waiving the EHB, allowing insurance to fail to cover cancer and pregnancy services. That means cancers gone undetected until it's too late, pregnancies lost to diseases and issues that would have been prevented with prenatal health care, and more. There is nothing pro-life about that, nor most of the provisions of this bill.

Finally, the entire process surrounding this bill is simply antithetical to our democratic process. The entire thrust of this bill is to completely avoid bipartisanship by abusing the reconciliation process to become something it was never meant to be. Bipartisan hearings have been scuttled in order to push this agenda. Important votes like the CHIP reauthorization have been pushed aside for this. There have been no expert testimonies, barely any hearings, no full CBO score - especially on the new version - and no attempt to provide more than a show of regular order, all in an attempt to ram a shoddy, undebated bill overwhelmingly opposed by the US population through by the deadline.

Enough.

For the major medical organizations, patient groups, disability advocacy group and Medicaid directors who have come out against it. For the millions who will lose their insurance or lose vital coverage. For the insurance companies who have come out and said that this will strip protections from patients with pre-existing conditions. For the cancer patients receiving treatment. For the cancer patients yet to be detected. For those pregnant or who will become pregnant with the next generation. For that next generation. For all of us - this bill must not be allowed to pass.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Jessica Jensen

[REDACTED]

Iowa City, IA 52240



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Broderick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing - Monday Sep 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

My daughter and I rely on quality affordable healthcare. I am a single mother who is self-employed. I do not qualify for subsidies, but we have been able to obtain healthcare insurance through the ACA with rates that are reasonably affordable.

Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am 52 and have several mild pre-existing conditions. I am very concerned that this bill will make health insurance coverage either unavailable or unaffordable to me and millions like me.

Congress owes it to your constituents, we citizens for whom you work, to make a real bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not kill it.

Thank you,
Julie Broderick
Winchester, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Molly Miller [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal & Replace--VOTE NO

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of a child with a rare genetic disorder, I have no choice but to fight for her RIGHT TO LIFE - not just access to the medical care that she must have to stay alive, but to LIFE and everything that it entails - joy and heartache, trials and triumphs, hard work and reward -- a place in her community.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism, developmental delays, and learning disabilities) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics. It's about people like my daughter, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM.CASSIDY."

#KillTheBill

Molly Miller
[REDACTED] (er)
[REDACTED]
Brandon, MS 39047

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:49 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear committee,

I am writing to tell you that my life completely relies upon quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I work freelance -- as a teacher in the arts and theater director, and make under \$30,000 a year. As someone living with HIV, as well as MS, I am completely reliant upon the ACA's relationship with Medicare to pay for my medications, and live a normal, productive, happy life. With the assistance of Medicare, I would die.

Please keep Medicare for the millions of people like me battling life-threatening diseases. Moving forward, I long to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

David Drakula
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Perkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:48 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment

- People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk.
- The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
- Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities.
- Also, share your personal story! Tell them how Graham-Cassidy will impact you personally!

Oppose Graham-Cassidy and any other bill that cuts, caps, or imposes block grants or per capita caps on Medicaid!

Thank You,

Valerie Perkins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: leslie <le_cutler@...>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Concern regarding Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act

To Whom It May Concern:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is one of increasing fear due to the rapidly rising cost of care. I am currently paying \$938.76 per month for an individual plan. In 2014 I was paying \$739.54 for the same plan. I am retiring this year and am fearful that I will not be able to afford healthcare if the repeal is passed.

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

Sincerely,
Leslie Cutler
Cambridge, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth OConnell [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-cassidy Hearing on Sept. 25

Our country relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. To see friends with children who have serious pre-existing conditions that could potentially be financially devastating compels me to voice my opinion. I do not want to see our health politicized, and it's time for the profits of the insurance companies and pharmaceutical industry to be reigned in.

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

Sincerely,

Beth OConnell
[REDACTED]
Raleigh, NC 27608

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cate Strain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahama-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am writing as someone whose health care is not in jeopardy at the moment--my state employer (for now) picks up most of the tab, and I don't have to decide between health care and putting food on the table, or health care and keeping my house.

That doesn't mean I am not willing to fight for those not in my position. All American citizens should have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They do not deserve to die because they can't pay the crippling costs of American health care. We are the only industrial nation that does not assume the responsibility for keeping our citizens healthy as a right.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a travesty. It should never even have seen the light of day. Kill this bill.

Cate Strain
[REDACTED]
Johnson City, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Finnefrock <vfinnefrock@rochester.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not want to have a bill that allows insurance companies to charge more for pre-existing conditions. An example of this is that having a test for high cholesterol, even one time, gives insurance companies the opportunity to state that all future cardiac illness is a pre-existing condition; or if someone has benign fluid filled breast cysts, an extremely common condition, that insurance companies can state that is a pre-existing condition for breast cancer. I also do not want to see lifetime limits on health insurance. Healthcare should be available to ALL Americans, and should be affordable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Vicki Weinstein

Rochester, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chelsey Goddard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I implore you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

As the parent of an autistic child, I have no choice but to fight for his RIGHT TO LIFE - not just access to the medical care that he must have to stay alive, but to LIFE and everything that it entails - joy and heartache, trials and triumph, hard work and reward -- a place in his.

Despite many of your colleagues' false assurances to the contrary, Graham Cassidy leaves those with pre-existing conditions (like autism) dangerously vulnerable.

Its draconian cuts to Medicaid will leave our most vulnerable citizens - most notably our parents, grandparents and disabled loved ones - without the lifeline they so desperately need to be able to live and work in their communities, where they belong.

It may be easy to ignore the emotionally charged plea of a terrified mother, but my stance on the bill is based in fact, not fear.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the BlueCross BlueShield Association have all implored you to vote NO on this bill.

All 50 State Directors of Medicaid, and myriad other groups including the JDRF, ALS Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Arthritis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Family Voices, JDRF, Lutheran Services in America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and WomenHeart, among many, many others have issued statements imploring you to vote NO on this bill.

This isn't about politics: It's about people like my son, and not just my but OUR sacred responsibility to fight for her Right to Life.

Please, I'm begging, VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY.

Chelsey Goddard
Newton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peridot <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please do not take my healthcare away. Join the bipartisan effort to fix the ACA. Demonstrate some LEADERSHIP.

Every single health care association in America, including health insurance companies agree: this bill will HARM Americans greatly.

Why would you do this to America. Your obligation is to us, your constituents. You work for us, so LISTEN to what we are saying.

Jane MacDonald

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Bobrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:45 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote against this bill until and unless a full assessment of its impacts is completed and thoroughly debated. To do otherwise would be totally irresponsible and a betrayal of your representative function.

Sincerely,
Joseph Bobrow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: The Blum Family Email Account <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no and this is why

I am a white, middle age, middle-class widowed mom. I Met Jim, my husband when I was 19. I had no family, none zero. I was living on my own and supporting myself well as a waitress in NYC. Jim moved to NYC from Minneapolis. Right out of college. He was a suburban middle-class white boy. He was born with a heart disease.

The next 30 years we spent married, paying for his college, then paying for more college for him. And paying for health care. He was without health care more than not. He was a finance guy who worked mostly for himself and contracted. It was that open heart surgery that did us in the most. We lost all our savings including any retirement. We kept that house that was falling apart and that minivan that didn't run well. We paid all our bills. We had a vacation maybe once every five years. We had two children that we waited 10 years after we were married to have because we needed to at least be able to have a house and not a one bedroom apartment. This was all with him making 100k by the time he died and me working up to my 30's then I stayed home with the kids.

He died on us, even though that heart operation was supposed to give us that full life. I was in school full time when it happened. It was supposed to be "my turn" to go to school full-time. I attempted 6 other times throughout our love and life. But his life had to be micromanaged, I was that person to do so. Well, he died, and that dream of being one thing wasn't going to cut it with two young girls. So here I am now 50 and a full-time student. A Junior now going for my special ed licenses. I have one more year left. I am living on student loans and Social Security.

You see. He wouldn't have died that day if he had health care. The "risk pool" means full payment out of pocket and a 200 dollar just to see a doctor type visit to see what was wrong with him that week, since he said over and over again, he was "coming down with something".

You killed my husband by not supplying a man who makes a 100 k be able to afford to take care of himself and his family.

I will always feel that way. The least you can do is to give us health care now. That widow and her two kids.

Evelyn Blum.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alyssa Montchal [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Alyssa Montchal
Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Haas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchc0mments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

I'm writing to ask you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller health insurance repeal.

Before the ACA was enacted, my insurance premiums were more than \$2,000 per MONTH. This was for average coverage, not much more than the minimum required by the ACA. After the ACA was enacted, I converted to a very similar policy from the same company, for around \$700 per month. A savings of over TWO THIRDS.

If Graham-Cassidy-Heller is enacted, I won't even have the option of paying nearly \$25,000 per year for my health insurance. The bill would override state bans against basing premiums on the citizen's health status. Thus, instead of rating my premiums the same as all others in my age bracket, I would be charged extra because I receive allergy shots and counseling. Although the cost of these services to keep me healthy is nominal, because the underlying conditions potentially have complications in a small number of patients, my insurance premium would skyrocket - tripling to the level a healthy citizen would pay without the ACA's protections, increasing again to account for my being in a new age bracket compared to when I last bought insurance without the ACA's protection, and then being further increased as insurance companies charge higher premiums to each citizen who has ever had a health problem.

I'm hardly one of the most vulnerable citizens that this bill will harm. It's for the elderly, the children, the people with disabilities (which could be any of us in time), the victims of accidents, that I write. Every health care organization in the USA opposes this bill. My story is merely an illustration that the harm will not accrue only to the poor. Wealthy people, the only ones who will be able to afford health insurance, will pay a great deal more for insurance. Middle class people will simply not be able to afford insurance at all. Poorer public health harms EVERYONE in lost productivity, greater contagion, and greater need for additional services that would not have been needed had a condition been treated early.

Please, oppose this horrendous bill.

Susan Haas
[REDACTED]
Hopewell, OH 43746

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Justin Munroe [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My father in law relies on quality affordable healthcare. Therefore, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not believe our system is set up currently in a way that would allow anything other than heavy financial debt from medical costs should the Graham-Cassidy bill be approved. I imagine this would be the same for millions of other Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Justin Munroe

[REDACTED] H 03063

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Groeninger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare testimony

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to not pass the Graham Cassidy bill. I do think that the ACA can and should be improved and that is the bipartisan approach that I think would be most helpful for our country. This proposed bill removes the benefits and safeguards provided by the ACA that my family and I count on.

I personally have a good job, with good insurance, but I know that I am one layoff or sickness away from that no longer being the case. I was recently diagnosed with a genetic condition which now puts me firmly in the pre-existing conditions category. I will need lifelong medication to control the condition and to stay a healthy, functioning, contributing member of society. Without the medication and medical care, I would not be any of those things. If my insurance lapsed, and I wasn't able to get insurance due to my pre-existing condition, it would be catastrophic to my family. Healthcare is the right that we must protect for all.

Thank you for your time to listen to my story. I hope you consider the impact when voting on the bill and vote no.
Sincerely,
Kathryn Groeninger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Jenkins [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Rachel Jenkins
Austin, Texas

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Fossum [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

Senators,

I implore you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. As the sister of a wonderful young man with autism and epilepsy, I cannot sit idly by while my brother's right to care (and therefore, life itself) is threatened. You must vote no. This bill is not the result of bipartisan cooperation or even good conservative values. It is cruelty, plain and simple.

Please, VOTE NO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lecia <[REDACTED]@house.com>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing submission
Attachments: Submission for the Senate Committee Finance hearing record for the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Sep 25 2017 2PM 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building.pdf

Hello,

Please accept the attached PDF as a submission for the Senate Committee on Finance hearing record for the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

Hearing date: Monday, September 25, 2017
Hearing time: 02:00 PM
Hearing location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

I appreciate the opportunity to have my perspective shared with the committee on record.

Thanks!

Lecia Papadopoulos

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@house.com
[REDACTED] 24
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geraldine Denecke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:43 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: regarding healthcare

Please do not allow the ACA to be repealed or defunded. My daughter, Abigail Denecke, depends on it. Abigail is 35 and has had M.S. for over ten years. Despite struggling with this difficult illness, Abby has worked at a non profit, in Virginia, providing services to others for the past ten years. Unfortunately, her illness has become more extreme. Because we could count on the ACA to provide her with health insurance, she was able to relocate to be near our family in New York. Now she is unable to work and needs Medicaid. She needs her monthly infusion of Tysabri to combat this awful illness. Her very life depends on it. Please do not repeal or defund the ACA. All American citizens deserve health care insurance. People with pre existing insurance cannot afford higher premiums. Do not rob us of insurance that our family needs in order to survive to give a tax cut to the wealthy.

Sincerely, Geraldine Denecke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Barlow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family relied on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story during unemployment was devastating. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jane Barlow

Dayton, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Wick [mailto:anwick@hawaii.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017

I am writing to express my concerns and ask you to halt the advance of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal today.

This bill negatively impacts too many Americans and takes us back to the days where a health issue could lead to bankruptcy after years of work and saving. It would displace vital medical care to thousands of veterans and place undue burden on our already taxed VA system. It disrupts 20% of our economy which we can't afford. The health care industry is unanimously opposed to this bill, the fact that it's still under consideration is unbelievable.

I've lived under five different healthcare systems in my life. Pre-ACA, Post-ACA, Military, Dutch and Australian. Pre-ACA was hands down the worst system of medical care. I paid for coverage and was often denied treatment. Sometimes treatment was ended before my rehabilitation was complete. Why do other nations enable their citizens to obtain much better healthcare systems and outcomes? Why did other countries provide better healthcare for my children than my own country? It's because they were motivated by ensuring good public health policy vice profits.

We can do so much better than the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. Please terminate this horrific bill which would harm so many.

Respectfully,

Anne Wick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marc Ehrlich <[REDACTED]@m>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal and replace

In my 59 years I have never seen such foolishness. The republicans are willing to destroy health care in America in order to 1. Give Trump a "win". He is totally ignorant of the facts of the bill or how the law will work. He's just looking for a win for him and remove a win from the Obama presidency. If the law didn't change and they called it Trumpcare he would embrace it. In his words "so sad"

2. The other motivation is to please the .1%, republican backers who will use this to fund their tax breaks. Ridiculous.

Do the right thing and what's best for America.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Juana Rosa Cavero [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill Threatens Reproductive Health Access and Jeopardizes Gains in Expanding Coverage and Consumer Protections
Attachments: CCRF_GraCasOPP_FinCmteFINAL.pdf

To: United States Senate Committee on Finance

Re: OPPOSE – Graham-Cassidy Bill Threatens Reproductive Health Access and Jeopardizes California’s Gains in Expanding Coverage and Consumer Protections

The undersigned members of the *California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom* write to express our strong opposition to the bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Bill Cassidy (La.), Dean Heller (Nev.), and Ron Johnson (Wis.) (hereinafter “Graham-Cassidy”) to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), eliminate the current financing structure of Medicaid, and restrict access to essential reproductive health services.

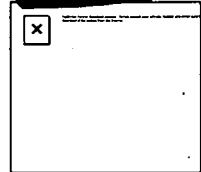
We strongly urge you to preserve the progress that has been made in expanding health access and consumer protections, and oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED Signature]

Juana Rosa Cavero

[REDACTED Title]
[REDACTED Email]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Martino [redacted] <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Waiver funding

My name is Teresa Bailey and I am a mother of twins with severe autism. Both twins here in Iowa have the ID Waiver and we rely on it for the supplemental insurance to our primary coverage and for the access it grants the twins to receive home and community services.

The Arc helps us staff their needs to get out into the community and reach real life goals to keep them living at home and happy. It gives us respite at times to be with our other 3 children and mentally recoup from the stresses of caring for the twins. Without the amount of waiver hours that we receive, I greatly fear that I would not be able to care for my children in the manner that they should receive. I implore you to consider families that have children with disabilities and the real toll caregiver stress can take on a family.

Sincerely,

Teresa Bailey
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Spence <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Why in the world would you even consider a health care bill opposed by every major health care trade association and a huge majority of voters? And why would you want to empower states to do something so cruel as to take away health coverage from the sick?

There are things that good societies do together, with government help. Pooling health risks to protect the unlucky from catastrophe is one of those things.

Do you ever step back and ask yourself what you have become? Do you want to be associated with this bill? Is this what you want history to remember you for?

David Spence
Austin, TX
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Helen Zubaly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Helen Zubaly
Falls Church, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Keadan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal is currently being pushed irresponsibly through the Senate. This is unacceptable! I do NOT want ACA repealed, I want my representatives to work their colleagues bipartisanly to fix the ACA. It is not responsible to pass laws that make MILLIONS of Americans lose affordable access to quality healthcare!

Kathleen Keadan

17050
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Todd Huebner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. As a small-business owner with preexisting conditions, I am deeply apprehensive about the damage this bill would do to the U.S. healthcare system, damage that can only be guessed at in the absence of a full CBO score.

Conservatives have traditionally been concerned about the unintended consequences of government action. The intended consequences of this ill-considered bill are bad enough. We have no idea what the unintended consequences would be of its radical restructuring of one-sixth of the American economy.

Polls indicate that a strong majority of Americans oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller. Please listen to us! Moreover, large numbers of medical and charitable organizations, from the AMA to the March of Dimes, have come out in opposition to it, while virtually none appear to support it. Please listen to them! Do the right thing and reject this bill!

Todd Huebner
Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Allen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 7:39 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Graham-Cassidy bill

The US needs affordable health care for all, including our poorest citizens and people with pre-existing conditions in states with limited Medicaid. The Graham-Cassidy bill is heartless, and headed in the wrong direction. Kill it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ashni.dave@gmail.com on behalf of Ashni Dave [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The ACA and Medicaid have allowed me and my family to get the care we need. I have been able to manage my anemia without skipping appointments or taking gaps in my medication, which is dangerous for my health, because I can't pay for it. My father is able to manage his diabetes properly. We need this to survive.

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

Sincerely,
Ashni Dave
Chapel Hill, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Herzog [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Thoughts on Graham Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My niece and her children rely on Medicaid and it is imperative that no one gets refused because of per-existing conditions. I find it astounding that any bill would include removing per-existing conditions. I believe there is bi-partisanship support for that.

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

Sincerely,

Jan Herzog
Berkeley, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: katyeasterly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Me and my family from New Hampshire

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have two small children we need affordable health care to raise into healthy adults. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Katy Easterly Martey

Manchester, NH

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patti DiSanto [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT repeal the ACA

Pennsylvania stands to lose \$8.3 BILLION in Medicaid funding through the dangerous political game being played by some Republicans. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill is playing Russian roulette with the lives of all Americans. This is totally crazy & irresponsible.

Vote NO to repeal &/or hobble the ACA, which helps millions of Americans, including my handicapped sister.

We are watching you with very long memories that will extend at least 5 years out. We will remember your compassion (or lack thereof) for those Americans far less fortunate than you or me.

Vote NO!

Respectfully,

Patti DiSanto

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: dejbrooks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Health Care Act

Hello Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to request that you do not permit the current Graham-Cassidy health care proposal to pass. I urgently make this request because I feel this health care act will deprive Americans of much-needed health care protections currently available in the Affordable Care Act. It is imperative that Americans retain coverages such as no barriers to coverage for preexisting conditions, no lifetime caps, and not be subject to having the cost of health care escalate well beyond current premiums to unaffordable costs. Also, I understand this bill threatens critical coverages for women, including maternity and other care. This is wrong.

I am a retiree, 72 years of age, who recently underwent 5 surgeries for hip replacement! As a result, I am now disabled. I receive medicare. My 92-year-old mother, who thank God is still alive, is on Medicaid. I do not want to see massive cuts to Medicaid, as this bill calls for. These cuts will be devastating to seniors, the disabled, and many others like my mother who are struggling to care for themselves and their families.

Members of Congress do not have to constantly fear whether they will have comprehensive, affordable health care coverage for themselves and their families. Please don't force this disastrous NO-health care coverage bill on the American people. You know we deserve much better than this. If you can't improve upon our current health care, don't threaten our lives by repealing the current coverage in favor of this super flawed bill that will harm millions and millions and millions of people.

I plead for your ultimate consideration of this appeal. Thank you.

Delores J Brooks
Chicago, Illinois resident

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Altman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Stephani Becker
Subject: Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on Graham-Cassidy Bill
Attachments: Shriver Center Testimony on G-C Bill.pdf

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find attached testimony from the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law to be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee with regard to the Senate Finance Committee Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill to be held on September 25, 2017.

Thank you,

Stephanie Altman

--
Stephanie Altman
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Repeal ACA

Please do not repeal the ACA.

The majority of the healthcare industry is against this proposed bill.

All of the state Medicaid Directors are against this proposed bill.

A bill that impacts a majority of Americans should be reviewed and debated through regular process.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Wanda Whitson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ibrahim Moustaf [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

This blatant and obvious swipe at the well-being of American citizens in favor of lining the pockets of the rich is yet another example of how far Republican representatives have strayed from their duties to their constituents. Stop lying to the public about healthcare coverage. Stop undermining your position. Stop betraying the people of this country. You were elected to represent the people's interests, not the corporations and donors that keep you flush with cash. Salvage what decency and compassion you have left, if any, and vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Ibrahim

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Dio [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA!

The Graham-Cassidy bill will take away vital health coverage from people who need it most. Although the CBO has not scored the bill yet, the Senate Republicans are determined to ram this through without the proper procedure. Millions of people's lives are on the line!!!! This bill is a disaster and people can be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition, older people will pay 5 times more for their insurance, Medicaid funding will be severely cut, and premiums will be unaffordable. Why can't the Republicans work with the Democrats to tweak what isn't working with the ACA (and stop sabotaging it!). I know I would have a lot more respect for them if they acted in the best interest of the people versus the best interest of the party.

Almost all patient and provider groups and health insurance companies have made statements opposing this bill. Statement from the AMA:
We believe the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care. ~
The American Medical Association

Mrs. Katherine Dio

[REDACTED]
Fries, VA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am emailing to express my concern with Graham Cassidy. As a small business owner, this bill is harmful. I have been happily relying on the ACA exchange for affordable health insurance, which I would no longer be able to do if Graham Cassidy is passed. As a woman, I am also appalled by this bill not ensuring maternity care or birth control. As the wife of a wonderful husband who happens to have asthma and the daughter of a mother with diabetes and a disabled father, I am concerned about a bill that could very likely result in unaffordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. This bill is harmful to small business owners, women, families, people with pre-existing conditions, the sick, the elderly, and even the healthy in the 31 states that will lose funding!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Lehnert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

First off I feel the Affordable Care Act was sabotaged on purpose. By mentioning in EVERY speech, at every rally, in every interview, press conference and press briefing. It was done to scare insurance companies away from the ACA. Yes it needs to be tweaked but it does NOT need to be repealed. If it goes down in flames then it is the fault of the Republicans and Donald Trump. And shortening the days to re-up in Nov and having the site down for periods during the week is an abomination. This can not and SHOULD NOT happen. Polls show most of the population likes the ACA and want to keep it. Why is our government telling us we have to repeal and replace. And thats exactly what they are doing.

My daughter is on the ACA. She has a pre-existing condition. She works but does not make a six figure salary which what she would need to pay for insurance in the GC plan.

I am terrified she will not be able to afford insurance for herself. My brother in law had hepatitis when he was younger and when the ACA come out he was finally able to get insurance. If you pass the GC plan he will be unable to insure himself.

I could go on and on....Please please dont' pass this frightening bill. Fix the ACA!!! Keep politics out of it. Just because you didn't like Obama thats not a reason to get rid of it.

Beth Lehnert

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Toub [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Input re: Graham-Cassidy

I am strongly opposed to the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill, which will throw millions off their insurance, cause premiums to skyrocket, gut Medicaid coverage for children with disabilities, seniors, and disaster victims, and eliminate protections for pre-existing conditions. The AMA says it violates the Hippocratic oath and dozens of provider groups have spoken out against the bill, as have a number of governors, the AARP, and Medicaid directors in all 50 states. Less than 25% of the American public favor the bill as well.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gary Toub

Gary Toub, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heather Collins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

As a registered voter, a taxpayer, a mother, wife, sister, aunt and friend: I, in the strongest terms possible, oppose this horrendous proposal. This attempt at "reforming" the ACA is a farce: it will do nothing more than shift entirely the costs to states, take away health care from children, the disabled, veterans, the poor, and older people not qualified for Medicare. It ends Medicaid entirely in 10 years. This bill MUST fail, and I urge all members of the House to reject this monstrosity. Vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Heather Collins

[REDACTED]
Glastonbury, CT [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rhonda [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept.25 2017

I am writing to ask the members of the Senate to vote NO on the above proposal. I know that the ACA has problems but I am asking that the members of both parties work together in a bipartisan manner to fix those problems and do so by following regular order in the Senate.

I would ask that the Senators take into consideration the numerous medical associations and patient advocacy groups who have come out opposed to the Graham-Cassidy, et al. Such prestigious hospitals/associations as: **The Cleveland Clinic, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association, all 50 directors of state Medicaid programs (including the chief medical officer of Medicaid), the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, the American Cancer Society, the American Health Care Association, the American Public Health Association, and there are others as well.**

I find it appalling that some Senate members would discount the voices of the above medical groups and the voices of many of their constituents and instead listen to the very few voices of their big money campaign donors. I understand that as a retired teacher, living on a limited income, I cannot hope to match the money that is poured into various campaigns. All I can do is to offer up the story of my 21 year old grandson who is in the fight of his life against a brain tumor. A brain tumor which has devastated his health because of the damage it has caused. A battle, which just in hospital bills alone, has cost \$760k. A battle that would have financially and emotionally bankrupted my daughter's family were it not for the medical insurance she has which carries no lifetime coverage caps on medical care for her son. My grandson's tumor can grow back, so every day he wakes up wondering if the tumor has started to grow again. And now, he wakes up in the fear that his mother's insurance coverage for him could be capped or when he must get his own insurance, he will not be able to afford it because of his pre-existing conditions.

I am only one voice. I am fighting for my grandson's life. But I have to put his life in your hands and pray to God that you will do what is right for him and millions of others and vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Rhonda Salerno
[REDACTED]

Tucson, AZ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elise Frenau [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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 disability.

Elise Lena Frenau
Warren, MI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senators:

I implore you to repair ACA.

Do not continue with this bill

It will harm people you and I love: fellow Americans.

Thank you,

Tom Johnson

[REDACTED]
Grants Pass, Or

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What's happened to your thinking...?

Thinking...??? Well....it's fairly obvious you aren't...!

Apparently, you've been living that rarefied life of political entitlements for so long you've forgotten what real life is like for regular people...the ones who voted you into office. Remember them...??? These people struggle everyday to provide health care protection for themselves and their families. When was the last time you ACTUALLY struggled for these kind benefits OR for anything NOT self-serving...???

These people.... DO NOT want the ACA repealed they want it fixed so they can have the same measure of health care you have. They also DON'T want Medicaid reduced.... and still you're NOT listening....even after attending town hall meetings around your state. And WHY is that?

Apparently, it's more convenient for you to become SO entrenched in another slack-jowled, old farts egotistical 7+ year mission to fulfill his vow to repeal the ACA that you've forgotten what's really at stake...the health care for millions of Americans. So your plan shoves these people under the bus so a bunch of doddering, self-serving old fools can pander to the sick, twisted agenda of another old fart politician.

What you seem to have forgotten is that many of you are up for re-election in 2018. Do you really think it's wise to continue marching to the "party" line....when the resistance to it's ideology is abhorrent to so many...??? If you don't start listening to the people who voted you into office I can promise you...no matter how long you've been in office...it will be the path to political suicide...and so richly deserved.

AND, then a very large group of voters will make our mission to change ALL the current laws regarding health care and retirement benefits. We will work to UNIFY ALL the plans into one nation-wide benefits package making it effective immediately. No more special and separate health and retirement entitlements for politicians. Everyone will be UNITED...one nation under one plan.

And, along with a consortium of voters, we will also ask for a detailed investigation into the campaign funds you have received throughout your political career. I'm sure many retired financial analysts will be more than happy to dig into your donor lists and voting record. Learning who contributed into your coffers would eliminate or prove if any conflicts of interest exist or any improprieties or ethics violations that might bring about criminal charges. And, won't that be fun...!!!

It's time for you....as an elected government official... to start putting country first and then the constituents who placed you in office. They trusted you to represent them. Was that a mistake...? The biggest voting block of people in this country is becoming Independent. They don't vote for old stuffy, antiquated party lines. AND, thanks to the 2016 election....the apathetic voter you've counted on to re-elect you for all these years is dead.

Resistance is alive, well and VERY LOUD. The message here is for you to start listening.... to start reacting to what the people want...or your political career is as dead as the dinosaurs.
DO WHAT'S RIGHT.....!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Casey Hinds [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

Do not undermine our health care. Vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Casey Hinds

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Raitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

No citizen of the wealthiest company in the world should die because they cannot pay for medical insurance or doctors bills. Stop the Graham Cassidy bill.

Carol Raitz
Lexington, Kentucky

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane's Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Sent from my iPad

Our children with disabilities depend on Medicaid for their Health Care away! Why is it wrong to deal with this issue through regular order and open debates! My son does not want his disability he was born that way ! Put our children above ideology!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

This bill is just bad and evil. Do the work with regular order and come up with a good bill or fix the ACA!!!!!!

Chris Shaw

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Medina [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH CARE DIGNINTY

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions, namely pregnancy, because we're female we have a pre-existing condition. My son was born prior to ACA, because I was a female I'm not on my husbands insurance but on my own insurance, my employer at the time did not continue paying for health care, once I took my maternity leave, I was left with the \$40,000 bill because my son's birth which is taking me 15 years to pay off. Fortunately the ACA existed for my other two children, pregnancy stopped being a pre-existing condition, and employers no longer have to right to take you off the Insurance because of birth. I find it absolutely reprehensible that fellow Americans could strip women, which you were born from, people with disabilities, and lower income or middle income Americans I'm having the ability to afford healthcare. We in United States know that the Republican Party has denied payment to insurance companies, denied following the provisions set for several states, so that the ACA would fail! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Healthcare covers all people regardless of their party, race, religion or gender, therefore all constituents should have the right to have representation in our Congress while our lives, and future healthcare, are being discussed.

Sincerely,

Claudia Medina
Forest park Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: diane lanigan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare bill

We need affordable health care! How difficult is that to understand???? This has nothing to do with Obama, this has everything to do with the average American citizen who doesn't command the salaries of those in Congress... AND cannot begin to afford the skyrocketing medical and dental costs of the USA. Obamacare was a start, it's your turn to **ADD to it and improve it**. We do not want or need the Graham-Cassidy bill, we need a bi-partisan effort to give us a program that will expand and grow and get better with time.

I have Lupus/Sjogren's..a preexisting condition. My daughter is a disabled adult. Even with Medicaid/Medicare, most of our health expenses are out of pocket, we cannot afford the Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill.

Diane M. Lanigan

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Theodore Roosevelt

Don't forget to click through.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. Sept. 25th 2017
Attachments: Medicaid testimony.doc

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017; Erin Miller, 3515 E Tesch Ave Apt 5 St Francis WI 53253

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill, and vote no on any bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid.

My name is Erin Miller. I'm thirty-two years old and I'm on the autism spectrum. I was five years old when Americans with Disabilities act came out. So I've never known a time when it was legal to exclude me from school, work, and the community at large. As one of the first people with disabilities out and about, I scraped through school. Afraid that asking questions in my education was an inconvenience to my community.

As a little girl, I never saw anyone who used Alternative Augmentative Communication(AAC) to speak for them. Or anyone who had significant medical needs in same room as those without disabilities. The inclusion movement in schools that brought us out of the backroom, and into the mainstream would not come until I was much older. And I am still waiting for inclusion in my community as an adult. For indeed, much of the world still thinks of people with my disability in terms of toddler-age children for who we now have baseline (Medicaid funded) supports 30 years later. And only in the last 10 years have my community begin to think of us growing into adults. But the progress we did make in the last 27 years was because *the law* gave a baseline for morality.

The healthcare bill you are voting on today is as much as sign post for who we are as a nation as ADA was then. Do not dare to claim that this bill is about Barack Obama. Whoever sits in the Whitehouse, people with disabilities want to work and play in our communities. And for many of us, Medicaid helps us do so in cost-effective manner. Know that with your vote, you also are voting on whether you see us as citizens who want to contribute, or whether you see us as takers, liars, and/or children who don't know any better. So vote no on segregation. Vote no on keeping people dependent and out of the workplace. Vote no on spending more money and getting less life. Vote no on any bill that cuts, caps, or block grants Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Reva Snedecor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would not be able to afford insurance if we did not have assistance as tax payers. I paid into the system for 50 years of my life working. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Reva Snedecor
[REDACTED]

Charlotte, NC [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ernest Isaacs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy

Even before the CBO report comes out, we know the Graham-Cassidy health non-care bill will KILL hundreds of thousands of people.

Please vote against this monstrosity and begin a bi-partisan effort to improve our health care.

Ernest Isaacs
Berkeley, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gladys Nedry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care

Please work out your disagreements and get this healthcare taken care of as was promised when we elected you all. I am not sure what the senators against this are trying to prove and to whom? Do they want to continue with Obamacare that is affecting the doctors and hospital where I work in San Diego. Patients cascading in to make appointments and receive care that may or may not be needed because they don't have to worry about paying for it. Others paying exorbitant funds and having to change their doctors of many years because of insurance problems. The government won't be happy until they control every aspect of our lives. I am especially disgusted with John MacCain. Yes, he is to be thanked for all he went through in the military but as a politician he seems to have an inflated impression of himself as do the others opposing all of these proposed changes. They think that they know better than the voters.

PLEASE GET RID OF OBAMACARE.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emma Majewski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 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 millions of people could lose their health insurance. Many people with pre-existing conditions could also lose their health insurance and might lose their lives because they couldn't afford coverage. Please do not support this bill! Thank you.

Emma Majewski

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Grace-Rich Marino [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate "Healthcare" Bill

Stop! You are only doing this since Obama's name is on it. My son was able to get coverage with the ACA with a pre-existing condition. GOP governors cannot be trusted to provide coverage and affordability! Obviously you couldn't care less about the people or you would stick with the bi-partisan effort and change your own coverage. R.A. Marino, Veteran Army Officer and [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danielle Montpas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the newest version of Trumpcare. It would devastate working families and roll back the critical progress we've made in protecting so many Americans.

Hidden within this Graham-Cassidy bill is a \$20 BILLION tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which makes its money from exploiting illness and misery. This industry also has an estimated \$230 billion in untaxed profits stashed offshore.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake. It is unfathomable and wrong to use one token hearing to hurt millions of Americans.

I call upon the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to show some integrity and to reject Graham-Cassidy. Protect the healthcare of millions of Americans, instead of protecting the profits of greedy corporations.

I also call upon the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to require corporations to pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

DO THE RIGHT THING. REJECT GRAHAM-CASSIDY.

Danielle Montpas
[REDACTED]

Flint, Michigan [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: audrey fisher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments; Indivisible Austin
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing Public Comment

The Senate Finance Committee Hearing Monday, 9/25/2017 @ 2PM
Public Comment on the Graham / Cassidy Amendment:

Audrey Fisher
[REDACTED]

San Antonio, TX [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern: I am against this amendment.

It will harm if not kill thousands of people.

Health Insurance premium cost will likely increase as this legislation removes the requirement that everyone in the US should be required to have insurance (aka the Mandate). To make up for the loss of individuals, these companies will increase their premiums to make up for that loss.

People with pre-existing health conditions are no longer protected from insurance rates skyrocketing , as this legislation also removed protection for these individuals against high risk premium rates. That will increase the number of people who can no longer afford healthcare insurance policies, which in turn will cause an increase in avoidable deaths and /or increase use of the most expensive type of "healthcare" which is Emergency Medicine.

This legislation opens the gates to the selling of junk healthcare insurance policies that allow for an individuals to learn of a diagnosis, but not to have coverage for treatment. That to results in higher number of avoidable deaths and/ or increase use of the most expensive type of healthcare treatment, which is Emergency Medicine- which is a bandaid for long term treatment, not curative.

Those individuals with pre-existing conditions are estimated to be largely in the 50-64 yo age bracket. This should be a time in these peoples lives when people are actively working to save for retirement and a lack of affordable insurance makes them make a choice: carry insurance and live or hope to live the next 15-20 years without healthcare insurance until they are eligible for Medicare.

This legislation also puts a CAP on the total amount of costs required to be spent / covered by a healthcare insurance company. Please ask Senator Toomy how much his stroke recovery costs or Senator Hirono how much her kidney cancer surgery and follow-up has costs. Is the Senate really advocating that adults should die when healthcare caps are reached and they have no healthcare insurance coverage? What about children that develop leukemia and end up requiring bone marrow transplants should just die if they are not born into a wealthy family? Or is this a way for GOP Genocide for all children who are diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease.

It is astonishing that Republican party in the name of fiscal responsibility are saying that cutting the funding by billions will somehow make the people of this country better able to do anything. I see this as hatred for people who are not wealthy.

This healthcare amendment is a redux of the Ronald Reagan gambit to stop funding Mental Health by using "Block Grant funding". What happened was that Congress quit funding those block grants and States reduced their Mental Health funding, people were released onto the streets, people who were not mentally able to care for themselves. These people cycled through the justice system until the Private Prison Complex evolved

and millions of those people are now in the prison system instead of Mental Health facilities. The only winners were the Corporations that created the Private Prison complex. But with healthcare, there is no alternative, people without healthcare will just die. And that must be the bottom line for Republican - people will just die, ho hum, too bad....but the national debt is lower.

If that is truly what the Republicans represent, a total lack of human caring, then the US will sink like a stone in its standing in the global community...all because of their bizarre sense of what is good for this country.

As a healthcare provider for more than 40 years I urge you to repair the problems with PPACA and show a modicum of respect for the American people who have worked hard all of their life and want to a sense of dignity restored to this country. Graham / Cassidy takes away from the workers of USA and allows the State Legislatures to do more harm and kill more people.

Please prove me wrong, do not pass this legislation.

Audrey Fisher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: D Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA - No Repeal! Kill the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

As a citizen of the US, I urge you to Kill the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Do NOT repeal the ACA.

I am monitoring all votes on the bill in the Senate and will actively support and campaign against any and all supporters of Graham-Cassidy.

Deborah Adams
Cordova, TN 38018

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Alfasso [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In support of the Affordable Care Act and against the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare as do many members of my family and a great number of my friends. I have a pre-existing condition, as to many of my friends, neighbors and other people I know. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ability to stay healthy and address health issues both immediate and chronic means that people can be productive. Lack of affordable health care is an economic drain on individuals, families, workplaces and society. Also people without the ability to access healthcare suffer and die. Is this what we want? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Ruth D. Alfasso

Medford, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Douma [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill will hurt Americans!

According to a poll conducted by ABC News and The Washington Post and the results of which were released on September 22nd, the American people PREFER Obamacare to Graham-Cassidy 53% to 33%. Why are senators not listening to their constituents??? Senators MUST listen to the people who elected them, not ignore them to carry out their own foolish agendas.

After a summer of trying and failing to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Republicans are making a last-ditch effort to end the healthcare law before the reconciliation deadline on September 30th. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) have proposed yet another ACA repeal bill that is even more disruptive than previous GOP plans.

Graham and Cassidy claim the bill gives states local control of healthcare spending by converting much of ACA funding into a block grant to states. States could spend this money to provide insurance, fund high-risk pools, or otherwise cover medically complex care costs. While the ACA sets aside funding specifically for low-income consumers' healthcare costs, the Cassidy-Graham bill does not earmark any money specifically for this vulnerable group. In fact, the bill would fund the block grant by eliminating the ACA's tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies for middle- and low-income marketplace consumers and ending Medicaid expansion in 2020. The plan would reduce federal funding for expanded healthcare coverage by \$26 billion immediately and by \$83 billion by 2026. The plan would also end the individual insurance mandate while requiring insurers to cover everyone, a combination of policies that have historically resulted in astronomically high premiums.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has now confirmed they won't have a full assessment of the latest ACA repeal bill's effects on the deficit, premiums, or insurance coverage rates until weeks after the reconciliation deadline. The Senate needs to hear loud and clear that it's unacceptable to vote on a massive healthcare bill without fully understanding its impact--tell them not to vote for any ACA repeal bill without a full CBO analysis.

PLEASE don't push through this devastating bill that controls one sixth of the United States economy. It is FOOLISH. Many senators are ready and willing to work on a bipartisan solution. This is not business as usual. GOP Senators should not hold our democracy hostage for a surface-level "win".

-Erica Douma

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew L Whitehead [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Clearly, health care is an important issue facing the United States. But, no one party should unilaterally make decisions that affect all of us, and especially in a rushed manner like the Graham-Cassidy bill, and various other iterations of Trumpcare from the last 6 months. The American people deserve transparency. Wait for the full score from the Congressional Budget Office. Allow for amendments to be made. Work together, across the aisle, to create real change.

In short: think of your constituents, not your donors.

Thank you for your time,

Andrew Whitehead
Central, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristen Perry [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

Both I and my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Let me share two stories with you that illustrate why affordable health coverage is so important to me.

1) I proudly served this country as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1999-2001. Shortly before my service ended, I developed a significant urinary tract infection. Although the UTI was successfully treated, I developed reactive arthritis almost immediately upon coming home in November, 2001. I have struggled with other unexplained autoimmune diseases since that time, which sometimes require medical visits and expensive prescriptions. I rely on affordable health care coverage to manage this condition.

2) My mother suffers from COPD -- not because of poor lifestyle choices, but rather because she carries the alpha-1 antitrypsin gene mutation. My mother used to be a runner (including running marathons in her 40's!), has never smoked a cigarette in her life, eats an incredibly healthy diet, and maintains a healthy weight. Suffering from COPD is certainly through no fault of her own! yet, she was repeatedly denied health coverage because of this condition. Her premiums were thousands of dollars per month, which was far more than she could afford; even with these premiums, she was only allowed 1 doctor's visit per year. Because she could not access quality affordable care, her health deteriorated to the point that she had to go on disability. Since the passage of the ACA, my mother has been able to afford quality healthcare coverage, and her health has improved greatly as a result -- so much so that she is off disability and able to work again.

Because of these experiences, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would rather see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal or replace it.

Sincerely,
Kristen H. Perry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greenberg, Marilyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I implore you to vote NO on this heartless bill and instead work in a bipartisan way to fix the ACA, which is working just fine for the majority of Americans. So many poor or sick people will lose their health insurance or will encounter prohibitively expensive premiums for pre existing conditions or lifetime caps. The ACA guarantees those protections whereas the GCB does not. Do not return us to the days before the ACA when healthcare was a luxury not a right. PLEASE!!!!

Respectfully

Marilynn R. Greenberg
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sumner Starrfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Sumner Starrfield
Subject: Oppose 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.

Sumner Starrfield

[REDACTED]
Tempe, AZ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin McKnight [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham - Cassidy Bill

Quality, affordable healthcare should be available to all Americans. We urgently request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We are self employed and the cost of health care insurance has increased dramatically, while the number of conditions covered has declined. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Robin McKnight

Half Moon Bay, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kerrie Hein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham -Cassidy Bill

Without the ACA, we could not have given my mother the Alzheimer's care that she needed. I oppose this bill and respectfully request a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA rather than get rid of it.

Thank you,

Kerrie Hein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Curcio [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Committee Members;

It boggles the mind that such BLATENT corruption is so visible today inner government, specifically the debate over healthcare of all. I understand there will be ANOTHER hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill, on Monday, Sept. 25, 2017,.

Your constituents, and other Americans, know this is about FUNDING MORE TAX BREAKS for the wealthy! Really? It's amazing that people with WEALTH seem to now know how to MANAGE their wealth without continually STEALING from the middle class/working class.

I ask you to VOTE NO on this non-healthcare bill, and work across party lines to make the Affordable Care Act more affordable and accessible to ALL AMERICANS, not just the wealthy.

If you really care about America and her people, VOTE NO on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean M Curcio

[REDACTED]
League City TX [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Monday 9/25/17 by Maret Olson, 3312 Edward St NE, St Anthony MN 55418
Attachments: graham-cassidy.doc.pdf; ATT00001.htm

I certify that the attached letter represents my opinions on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Maret R. Olson

[REDACTED]
St Anthony, MN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

registered voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Byrnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham cassidy

I am against GrahamCassidy and for the bipartisan group working on fixing ACA.

Debbie Byrnes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Sheppard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Denver, Colorado

Karen Sheppard
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care in the USA

I support a bipartisan approach to determining the best health care bill for our country and our people. Together we can find a solution. Divided we are weak and problems remain perpetually unresolved.

Sincerely,
Kim Hill

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have taken some time off from working to help my family in a number of ways, including my elderly and now deceased grandmother. Because of this, I have not been working and did not have an employer-provided medical plan. I require monthly prescriptions and see the doctor from time to time, and the only way I could possibly afford to help my family is because I was able to receive affordable healthcare through the ACA and, later, through medicaid. While I've been unemployed, I broke my ankle and required surgery. If I had not had affordable health care, I can't even imagine how expensive my surgery would have been. I would be in debt for years and years at best. It is critical for people like me, who are contributing to our families and communities in a different way than traditional employment to be able to afford healthcare just like the rest of the "workforce." Besides, having a certain employer shouldn't be a requirement for basic health care services. There are innumerable employers who can't afford to provide quality health care insurance plans to their employees. Repealing the ACA would only make this a bigger problem for the employees who are part-time or who do not qualify for benefits.

In addition, I am extremely concerned with the potential for pre-existing conditions to prevent people from getting healthcare. Most people have pre-existing conditions through no fault of their own and should not be denied coverage as a result. Besides, denying coverage for people who DO require healthcare as a result of a pre-existing condition is just illogical. It seems pretty obvious that they will still need to access health care and if they can't afford it, they will only be a further burden on the health care system as their health deteriorates or they will require other government assistance in order to survive. Personally, I would like to work with my sister who has started her own small business. Without the ACA, I will not be able to afford health insurance and therefore may have a gap in coverage. If this happens, and the ACA is repealed, I could be denied future coverage due to pre-existing conditions because I've suffered from anxiety/depression, asthma, and sleep apnea. These conditions can easily be managed with minimal cost, but if I can't afford insurance and something more serious happens to me (even something as seemingly insignificant as the broken ankle I experienced earlier this year), I will be unable to afford care which could lead to higher medical costs in the future and an inability to contribute to the economy. This just does NOT make sense.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Hart
Pasadena, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear senators, house leaders, and all of the staff who work for them,

The Affordable Care Act while not perfect has allowed millions access to critical healthcare. The bipartisan committee to evolve the ACA and the American people you represent should be prioritized above all partisan politics.

If failure of the GC bill means Universal Healthcare/Single Payer is the next step (according to a recent speech by Graham) then LET IT FAIL.

You cannot provide funding to the states while mandating their options.

You cannot continue to offer substandard healthcare options to your constituents while enjoying a lifetime of healthcare due you for your service.

A single payer system is the only option that makes sense logistically and financially for this country. Put your best foot forward and have the courage to support true change. Hold a world summit with leaders from countries enjoying a single payer healthcare system.

Talk to your red state constituents who are suffering from life threatening diseases and explain to them-one on one-just what they will pay under your bill-IF you will even offer coverage under your bill. Talk to one family who is watching their child or loved one suffer, then try to turn your back and vote yes on this bill. If you do that consider yourself the next political casualty of this horrendous presidency.

If you are a decent human being, and true to your job of representing your constituents by doing what's right (not what's easy) vote your true conscience, and vote NO.

Sincerely,
Deirdre Oss
Denver, CO

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: gingram [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

My daughter has Autism and is 21 and will be ageing out at the end of this school year. Please do not vote to pass any new health care bill that will affect medicad negatively. She needs to be able to live a productive adult life, not just being at home. Thank you

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7 edge.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dianne Berlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I don't understand why you Republicans are trying to keep us poor, keep us uneducated, and most of all, trying to kill us! All health organizations oppose this bill! It will be a disaster for America and all of its people. It must not pass!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Buntin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I want to express my dismay at the Graham-Cassidy bill. I oppose it because my family, as well, as so many others, relies on good, affordable health care that WILL COVER PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS. I do not want to count on my state not seeking a waiver from covering these. Help to fix the ACA, not get rid of it. All Americans deserve better than this.

Sincerely,
Linda Buntin
Whitefish Bay, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Ringstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Please remember our founding fathers. They would not be proud of this Congress. Nor would they be doing what you are! Do you really want blood on your hands? Think about it, please. I watch news every day, and only see your hatred of Pres. Obama shining through, along with your lack of concern for "We The People".

Melanie Ringstrom

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Keathley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am writing to urge the Senate to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill on healthcare. Too little is known about the bill to make a fully informed decision. From what is known, it appears the bill would result in millions of Americans without insurance, reduce coverage for key areas of women's health, and turn back the progress in healthcare started with the Affordable Health Care act.

I would much rather see Congress work on a bipartisan plan to fix parts of AHCA that are not working as well as intended and ensure all Americans are adequately covered for their healthcare needs.

Sincerely,
Jane Keathley
Charlottesville, VA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nikolaus Matheis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son has a pre-existing condition that has required several ear surgeries, close monitoring, and speech therapy. I am greatly concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill would have a serious, negative impact on my family and would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Nikolaus Matheis

[REDACTED]
Portland, OR [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Louise Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Hello,

I am a writer and teacher who relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without the coverage and credits of the Affordable Healthcare Act, I would be forced to quit my job caring for, inspiring, and nurturing young people and instead find a job that offered me insurance. I would, as a result, be less able to use my unique gifts and talents in service of our country and its young people. How many people will you force to quit essential and important work because they cannot afford health insurance? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not to repeal it.

Thank you,
Ellen

--
Ellen Louise Ray

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Leiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept 25, 2017

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I, my family, and my EMPLOYEES, all rely quality, affordable healthcare.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it will ultimately result in people with pre-existing conditions losing coverage (or at the very least, coverage that is somewhat affordable). My son, who is fine now, had some mental health issues as a teenager. Passage of this bill means that he will most likely be unable to obtain quality, affordable healthcare in the future. Is that really what we as Americans want to do? Punish people for being sick?

This bill is bad for all Americans. I support Senator Collins's efforts to work on a bi-partisan measure to improve healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

Gail Leiser
[REDACTED]

Bar Harbor, ME [REDACTED]

--
Gail Leiser
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cherryhillnubians@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing - Sept 25, 2017

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017
Mary Clarke
[REDACTED]
Purcellville Va [REDACTED]

Comments :

I have grave concerns about the Graham-Cassidy Bill and it's costs and harm to millions of Americans .. it has not had open discussion sessions, or bi-partisan input - both needed to develop a healthy bill .. in addition, this bill will have a horrific impact on citizens in every state .. protections for those with pre-existing conditions are removed and costs to insure people with them will be huge .. Medicaid is a lifeline for many disabled Americans - I have two nieces whose lives have been vastly impacted - Kathleen, who was hit by a drunk driver at 14, yet had the opportunity through Medicare and Medicaid to complete college and work 4 days a week on behalf of other disabled people as a quadriplegic on a vent .. and Jocelyn, who suffered a horrific injury to her brain stem as a passenger in an auto accident - she is learning to walk again and has learned to talk again with a life ahead to give back .. please consider all the people this bill will impact in horrific ways and ask Congress to go into discussions that are open and bipartisan to find actual FIXES to the ACA and provide affordable insurance for ALL Americans! Please use your voice AGAINST Graham-Cassidy .. thank you!!

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Betty Partington [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

[Your name]
[City, State]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Waltrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Real People

Dear Senators,

I am a nurse, the mother of 3 sons and a so-called average US citizen, and I am writing to let you know how this bill impacts my family.

My oldest son Joe was diagnosed with testicular cancer last April. He is 25. He is a college graduate and hard-working young man but remained on our insurance because it financially made sense. In May he will turn 26 and will need to obtain his own health insurance with this pre-existing condition of cancer. He is currently cancer free but remains under active surveillance - i.e. blood tests for tumor markers, visits with his oncologist every two months and a CT scan every 4 months. This is considered standard protocol for testicular cancer. Joe, myself and his doctor have already had to appeal to our insurance company to cover his CT scans, What will happen when he has to find his own insurance in May?

The decisions you make in the Capitol impact the lives of real people. My son is educated, works hard and is a good and moral person. As a nurse, I have always believed medicine should be non-profit. I do not believe in unlimited coverage of all procedures and care. Health care costs do need to be reigned in, but this should be done with the medical community working with Congress to determine a system which will at least provide preventive and catastrophe care.

My son's treatment is standard protocol. He will someday hopefully have a chance to be a good husband and father; he already is a contributing member of society. Please remember the bills you consider and the laws you pass may very well determine what his future will be. As well as the futures of so many americans who are not just statistics and dollar amounts.

Sincerely,

Margaret Waltrich

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Grogan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:28 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 there has not been adequate time for this to be reviewed and debated. Many medical/ health related organizations (AMA, American heart Association, American Diabetes association, to name but a few) have come out in opposition to this legislation knowing it will be detrimental to millions of Americans. We must heed their concerns.

To pass legislation off as ensuring people who have pre-existing conditions will still be able to get insurance, when the bill, as written, does no such thing is at best a disservice to the people who elected you and at worst a death sentence for many who rely on this program for their health and well being. I have taken the time to read this proposal as well as several analyses of the proposal, so I know there are NO guarantees about what States might do with the block grant funding nor are there any guarantees that States will not allow insurance companies to charge exorbitant increased fees and surcharges to individuals who have pre-existing conditions. To claim otherwise is a lie, or ignorant of the proposal.

Some people are born with pre-existing conditions, is this how we want to treat these citizens? Doom them to a life of debt or illness because they are born with a pre-existing condition? What about individuals with Down Syndrome or Autism Spectrum Disorders? Should they not be given the chance to live an independent life? With the cuts to Medicaid and no resources to pay for the assistance they need out of pocket, we condemn these people to a life less lived. We had these dark times in this country and I believe they should remain in our past.

It has become clear from various interviews with several GOP Senators that this bill is less about doing what is right for Americans' health and more about passing something, anything, to be able to go to mid-term election campaign rallies and say they helped repeal the Affordable Care Act. This is not good policy, it's not policy, period. This is party preservation at its absolute worst, at the expense of the American people.

Please work in a bi-partisan effort to revise and improve on the Affordable Care Act. Any major program like the ACA cannot expect to be perfect in ya initial form. There are ways to sure this program up and make it good for all Americans. Please do not repeal for the sake of repeal, but please do what everyone who voted for you hoped you would do in Washington: represent the best interests and the needs of ALL Americans, especially the least among us.

Laura Grogan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jaime Bedard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:28 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 of countless reasons. First, it has not gone through the appropriate Senate process that Senator John McCain calls for. Second, while the ACA needs help and adjustment, the repeal/replace bills the Republicans have introduced end up doing more harm than good. Americans are not OK with taking healthcare away from 30 millions Americans. We are not OK with no CBO score. We are not OK with lack of coverage and/or rate hikes for people with pre-existing conditions. We are not OK with a discriminatory tax on citizens over 50 years of age. Healthcare needs help and you MUST get this right but the Graham-Cassidy bill is not the answer. LISTEN TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS! Keep the ACA and the good parts of it that Americans want and work to make it better for all Americans. Thank you.

Jaime Bedard
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Sroka [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: COMMENTS ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

ANY BILL TO SATISFY EVERYONE WILL NEVER BE PASSED. OBCARE IS DESTINED TO IMplode AND WILL NEED A TON OF FUTURE TWEAKING. I STRONGLY BELIEVE A NEW APPROACH THAT LETS STATES DETERMINE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEIR VOTERS IS THE WAY TO GO, EVEN THOUGH IT WILL PROBABLY NEED SOME FUTURE EDITS. ANYTHING THAT CHANGES THE DIRECTION WE ARE GOING IN HEALTHCARE WOULD BE A WELCOME HORIZON. STOP THE DEM OPPOSITION TO VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING THIS ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES AND MOVE FORWARD. THE U.S. IS IN A TAILSPIN DUE TO LIB/DEM PAST AND PRESENT POLICY. WE NEED TO STOP THE DIVISION, UNITE AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE NATION, NOT JUST ANY INDIVIDUAL PARTY OR CLASS. GET BUSY REPUB CONGRESS! THANK YOU. STEVE SROKA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Akilah Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing

Please protect the ACA by voting NO on Graham Cassidy. My family was unable to get insured without it and my daughter and I both have preexisting conditions. Our lives depend on affordable health care.

Akilah Brown
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J. L. Bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: assessing Romneycare

Romneycare, as we here in Massachusetts call it, is not a perfect health-insurance system.

However, its outcomes are obvious to anyone who cares to look at the rate of people with insurance to cover basic care, infant mortality, life expectancy, medical bankruptcies, and other measures of a health-delivery system.

Among Romneycare's indirect benefits has been its aid to entrepreneurs and freelancers like myself, no longer kept from innovative work out of fear of risking our or our families' health.

To replace that system with a loosely built hodgepodge with unknown costs and no clear benefits would be not only foolish but cruel.

J. L. Bell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Newton, MA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Briskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy should not move forward.

Quality, affordable health care is a must. If caps are added to insurance, I will not be able to afford the three medications that I have relied on for over 20 years to keep me stable. I will no longer be a productive member of society and will cost taxpayers money instead.

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

Thank you,

Lauren Briskin
Oakland, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: rachel aronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not release the ACA

Hello,

My name is Rachel Garvin and I am writing to express my support for the Affordable Care Act and ask that you vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill. Two years ago, my 32 year old sister was suddenly diagnosed with incurable lung disease. Because of her excellent coverage and protections under the ACA she was able to receive a life saving double lung transplant. If the ACA is repealed and she is no longer covered under the preexisting conditions clause, she would be in danger of loosing her life again, because she would not be guaranteed health coverage to access the extensive medication and treatment regimen she will require for the rest of her life. There are countless other families, with loved ones waiting on transplant lists across the country right now in danger of dying if the ACA is repealed.

I support a bipartisan effort to amend and strengthen the ACA, not to repeal it and leave millions of people without access to sufficient health care.

Please and thank you.

Sincerely,
Rachel Garvin
Eugene, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicola Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No On Graham-Cassidy

I can't imagine, while millions have lost their homes, car and livelihood due to hurricanes and floods, that Congress would also take away their healthcare. This bill will solve nothing but will hurt children, the elderly, and those with chronic, and pre-existing conditions. Please do not pass this bill!

Thank you,

Nicola Nelson
[REDACTED]
UT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaela Garvin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I have spent the past year on an independent healthcare whose existence was made possible by the ACA (it's Oscar in New York City.) It was the most affordable plan available to me as an independent contractor and part time worker. I still paid almost thirty percent of my income towards insurance (and with another twenty to thirty squirreled away for taxes as an independent contractor, it wasn't an easy chunk of change to part with.) The alternative, had the ACA not been in effect, would likely have left me uninsured due to my low income and pre existing conditions.

My family also depends on Medicaid. My family includes people with disabilities. My brother has cerebral palsy and has spent his life fighting for equal treatment. He loves playing sports, and the treatment he was able to receive made it possible for him to participate in his favorite sport, baseball in his later childhood. The dismantling of Medicaid through financial caps on it would be devastating to the disabled community as well as seniors and people with low incomes.

I have had a lot of problems using healthcare under the ACA-- I do think it's costly and could be vastly improved. But the bill you're proposing would decimate affordable coverage for me and my family. I would like to encourage bipartisan legislature to fix the ACA, not remove it. The American people depend on it. I would also implore you to better serve the disabled community, who are always neglected and ill-served especially in matters such as these.

All my best,

Kaela

--

Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Craig O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Sirs:

My daughter is a transplant recipient. The bill you are considering will mean her insurance will end and she will die.

Craig O'Connor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To anyone who will listen:

How can you in good conscience believe this will improve healthcare in this country? My son nearly lost his life because he ignored symptoms he was having because he already has unpaid medical bills. No person should have to decide between debt and good health. Your greed and ignorance on this is unexceptionable.

Margaret Cook
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO!

Vote no on the Republican Health Bill. Repair, don't replace ObamaCare.

S. Taylor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Me [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am imploring you to NOT support the Graham Cassidy bill. I have four adult children. Two are working as engineers that support our government. Another is a recent graduate looking for consistent work in his field and my youngest adult child is in graduate school.

Two of my four kids have chronic health conditions (Crohn's Disease). Each have benefitted from the current law and truly fear their future should the Graham Cassidy bill become law.

I do understand ACA needs work, but to sacrifice the futures of young people that are giving back to our country and communities seems very shortsighted..

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill and ask you to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Kirst
[REDACTED]

Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark A. Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Do not force this unconstitutional DeathCare bill down America's throat. Graham/Cassidy will kill millions of Americans.... Vote No on this sham of a bill.

Mark A. Brown

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jodi Chaffin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The current health care bill

Please vote NO. I do not want this bill to pass. It has not been thought out. No one knows the results. This needs to be reviewed. Please keep the ACA and improve that. Improve, don't replace.

Sincerely,

Jodi A. Chaffin

Ely, Minnesota [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Calisher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Public Testimony RE: Graham-Cassidy bill

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing date: September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,

A few days ago, I found out that I have breast cancer. Previously, I had been reaching out to my members of congress and standing up, alongside my friends, in opposition to the various GOP healthcare bills that have come and gone over the past several months. I did so because they have been horrible, unfair and just plain senseless, giving tax breaks to the wealthy and pushing higher premiums (for less coverage, mind you) on the people who could least afford them. But now, even as this latest iteration called Graham-Cassidy looms before us, I have the results of my biopsy, and my little part of this fight for America's healthcare just got personal.

Some things are beyond our ability to foresee or control. Our health is one such thing. Anyone, no matter their age, income, or life circumstances, can find their lives suddenly changed due to illness or injury.

I am facing a serious illness that will require major surgery, and most likely some sort of chemo and/or radiation. I may struggle with complications and side effects. I imagine I will need extra love and moral support from family and friends. And let's face it, cancer kills. I could die from this. That sounds like plenty enough to worry about without adding the possibility that my health insurance premium could get way more expensive, or I might lose coverage altogether. Did I mention that my husband and I are in our early 60s, and have been saving sensibly all along for retirement, but it only takes one big medical crisis to wipe out everything we've saved. How do we make it through the next 20 years? Or the next medical crisis?

Having affordable health insurance so we can get the appropriate treatment should *not* be out of our control. All Americans should be able to focus on getting the care we need without worry that we will bankrupt ourselves or our families' futures in the process.

It's not fair that people who have a pre-existing condition should have to pay more for their coverage than people who, by sheer chance, haven't had a health issue...yet.

It's not right to reinstate lifetime caps, which will cause so many people to lose their coverage.

It doesn't make sense that the people who have the most money, and can most easily afford the gold standard of medical care are the same ones who also stand to benefit the most financially from the tax breaks Graham-Cassidy proposes, while many millions of average Americans who are struggling would see their healthcare costs increase dramatically, while vital safety nets like Medicaid dwindle away.

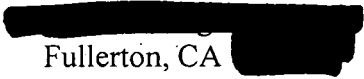

I especially have trouble getting my mind around the idea that all those GOP legislators, many years ago when they entered into public service, could have possibly been longing for the reality in which we are living today, where Senators and Representatives are literally dismissing the voices and concerns of their own constituents, not to mention those of tens of millions of other Americans, and instead choosing to favor wealthy corporate donors. Lawmakers are disregarding the statements of respected major health

groups (including Kaiser Permanente, my insurance provider) and even the bipartisan medical directors of all 50 states(!) because they are so determined to carry out their mission, they no longer seem to have the capacity for reason or compassion. I find this to be absolutely beyond understanding.

Please use your reason and compassion. Please help us to set things right. As for me, I will stand with my family, my friends, my country, as we continue to fight for our healthcare as if **our lives depend on it**. Because actually, it does.

Sincerely,

Cindy Calisher


Fullerton, CA 

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Pfister [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: NANCYJAMESON@gmail.com
Subject: THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT: OBAMA CARE

DEAR GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE THE GRAHAM-HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL IS A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN THE GOVERNING BODY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TRUE CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE CITIZENS HAVE THE AND MAJORITY IN THIS CONVICTION. IT IS NOT HONEST OR AN ACT OF DEMOCRACY'S ORDINANCE FOR THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY TO USE ITS POWER TO DO HARM TO OTHER AMERICANS. THIS ACT CARRIES POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS AND DISRESPECT FOR PRES.OBAMA FROM ATTITUDES AND IDEOLOGIES THAT ARE CONTAMINATED AND SMELL BAD.

WHATEVER YOU THINK OF THE EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR ITS PEOPLE OR FOR "LIBERAL IDEAS", I ASK THAT YOU THAT YOU.... THINK SERIOUSLY OF THE TRUE NEEDS OF THE AGED, THE POOR AND THE HELPLESS AMONG YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND ACT IN A PRODUCTIVE, BI-PARTISON IMPROVEMENT TO HEALTH CARE . DO NOT DESTROY A GOOD THING

SINCERELY,

MRS.WALTER J. PFISTER,JR.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela White [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Healthcare

To Members of the Senate,

Thank you for taking comments on the Graham Cassidy bill. I have been a rehabilitation counselor and consultant for decades and have been blessed to have a unique perspective on people related to their health.

A factor that is never addressed in the common square relates to the economic impact on American society related to employment and disability. Every day, I meet men and women who become ill or injured and cannot afford care.

For many, going on Social Security Disability (and staying on disability) is the only way they can access healthcare that they desperately need for their condition, and cannot afford.

The cost of so many people being out of the workforce is monumental, in terms of dollars to society, dollars to the impacted individual and their family, and in terms of the quality of life for the individual who does not have the gratification and upward mobility that work can afford.

Many people feel forced to file a worker's compensation claim or apply for disability benefits when all they want is healthcare. They are then terrified to attempt work that may cost them their healthcare, and for which they are not certain they will be able to maintain.

We need to realize as a culture that a lack of healthcare is costing untold billions if not trillions per year to society in terms of the disability rolls, decrease to the tax base from people not working, and to businesses in terms of worker's compensation and tort claim costs related to health claims.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Prayers for you and your deliberation.

Pam White

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alexander Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Pearson, Beth (Warren); gchcomments
Subject: the Health Care law

Hi

I'm a physician in a safety net community hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, and know first hand how much we need to retain as much of Obamacare as we can. I urge Senators Warren and Markey to keep up the fight to retain it.

Thank you for all you're doing,

Alec

Alexander C Morgan, MD

Newton MA

(and a former Warren canvasser in my neighborhood!)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah West [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy bill

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

[REDACTED], Portland, OR [REDACTED]

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My husband and I own our own business, which is the primary source of our income. I have a pre-existing condition, a chronic auto-immune disease with no known cause that I have had for 20 years. I require imaging studies every other year to check for pre-cancerous signs. Without these frequent studies I am at extremely high risk of developing cancer. Each study costs over \$10,000 without insurance. I currently am able to purchase health insurance because of the provisions of the ACA.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not provide clear protections for those with pre-existing conditions. It allows individual states to waive the requirement that insurance companies must cover people with pre-existing conditions at the same level and rates. In practice, this means that in some states, Americans like me will not be able to own our own business and obtain health insurance. If this bill goes into effect, in many places it would mean that I would be forced to work for a large company with a group health insurance plan in order to receive insurance. This is taking away my right to support myself. This is un-American, anti-small business, and simply cruel.

We as a country can do better. We can improve upon the ACA, not make it worse.

Thank you,

Sarah West

Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Haldeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care laws

Please wait for bipartisan study and proposals to that health care laws can be improved for maximum benefit for all. This is too important to our country to rush laws through without full study.

Thank you,
Glenna Ruth Haldeman
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sent from AT&T Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Albert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

Hello,

As a citizen and mother in Oregon, I find it very distressing that access to affordable healthcare is being threatened. We need to fix the ACA but taking away benefits to vulnerable populations is not the way to do it! Please help protect our healthcare access. Do not leave the elderly, disabled, children, and veterans to fend for themselves. Our country has so much wealth. We can afford to help take care of our suffering people.

Thank you,
Sara Albert

--

Sara Albert
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Len Lanphar [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Julian Leonard Lanphar
Pittsburgh, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Stern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill is truly an abomination; it will make it impossible for millions of Americans to afford the healthcare their families rely on. Please JUST SAY NO to Graham Cassidy!

Sincerely,
Julie Stern

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary and Susan Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save and improve on the AHCA.

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a nurse, I have seen changes in healthcare over 43 years. Many improvements have been made in testing and technology. However, the provisions we now have in the Affordable Healthcare Act to help those who don't have insurance through an employer and can't afford private insurance are being attacked. I have seen numerous people put off testing because of the high price (Do I feed my family, pay the rent, or get this test?) and they have paid for it with poor prognoses and/or death. I have seen people die! Every United States Citizen has the right to good healthcare. Please work together to improve the AHCA and do not disable it. Please show the American people that you know and are willing to do what is right. Thank you, Susan Morgan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathie Kissinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I again implore all undecided Republicans to stand on the right side of history and VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy! It does NOT fix healthcare but it will harm many people. PLEASE participate in bipartisan efforts to truly fix and improve healthcare! Fixing the outrageous costs that Americans suffer under will also fix the costs the government no longer wishes to subsidize. We pay more per capital for healthcare than any other country. That's the root of the problem!

PLEASE VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY! It isn't enough to simply repeal Obamacare.. This country need a real fix for a massive problem!

Thank you,

Cathie Kissinger
Oshkosh, WI

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ida Tarbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of Congress,

My parents are small busniess owners in Reno, Nevada. They have worked tirelessly over the years to keep their home building company afloat. After being hit hard by the housing crisis and weathering seven years without work, they are finally back on their feet. They are currently enrolled in one of the ACA plans. This plan keeps their health insurance costs low and enables them to keep their company growing while creating jobs in the area. Your bill will directly harm my family. If their insurance costs were to go back up to pre ACA levels, they will not be able to stay afloat and employ others. If you really are about protecting American job creators, put your money where your mouth is and improve the ACA, don't repeal it. And don't try to fool us with this ridiculous idea of block-grants. Those of us that know our history know that block-grants are a sneaky way of reducing funding over time. Please do the right thing for the American people even if it makes your billionaire Koch network donors upset.

Best,
Valerie
Reno, Nevada.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no to Graham/Cassidy

This healthcare bill has not had enough time or review to be voted into law. Please vote no and go back to working with both sides of congress to fix our healthcare system

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham -Cassidy bill

Rep. Kennedy,

We all do better when we all do better.

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer - in the most progressive country on earth?!! No way!!!!

Healthcare is a basic right for ALL Americans, regardless of age, health status, income level.

Let's get 'er done!

Emily Brown
Ely, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meghan Hillis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. That is unacceptable.

Thank you,
Meghan Hillis
Houston, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dale Eichman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do The Right Thing

As a retired citizen, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I deeply oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our daughter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at a young age. For a while she was covered under our family insurance. Then as she reached adulthood we had to pay for an individual insurance plan to make she she had continued coverage while she completed her college education. All this was because MS is a pre-existing condition. She now works for a company that provides minimum health coverage but she pays for additional to help cover her MS related annual costs. We all worry that if something happens employment wise and she no longer has access to her affordable health insurance how this could impact her life as well as ours. Her monthly medication alone runs \$2000! I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please don't make a stupid decision.

Dale Eichman
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Gard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Senators,

Thank you for inviting members of the public to comment on the record on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a resident of Wayne, Pennsylvania (the Philly suburbs) and a single mother to a 2-year-old. I hold undergraduate/master's degrees from two of the top colleges and universities in the U.S. I work full time co-running a public relations agency, earning in the low six figures. I believe in democracy and equality for all.

We all know the current public insurance system is messy, but it is a first step for Improving. Access to healthcare that has changed the lives of millions of people. I gladly pay approximately \$675 each month for my individual silver-level health insurance plan from Independence Blue Cross for me and my son. I have had ACA insurance for three years and while there have been times when the cost has seemed high (I used to pay \$900/month and lowered my tier this year), I understand that as an American citizen the price I pay enables others to also receive healthcare. I know I am not merely paying for myself but for the health of this country's people and this, for the health of this country. And I have benefitted tremendously from having had this ACA insurance.

In 2015 when was four months pregnant with my son and living in California, I suddenly experienced gallbladder pain for the first time in my life; my only risk factor, I learned, was pregnancy itself. I had successful out-patient surgery to remove my gallbladder. I moved to Pennsylvania shortly before my son was born, at another excellent hospital that accepted my insurance. Maintaining coverage while moving to a new state while pregnant was easy. In that single calendar year my medical bills easily topped \$80,000; thanks to my ACA insurance, I paid a fraction of that.

I am a very fortunate American. I am in very good health. But under Graham-Cassidy, the asthma I've had since age 12 - which has never led to a serious attack or hospitalization but requires daily medicine - would have me paying thousands of dollars a year more for health insurance. I also take SSRIs for mild anxiety - again, have never been hospitalized or treated in-patient or had any sort of healthcare emergencies due to this - which would also boost my insurance rate. And should I get pregnant again - well, proponents of the bill are basically saying "good luck with that, ladies!" Not guaranteeing that all insurance companies will take on people with pre-existing conditions is a flaw in the proposed bill that I believe is unconscionable. I could afford to pay more for my insurance - but millions of other Americans could not.

I realize that those of you who support Graham-Cassidy fear that if you don't repeal and replace Obamacare, influential millionaire and billionaire GOP donors will shun you and votes will be lost when you're up for re-election. My advice: don't care. Don't care about who will give you money or who will vote for you. Reach back deep inside yourselves to the early days when you wanted to become a politician to do some good for people in a country where there is a lot of good and also a lot of injustice and inequality. Find that person - the one who didn't give a damn if people "liked" you but aimed to make a world the better place so that they would like their own lives more.

Vote no.

Best,

Lauren Gard
219 Sugartown Rd L-202
Wayne, PA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris W Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Johnson, I am a graduate student in Seattle, WA 98102. I want to voice my concern about the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone who has been very fortunate to receive excellent care for an intermittent chronic illness that I was diagnosed with over a decade ago, I am frightened that legislation loosening the restrictions on affordable coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions is even being considered by well-meaning legislators. I am further frightened by the lack of detailed information about potential costs and market ripple effects that would be provided by a thorough independent analysis. It seems reckless and careless to allow such an enormous part of citizen's lives (and, importantly, our economy) to be determined by a rushed and opaque process that appears to be driven mainly by political animosity. I hope that such important decisions can be informed more deeply through dialogue and data, both of which take much more time to develop than would be allowed by the process I see happening currently.

Thank you,

Chris Johnson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rahul Mehta [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 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 do tremendous harm to so many people. I am particularly concerned about cuts to Medicaid and elimination of protections for those with pre-existing conditions. Medicaid cuts are especially harmful to children and the elderly. Passing this bill so quickly without the opportunity for extensive public comment and debate would be irresponsible and cruel.

Sincerely,
Rahul Mehta

Rahul Mehta

[REDACTED]
x

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Regula Kissling [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an egregious attempt to take away health care from children and adults with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. It would devastate the state budget for health care in Massachusetts. I urge you to oppose this proposal.

Thank you!

Regula

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Spurlock [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: September 30th is my 26th Birthday

I never thought I would dread my birthday as I have this year as it also now is stamped with the deadline for the healthcare bill. The celebration of any 26th birthday in america should not be the most dreaded milestone anyone should have to face.

As someone who has had the privilege of receiving federal government insurance, I am terrified for the months to come of my transition to the marketplace. As someone who suffers from asthma, depression / anxiety, hashimoto's disease, PCOS, and scoliosisk just to name a few I am concerned about the future of my treatments and ability to receive the care I need.

As someone who has completed their bachelors degree at a top institution, paid their taxes, worked since I was 15 and is a viable part of the design community in Manhattan I find it exorbitantly unfair that someone such as myself who is a contributing member of society cannot afford health care, let alone cannot confirm their ability to be covered by any such insurance.

The landscape has changed for those trying to have a career in design or other fields in this day and age when most companies are reluctant to hire full time staff. I along with many are forced to piecemeal our career together by freelance and contract work. This has forced many to have to self insure themselves or find alternatives to receive care, an incredible burden for someone such as myself who is needing to receive constant care almost weekly.

I ask that the Affordable Care Act stand as it does now and goes under proper review to improve the landscape of what it provides and how it operates to better serve those of us in need. My health, but most importantly the country's health depends on it.

I find this entire predicament embarrassing compared to other developed countries around the globe are able to successfully operate their healthcare system without massive disagreements as they understand what it means for them as a nation to provide this for their citizens. This is not a constant topic of conflict for them. When are we as a country going to rise to occasion and be among the best in the world?

Emily Spurlock
Constituent of Sen. Cory Booker
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Fasking [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal and replace

Donald Trump, during his campaign, touted the fact that he is an accomplished businessman. I'm not certain I agree with that assessment. His campaign promise and constant demand to dismantle Obamacare is certainly evidence to the contrary.

Anyone in business knows that it is almost always cheaper to fix a broken program than it is to start from scratch. All the costs that were associated with the Obamacare startup and administration will be for naught if the program is scrapped, and all that money will have to be spent again to start a new program. That may be easy for the president, who doesn't have a care in the world when it comes to money, but this is the taxpayers' money we are talking about, and you, our elected legislators, were elected to represent your constituents, not simply to blindly enact the president's agenda. I don't care how flawed you think Obamacare is, fix what we have. The ONLY valid reason there could be to insist on such ridiculous economic waste is to continue to attempt to erase any evidence that there was ever a black man in the White House.

Do your jobs. Represent us. We brought you into this Legislative branch, and we can damn sure vote you out.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Fasking
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ANDREA LARSEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Dear Members of Congress,

Please do not pass this bill before all the issues can be thoroughly explored by both Republican and Democratic congressional members. So many Americans health care could be severely impacted by a rash and impassioned decision by Republicans who feel they need to abolish the Affordable Care Act to fulfill a campaign promise.

I am a single parent caregiver to my developmentally disabled adult son who was head injured in an automobile accident 48 years ago. Without the assistance of Medicare and Medicaid he would not have the benefit of a quality health care system. And he deserves that right as a citizen of this wonderful country.

I have voted a Republican ballot for the majority of my 45 year voting history. I hope my Republican Congressional members will consider the opinions of their constituents nationwide and take the right path to a bi-partisan health care decision to benefit all Americans.

Sincerely,
Andrea Larsen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marina [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

The system resulting from this bill cannot be functional in the long-term; hospitals will struggle to pay for the care of those without adequate health coverage, going bankrupt in the process. We need a better solution for an industry that makes up one-sixth of America's economy.

Marina Mednik-Vaksman
Austin, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Willis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jim Willis and I am a retired farmer in Southern Oregon. I write today to urge a **do not pass** on this bill. This bill is not about health care but rather a last ditch attempt to demonstrate to financial donors the republican party still has the capacity to enact legislation. The toll on the American people will be devastating if this bill is allowed to pass.

Republicans would be better served by admitting the ACA is not what they have advertised for all these years and work in a bipartisan manner to improve what we already have. If members think slipping this bill through under the cover of urgency and darkness will yield a victory they are wrong. What it will do is facilitate a rapid decline in current health care and panic markets across this country. The millions of Americans who have coverage will be hit with uncontrollable rising rates and many will immediately lose their coverage. By the fall of 2018 the republican party will be the party of pariahs and voters will work ever harder to replace them across the government. It will take generations for the republican party to recover if ever. I am a believer in a 2 party system. The balance of diverse opinions are critical to our discourse and development. Our democratic system of governance may be at stake.

The wealthy in this country do not need more tax breaks. Americans need affordable health care and this bill will never be able to prove that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--
Jim Willis
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Toni Saarinen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve NOT repeal ACA

My husband & I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is twofold. 1. I am a cancer survivor so I have a pre-existing condition 2. Before ACA my premium had gone up to almost \$2000 a month for my husband and I. Completely unaffordable and forced us out. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Toni Saarinen
Los Angeles, CA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn J Lawrie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi,

I just want to express my opinion that I believe this bill will be detrimental to many Americans. By turning power to the states, it is guaranteed that Americans will once again have to worry about preexisting conditions in at least some states. In addition once again, health care benefits will be capped. This is irresponsible given the cost to treat many illnesses. This bill should not become law.

Dawn

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Wicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

Lisa Wicks

[REDACTED]
Berkeley, CA [REDACTED]
USA

I am a board certified nurse practitioner of 15 years practice. 2 years ago I had vision changes, and went to two eye specialists. I was referred to County hospital as I was uninsured at that time. I was able to get on the Affordable Care coverage, and within a month, I had an 8 hour brain surgery after two MRIs, a CT, and other tests and exams. Without the Affordable Care Act, I would either be under a mountain of debt, or under the ground. In my work in hospice, I see daily the fatal outcomes of delayed treatment. Please, vote no on this reprehensible denial of healthcare coverage for millions of US citizens.

Sincerely,
Lisa Wicks
NP-BC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Shelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Kim Shelton; Shelton, Jason
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

My name is Jason Shelton. I live in Blacksburg, Virginia. I have seen the plight of our neighbors and the time is now for "Medicare for All". I am lucky enough to have employer based health insurance through Virginia Tech. I was fortunate enough to have coverage on my mom's insurance when my family was involved in a motor vehicle accident. I was fortunate enough to have a family that could afford plane tickets to get family back together. I was fortunate enough to have a mom drop everything, fly out, and spend hours arguing with private insurance companies who stopped care because I was in another state. By the time I transferred to UVA via a commercial flight, because they wouldn't grant a medical flight, the bandage had adhered to my hand and had to be ripped off. Yes a private insurance company denied routine cleaning of my bandages while I awaited transfer to a hospital "In my network". Now imagine you take your skin and start peeling it off the muscle. They ask you in the hospital if your pain is between 1 - 10, I know what 10 feels like because a private insurance company needed to increase their bottom line for their investors. That's a nice system there, be ashamed to have something happen to it.....#Medicare4All NOW!!!

Many of my neighbors in southwest Virginia are not as lucky. Go to the free medical tents when they set them up in Wise county and you will see the faces left behind by the Republican and Democratic parties. Too often rural areas are taken advantage of and abandoned like the company store leaving when the coal runs out. These communities have been devastated and marginalized for their entire existence. Destroy their resources and leave them for dead and you wonder why people are abandoning both parties. The time is now for a Medicare for All system. Everyone should be covered at some basic level of care. We can afford it as a country especially when you take out the middle man, the company store if you will, and have a division of government set to negotiate on behalf of the people. You should be reminded the ACA was Legislation born from the Heritage Foundation. It was a give away to corporations because politicians didn't have the courage to stand up to those donors. End the charade and start helping argue for the people, if you don't you will be primaried and challenged until we see change.

#Medicare4All

Jason & Kim Shelton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: josephyarbrough [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC bill

More debate. Need to take out taxpayer funded sex change operations and sex change therapy, sex change meds.

Warmest Regards,
Joseph Yarbrough
Sacramento, Ca

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marily DeWall [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the latest Republican Health Bill

This vote should not be happening before more detailed study and analysis can be done. All reports now show that every significant medical related group opposes this effort.

This is too important to rush. Please take the lead of Senator John McCain (a true American Hero) and do not move forward with this.

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

Marily DeWall
Newport News, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gloria Loew [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill does not help American people

Please add my voice to those who strongly object to this bill. We need a fix to our current system, but we need a plan that moves us forward in providing better health care for all our citizens.

Gloria Loew

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I am blessed with employer provided health insurance. I have a friend with metastatic breast cancer who was an independent consultant. Please stop the Graham Cassidy bill. It will hurt real people in the guise of offering choice. It won't offer real choices. If you are penalized for a pre existing condition or offered only choices you can't afford, there is no fair choice.

Nancy Thompson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sonal Doshi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say NO to Graham-Cassidy!

I have friends and family that rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Myself and friends have pre-existing conditions - MS, cancer, lupus and we need to be sure that our care and support is maintained especially as we age and get closer to needing Medicare and needing affordable access to care and services. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it before anything else is in place.

A block grant system to the states is not an answer to offering affordable and comprehensive healthcare to the population at large. Most states do not have the infrastructure and funds to develop their own systems and health plans to the benefit of their residents. This is a huge mistake that is a totally partisan effort to discredit the past administration and does not at all address the issues with the present affordable care act. It makes changes on the backs of the most at risk and vulnerable in this society - children and those on medicaid. It highlights the fact that these senators have NO real concern for their fellow citizens - just a need to say no to the affordable care act - regardless who gets hurt - especially since their healthcare is not at all affected.

Sincerely,

Sonal R. Doshi

Sandy Springs, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Ocampo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Keep the ACA just make it better! Please work together, enough divisiveness!!

This latest Repeal bill proposed by Graham and Cassidy is unacceptable, basic health insurance needs to be there for all Americans, not just for the well off! Taking away health insurance sends a terrible message about the value of all human life and our priorities. How did such a large number of Senate and Congressional representatives go so low and become so seemingly comfortable with not representing the majority of American people and the advise of national medical institutions?

This repeal and replace with something worse is a terrible idea. Stop!

Teresa Ocampo
Ann Arbor, MI. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dan Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

To the members of the Committee,

The bill you are reviewing on Monday has in no sense gone through 'Regular Order.' In addition, the majority party has for some reason decided not to allow sufficient time for the Congressional Budget Office to score the costs. This has made it necessary for non-partisan, non-profit organizations such as Pew, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Avelere to analyze the bill based on information has leaked out to the public.

As a result, no provider, patient, insurance or industrial group supports this legislation. Furthermore all 50 State Medicaid Administrators oppose it.

I strongly recommend that Regular Order be respected, that the bipartisan committee effort initiated by Senators Alexander and Murray be carried forward so that legislation affecting 1/5 of the US economy can be developed effectively.

Further, the full Senate should not bring Graham-Cassidy to a vote and avoid further divisiveness to enter our political process.

Respectfully,

Daniel G. Miller, Ph.D.
Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pat & Mike Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

Our family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. One of our daughters has MS, so we are particularly concerned about the exclusion of pre-existing conditions.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike and Pat Martin
Red Wing, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Deyss [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Testimony

Senate Finance Committee

Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday September 25, 2017

Testimony of Christine Deyss

[REDACTED] Delmar, NY [REDACTED]

Because my family -- like all families in our country -- relies on quality, affordable healthcare, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Thanks to the ACA, a Medicaid-Medicare partnership provides home care programs so our elderly mother, who has severe dementia, is able to stay in her home, rather than a much more expensive nursing home. My husband is able to manage severe spinal stenosis through physical therapy rather than surgery. Our granddaughter has received the mental health support she needs to be able to remain in and do well in school. We do not need the Graham-Cassidy bill. What we need is a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Christine S. Deyss

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Curry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hurts Americans

The Graham-Cassidy bill is harmful to the health of Americans. While I agree that there are parts of the Affordable Care Act that need fixed, this bill fixes none of them. Allowing states to waive requirements for covering pre-existing conditions will undoubtedly hurt the most vulnerable among us, as will cuts to Medicaid funding and allowing lifetime benefit caps.

This blatant attempt to lie to the American people to pass legislation that panders to donors instead of constituents is embarrassing and beneath the office to which every senator was elected.

I would like to see a sincere, bipartisan Congressional effort to craft and propose legislation that will ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare. Work together. Leave the special interests at the door. Hold hearings, not to check a box, but to truly hear the voices of the people you represent.

Sincerely,

Andrea C. Curry

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Mennone [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

I respectfully object to this bill. It is incredible that the United States of America puts such obstacles to health care. I wish the Senators would put their energy into fixing some of the basic problems with our healthcare system (like the prices of prescription drugs) and stop trying to fulfill an empty campaign promise. One that it has been proven by poll after poll that the majority of the American people do not support! How can you support a bill that is opposed by all major insurers and medical providers and experts? What is the big rush to pass, before open hearings and a CBO score?

I recently relocated to a new state and have spent hours trying to line up new coverage (my husband is self employed). I can only imagine how nice it would be to have a single payer, universal system. But at least I can move from state to state and be assured of the same basic protections and coverage. I shudder to think of the difficulties one would encounter if this bill were enacted. I worry about my family and the cost, and the poorer families who will be unable to get reasonable insurance.

Please look into your hearts - would this bill result in the kind of coverage you would want for your mother? Son? Yourself? Please start working together to get healthcare fixed! Do not repeal the ACA!

Thank you.

Jean Mennone

Rockville MD [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sam Kitajima-Kimbrel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Sam Kitajima-Kimbrel
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie McCullough [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Insurance Concerns

Dear Senator Warner and Finance Committee Colleagues,

I never thought I'd be in this position. I've been a public school teacher and administrator over a 40-year career, and am now employed by a small non-profit, working to support education in Virginia. I am not rich, but I pay my bills, pay my taxes, and try to manage my money responsibly. I'm generally healthy and have no pre-existing conditions. Yet, at the age of 62, I am forced to consider going without health insurance. Here's why.

I am the only full-time employee of my organization and do not receive health insurance coverage through work. I purchase health insurance through the marketplace, and have chosen a modest plan that has a high deductible and requires me to have a Health Savings Account. Because I am healthy my expenses have always been less than my deductible and therefore out of pocket. In addition to bearing these expenses, I make regular contributions to my health saving account and pay a monthly insurance premium of just under \$700.00. This insurance covers only me and doesn't include my husband, who has a separate large premium. So, as an individual, I have spent almost \$34,000 over the last four years in addition to paying for any medical attention or prescriptions I might have needed along the way.

My understanding is that Anthem has decided to continue offering policies in Virginia in the coming year, but that premiums could rise as much as 40%. Forty percent of \$700 would make my monthly premium \$980, about a thousand dollars per month! This is simply not an option for me unless I want to stop paying my mortgage, my car payment, or my utility bills.

I know that neither Congress nor the country are ready to embrace single payer, Medicare for All. However, I wonder if those of us who are 55-65 years old and purchasing insurance in the marketplace might have the opportunity to "buy in" to Medicare, even if it is at a rate higher than the one we will pay when we reach age 65. I would welcome this option even as a temporary measure, while Congress continues to work on more permanent solutions.

I know that Medicaid recipients are your current priority, and rightly so. However, I respectfully request that you also give attention to the group of folks of which I am a part, who are not living in poverty but whose lives are significantly impacted by the health insurance crisis. I will be listening to your hearing tomorrow, as will many of my friends who are concerned about this issue.

Thank you
Laura McCullough
[REDACTED]
North Garden, Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Aronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Destroy Latest Health Care Plan

DO NOT PASS this horrific new health care initiative !!!

It is not a bill, but merely a HEALTH

CARE CUT!!!

It is DESPICABLE!!

Signed,

Lynn Diamond Aronson

Delray Beach, Florida

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rainey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy healthcare bill

I am writing in opposition to this bill. Any repeal of existing healthcare laws and any proposed replacement must be fully and thoroughly vetted and not rushed simply for parliamentary reasons (I.e. to pass by simple majority). This is a political maneuver, and it insults the American people. It says that elected representatives do not care about real people. Everyone I know has someone in their family with a real healthcare need - many with pre-existing conditions. In a country where healthcare is a leading cause of bankruptcy, we can and must do better. We must get this right. This will take patience, persistence and time. The Cassidy bill is a rushed, Republican Hail Mary embarrassment. I am solidly opposed to it.

Rainey Astin
Alexandria, Virginia

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcie Case [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please review this bill carefully before it goes to vote. The numbers should be in before a vote is taken.

Marcie

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Barkoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Dent, William (Isakson)
Subject: testimony for Sept 25 Hearing on Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: Don't take Medicaid away (Evan Nodvin, Georgia).docx

Attached (with pictures) and below, please find testimony for the record for the September 25 hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill submitted on behalf of Evan Nodvin, constituent of Senator Isakson.

Sincerely,
Alison Nodvin Barkoff
sister of Evan Nodvin

Title Of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Evan Nodvin [REDACTED]

I am Evan Nodvin and I am 38 years old. I have a great job, enjoy my co-workers and my job coach. I vote in every election and speak for myself and others. I have Down syndrome and am proud of my abilities. I am able to be an independent man because I get help from my Medicaid Waiver. My Medicaid Waiver funds provide me with needed transportation, a terrific job coach and a personal consultant that helps me with daily living skills so that I can live independently with a roommate of my choice. Without these supports from my Medicaid and my Medicaid Waiver, I would not be the man I am today.

My mom and dad say that when I was born there were no programs to help people like me. They were told to place me in an institution. Things are much different now – but if Medicaid programs are cut, what will happen to me and so many others like me. Please don't cut or cap Medicaid and run the risk of sacrificing these benefits.

YOU have the power to make a difference in Georgia and the United States. DON'T TAKE MY MEDICAID AWAY. Vote NO against the Graham-Cassidy bill or any other bill that caps or cuts Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JL Seymore [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy.
Please censure Trump.
Please impeach Trump.

Jack Logan Seymore
Portland, OR, Ground Zero of Trump's Dreams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Coyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: True leadership! Try again!

In my leadership training we learned something extremely important at the very start of our training... "Begin again" it's a crucial piece of leadership and it's high time you took it to heart if you have one! None of your plans I'm afraid Mr. and Mrs. "GOP" have come near to accomplishing a goal that has the peoples best interests in mind. Stop the madness in the selfish money grab taxcutting attitude that has the GOP in the worst place it's been in history in the public opinion polls of late... Try again in a bipartisan fashion and I'll bet it passes :-) Good luck and may the good light and bright side of the force be with you Laura Coyle Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is a very bad bill. It will harm many Americans, especially those low income seniors and those with pre-existing conditions. It's important to stop this bill and for the Senate to vote No.

This bill will result in me losing my healthcare, as I was at my lifetime limit just prior to the approval of the ACA. It's not something I did to develop malignant melanoma, or complications from a hysterectomy. As well as suffering from PTSD from being molested and raped as a young child.

I plead with the Senate to vote no.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jones

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: NATHAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill will have adverse consequences for:

- those who cannot afford insurance or obtain it through their employers;
- children and adults who have pre-existing conditions;
- pregnant mothers and the babies they carry if exclusions are allowed;
- the states that seized the moment and complied with the ACA to extend Medicaid to uninsured adults but will now have money transferred from them (Iowa included) to those states that did not care enough to extend health insurance coverage to people in their states.

The Republican Congressmen need to switch from rigid to flexible thinking about health insurance possibilities for this country. They might humble themselves a bit and **consider improving Obamacare, rather than killing it.**

Susan Enzle
Iowa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Star [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

Good morning,

Thank you for your service to our country. Please remember, your mission is not to be right, but to be just. Health care is too big and important and complicated an issue to be decided by one political party. For the love of all goodness, please come together to make health care affordable, and accessible to all. Perhaps if we all had the same coverage, we wouldn't fight so hard against the reality of health care.

Many working families are fooled by the idea of access to healthcare, because they are offered insurance. But the reality is, if they have to use it, they often cannot afford to pay the deductible, or the charges for service until they reach their deductible. Many can not afford the premiums, and go without insurance, even if it's offered. These are working families. I've been there, my daughter is there. My co workers have been there. My friends and neighbors...

Please do not pass this bill. There must be bi partisan support. It's called negotiation.

Sincerely,
Starlyne Yensel
California
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: amy schoneman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham- Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family of four would not be able to afford the high cost for even the lowest tier of health care with out the government subsidies. We would be forced to make difficult decisions about whether we could cover our young daughters or not. That is a decision no parent should EVER have to make.

We need to do better at covering all Americans with quality health care. Making health about politics and profit is plain wrong. Dozens of other countries have figured this out, so there are plans out there that can be adopted. This issue of quality healthcare should be a way for the country to unite as one.

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

Sincerely,
Amy Schoneman
Oakland, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anais M [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH COMMENTS...MY STORY
Attachments: 20170711_071805.jpg; 20170910_151233.jpg

Title of Hearing: Hearing to consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date Of Hearing: Sept. 25, 2017

Name: Gwenyth Anais Malone

Address: [REDACTED]

Vote NO on REPEAL AND REPLACE!

After 40 years of my knees getting worse and worse yearly due to genes and athletics, last year on August 29th, 2016, I was very fortunate, through my ACA Blue Shield Ins., to get two brand new total knee replacements!

Now for the past year, my knees have gotten better and better! I'm a 61 y.o. single female who's been self employed nearly my entire adult life after putting myself through law school and being a single mother and semi-retired since I was 38 y.o.!

To get insurance I've always had to be a member of a group, like Board of Realtors, to get a affordable health ins. for my girl and for me. My surgeries and care came to over \$175,000. and it would've broken me after finally becoming debt free 4 years ago.

I've also had several skin cancer surgeries, one where I lost nearly half of my nose and needed reconstructive surgery and my daughter has Hemochromatosis, so there are a number of now pre-existing conditions for which we'd have no protections if ACA is repealed and replaced!

Grateful to have had the benefits under ACA and the care I needed for a quality life but frankly as or more concerned for Medi-caid recipients who'll be thrown off coverage over next 10 years with that progress ending 10 years from now!

Just SAY NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JANE ROMAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,
As a nurse with 50 years of clinical administrative and academic experience and education:

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.

Jane Roman

Medford Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Battalio [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Rebecca Battalio
Bryan, TX

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Esparza [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

I am sure you are receiving thousands of emails protesting this awful bill so I will not go into detail but will say I am so very disappointed in to Republican party. That they would willfully and gleefully sign the death warrants of tens of thousands of Americans just so they can say they passed something is mind boggling.

I realize they "have" to replace the ACA because they campaigned on it for years. Please shore up the ACA for the next year or two and put in the work to come up with a bipartisan bill to fix our healthcare system. My personal opinion is that we need universal coverage but I realize it will be a long process to get there. People are suffering unnecessarily while Republicans are chasing their tails and accomplishing nothing.

Please, I beg of you, put in the work to come up with a **bipartisan** solution.

If the Graham/Cassidy bill is passed then there can no longer be any doubt that the Republican party is working against the best interests of the American public.

Thank you,

Sharon Esparza

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Danadanak [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a 64 year old woman, a Registered Nurse, and a veteran.

After the passage of the ACA, it was very gratifying to see patients who were so glad to finally have healthcare, to not have to worry about pre-existing conditions, life-time caps, coverage for essential health benefits.

All know that the ACA is not perfect, but Graham-Cassidy is not the answer. This is not simply my opinion but is the opinion of the AMA, AHA, ANA, ADA, insurance associations and on and on.

Allowing states and insurance companies the option to charge more for patients with pre-existing conditions or to stop coverage of all essential health benefits will lead to more chaos. Insurance premiums might drop but that's because the coverage will be horrible. Those with pre-existing conditions and who desire coverage for essential health benefits will pay much more under this bill.

Changes to Medicaid will wreak havoc for hospitals, particularly small rural hospitals. And as those hospitals close, those small towns will be unable to attract new jobs. No company will move to a town which does not have a hospital.

Please understand that Graham-Cassidy is a bad bill. Please make sure that it is rejected. This is a serious issue and deserves serious attention. Time for bi-partisan hearings with experts.

Sincerely,
Dana Ellis

[REDACTED]
Birmingham, AL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Moreland [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Monday Sept 25, 2017 by Emily Moreland, 5051 Oak Street Room 4028A KCMO
Attachments: EmilyGraham-Cassiday.doc.pdf

I am a registered voter and I deserve to have my voice heard.

Emily Moreland
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
Emily Moreland
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne McCarten-Gibbs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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 severely damaging Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Here's a roundup of what leading health organizations have said about the Graham-Cassidy Bill:

American Medical Association

"...the Graham-Cassidy Amendment fails to match this vision and violates the precept of "first do no harm." Similar to proposals that were considered in the Senate in July, we believe the Graham-Cassidy Amendment would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care."

American Academy of Pediatrics

"I [Fernando Stein, president, American Academy of Pediatrics] must speak out against this dangerous, ill-conceived policy on behalf of our 66,000 pediatrician, pediatric surgical specialist and pediatric medical subspecialist members, and stop it from advancing.

"This bill may be disguised under a different name, but it contains the same dangerous policies as the legislation that failed to advance out of the Senate earlier this summer. In fact, Graham-Cassidy goes even further in its attacks on Medicaid."

AARP

"Overall, the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill would increase health care costs for older Americans with an age tax, decrease coverage, and undermine preexisting condition protections. In addition, this bill would jeopardize the ability of older Americans and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes as they age and threaten coverage for individuals in nursing homes."

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

"The [Graham-Cassidy] bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions. The legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans. Legislation must also ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable."

Kaiser Permanente

“At Kaiser Permanente, we believe that changes to our nation’s health care laws should increase access to high-quality, affordable care and coverage for as many people as possible. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not meet any of those tests.

“The block grant proposal in the bill would erode coverage of needed medical services and pose major issues for state budgets. Repealing the individual mandate without alternative incentives for enrollment will lead to fewer people enrolled and higher premiums.”

America’s Health Insurance Plans

“[The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal] would have real consequences on consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for preexisting conditions; not ending taxes on health insurance premiums and benefits; and potentially allowing government-controlled, single payer health care to grow.”

American Heart Association and 16 other patient and provider groups

“Affordable, adequate care is vital to the patients we represent. This legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health. In fact, much of the proposal just repackages the problematic provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which we opposed. Fortunately, the BCRA was voted down by Congress earlier this year.”

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Anne McCarten-Gibbs

El Cerrito, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I had breast cancer 12 years ago. Why would you think I need to pay more than someone without a history of cancer does when the odds are that I won't get it again?

It is clear to me that members of congress think that the bill is worth keeping since they have decided to keep ACA coverage for themselves. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Susan Dixon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ritik Dholakia [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No vote on Graham-Cassidy without full public hearings, CBO score

As a business owner, I provide full health care to my employees. The ability to purchase health care at an affordable cost on the open market is critical to my ability to function as an employee, knowing that anything - a bad quarter, a down turn in the market - could seriously impact my business.

Strictly from the point of view of a business owner, I find the approach that the current Senate Leadership and the sponsors of the Graham-Cassidy bill to be deeply irresponsible, creating incredible harm and uncertainty for business owners like myself.

Given the impact of this bill on the economy, it should absolutely not come to a floor vote without:

- a significant, multi-month debate and open comment period including medical and health care experts
- a full CBO score on impact

As a private citizen, I find this bill and the legislative process that supports it morally and civically irresponsible.

Thank you,

Ritik Dholakia

--

Ritik Dholakia
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robin Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My daughter's only medical

My daughter suffered a Basilar Skull Fracture in an auto accident. Medicaid is her only medical help. She has no short term memory her long term memory is very limited she cannot taste or smell. She was denied disability and Medicare because she was a stay at home mom to raise her now 10 yo son so she was told she did not have enough work credit hours to be eligible for disability she is now 37 years old her accident was 4 1/2 years ago and there has been little change in the deficits she suffered. Please take into consideration many are not eligible for Disability so Medicaid is her only help with her medical cost. Please keep in mind that when an individual suffers a bleed in the brain such as hers this is permanent with no cure to look forward to. Thank you for time in taking deep consideration in these matters.

Sincerely
Robin Murray

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Krysia Braun [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Christine Braun

[REDACTED] Middleton, WI [REDACTED]

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to oppose this bill. As a teacher and mother of three, one with autism, I can attest to the benefits Medicaid has provided for my family, particularly in the early intervention we were able to get for my son. Without it he might still be nonverbal, unable to communicate his needs to others, interact with people in meaningful ways and learn even some basic academic skills. The therapies gained through Medicaid has brought my son that much closer to independence as an adult, able to get a job in our community and pay for his living expenses. The cost of early intervention in childhood is far less than the economic drain during adulthood (a much larger duration of our life span) would be. Without Medicaid disabled adults would be even more unemployable because families are unable to afford the necessary therapies helping disabled children become as-independent-as-possible adults.

This bill makes it possible for states to allow insurance companies to charge people higher premiums based on their health status. My autistic child may not be able to find employment to provide for his basic needs, let alone pay for astronomical health insurance premiums this bill will influence. Due to his disability he wouldn't be able to afford his healthcare needs. Did you know that young autistic adults, regardless of their education (including post-secondary), have the highest unemployment rate over all other disabilities? Approx. 58% of 20-somethings with autism are employed. How will it even be possible for the other 42% to get the care they need **without** Medicaid or be able to afford paying higher premiums for healthcare?

And why would you support a bill that wouldn't require insurance plans to cover **basics** like hospitalizations, maternity care, and laboratory tests? The basics!!! This bill will further injure already struggling states as they will have far less money to create the new health programs that will be required if the bill passes, particularly as the source dwindles in 10 years. How can you determine a fixed amount for each Medicaid enrollee, regardless of what it actually costs to cover them? No two illnesses are equal. No two situations are equal. No two people will respond to medical interventions and treatment in the same way.

Even though States would have a number of other options, such as instituting work requirements (keep in mind the unemployment rate for those who are disabled & elderly) and receiving part of their traditional Medicaid funding as a block grant. That would likely result in reducing eligibility and benefits for the poorest Americans, those that are disabled (something ANY ONE OF US can become in the blink of an eye) and elderly (we all will get there one day).

Find another way to give people the freedom to buy skimpy health plans for dirt cheap, if that's all they're interested in. This bill isn't even much of a money saver for our government compared to the

spending done in many other areas of spending. You're picking on the citizens most UNable to help themselves, or even be helped by their families, who will be hit hard if this bill goes through.

Sincerely,
Christine Braun

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Cahn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH comments
Attachments: GCH Proposal Comments -- Cahn.docx

Title of hearing: Hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date of hearing: September 25, 2017

To: GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov

From: Elizabeth Cahn

[REDACTED]
Amherst MA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am writing to express my continuing concern and dismay about the Senate's most recent health care proposal, the Graham-Cassidy Plan, as well as its predecessors, the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 (BCRA) and the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA).

All of these bills seek to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), but they are collectively not "better," not focused on providing actual health care, and not genuinely American in their goals and projected outcomes.

Please use your power to obstruct these Acts. Please use your knowledge and expertise to work toward a health care system for the United States that would provide health care and access to health care, for all. I won't argue what this should look like, only that we are a nation of brilliant and original thinkers who surely can figure this out better than we have so far.

Access to health care is a human right, and the United States is woefully behind other evolved nations in developing solutions to this pressing human problem. The ACA, while not perfect, was a huge step forward. We should work in a bipartisan manner to fix its flaws and extend its successes, not repeal it.

I am also very concerned with how the current bills would turn resources away from our health care system as a whole, most likely resulting in loss of hospitals, weakening of community health care organizations, and cuts to research. These losses do not just affect the poor or needy, they affect us all. No individual has enough money to rebuild what is now at risk of being jettisoned, and their own care will be compromised as well. We need a better health care system, not a thinner, more stretched, and even more overloaded health care system.

Ten years ago I was diagnosed with an early stage but aggressive breast cancer through a screening mammogram. At the time I had an excellent PPO insurance plan through my employer, so I was able to have treatment in Boston at one of Massachusetts's fine research institutions.

During the year of my treatment, my insurance company was "billed" about \$135,000 and the institutions that provided my care were "paid" about half that, or \$65,000, while my out of pocket cost was about \$200. During my treatment I could only work half-time, so I drew on my savings, which I was lucky enough to have, to cover my living expenses.

I might have been able to cover the actual costs of my care, over a period of years, but many people never could. And yet they are no less human, and no more at fault for their disease, than I am. Why should anyone have to declare bankruptcy, or go without care and die, in the face of health problems that we know how to identify and ameliorate?

Yes, health care is expensive, and as a society we need to address how much care we can provide and at what costs, but this is not achieved simply by denying access to care to those who, by accident of birth or other circumstances, have greater needs or cannot afford care.

Since my first cancer I have also had a second cancer, which was found early and was much less expensive to treat. I have also continued to work and now am employed as a health care advocate in a local nonprofit organization. During the last ten years I completed my PhD and was guardian, conservator, and Rogers Monitor for a family member with a complex brain injury and dementia until her death in 2014.

Cahn letter page 2--

I helped care for my dad until his death in 2012. I continue to help care for my mother, who has had a chronic form of cancer for almost 25 years. I spend time with my nieces and nephews, mentor my co-workers, and support my friends. In addition to my job, I volunteer extensively as a cancer research advocate, and serve my town as a member of our Human Rights Commission and as a trustee for a local cemetery.

My point is that my life is not defined by my cancer history, nor is my contribution to society limited by it. People with illnesses and disabilities are not a drain on society, they ARE society. No one is immune from the risk of acute or chronic illness, a head injury, a bullet wound, a car accident, a genetic problem that shows up unexpectedly. And yet people who have experienced all of these challenges can be treated, often healed, and routinely go on to live robust and meaningful lives.

The need for medical care, at any point in life, should never be the criteria by which we determine that a person should not have the opportunity to live up to all of their capabilities. I stand with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in their belief that "All lives have equal value." All humans have value, and each person contributes to our common good simply by existing.

And one never knows what a person can accomplish, even a person with an illness or disability. Perhaps that kid with spina bifida is going to grow up to cure their disease, or the patient with cancer will inspire thousands to stop smoking. Our collective humanity is not deepened or improved by lack of caring for others, no matter their situation, or how much it costs.

I am not part of the one percent, and with any luck I won't need Medicaid, either, but one never knows. I'm part of the potentially at-risk middle class. These days, I purchase my own insurance directly from the insurer, at market rate. At the age of 60, I hope I can continue to pay the almost \$10,000 per year that I am now charged, until I am old enough to join Medicare--and that it's still in existence.

Frankly, I don't mind that I may pay a bit more than what my health care costs these days in order that others may have access to what they need when they need it. That's how insurance works and it worked for me. I believe that my life is enriched, not lessened, by contributing some of what I have to help others who need support now. I believe in sharing the wealth of our great country to support all of the people who comprise our nation, not hoarding every dollar that I might gain to myself. Our futures cannot be separated so easily.

An evolved nation does not turn away from those in need. We have the resources; surely we can figure out how to distribute them so that everyone has access to what they need, without the need for those who benefit from the accidents of privilege heaping shame and punishment on those who didn't arrive in the world with those advantages.

And I don't claim to be much of a Christian, but I simply cannot understand how anyone who wears that mantle can argue that Jesus would condone this lack of care for the poor and the sick in order that others can pile up more than what they already have, more than what anyone could need. What's the point of redirecting money to the wealthy when they are already wealthy? What is the point of wealth when it is divorced from care for others? When is enough, enough?

I fully support bipartisan efforts to fix the problems with the Affordable Care Act, strengthen Medicare, and actually help our citizens and immigrants take care of their health so that they can accomplish all the other things they want and need to do. Let's put our brains and resources together with our empathy and creativity to solve the challenge of health care in our time, not make it worse.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karolyn Kinsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

As a Medicare recipient I am horrified that congress has the gall to even think about repealing & replacing the Affordable Care Act! With what? Nothing that I can see! And if they do what will stop them from doing the same thing to Medicare what I depend on to manage my diabetes & high blood pressure? At age 76 I'm lucky to still be able to work 12 hour shifts as a sheriff's office dispatcher. But I'm Not too old to stand on the doorstep of congress if they decide to try & eliminate Medicare. Get rid of your Cadillac health care plan first that my tax dollars pays for & then we can discuss things. Fix the health care system & get Rid of all the lobbyists!!
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Riordan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

My 25-year-old daughter, Clare, has Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia , a disease that requires medication every day to keep her alive. My 14-year-old son, Ethan, has Type 1 diabetes, and requires insulin to live. Both medications are expensive, and both conditions mean my children are considered to have pre-existing conditions that will put them in high risk groups when it comes to getting insurance. Having insurance is the only way it will be realistic for them to get their medications, otherwise they may not be able to afford them. Right now they are fortunate to be able to be covered under our insurance, which was only possible for Clare, as an adult, because of the ACA. She lives in fear that she will not be able to get insurance when she turns 26 because Congress is considering repealing the ACA and "replacing" it with the Graham-Cassidy bill currently before the Senate.

Please do not vote for this bill. Not only has it been rushed through without appropriate vetting, the rough estimates show it would do great harm to tens of millions of people across this country, including Clare and Ethan and thousands others in South Carolina. I hope you will consider instead supporting a bi-partisan repair of the ACA.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Susan Riordan

[REDACTED]
Greenville, South Carolina

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Dowtin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't push the #GrahamCassidy through...

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Please reconsider your push to pass the bill for healthcare through at this time. We need Republicans and Democrats to work together to solve this very important issue. Make some corrections to the ACA for now and take your time and do it right. Do it right for Americans, all of us.

Don't be afraid of President Trump. Don't worry that he will tweet-hate you or primary you. You represent your states and the people there. Do your job for us. Make us proud. Stand for America.

Best,
Barbara Dowtin

[REDACTED]
Midlothian, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary A Wegrarz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Every single member of House & Senate GOP need to own that they are too lazy or proud or owned to work on fixing what is wrong with ACA. So much for bipartisanship. It's wrong. All of you know it.

You rely on 30% of USA to carry you when you come up for re-election in 2018? America is awake & on its feet. We're tired of this. Constantly having to war against cruelty by those elected to office.

You pass this horrific irresponsible cruel bill & you will be writing the death sentence for your own party.

Between GC mess & every single action by Trump you have likely ensured that outcome already.

Mary Wegrarz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: s. lowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy and senior healthcare

To the Committee:

I write to express my deep dismay at the attempt to push through a bill affecting my health and the health of my children and grandchildren - and our fellow citizens.

Two of my grandchildren have ongoing mental health issues that will require weekly treatment throughout their adulthood, all their lives. These are the "pre-existing conditions" that some legislators find unworthy of medical care in the Graham/Cassidy bill.

My aged sister lives alone, is unable to care for herself, and is living on a meagre retirement and social security. She requires medicines and treatment for various degenerative conditions. Her situation is deemed unworthy by the Graham/Cassidy bill. Her health is as important as any senator's or Member of Congress; she just cannot afford what you have, although she worked as a nurse until she was 72 years old. She provided care to others that she cannot now afford. That's wrong.

My husband and I try to live a healthy lifestyle; but a serious accident or sudden illness could take our savings and we'd lose our home and become dependent on our children, who are not rich but work two jobs to provide for their kids.

The ACA might not be the perfect answer, but, surely the Congress of the United States can come together and fix any issues with it.

Our country's health care system should not be dependent on markets and on investors. Our health care should be fair and comprehensive; handing Alaska one plan and Georgia another is ridiculous. "Repeal and replace" is ridiculous. The GOP has had eight years to get a good bill before Congress and Committees so that debate, commentary and public opinion and evaluation can occur. That has not happened; each attempt has failed, but now Senators Graham and Cassidy would try to push through something that is universally condemned by health care and medical providers and their organizations. Think about that, we beg you.

We in our family struggle to get all our family members into good health and we cannot continue to fight systems that reward big drugs and big insurance. We need the Congress to work together for the good of every family in the US, not just those who donate big bucks to the GOP.

Thank you.
Sandra Lowe
[REDACTED]
Keswick, VA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Janz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: (Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017 10:00 AM, 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017, 10:00 AM, 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Michelle Janz
2126 John Ave
Superior, WI 54880

Dear Chairman Hatch and the Senate Finance Committee:

Please do not cut Medicaid or put caps on Medicaid. Block Grants would drastically cut Medicaid funds, choices, and independence of the most vulnerable population of people in our country and in our great Wisconsin state.

My son who is a person who was born with Down Syndrome just graduated High School at age 21 years old with a community job. The first thing he would lose is his job coach. Due to his diabetes that he is unable to manage his insulin pump on his own he would lose his job.

To take away a persons job. He would lose community based services in his community. He would be "place" in a restrictive environment that is cheaper, such as a day program where only people with disabilities attend.

My son has benefitted from Federal Medicaid Programs, such as the Birth to Three Program. He has Benefitted from the Preventative therapies over his young life that Medicaid provided.

My son is from a new generation that has had integrated into his community and our community has socially and ethically benefitted from his presence in our lives.

To cut his support now would take his rights away to participate fully in his community, as an employer, as a tax paying citizen, as a person who brings diversity and enriches our lives.

To take away what one does not know is one thing but to take away an enriched community, independent life of choices and force one to live their days out in sheltered day programs with out being with other people without disabilities would bring great catastrophic depression, mental break downs like never seen before.

"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."
Theodore Roosevelt.

Please care about the independence of people with disabilities to live their lives.

Michelle Janz
[REDACTED]

Superior, WI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary ostlund-wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Time to grow up, GOP.

Has it occurred to those who are determined to do away with comprehensive, responsible, and compassionate health care policy that their attempts to do away with ACA, at the expensive, literally, of many, many lives, makes them look like the racist children they are?

I am sure that since they only talk amongst themselves, and ignore the wishes and opinions of their constituencies (as evidenced by town hall meetings across the nation) they actually believe they are stars in the sky. It is time for these creatures to understand that to the vast, vast majority of the world, they look like backwards, primitive junior high boys. To make a decision like that, based on nothing but hatred of the previous president--or his race--is so deplorable it is also inhuman.

Address and fix the issues with the ACA, get the insurance companies under control, stop governing and legislating from greed and Old Boy cronyism (a concept way way way outdated) and do what you were hired, and are being paid, to do.

While you're at it, get rid of Trump before he kills us all.

Mary Beth Ostlund-Wood

[REDACTED]
Solon, IA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

I have a couple of points to make:

1. Prior to this Bill, GOP Senators made the comment over and over again that insurance needed to be available across state lines. This bill will do the opposite....many, many, many different administration systems with no commonality will make free markets impossible.
2. The entire body of healthcare experts have come out against this bill. I am concerned that Senators with no background in medicine and with no consultation with the medical industry are pushing this bill forward. (I know Senator Cassidy used to be a Dr., but right now he just seems to be a guy wanting campaign money).
3. This bill proposes large block grants to the states, and then cuts those grants over the next 10 years. This is while the population is aging. The system will need MORE money, not less. Medicaid specifically covers many in nursing homes.
4. For those individuals thinking that all state governments will do something that is good for their population, all you have to do to see the lie in that is to see the number of states cutting womens health care and lowering minimum wage.

I am saddened to see what was once a body that prided itself on deliberation fall to this level. Putting this bill forward shows that the majority of the GOP senate is more beholden to their donors than they are to their constituents. Which makes us not unlike some governments what we pretend to be better than.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suki [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Suki Graves
Albany, CA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: janeimber205 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca repeal

Do not repeal. The vast majority of Americans don't want to go back to being denied insurance or being charged impossible premiums for pre-existing conditions, or whole families going bankrupt after lifetime caps are exceeded. Obamacare can be improved, so improve it. Show you care about Americans other than your big donors. America is falling behind every other country in the world because of partisan politicians forcing crap legislation down our throats. Trumpcare, graham-cassidy whatever you want to call it, is crap. My husband and I will pay \$2100/month next year and that's STILL better than graham cassidy. Single payer, medicare for all would be even better. While we're talking, how about impeaching that insane crapfest in the white house before he starts a nuclear war that gets us all killed.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer McKernan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a 35-year old survivor of breast cancer who cannot afford to lose protections for pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jennifer McKernan
Glendale, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Barsy Eckman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Senators

My family and I rely on quality healthcare, thus I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

It is upsetting to know that if this bill passes I and several of my family members will be excluded from receiving healthcare because of our pre-existing conditions. I suffer from asthma, currently I have it under control but this could change and if this bill passes I may have to make hard choices regarding my health and wellbeing. My mother-in-law has diabetes and without coverage she could be at risk for not receiving the care and medicine needed to keep her healthy. My nephew was born 8 weeks premature. He spent the first 2 weeks of his life living in an incubator which allowed him to get strong. Their hospital bills were outrageous but doable with the assistance of medicaid. It appears in my family at least, 1 in 2 of us will be at risk if this bill is passed.

As I consider the impact this bill will have on my family and friends I am devastated by the number of people who will suffer. People who struggle with mental illness, family members who will have to make a choice between work and taking care of their loved ones. This could be such a devastating move for our country. As you consider this act please use your perspective; put yourself in someone else's shoes who has a pre-existing condition or suffers from mental illness and won't have the opportunity to get quality healthcare. .

I know we are a country which cares for **all of it's citizens**. A bipartisan Congressional effort is needed to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Christine Barsy-Eckman
Grand Rapids, MI [REDACTED]

--
Chris Barsy Eckman
- Interspiritual Minister
- Citizens Climate Lobby Volunteer

You can't have courage without fear! God, grant me the courage to change the things I can change!

Not everything which is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. - James Baldwin

We eventually learn that spirituality is not about leaving life's problems behind, but about continually confronting them with honesty and courage. It is about ending our feelings of separation from others by healing our relationships with our parents, co-workers, and friends. It is about bringing heightened awareness and compassion to our family life, careers, and community service.

- J. Krishnamurti

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Iman Jandali [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AMHP Letter Opposing Healthcare Bill
Attachments: AMHP Letter Opposing Health Care Bill.pdf

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

As representatives of the Muslim American community - its nationwide organizations and institutions - we are writing this letter in order to express our unified voice and unequivocal opposition to the health care bill currently under consideration. Similar to the previous proposals that were defeated earlier this year in the Senate, the Graham-Cassidy proposal, would cut health coverage and out-of-pocket expenses for millions. Most importantly, it will significantly undermine health care for the most vulnerable members of our community - the very individuals, families and children we take a responsibility for and care so deeply about serving. Therefore, we call on you to oppose this bill when it comes to a vote. Below is a list of reasons stating why this bill will have deleterious impacts on our communities:

- Eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Allow states to weaken protections for people with preexisting conditions
- Medicaid cuts over the next 10 years means millions of low-income Americans, including children, will lose their health coverage
- Medicaid kept 2.6 million Americans out of poverty in 2010, making it the third-largest anti-poverty program in the U.S.
- Many healthcare providers – especially rural hospitals – will be forced to close as a result of these cuts and rural communities will have less access to the care they need
- 32 million more Americans will be uninsured by 2027

As Muslims we believe that we are united as a single body and “if one part of it feels pain, the rest of the body will join in it staying awake and suffering fever.” Taking care of one’s own health and the health of others is deeply emphasized in the Islamic tradition and having access to quality and affordable health care is fundamental to achieving that goal.

Providing for the health, dignity and wellbeing of people is one of the most important social justice obligations of a Muslim and therefore we urge you to give thoughtful consideration to our letter and our plea.

--
Iman Jandali, MHS
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Hartman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Dear esteemed legislators,

My contact with young children and their families as a school psychologist in rural communities has informed me of how essential health care is to families. These young parents struggle with finding work, paying for housing, and ensuring safe day care for their children. Do not let them down with inferior or no health care.

Sally Hartman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrice Boothe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

[Patrice Boothe]
[Uniondale, NY]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dana Vindedzis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Start over

Where is the bipartisan work to come up with a bill that is acceptable? This bill is not! Fix Obamacare and move on.

Dana Vindedzis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laraine Crampton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

As a healthcare provider, I am aghast at the ruin that the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill would rain down on the heads of many of my patients and their families. The cost to society in terms of escalating, untended illness, absenteeism from work, loss of practical solutions for keeping one's family simply cared for in the basics of healthcare, and demoralization of huge swaths of our population, is incalculably large.

Please, stop this trainwreck before it happens. Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Hammer Middleton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Working in Oregon's Medicaid/dually eligible Medicaid/medicare industry, it is clear that healthcare as a human right needs to be established in our great country. Not just those at or below the poverty line suffer in life-long ways when health-care costs prevent them from the pursuit of happiness.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Marie Hammer Middleton

Portland, Oregon

--

Rachel M.H. Middleton, M.A.

"Philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it." -
- *Karl Marx, Thesis on Feuerbach XI*

"The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more." -- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

Healthcare should be universal -but until that can happen Obamacare is the best that we have. Don't take that away without providing a better, more universal option.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rusty Ennemoser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

This is not a healthcare plan for the common people. It is a gift to the insurance industries. Please vote NO.

Mary Ennemoser

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pierre Albin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill that 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.

Pierre Albin
Urbana, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: O'Connell, Coleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Finance Senate Committee,

My family was recently rocked with the diagnosis of bone cancer in our 21 year old college senior beautiful daughter/niece. She is presently fighting for her life and her health care is expensive. We see her needing care for months to come. She has every intention of kicking this thing and we look forward to her having a very rewarding and productive life. The idea that she could end up in a state that allows insurance companies to gouge her for her pre-existing condition is unfathomable and reeks of immorality. To think that she is heroically fighting the battle for her life, only to be given a life sentence keeping her from future health care is an act of cruelty on the part of Republicans. I plead with you to go back to the drawing board and truly figure out a way for ALL Americans to get health care, regardless of pre-existing conditions at a price they can afford – sliding scale. Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy repeal and replace. It is immoral and will devastate our family.

Thank you for listening.

Coleen O'Connell
Hartland, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen U [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strong Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. There should not be a vote on this bill without a full CBO score showing how many Americans would lose healthcare. This issue is too important and impacts too much of our American economy to be handled through the reconciliation process and should be addressed through, as Senator McCain has argued, the regular order and process of the Senate. I strongly support bipartisan efforts to fix aspects of the ACA, done through committee with full hearings and CBO scoring.

There are no healthcare experts who support the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This Bill is opposed overwhelmingly by doctors, nurses, hospitals, the insurance industry and numerous non-profit organizations and groups, such as the American Medical Association and the American Cancer Society who represent Americans with health issues.

Graham-Cassidy would hurt millions of people, including children, the elderly and the disabled. Graham-Cassidy would take away insurance from millions of Americans and remove protections for those with preexisting conditions. The waiver process the states can go through provides completely inadequate assurance that those with preexisting conditions would not be priced out of quality health care. It is also shocking the the Republican Party who say they stand for family values want to take away maternity coverage.

I strongly urge every Senator to vote against this bill. It is bad policy, that would hurt American's who deserve more from their elected officials when addressing an issue of such importance.

Sincerely,

Karen Ullman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brad Purvis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Kill the bill. It's bad for children and other people (especially those with pre-existing conditions).

Sincerely,
Theodore B. Purvis III, Major, USAF (Ret)
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: lindacoxnow@gmail.com
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill: Finance Committee Please Review
Attachments: Graham_Cassidy Bill_Brett.docx

Dear Finance Committee,

Please accept my plea for not accepting the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Attached is my voice in a word document. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Linda Cox
Westford, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Wallack [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy

The american voting public is well aware that the push for this bill comes from wealthy donors looking for payback on their campaign donations. Do not sell out the american voter for the sake of your own profit. Stand tall with Sen. John McCain and do the right thing.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care needs improving, not repealing

I, and those I work with in my practice, 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.

Sincerely,

Tima Newman, MFT
Albany, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Justice [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to express my vigorous opposition to the Graham-Cassidy (anti)health care bill. I could go on and on about how millions of people will lose their health insurance and suffer needlessly and even die prematurely because of this bill. I could go on and on about how it will return us to the days where families will go bankrupt trying to save the lives of their loved one's. I could go on and on about how unethical, cruel, and inhumane this bill is. But I'm sure you've got the recommendations of every major medical organization in America telling you all these stats.

So instead I'm going to share a personal story about how this bill would affect my life. I work as a physical therapist at Hennepin County Medical Center, a level 1 trauma center in Minneapolis, MN and I see patients EVERY DAY who would likely lose coverage if this bill passes. From the 12 year old boy recovering from a bone lesion who's self-employed parents can't afford his insurance, to the mentally disabled adult with prostate cancer working at the Salvation Army, to the man who found himself unable to work after a traumatic brain injury - these are people who have a right to affordable life-saving health care.

On an even more personal level, I think back to the days before the ACA and what it was like for me trying to get health insurance after I graduated from college. I was 22 years old and earlier that year I had an "abnormal" pap-smear where they biopsied the abnormal tissue and found out that it wasn't actually abnormal at all. No cancer. Nothing at all wrong with me. Later that year when my coverage expired, I tried to purchase health insurance but was denied (not even charged an astronomically high premium - flat out *denied* coverage) because I had a record of an abnormal pap smear. The only way I could be eligible for coverage was to show that I had 3 normal pap-smears within a year. And where do you think I went to get those out-of-pocket pap-smears? The only place I could afford it - Planned Parenthood. Just the institute that the Graham-Cassidy bill is trying so desperately to de-fund.

I've now learned that having an "abnormal" pap-smear that turns out to be normal is so common with young women, that they're not even recommending pap-smears annually anymore. So think of the thousands of American women who were in the same boat as me before the ACA. And I was lucky - much of that year I went without insurance I lived in England where I had access to state-sponsored health care if I ever needed it. But turns out I didn't need it. I was a young, took care of myself, and was blessed with good health. But think of all the women in my same boat who weren't as lucky as me? Are you really going to blast them and their families with a bankruptcy or die decision again?

This bill is cruel, inhumane, and utterly immoral. Please throw it out before it starts killing people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Catherine Justice
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Randall [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Healthcare" bill

I take great exception to the proposed Republican "healthcare" bill now not being discussed with anyone and is not being transparent to the public.

It does not guarantee affordable insurance for preexisting conditions. It does take away preventive measures such as mammograms and wellness doctor visits--which in the long run leads to healthier people and brings down health care costs. It caps limits for people with existing health issues. What are they to do? Die? Go into bankruptcy? Suffer? And it is not just the patient who suffers these consequences. It is the family as well.

I strongly urge congress to defeat this immoral bill. Do the right thing by the people of this country. Work on and present a health care bill that takes care of all people in this country.

Lastly, any bill passed by congress MUST apply to all congress members without exception, including the president.

M. B. Randall

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Henri Deschamps [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The GOP, Graham-Cassidy, Patriots or Scoundrels

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." ~ Samuel Johnson

While divergent opinions, based on reasonable logical debate, are the lubricants of democracy, the current nature of the health care debate does not fall into this realm.

Held to account by the rightfully frightened citizenry, the right is in such moral bankruptcy it has opted for "The Big Lie" as its sole option for salvation.

"Adolph Hitler in Mein Kampf said: 'In the size of the lie there is always contained a certain factor of credibility, since the great masses of the people... will more easily fall victim to a great lie than to a small one'. Thus was born the concept of the Big Lie".

Is there really any doubt that all the recent GOP iterations to "repeal and replace" ObamaCare, are "The Big Lie"?... snake oil for the masses. Who exactly do these efforts serve? Certainly not the panicked citizenry, including those screaming "repeal" or "repeal and replace".

Even a minimal spark of reasonable reflection, and human compassion, clearly demonstrates the changes proposed by the Graham-Cassidy bill are more kin to vultures than to eagles, and is morally bankrupt in every way. It is a disingenuous bait and switch operation where the GOP sells one thing, and delivers another. It is a proposal built on principles of self-serving greed rather than those of public service, or even minimally proper representation of their constituencies.

And while it is certain that the vast majority of the people composing the current health care system are neither inept nor corrupt, it is equally certain that the system itself is both at this stage of political and regulatory neglect, and that it needs serious, thoughtful and responsible reform, and not a long-con game to benefit donors.

Is this not evident? With the Graham-Cassidy bill and it's underlying philosophy, who among us will not be scared to death of getting sick as much for the exploitation of our condition as for our suffering. We are all fully aware, that as per Graham-Cassidy, unless we are severely rich, that all our assets are at the disposal of this proposed new health care system, and we are simply bidding our time till they take what is left of our money, as we lose what is left of our lives.

We could conceivably go on forever like this digging in heels, finding blame, and spewing dogma.

The problem with dogma in the real world, is that it is about as useful for problem solving as Fast Food is conducive to arterial circulation. Not too much.

One thing is certain, this current system will be reformed or it will collapse due to Trump and the GOP's sabotage rather than due to some innate irreparable flaw. And where previously we lost only our money, here we will lose our loved ones and ourselves, and in ever increasing numbers, in accelerated fashion, in ever more despicable ways, all more related to profit motives than to the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Very few of us are qualified to opine expertly on the overall strategy, much less the micro-details of public health policy, structures and processes.

Perhaps insisting congress get to work to pass a bill to reform ObamaCare, not designed by "Big Drugs", "Big Medicine", "Big Business" or "Big Government", but taking the citizenry's needs into account exclusively, would better serve our purposes. There are real experts on the subject.

And beyond that... a rational, informed and knowledgeable citizenry has always been the only line of defense against charlatans, regardless of the type of flag pins they use as tie clasps. Beware of trinkets.

At the heart of patriotism is compassion for one's fellow citizens.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnie Girdi [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

NO, NO, NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia Trovato [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

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

I have a pre-existing condition and I do not believe that states should be able issue waivers to allow insurance companies to charge more to people like me. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Virginia Trovato

Staunton, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Schwartz, Lindsay Frances [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear members of Congress,

I am writing to you today not just as a pediatrician, but also as a patient, to express my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. You see, as a baby, I was diagnosed with a rare congenital eye disorder, which over the last 29 years of my life has required cataract surgery, medications for the glaucoma that developed as I aged, and additional surgeries for strabismus ("lazy eye") and glaucoma. I am a walking-talking pre-existing condition. Though I would consider my family as upper-middle class, my parents struggled to pay my healthcare bills growing up because insurance companies would either refuse to cover my care or refuse to cover me, period, because of these illnesses I was born with. I finally found solace when the ACA was passed, but now that peace is threatened. I am a doctor, and my own healthcare would be affected by the passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill. That is not right.

Despite this, I grew up to become a pediatrician. I found my calling working in urban, low-income neighborhoods, where many children are insured through Medicaid. These children, my reason for joy in my work and the reason I get out of bed each day, would be grossly affected in a horrible way by the Graham-Cassidy bill. That is not right.

I urge a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please don't let me down, and please don't let these children, my patients, down.

Sincerely,

--
Lindsay F. Schwartz, MD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Garcia Parry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Gut Medicaid

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While we build two small businesses myself and my husband rely on Medicaid to meet our healthcare costs. If you want to see business start-ups, economic growth and entrepreneurship do not gut the programs that allow us and countless other individuals like us to take on building businesses without foregoing healthcare.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Garcia Parry

Eugene, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: bea [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

What healthcare means to me-

My husband was self-employed for over 27 years. I previously was an employee. Due to Medical problems-I no longer was able to work on my job.

After Cobra- the cost for insurance for my husband **alone** was over \$17,000 a year with a \$10,000 deductible. His premiums were high due to pre-existing conditions.

For 5 years-we had to live off of the equity of our home to be able to afford the health insurance premiums. My husband neither drank nor smoked nor took drugs. He was hard working and helped hundreds of people.

All this was before Obama-care.

We ended up having to make a move so that he could become an employee and was able to be covered under an employee health plan.

This meant leaving our home and friends of 27 years (while we were in our 60s).

While being an employee-even with employee health insurance-our out of pocket costs have still been close to \$10,000 a year.

I do believe expanded opportunities for health savings accounts would be very beneficial to people now.

I wish that Obama care had been available for us-so that we would not have had to uproot our lives in our 60s.

I believe that changes do need to be made. I understand that the costs for Obamacare are skyrocketing but I encourage all sides to sit down and come up with a plan that is well thought out and reasonable and will not cause millions of people to NOT be able to afford health insurance.

Please ask yourselves-is this a plan that I would want for myself and my family to have to adhere to-or anyone I know-including those with pre-existing conditions. And if you are a person of the Christian faith-ask yourself-what would Jesus do?

Thank you for taking time to read this email.

Bea N

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian and/or Anne Spencer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

We are deeply concerned about the current Healthcare bill being considered by the Senate. My husband and I farm so need to purchase our own insurance, as do most of those who are self-employed. He also has a pre-existing condition, causing us to worry about the cost of our medical insurance if the current ACA requirements change. We also have a 30 year old daughter with a pre-existing condition, who has returned to get her MS/PhD. She purchased her health insurance quite reasonably through ACA and would also be financially compromised by your bill.

Please do not let this ill-advised, poorly planned and destructive bill continue. We agree, as do most people, that there need to be some changes in the ACA, but this should be done by a non-partisan process, thoughtfully and carefully. Politics has no business in this process!

Thank you. Brian and Anne Spencer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kelleen maluski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would make it possible for people to be discriminated against based on pre-existing conditions and it would take health care and benefits away from the people who need it the most. I agree that the Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. Instead of trying to repeal and replace with a bill that is less caring to the people in our country (and has definitely not gone through an exhaustive exploratory process) I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. Though I myself do have pre-existing conditions, I have always had healthcare through my work. If this bill passes it won't directly change my life or harm me, but it will harm other people in this country. Having pre-existing conditions I know how much people rely on access to quality and affordable health care. If we work to take that away from our brothers, sisters, and neighbors in this country what does that make us? I want our society to stand strong and be there for one another, doing what is right even when it is hard. Please, work together to make the ACA stronger, not to repeal and replace it.

Kind regards,
Kelleen Maluski

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

We do not appreciate the lack of transparency and debate on the ACA repeal.

This bill harms every American from those who are on Medicaid into those who do not have perfect bodies, including pre-existing conditions. The Trump administration must stop lying along with the GOP. This is a terrible bill. Do not pass this bill.

Disgraceful GOPers.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a young, low-wage employee and without the ACA, I would be buried in medical bills. I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Michael Weiss
Tucson, AZ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Hogan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to dramatically overhaul and undermine our health care system. For what? A tax cut for the richest Americans? No, thank you, we deserve so much better than this. 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. It would remove protections for people with preexisting conditions like asthma, cancer, and diabetes. And it contains an age tax which could cost older Americans thousands more per year. I'm one of those people and I am outraged.

It's not right to push through these major changes that would result in 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.

Alice Hogan
Chincoteague, VA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C health care bill

This bill solves no problems, it's just a badly veiled attempt at giving the 1% a tax break. Vote NO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:14 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a physician who cares 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 which is to be considered this coming week.

Norman Spencer, M.D.
Northampton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Henry Cardwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Committee members,

I have few illusions about any of you reading this but here goes!

Healthcare in the United States was destroyed by the people setting in the Senate seats of the United States of America. The Democrats followed the lead of a President who stated his intention was to change America. I saw how he wanted not just change but to destroy our country and he is about to succeed. His desire is Medicare (or something similar) for all, and this failed Obamacare is just a step in that direction. Healthcare is important enough to demand a bipartisan process, however, Democrats decided that they would do it on their own without any help from the Republicans and so a bill was passed (and the speaker of the house at that time issued her ONE true statement - we must pass the bill before we can find out what is in it - as it was a skeleton of the law with no substance and allowed two unelected people decide what it would say) solely by Democrats who had no idea what they were voting for. I read the bill. To make matters worse, the Supreme Court decided to do a little legislating on their own when they made the stated "fee" in the bill a "tax".

I do not have all the statistics about how Obamacare is failing, and can only relate what I have seen or experienced.

The majority of the folks enrolled were Medicaid folks who were already eligible for that program but had not enrolled because they did not need the service. This was a move to show a huge increase in folks with insurance.

Premiums and deductibles have gone thru the roof, if you can find a insurer.

MDs have quit the profession because of the requirements placed on them.

At least two people that I know were unable to even get Obamacare and I know for a fact they needed the insurance for themselves and their children.

Now the Republicans have a bill before you that the Democrats have stated that they will not support. They have stated they will not support anything the GOP offers, and I guess that means even the good bills. We have no statesmen in the Senate at this time that I can determine. I have not read this bill, and I assume it is doomed to failure because in the years since Obamacare was passed the GOP has not set down and designed a plan (that would include tort reform) to replace the existing healthcare law. What we are seeing now is a rush deal that may or may not be any good.

Please do not call Senator McCain a Statesman for what he is doing. He is a turn coat in the GOP and should be treated as such.

Henry Cardwell
Punta Gorda, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not support Graham-Cassidy bill.

I know many, many people that rely on the insurance provisions in the Affordable Care Act. It would be devastating to them and their families if the Graham-Cassidy bill was passed.

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

Sincerely,

Emilie Nichols
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Don & Cathy Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

We need true bipartisanship on this issue. The vast majority of Americans want healthcare that is truly affordable and accessible for all. 1/6 of our economy is at stake. Take your time.

Cathy Hill
Laurelville, Ohio

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kaitlin_foss [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I urge you strongly to reject this proposal as it harms Americans by putting our most vulnerable citizens at highest risk. We need to adopt as the rest of the world has universal health care that will stop enriching the insurance, pharmaceutical, and medical industries and return the focus, funds and quality of care to the people. Any law passed should be required to be held to any and all political leaders as well. If it's not good enough for your children, families, and you then it's not good enough for us.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: First Do No Harm

I am very concerned about the fact that this bill is being rushed through for political points when the heart of a healthcare bill should be focused on taking care of everyone. All major medical organizations have opposed this. Of course, the current system is flawed and needs improvement. Work together to make it better. First do harm.

Julia Conway
St. Louis, MO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Panama 13 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act

I oppose repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with Graham Cassidy bill.
We need **affordable** health insurance for all citizens.
It has been historically proven, the state of Virginia, will not provide that, given the choice.

S Foote, voter, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Will macArthur [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Car Act

I own a small business and with a family of 4 was not able to afford a health insurance policy until the affordable care act.

While it is not perfect, repealing it will only make matters worse. The Graham-Cassidy bill will personally affect my family and millions of others.

What we really need is a single payer health care system like the majority of developed countries around the world. Americans deserve a health care system on par with our European and other American neighbors. Stop treating us like second class citizens.

Sincerely,

William MacArthur
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlene Hodgkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As all Americans, I and my family and friends are affected by healthcare in a financial and very personal way. I am on Medicare and feel everyone should have the good healthcare coverage that I have, but not have to wait until they are 65 to do so. Children need healthcare to become productive citizens, young adults need healthcare to be productive members of our society, this bill does NOT take care of these basic needs in a way that benefits all. I urge you to work with all Democrats and Republicans to improve the ACA, not to destroy it.

In my opinion, the Trump Administration and the Republicans have spent more time using an agenda of reversing anything Obama did while forgetting that he was elected by a vast majority of this country. Will you forget these people and just serve the Trump faithful???? And, I wonder how faithful they are right now?

Do the right thing on Health Care. Let's bring America into the 21st Century with other progressive countries that have Healthcare for all.

Thank you.

Charlene Hodgkin
Tellico Plains, TN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We live on Social Security and a small retirement. We both have preexisting health conditions. Repeal of the ACA would have a devastating effect on our health and finances. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Janice Hedstrom
Oak Harbor, Wa.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Blumberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We need to expand health care for all Americans so that an illness or accident isn't compounded by an inability to pay for care.

Sincerely,

Debra Blumberg

Burlington, VT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deirdre Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill. Support and improve Obamacare!

The whole nation is watching.

Let's get back to the old fashioned two-party process that has true dialogue and bipartisanship.

Deirdre Joyce

[REDACTED]
West Orange, NJ [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cal Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:53 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please stop this ridiculousness

Dear Senators,

I am not a direct recipient of Medicaid, but I am an indirect recipient.

I benefit from the contribution many disabled people make who get up in the morning, prepare to face the day, and then go out into their communities -- my community -- as neighbors and workers and volunteers. Without some of these people my life would be impoverished and if their benefits were cut and they were to be forced out of the community a great deal of important work would not be done. Already so many valuable people are trapped by institutional bias; we cannot go backward on this.

I benefit from the contribution of the many low-wage workers in retail and food service and other fields who can do this work only because Medicaid allows them and/or their children to receive health care they could not otherwise afford. If we were to lose these people from the economy because of untreated chronic health care problems we would be in bad shape. Already so many families struggle; we cannot throw more people off the health care system their tax dollars built and sustain through education and research.

I benefit from access to emergency medical care, when I need it, that is not clogged by people whose treatable medical conditions have been allowed to develop into emergencies that are expensive both for the individual and society. I would not want to have to contend with the forcible misuse of the emergency care system that cutting Medicaid would cause. Emergency medicine is already overburdened; why would we choose to make it worse?

I benefit from the presence in my neighborhood of families full of beautiful children, laughing and playing and growing up to lead the nation into the future. Already some pregnant women do not get benefits until their third trimester; why would we not give our babies the best start possible?

Medicaid benefits all Americans in so many ways. It's not just the direct recipients -- though the harm you will be doing to them if you cut, cap or block-grant the program is immense, and as none of us can know when we may need it, that, too, is on some level harm to us all.

Please think of the good of your constituents -- all of your constituents, the direct and the indirect recipients of Medicaid both -- and turn your efforts to improving the health care situation instead of this ridiculousness.

Cal Montgomery

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Genelle Newhard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill. My uncle Randy has Down's syndrome and lived with my parents for 15 years until symptoms of early onset Alzheimer's made it impossible for him to remain at home. The nursing home available to him through Medicare just warehoused patients with Dementia until they died. They heavily medicated him to make him compliant and bribed him with ice cream when he was difficult. In the year he was there he gained 40 pounds. A Medicare waiver allowed him to move to a different facility where he is actually cared for. He's been weaned off most medication and, despite the progression of his disease, is in better shape. The influx of federal funds from the ACA allowed Pennsylvania to issue the waiver that had drastically improved Randy's life. Please work together to improve the ACA instead of repealing this important legislation.

Thank you,
Genelle Newhard

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: harry sweet [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

While there are many flaws in the present system, this bill is not in any way an improvement. Just blind destruction. And stupid, just from a financial point of view. Goodbye family physician, hello emergency room. Are people supposed to just stop getting sick and having accidents?

Access to health care is a right, and recognized as such by every other developed country on the planet.

I would like to see bipartisan effort to make real improvements to the current system, not just blindly rushing to tear it down for political points.

Harry Sweet

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Francie Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Grahan-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Title of Hearing: Hearing to Consider the Grahan-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017
Frances B. Miller
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bayview, Kootenai County, Idaho 83803

I have worked as a health care advocate for people with severe and persistent mental illness for most of my career.
I am 62 years old, and I have worked both in the public and private hospital mental health system and in the community based state level mental health systems.

I oppose the Bill in question because of the cost and the effect it will have on people with pre-existing health issues. I am also opposed the the proposal to change Medicaid to Block Grant funds. Block Grants completely disconnect the safeguards inherent in Medicaid Funding. I can tell you from personal experience, States cannot be left with the responsibility to provide health care without Federal oversight. People will be severely affected by such a change.

This Bill also unconscionably affects the out of pocket premiums of people who are already fighting for their lives. People with preexisting metastatic cancer would pay nearly \$150,000 a year for premiums. These are people who have likely lost their jobs due to their illnesses.
This Bill is unconscionable and it places a heinous burden on people who are at their most vulnerable.

Further, this Bill is a gift only to the insurance industry and to States who want unencumbered Block Grant money to divert to other uses than health care.

Please do not pass the Grahan-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

Respectfully,
Frances B Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristin Haldeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 8:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare comments

Committee members,

I am disheartened and disgusted by efforts to ram through a repeal of the Affordable Healthcare Act which has provided affordable healthcare to millions of Americans who would otherwise not have access to it. This bill that you are allegedly debating today is the worst of all healthcare proposals brought forward by both the House and Senate over these past few months and would leave millions of Americans without care. How many is still unknown as you are moving forward without the benefit of a CBO analysis of the program. This is beyond irresponsible. Further to that, leaving Americans without benefits that provide access to preventative care will only lead to ballooning healthcare costs to society as illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes- to name a few- will go undiagnosed until too late and the only recourse is overly expensive treatment.

Your job is to represent the best interests of the American people. This bill does no such thing and is heartless and cruel. Healthcare is a complex issue that should be given the time required to find a solution that meets the needs of Americans in an affordable manner. It requires expert testimony and public hearings. It requires a true return to order in the Senate and House. Today's hearing is not even remotely close to a return to order. I urge you to recognize that and refuse to rush through this bill.

Kristin Haldeman
Arlington, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michelle Chester [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing on 9/25/17

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare so I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I am appalled at the deep cuts it makes to women's healthcare in particular. If prenatal and postnatal care isn't a mandate for coverage, I expect everyone who votes for this bill to explain that to their mother, sisters and daughters.

I yearn for and hope to see a truly collaborative, bipartisan effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Michelle Chester

Business woman and postpartum mother of two

Minnetonka, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gay Finlayson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, September 25, 2017

Please protect Medicaid and reject Graham-Cassidy. I am the mom of a young adult with schizophrenia, and a young adult with autism. Our family depends on Medicaid to provide medical and behavioral health care for their complex pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,

Gay Finlayson

[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: mbeauvais [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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. This is a travesty of a bill, and the re-design meant to appeal to certain states' Senators nothing short of bribery.

Madelayne Beauvais
Vista CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: john carrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare is a right

What heartless individuals would take healthcare away from the less fortunate. Take some funding away from the over funded defense budget. Maybe White House staff and their families could cut back on private jets and vacations on the taxpayers dime. HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT! MAKE IT SO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Terry Sowka [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no: Graham-Cassidy bill hurts Americans

Statement for committee hearing meeting on September 25, 2017

U.S. Senate Finance Committee

Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To members of the committee:

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal that would hurt American citizens.

I am a breast cancer survivor. I watched from my hospital bed in the fall of 2009 when the Affordable Care Act -- and its ban on preexisting conditions -- was approved in the House. No matter what happens, I thought, I won't be denied coverage if this becomes law, and it did. Now you want to undo that.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal would lead to more people being uninsured, the end of national protections of preexisting conditions, sick people being charged much more, cutting essential benefits like maternity care and the gutting of health care for the poor (Medicaid.)

More Americans will go bankrupt and more will die.

Please do the right thing and vote this down. Don't be beholden to threats by special interests (the Kochs et al.). Stabilize the insurance markets. Reject this bill.

Therese Sowka

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Tmswrite@aol.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: amysk [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please do not pass this health care bill. It will be harmful to so many of us.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Scheller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to gchj proposal

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

September 25, 2017

Comments from Amy Scheller

I oppose this bill. It only adds to the terrible drain the cost of health care to our citizens and to our states. This burden holds our country back, and leaves millions doubly burdened with poor health.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glenda Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator Tom Cotton (Cotton)

To the Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill will end Health Care for over 30 million Americans. It does not have a CBO score yet, it has had no debate, no amendment process or hearings. It does away with Medicaid expansion (I live and work in AR), people with pre-existing conditions will be priced out of their insurance, essential health benefits will be gone. Why is this bill being considered? There has been no bi-partisan work on health care, why is this so hard for Senators to do?! I am 61, all my working life I have paid my FICA, Medicaid, my taxes. And now, as I near retirement it looks like my health insurance costs will skyrocket because of my age. And I am healthy. I take no medication. Others will fare worse than I will. That is one thing I have trouble understanding in this Health Care debate. So you Senators repeal the ACA, millions of people will not be able to afford insurance, they don't have to bog down the system anymore. So what happens to these folks? Do they just disappear?! They will still have health problems, so they go on welfare? They die? Senators, I know you can do better than this. You were elected to do better than this. Please stop this so called health care bill.

Thank you,
Glenda Allison

[REDACTED]
Berryville, AR 72616

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harriet Hopf [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Harriet Hopf
Salt Lake City, UT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: john hoffmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on Graham - Cassidy Bill September 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

Please include these comments on the Hearing for the Repeal of ACA:

1. As a lifetime Republican, I feel it is not within our parties interest to turn a cold shoulder to the millions of Americans who need access to healthcare.
2. This bill purports to roll out neat Block Grants to states with no regard to consistent health care policies, such as pre-existing conditions and preventative care.
3. These Block Grants also look to establish dramatic cost cuts for Medicare and Insurance subsidies.
4. The costs will simply be passed to the states and will n doubt offer checkered solutions.
5. The real problem with Medical care is not the Insurance delivery options but the costs themselves ...so why are we not rolling up our sleeves to work on the real issues?
6. We cannot simply govern as the party of "no" and offer no real solutions to such critical policies for our American people's health care.

Thanks for your time and look forward to some intelligent policies in the near future. from our Republican leadership.

Best Regards,
John Hoffmann
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kristin.dietz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT Pass Health Bill

Please please do not pass this healthbill as it stands.

We NEED a healthcare plan which is affordable and attainable for everyone.

Kris Dietz

[REDACTED]
St. Charles MO 63304

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Koenig [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Defeat Graham-Cassidy. Improve the Affordable Care Act. No need to repeal and replace just because of a ridiculous campaign promise.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana Rodin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of Congress,

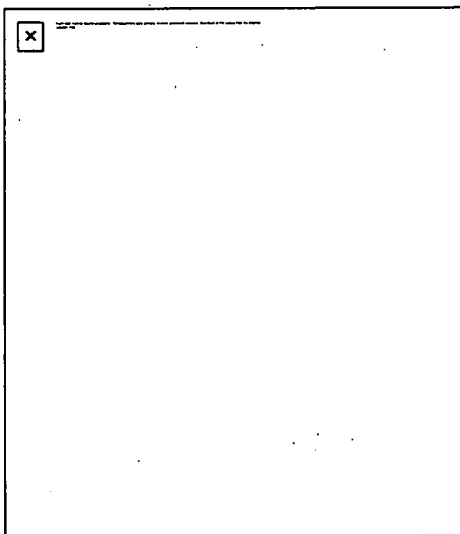
Please read my friend Matt's obituary below. He died very suddenly in 2012 of a brain tumor that went undiagnosed because he was uninsured. It could have been treated and very likely cured. He was 31 years old. For those of us who knew him, time is divided into before and after that day.

Every independent analysis of the Republican health care bill and similar policies predicts that they will cause tens of millions to become uninsured and put people with preexisting conditions at risk of being unable to afford coverage. We can ask, beg or pray for you to consider the consequences for millions of Americans and their families and friends. But those words seem inadequate. Please consider this life.

Vidulich, Matt

Sep 19, 2012

-
-
-



Matt Vidulich

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MADISON/ WASHINGTON, D.C. - Matt Vidulich, age 31, passed away Sept. 14, 2012. He was born Jan. 19, 1981. Matt was one of the most generous, kind, and loveable human beings. A source of optimism and encouragement, he found sincere joy in others' success. Matt would move mountains to help those he knew, never with hesitation and no matter the level of difficulty. Matt was never afraid to remind friends and family that he loved them because he knew how valuable a life was. Matt appreciated the details most people overlook and was able to find goodness in even the most painful situations. We will forever miss his infectious smile and his quick laugh.

Music was his passion. He was the tastemaker who saw an album in a record store and bought it for a friend on the hunch that "I bet you like this." He bemoaned that even as he collected vinyl Bob Dylan and Wilco records others ditched their CDs in favor of digital music. The song mixes he created for others—with painstaking detail to be sure the song order was constructed just so—will be a lasting source of delight.

Matt had countless interests because he never shied away from new adventures. Matt loved the outdoors, hiking, biking, and running. Living in Washington, DC, Matt had a passion for progressive politics, with "West Wing" reruns on regular rotation. A proud graduate of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, his bookshelves were filled with titles about World War II, a topic he said he enjoyed because he wanted to better understand his grandfather's generation.

Matt had a mildly-obsessive love affair with Wisconsin sports, particularly the Green Bay Packers and University of Wisconsin football and basketball. Packers t-shirts were known to be sent as presents by Matt, especially to friends who are fans of rival teams.

More than anything, Matt yearned to make the world a better place. Professionally, he did this by raising money for HIV/AIDS research and assisting military veterans. He pushed others to find love and happiness—to never forget one's dreams. He was one of the good ones.

He is survived by his mother, Toni; his sister, Megan; and many loving family and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Joe; brother, Brent; paternal grandparents; maternal grandfather; and his very special "Gran," Elma.

http://host.madison.com/news/local/obituaries/vidulich-matt/article_67a8ce16-01b2-11e2-a2c8-0019bb2963f4.html

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Esperanza Oppenheimer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Esperanza Oppenheimer
Bronx, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kathy stephenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Just NO

GCH is not accessible, is not affordable, is NOT healthcare. Americans need healthcare just like other first world nations (and second world nations!!).

Congress must develop a health care system for ALL Americans. GCH is a death knell for millions of Americans. Fix the system we have now or create a BETTER system.

No GCH!!!!!!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Canzoneri [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Kill this bill

Senators,

By now, it is difficult to believe that anything anyone says to this committee will make a dent on most Republicans in the Senate. They seem so bent on ignoring all warnings from experts and all pleas from ordinary voters. It is as if some sort of collective madness has infected them.

The bill you are considering is cruel and heartless. It is terrible for the economy and will harm millions of vulnerable people. Plenty of experts and organizations with expertise in health care have explained this to you in great detail. I don't need to add to what they have told you.

All I can do as an ordinary American is add one small voice pleading that you not pass this terrible bill; and that you take time to do the difficult and important work of following regular order and working in a truly bipartisan fashion to do what is the best for the most people. If the pressure from big political donors wins out and the Senate acts to pass something – no matter how bad – that looks like the repeal of “Obamacare” it will be a tragedy for all of us.

Passing a law that restructures one sixth of the US economy without following regular order, without hearings, without full CBO scoring, in a mad rush is inexplicably irresponsible. Moreover, in the long run, it is political suicide, because a party which robs millions of health care will become a pariah. Maybe not before the next election, but eventually, voters will come to hate politicians who cause the amount of misery this bill would bring.

Americans want be able to trust that their elected officials will do what is best for the country – all of the country. Americans want to see that though there may be policy differences between politicians in our political parties, those politicians will work together with civility to get things done. Our system has worked best when we have those things.

The process that has brought us to the point where you are holding a sham hearing as part of an absurd process to ram through a law that will be a disaster is yet another sign that we are not getting what we want and deserve from our government.

Please, please, kill this bill. Then get back to regular order and rebuilding Americans' trust in Congress.

Respectfully,

Sarah Canzoneri
Washington DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Saya Moriyasu [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable care

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Affordable healthcare has helped my husband receive a colonoscopy that removed polyps. Colon cancer runs in his family and it's important to have access to preventative measures. Without that we would have a hard time paying for that on top of paying for insurance.

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

Thank you.

Saya Moriyasu
Jeff McGrath
[REDACTED]
Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care non bill

I oppose any bill for health care that does not include pre-existing conditions and those covered by medicare. Yeah for ypu if you have private coverage. Medicare seems to be working well as a single payer system. Please expolore if as a way for the US.

Don't give up. You have lots of brains to put to use. Yoy can find a great way to have fair pay for all Americans and for providers.

Lynn Davis [REDACTED]

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Bauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

No to Graham-Cassidy.
Yes to Congressional Bipartisan work on a bill that will help all Americans and protect their health needs.
NO to Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy 2.0

Nope. Graham Cassidy 2.0 is just as bad as the original for all the same reasons. Costs too much, doesn't guarantee essential health benefits and it makes the cost for people with pre-existing conditions too high. They wouldn't be able to afford the coverage, therefore, they couldn't afford the care. You would make people's lives unnecessarily unhealthy and miserable with this legislation.

Time and time again Americans have clearly stated they want a bipartisan bill that corrects the true issues with the ACA. They have asked Congress to follow standard procedures. Ramming this legislation through will only cause increased instability for everyone. Healthcare has too much of an impact upon our economy for it to be handled in such a haphazard partisan manner.

>

> If every other major country can figure this out, we should be able to as well, if our priorities are appropriate. That priority should be insuring affordable and comprehensive healthcare for every American. Anything less is unacceptable. Any wiggle room with that objective is unacceptable.

> Erica T. Loring

[REDACTED]
> Cary NC 27518

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Honer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy. Thank you.

Elizabeth Honer
07095

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Bloomer [REDACTED]@coms
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Roy Blunt; senator@mccaskill.senate.gov
Subject: Comments for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Carol Marie Bloomer
Address: [REDACTED], MO 64068-3361

Please include my comments in the Hearing on September 25, 2017.

I am not going to list all the Medical Communities and Associations that are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. You know that there have been numerous groups who have voiced opposition. Many prominent individuals, including Jimmy Kimmel, Stephen Colbert, Warren Buffett, are opposed to this (not because they cannot afford health insurance) because they see that this bill is immoral and is greatly disadvantageous to the elderly, children and the poor. I am NOT in favor of this legislation becoming law. I am NOT in favor of the repeal and replacement of the ACA. Please do NOT repeal the ACA.

I am 73 years old and a retired Federal employee. I am currently covered by Medicare A&B and also my medical insurance covered under fepblue.org. Yes, my premiums are increasing every year, but as of this date I can still afford them. But, if Medicare is changed or my health insurance under fepblue.org changes, things could dramatically change.

However, I am much more concerned about health insurance for my children, grandchildren and my numerous friends will little or no health insurance. Three of my four children have very little health insurance. One is covered under an employers plan, but this insurance is tenuous, depending on his continued employment and coverage by the employer. One child does not have employer insurance but is covered by by a Silver plan under the Health Insurance Exchange. The third child is only covered by Medicaid at this time. If proposed changes in this bill are implemented, the insurance will probably be eliminated. (A significant other (SO) of one of them is covered by the ACA only because of the pre-existing conditions. Currently the SO is a multi-year colon cancer survivor; but health insurance under the proposed legislation will end if the pre-existing conditions are eliminated.) If changes are made to the ACA, three of my four children's health insurance will probably be dramatically affected. Fortunately, the fourth child is a federal employee covered by Military insurance. His family of spouse and 3 children are also covered by Military insurance.

My youngest two grandchildren are only covered by Medicaid. If the Graham-Cassidy Bill becomes law, their Medicaid will probably be eliminated. Missouri did NOT expand Medicaid, so ... BAD!

Many of my friends are only covered by Medicaid. In addition to Medicaid changes anticipated by this pending legislation for my grandchildren, many of my friends (mostly elderly like myself) will have horrendous changes to their health insurance coverage.

If the Graham-Cassidy Bill is approved to repeal and replace the ACA, there is a projection that 30 million humans will lose health insurance coverage. If each state can decide issues related to pre-existing conditions, many additional humans may lose coverage based on the states' decisions about preexisting coverages. If a state

continues coverage for pre-existing conditions, they may increase premiums so drastically that health insurance will not be affordable. If each state can decide issues about maternity coverage, Medicaid coverage, lifetime caps on coverage, many other humans with current coverage may lose coverage. If each state can decide on funding or non-funding of Planned Parenthood facilities, many other humans may lose health insurance coverage.

I hope that the decision-makers will display a great degree of compassion and moral integrity and be honest enough to admit that millions of lives are involved and that this legislation is not merely a partisan issue. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this hearing. Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Carol Bloomer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lori Kryspin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Lori Mong Kryspin
Columbus, OH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Natalie Goldring [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote against Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I am a three-time cancer survivor. It's only because my family has had access to excellent health insurance that my medical history has not threatened our financial stability.

I am gravely concerned about the effects of Graham-Cassidy for Americans with pre-existing conditions. As currently structured, the proposed law fails to provide what every American deserves – real health care coverage at an affordable price. Devolving authority to the states risks a least-common denominator approach in which people's access to treatment will depend on the state they happen to live in. Re-imposing lifetime caps is a recipe for financial collapse for people dealing with significant health conditions.

Please return to regular order and work to create a bipartisan bill that improves health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Natalie Goldring

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Eastburn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

And while this chaotic drama plays out in ways that affect real people — real children, real families, real seniors — the Republican party is, once again, out to repeal the Affordable Care Act with its latest punitive pretense at policy: the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Rather than do the people's work of reaching across the aisle to refine and improve the system that's there, that's in place, that's already working, this latest round of partisan cynicism will see to it that millions lose their insurance coverage and Medicaid is gutted.

My mother is not a freeloader looking for a handout. She's not "working the system." She's not unwilling to take a "better job" to pay her way (thank you, Kellyanne Conway). She's an 88-year-old woman with Alzheimer's who's living out her life as best she can, at the mercy of a healthcare system that is priced beyond what any average American could afford even *with* a "better job."

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Evenson <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Another Obamacare story

My story is easy: without Obamacare, I would not have been able to afford two colonoscopies which have removed a total of nine suspicious polyps. That's \$10,000 right there, in our town.

My husband's story is much more convoluted. His back had bothered him since a bad fall in 1978. By 2012, it was painful enough that he could no longer hike or paddle a canoe. He couldn't finish a six-hour shift at work. Something had to be done. We signed up for a high-premium, low-deductible plan, and in February 2013, he had a lumbar fusion. His recovery has been 100%. But that was \$78,000, when all was said and done. Without it, he would be in a wheelchair now, and probably suicidal.

You, Congress, MUST work with ALL your colleagues to craft a sane, comprehensive, all-inclusive, readily (automatically) available, absolutely affordable even below the poverty line, health care program for this country. What you have brought to the table so far has not been health care, it's been politics and nothing but. Nothing you have concocted is workable in any way, shape or form, so you have kept it secret and tried to rush it into law. Obviously, none of these shenanigans have worked. So now you're stuck with doing it right. If you expect to keep your jobs, you need to start taking care of US.

That includes removing the exception for yourselves from national health care. You don't smell any better in the bathroom than I do; you might be more plentiful as worm food, but no better; I don't deserve any worse health care than you get. And it's not as if there is a limited supply of it.

Whether or not you will admit it, every proposal you've come up with is fatally flawed. If you try again, using the same methods, the result will be the same. It is time to do this the right way. Your ego has no place in this process.

It is also time for you to start governing. You haven't managed it since January, even though you control the House, the Senate and the White House. Keep it up, though, and we your bosses will happily send you out to pasture in just over a year.

I remain vehemently, completely, unalterably opposed to whatever health care proposal you are considering. Vote it down, then build it right.

--Lynn Evenson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denzel Struchen [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Please pass this bill then go back and do a total repeal of the Obama generated Healthcare Plan

1. Allow free market to dictate insurance as noted in several court rulings
2. For those who fail to purchase healthcare insurance while healthy create a state based (remember insurance is an intrastate commerce and each states commissioner sets the rules) high risk pool. The state would run the program with the premiums paid by the insureds and the federal government could subsidize the program.
(Think flood insurance)

Sincerely

Denzel L Struchen, MBA
Soldier for Christ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Buddy Luce [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The whole nursing home system will collapse. People and families destroyed. For what, tax cuts. Hell hath its fury reserved

Buddy Luce

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqui Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare "Bill"

Please consider these stories when evaluating this bill. I believe my situation is similar to many many Americans and this bill could devastate us.

My mother has Parkinson's and is on a fixed income.

My son-in-law had a stroke at age 40 and although he has recovered, still must be monitored and has some residual health issues.

My daughter-in-law fought off Hodgkins Lymphoma which she was diagnosed with at just 37 years old before her third child turned a year old. She endured 2 stem cell transplants and is currently healthy, although they do not proclaim her cured yet.

My niece was diagnosed as being bipolar last fall and will need lifelong treatment

My granddaughter has asthma and severe food allergies

Another granddaughter was diagnosed with Celiac disease

My stepdaughter has fibromyalgia

My best friend's son was born with a heart condition that required surgery and he will need additional surgery as an adult

Many of my friends have been treated for breast cancer, thyroid cancer, melanoma etc.

Is my experience so much different than other people's extended families? I don't think so. We need to gather bipartisan support and revise the portions of the ACA that could work better. There is no reason to use healthcare as a platform to give tax cuts to anyone which is why this bill is being forced through the system without regular debate, thorough analysis and amendments.

Our government needs to consider all of us when passing the law of the land. Please do not allow this bill to become law.

Thank you,

Jacqui Klein
Concerned American
[REDACTED]

Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eleanor Mahoney [mailto:emahoney@legis.mt.gov]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter of Comments for 9-25-2017 Hearing
Attachments: Graham.docx

Hello Senate Committee,

Please find attached a letter to be submitted for the Monday September 25, 2017 Hearing.

Please confirm receipt,

Many Thanks,

Eleanor Mahoney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Will Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

For those to whom this should be a vital concern,
I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill being rushed through the congressional approval process.

In September 2014, at age 63, I sustained a hemorrhagic stroke.
Without insurance afforded by the Affordable Care Act, I'm quite convinced I would not be around to write this letter today.
I was self-employed at the time (& continue to be), having left employment that included a family insurance plan 21 months earlier, and had been unable to afford an individual plan prior to the passage of the Affordable care Act. Pre-existing conditions (longstanding ankylosing spondylitis - a chronic autoimmune disease, and modest hypertension) would have made coverage difficult to obtain, or result in astronomical premiums & co-pay, unaffordable on my modest salary, tho I have been considerably more privileged than many in that regard.
As is, I was able to obtain coverage beginning in early 2014, albeit a plan with a high deductible & co-pay, which covered my acute hospitalization and a reasonable inpatient-outpatient rehabilitation program to address my physical neurologic deficits (learning to walk again & engage in basic self-care, from a dense hemiplegia), to permit eventual return to my ability to work & support my family. We came very close to losing our home and depleted our retirement savings in the process, with a large outstanding bill I will continue to work off for some time, but I did survive. More recently my coverage has permitted participation in a comprehensive brain-injury program, addressing remnant physical neurological and cognitive deficits from the stroke.

I am presently covered under Medicare with a supplemental plan.
My wife, 6 years younger, still obtains her coverage through the marketplace, as do my 2 grown sons & granddaughter, who would be unable to afford coverage otherwise.

I'm impassioned to write for myself, but also as a husband, father, grandfather, and now semi-retired family physician. In my capacity as a primary care family physician, I've worked with underserved populations in Wisconsin (in my residency), Maine for many years, and Oregon since 2001. Reflecting on the many patients I've served and cared for over the years, I grieve deeply for the loss of access to competent medical care they would face, and the collapse of regional healthcare facilities that would result from current bills attempting to repeal and "replace" our current Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Family Planning Services. I recognize that the existing programs have their shortcomings, but attribute the bulk of these to the actions of a relatively unregulated insurance industry, and believe that the direction of currently-proposed legislation (Graham-Cassidy even more than previous "repeal & replace" bills) is seriously misguided.

Please stop the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a physician I recognize the concerns surrounding a single-payer system, but despite these fall into strong support for the plan put forward by Senators Sanders & Merkley.

Will Taylor, M.D. (Oregon)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: apryl whitten [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Apryl Whitten
Grand Prairie, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Roe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care for Americans

Hello Honored Committee Members:

I'm a retired R.N. I just wanted to state how important I think Medicaid is. Children are our future.

ACA can be 'tweaked' to work better if Medicaid Expansion was expected of all the states.

Also, if Medicaid is downgraded & defunded, small town Nursing Home Rehabilitation Centers will go under. Then the smaller hospitals & clinics will fold. Care in America will begin to look like an apocalyptic movie. Health Care workers will be out of jobs, the ones left will literally be run in the ground destroying their health.

The economy will crumble.

Making USA health care accessible is more important than a defense budget right now.

I am in 22043, proudly represented by senators Warner & Kaine.

Margaret Roe (RN, RNC)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Burns [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance); Dent, William (Isakson)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing Comments - You must vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill

I am Senator Isakson's constituent Karen Burns from Johns Creek, GA. My address is 8107 Fairview Bluff, Johns Creek, GA 30022.

Besides having health insurance through the ACA marketplace as my employer does not offer group health insurance, and I would be expensive to insure because I am 59 years old with a pre-existing condition; my more pressing concern is for my son.

I am a single mother of an adult with severe disabilities with Medicaid. This bill will gut Medicaid and affect my son's life in the most negative of ways. His Medicaid benefits cover his chronic and ongoing health issues and also provides funding to support him to live a full life in his community. Without Medicaid, he would not be able to continue to live with me, nor thrive in the community, nor receive adequate medical care. And if he can't live with me, where will he go? There are no more institutions, thankfully. So what are his options?

Societies are judged by how they care for the most vulnerable among us. This is my son. He needs Medicaid to live an active and fulfilling life. How will history judge us? Judge you?

You cannot turn your back on your constituents in Georgia who are begging you not to put your party over your obligations to us. These are real lives you are putting in peril if you vote for this cruel bill.

Karen Burns
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Buddy Luce [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Stop this madness. Fix the ACA with the help of every medical and hospital group which oppose this bill. Core value, first do no harm!

Buddy Luce

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Lovercheck [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't pass this awful bill

Please don't take away my healthcare. I went 12 years without healthcare because of preexisting conditions. I am scared to death that I will die without the medicine I take everyday. The ACA saved my life. My first mammogram was at 42 and with breast cancer running in my family waiting that long was very dangerous. My first mammogram ended with surgery to remove a mass that would have been cancer if left untreated. I also could hardly walk when I got coverage and needed a new hip. My life is good now- thanks to the ACA. I think you people are the most unfeeling- uncaring bunch of devils ever and we deserve so much better than you. I think you people should have the same options you are giving me. You don't know how many sleepless nights I have had worrying about how I will survive if you take my healthcare. Seriously- what is wrong with y'all taking away insurance from those who need it to give billionaires a tax cut. This is awful just awful. One day you will be judged on your actions and what will you tell Jesus when he asks why did you take healthcare away from millions of people who desperately needed it!!!!

Julie Lovercheck

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheri St. John [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Health Care

I am self-insured, and rely upon reliable, affordable, quality healthcare. I no longer have the benefit of employer-provided health benefit options, and must self-insure (without any government subsidies).

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I cannot afford the chaos that a repeal would do to the insurance marketplace. Please work to improve upon what is already in place and working for for so many Americans, like myself.

Thank you,
Cheryl St. John

[REDACTED]
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Melissa Jehnings
Bristol, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To those for whom this should be a grave concern,

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill being rushed through the congressional approval process.

As my husband neared retirement age, he left employment and our work based insurance plan to pursue independent work that would give us flexibility in retirement, as stopping work was not an option. I also work for myself. We were able to buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act which, we thought, gave us security as we planned for our later years. We were both in good health when the unthinkable happened. With no known risk factors, my husband had a stroke. If we had not had that insurance we would not have qualified for the rehab care that enabled him to recover as much as he has, and return to partial work. A year ago he qualified for Medicare, and I still get my insurance from the ACA. We are now going into our "retirement" years with a reduced ability to earn income, a need for ongoing rehab care as my husband continues to face challenges in his recovery, and a pre-existing condition for him. While right now I am in good health, I am also aging, and affording health insurance independently is out of the question. We, like so many people, need affordable health care.

The bill you are considering is designed to take health care away, not provide it. It is immoral that this bill, under which 30,000 people could lose health care, including the elderly, the disabled, and the poorest of our citizens, is even being considered. Apart from that fact, the way it is being rushed through Congress, after secret meetings and deals, with no oversight from the CBO, further shows your disregard for the many Americans who will be unable to take care of their most basic health care needs. If this bill was a good bill, designed to provide better health care for less money, then you would be talking to the American people about it, not twisting arms to get your fellow senators to vote for it.

I appeal to your decency and sense of compassion to reject this bill and work towards a real, bipartisan and long term solution to our health care crisis.

Mary Taylor
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cormier McSwiggin, Chelsea [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I write to urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Like many Americans, I have a story to tell about how quality healthcare has saved lives. My father was diagnosed with severe bipolar disorder, alongside other mental health issues, 18 years ago. Though a contributing member of society for all of his adult life prior to diagnosis, circumstances around his diagnosis placed him on permanent disability and plunged him into penury.

Medications are what keeps my father alive. Without them, and the attentive ongoing care of his primary physician, psychiatrist, and a host of other medical professionals, my father would have long ago taken his life given the inevitable and devastating depression and suicidal thoughts that comes with the type of bipolar disorder that he has. Without health insurance - of which he is blessed to have as he resides in California, a state that recognizes health as a right for all humans regardless of wealth or status - he could not afford his medications. Without health insurance, my father would be dead.

His diagnosis, and subsequent battles with mental health and physical deterioration, was and has been akin to being struck by lightning: his diagnosis and failing health were totally unexpected and have plunged us into worry, stress, and fear time and again. Thankfully, he has health insurance through the state of California that has enabled him to get the care he needs, at some of the most vulnerable times in his life.

All Americans deserve quality, affordable healthcare like that that you and your Congressional colleagues receive. I hope you will oppose this dangerous healthcare bill and instead work towards a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Serious illnesses can and do happen to anyone, and so do chronic conditions, accidents. We are all vulnerable. We all need healthcare. Please do the right thing - the compassionate thing - and vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cormier McSwiggin
Redmond, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Landsberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

Dear Staff,

I am a physician and I am advocating for healthcare coverage for all. I am urging you to vote "no" on the Graham/Cassidy Bill. You can lead our country to better healthcare--hey, there's Bernie's Medicare for All!

Thank you 🌻

Ruth Landsberger, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Pressman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

PLEASE reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. It 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. Please put people and country ahead of party.

Thank you.

Steve Pressman
Rockville, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Foote [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH poses danger to people with MS

Members of the Senate finance committee:

I believe the GCH health care bill poses a serious hazard to the health and well-being of people like my fiancée who suffer from multiple sclerosis (MS). This disease is a lifelong condition that costs an average of over \$20,000 per patient year to manage and it affects over 1 million Americans. Weakening federal regulations around pre-existing conditions or segregating risk pools makes it more likely that my fiancée will lose coverage. Without continuous, high-quality coverage, she could become disabled, which would cost our family and society far more than the cost of insuring her. She is a talented PhD chemist with a demanding job and she is also active in our church and community. Please consider the benefits of ensuring that people like my fiancée have nationwide security and affordable coverage as she does now under the provisions of the ACA. Do not take the responsibility of protecting her health and the health of our nation lightly. The economic and physical consequences of doing so could be dire.

Sincerely,
Peter K. Foote, PhD

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jayne barnard mccoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Bill hurts Americans, including our family

When you are the parent of a child with a chronic disease, you lose a lot of sleep. When our daughter was 13, she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. Last year, at the age of 24, she learned that she also has lupus. The medications that she needs to stay healthy are very expensive. Without insurance, just one of her many medications would cost \$60,000 per year.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, we have been able to sleep a little easier knowing that our daughter could stay on our employer-based insurance until she was 26, and that she could never be denied insurance due to her pre-existing conditions. Our daughter turns 26 next year and if you pass the Graham Cassidy bill, we will start losing sleep again. We will be up worrying whether our daughter's pre-existing conditions will keep her from getting insurance, and if she cannot, how she will be able to afford her expensive medications and many doctor visits. Even if she can get insurance, we will be up worrying whether she will be subject to lifetime caps on benefits because her health care is so costly through no fault of her own.

The ACA isn't perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. The Graham Cassidy bill is a step backwards that imperils the health of our daughter and every American with a chronic disease. A better option for all Americans is for you to work with Democrats to fix the ACA.

Jayne Barnard McCoy and Patrick McCoy
St Paul, MN

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vera Emmons [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I do not support this bill. I believe that, as expensive as it is, we all have a right to decent healthcare. The GC Bill does not assure anyone of that. Too many people in this country need healthcare. Please spend your time with constructive ways to improve healthcare/insurance. There are many models in Western Europe and Canada that could be adapted.

Thank you,
Vera Emmons

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Radek [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save Our Healthcare

No one wants the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. It should how bad the bill is when in order to try and get senators to vote for it they need to bribe them with being able to keep parts of the ACA!

This bill, as all healthcare experts have agreed, is terrible for everyone. It should be voted down and ACA repeal should be forgotten forever. ACA exchanges should be fully supported and the Trump White House sabotage of the ACA need to cease.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kaylee Francis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Regarding GrahamCassidy

Hi.
I don't think the ACA is a sustainable solution, but Graham Cassidy will *actually* kill people. I'm concerned that I may have done more research into the probable results and consequences of this proposal than those who vote to approve it.
We elect those we think are intelligent enough to do research on the topics concerning the people they represent. If you cannot be trusted, what are we to do with you? If you attempt to pass legislation for the sake of having legislation that has nothing to do with Obama, and not because your basic humanity and moral codes guided you to the best solution, what use are you to me? We believed you to be intelligent. We put our hopes and money into you, but also our very lives.
A further point to consider: do you want to be responsible when millions of Americans end up unmedicated and angry? When they write you into history, will they say, "And this politician had blood on their hands, because they had been bought off"?
Vote against Graham-Cassidy. It's your *responsibility*, as a representative and an American.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherry Sybesma [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Sherry Sybesma
Arlington, TX

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Samuelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill comments

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write to voice our extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps low- and moderate-income families purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that helps millions of low-income adults;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for millions of low-income seniors, children, and people living with disabilities and shift massive costs and risks to states;
- Jeopardize access to life-saving and effective treatments for addiction and weaken states' efforts to address the current crisis of drug overdose deaths
- Undermine essential protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 965,000 losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

Eliminates programs that serve as a lifeline for low- and moderate-income families.

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected spending under current law.^[AB1] Regardless, the block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream - something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, consumers with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities.

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% (\$1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Illinois to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

No eligibility category would be immune to the impacts of these cuts. Since children make up almost one-half of the Medicaid beneficiaries, they cannot possibly be protected if cuts of this magnitude are enacted. Cuts to Medicaid would also leave consumers with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine. And seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are “optional” in Medicaid. The fiscal pressure created by per capita caps will likely lead states to cut back on these services, forcing seniors and people living with disabilities out of their homes and into institutions for their care. And the burden will likely hit communities of color especially hard, where Medicaid enrollment is especially high.

Pushes massive new costs onto states.

All states, including Illinois would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Illinois with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% (\$1,079 billion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant doesn't make up for Illinois losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (it redistributes funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and it ends entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.[AB2]

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings “believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond.”^[1] And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs and destabilizes the individual market.

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct

their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts the Illinoisans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in the Illinois marketplace would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that consumers who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs.

Eliminates critical consumer protections.

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.

We believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Sincerely

Andrew Samuelson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Buddy Luce [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Please stop this bill. Over 30 million will lose coverage. Fragile kids and elderly will die

Buddy Luce

76092

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peggy Hendrickson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham would be a death sentence for many

Dear Senators:

Everyone I know including my husband and me depend upon having Affordable, accessible, quality healthcare. As we age this essential service becomes even more critical as parts of our bodies begin to show wear and tear, and we become increasingly vulnerable to infection and disease. While my husband and I are really quite healthy, I am in need of a knee replacement due to end-stage arthritis. Without it, my ability to walk and to take care of all the tasks of daily living will continue to decline until I lose mobility. We are comfortable financially at this point in time, but we are constantly aware that we are but one devastating illness away from losing our life's savings and everything we own to pay for medical bills, should Cassidy-Graham be passed.

My mother is 94 and has severe dementia. She saved sufficient money as a part-time sales clerk married to an auto factory worker to put two kids through college and live comfortably in her home until her dementia required her to move to an assisted care facility. At \$2,500 a month, she is able to pay her costs of living with hard-earned savings. However, should she decline farther or become ill, she will need to live in a nursing home until her death. The \$8,000 a month that she will need at that point would quickly deplete her nest egg. Unless Medicaid is available to her when and if that happens, she will be turned out into the street, I suppose. Cassidy-Graham will destroy the Medicaid system that now covers seniors who are facing their final days to provide them with the care they need.

My dear friends, the Vickers, are a mom and dad with three children, ages 9 through 15. Mrs. Vickers has been diagnosed with affective bipolar disorder, and their two sons have both been diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum. All three require psychiatric therapy and medications. Their daughter has emotional problems that have led to significant obesity, a terrible illness for a 12 year old girl that further complicates her emotional issues. Mr. Vickers, the sole wage earner in the family, is employed in the restaurant business where he receives a greater than minimum wage because of the position he has been promoted to, but no healthcare benefits. He works long hours, often late into the evening. Without expanded Medicaid insurance in combination with CHIP, the Vickers will be unable to afford health care at all, in spite of the fact that all are doing quite well and making progress under their current regimens. The children are getting to school consistently and doing well with class work and interpersonal relationships. Mrs. Vickers is able to effectively manage family life and her children's busy schedules rather than spending weeks in bed due to severe depression. Passage of Cassidy-Graham would put an end to the progress this family is making every day towards being productive, successful members of society.

Cassidy-Graham would be bad for us, and bad for the majority of Americans. Instead of totally destroying this important link in our social safety net, please work in a bipartisan manner to tweak and repair the ACA so that it can be as good as it can be before you decide whether to totally destroy it, putting thousands if not millions of your constituents' lives in jeopardy over a campaign promise.

Margaret Hendrickson
Green Valley, AZ 85614

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Schuh [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

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

My father was in a nursing home for the last 4 years of his life. The changes to Medicaid will likely prevent states from covering expenses such as nursing home care. If Medicaid did not cover his care, my family would have been bankrupted.

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

Sincerely,

David Schuh
Rochester, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nicole conley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I implore you to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. This will cause serious damage to so many people, including my 10 year old daughter with Cystic Fibrosis. You should be working across the aisle, to find a bipartisan solution to the current health care dilemma, not ruining the lives of Americans with a rushed through bill. You know it as well as I do.

Nicole Conley
Philadelphia, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Skinner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

As the Graham-Cassidy would do none of the things to improve healthcare that President Trump promised, as a candidate, that his healthcare plan would do, I strongly oppose it.

It would decimate care for the poor and the disabled with the severe Medicaid cuts it proposes. It will seriously hurt or kill anyone with pre-existing conditions by making care unaffordable. The bill leaves ~32 million without coverage. We don't know the precise numbers, because this is being railroaded through without without waiting for the CBO score. It will cause premiums to become unaffordable for many people with "pre-existing conditions" -- if they haven't already maxed out of their lifetime coverage cap. Again, we don't know the precise numbers, because this is being railroaded through without without waiting for the CBO score.

I urge you to care for the people you were elected to represent, by voting NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Very truly yours,
Mark Skinner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bjwebb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senators: In 2008 my late husband was diagnosed with 4th stage inoperable lung cancer. Two years prior he had a malignant tumor removed from his right kidney. Despite the fact that the two cancers were unrelated, our insurance company declared it a preexisting condition and covered none of his treatment. Needless to say, this created a huge financial crisis for our family.

Obamacare corrected this nightmare for millions of families. Please do not return us to the dark ages before the ACA. Vote No for Cassidy- Graham. Trying to buy Maine and Alaska with more money to those states does not make health care better, it just looks like winning is more important than taking care of the American public.

Sincerely, BJ Webb Bishop, [REDACTED] Key FL 34228

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Scholle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the Graham/Cassidy health care bill

I whole heartedly do NOT support the new health care bill put forth by Graham and Cassidy. Too many people will lose necessary coverage and it would allow gauging by insurance companies as seen in pre-ACA years. I strongly encourage Republicans to work with the Democrats to come up with a bipartisan solution to health care. While the ACA is far from perfect, it is a step in the right direction for coverage for all. Do not slip backwards now.

Thank you,
Anne
Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Van Nordstrand [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

To Whom It Concerns,

I'm emailing out of concern for health care coverage for people living with pre-existing conditions, like me. I have been living with Type 1 Diabetes for 28 years and simply put, without my healthcare insurance, I literally couldn't afford to live. I hope you would consider voting against this and that you take in to consideration those of us living with chronic diseases that none of us ever wished to have let alone live with.

I HAVE to have health insurance to afford to live. I shouldn't be denied coverage because of a disease that I was genetically disposed to and fear for my life should the Cassidy-Graham Bill be passed.

If you have any questions or need additional info., please feel free to contact me. Thanks for your consideration,
Kara

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jamey George [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Ababiya, Ziky (Van Hollen); Spikes, Matthew (Cardin)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jamey George and I am the Executive Director of The Freedom Center in Frederick, MD. We are a center for independent living provides services and supports to empower people with disabilities to lead self-directed, productive, and independent lives in a barrier-free community. We serve a cross-disability population within all ages. We strive to remove physical and attitudinal barriers in the community so that people with disabilities can work, live, and play in integrated communities with the same equal opportunities as those without disabilities.

As an advocate representing people with disabilities in my community, I am asking that you vote no to the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am sorely disappointed in the repeal of the ACA and the replacement of this program. Thus far, the replacement is not a replacement. All this bill and the three Trumpcare bills previous to this one do is wipe out the ACA. This will cause people with disabilities to lose their health care. Children who depend on CHIP benefits will be denied health care. Medicaid Expansion in Maryland has been a lifesaver to many people with disabilities who did not have health insurance. There were many who fell through the cracks because they had more than \$350 income per month. With Medicaid Expansion, anyone who has an income of \$15,000 or less is eligible for Medicaid. Others with low income are eligible for the Health Care Exchange and now have health insurance. Many individuals have 1915(c) waivers which gives them Medicaid and allows them to leave nursing facilities so they can live in integrated communities of their choice. People with disabilities who are working have health insurance through their employers. A provision of the ACA does not allow insurance companies to deny health care to people who have pre-existing conditions. Because of the ACA, people with pre-existing conditions can now have health insurance when they once did not and had to fend for themselves or die. If the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed or even passed with amendments to make it worse, more than 20-30 million people with disabilities will lose their Medicaid. Many will be denied health insurance because of pre-existing conditions or their insurance will be priced so high that they cannot pay for it. These people will die without their medication, their doctor visits, their treatments, etc. They will be reduced to staying in bed or crawling on the floor because they won't have durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs. It is ludicrous to block grant federal funding which will cut Medicaid or place CAPS on Medicaid. The States are going to be left picking up the tab for health care when they don't have it in the budget. It is wrong to take Medicaid Expansion from the States who have it and give it to other States who don't have it. It appears that money will be taken from the blue states and given to the red states because the red states are preferred. Congress cannot play with people's lives like that. To cut Medicaid or place caps on Medicaid is a form of genocide because it will wipe out large numbers of a perceived undesirable population.

I don't know what to tell people who will come to my office begging for help because they have no insurance. This is going to be the story if the Graham-Cassidy bill or any others with the same intent is passed. On a personal note, my husband has spent over \$1 million in medical bills in the last 6 years. He is now in a \$30,000 wheelchair. He has a tracheotomy that needs to be changed once a year. Due to medical complications, the trach change must be done in an operating room when it typically is done in a doctor's office. He is a federal employee who receives FEP BC/BS for his insurance. We are so thankful that BC/BS covered most of his expenses and still continues to cover his health care. What will we do if a bill is passed that places lifetime caps on health insurance? My husband will die. I can't stand the thought of that happening. I, with my husband, fought hard to keep him alive when he was so sick. He recovered and six years later is still employed by Federal Government. Yes, he does work from home but he has a fulfilling life that is productive and meaningful. He has so much to live for.

Please do not repeal the Affordable Care Act. Do not replace it with some utter nonsense that helps no one. Let's all work together to improve the ACA in a bipartisan manner with input from the disability community. Thank you.

Jamey George,
Executive Director

The Freedom Center

[REDACTED]
Frederick, MD 21701

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (fax)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joanne Doolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very concerned about this bill and hope desperately that it will not pass.

Our son, a highly educated man in his 40s is on Medicaid. He was diagnosed with BiPolar II about seven years ago and has a position in a community college teaching physics part time.. He takes his medicine and works hard to maintain an emotional equilibrium despite his disability. He very much needs to stay on Medicaid.

Also, we need our small hospital. We live 17 miles from it and they have the ability to stabilize and send us home or send us on to the nearest city hospital, anywhere from 40 to 60 miles farther. I believe this Bill will be very detrimental to all hospitals, and may well mean the end to ours.

Sincerely,

A Joanne Doolin
[REDACTED]
Browning, IL 62624

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: joy jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy comment

Republicans:

What is wrong with you? Stop hurting Americans. NO on GC Bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Karlinsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill would be a disaster for my family and for this country. The protections for those with pre-existing conditions in the ACA act, the protections against lifetime caps are critical for families such as mine. I am the mother to a nearly three-year-old son autism - a pre-existing condition. It is hard enough raising a child with special needs without living in terror that his healthcare protections will be stripped away from him. This bill is a travesty and everyone with a moral conscience should oppose it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Karlinsky

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Question for hearing on G-C Healthcare

Hi, my name is Tina Nelson from Denver, CO, and here are a few questions:

1. The Tri-Care insurance program for active-duty military seems to be effective; can we model an opt-in program for Americans interested in participating in this insurance through competitive premiums?
2. What would happen if we permitted those of us that are in individual market because we're small businesses owners could opt-in to Tri-Care or Medicare, regardless of age or military service?
3. Can we encourage systems like Kaiser-Permanente (of which I'm a current member) to expand to more States to offer comprehensive and favorable healthcare results in a non-profit system?
4. American Free Enterprise is built on competitive forces. If we broadly offered an opt-in opportunity for ANY American to sign up for Tri-Care or Medicare, we would unleash the innovation power in private insurance to compete. If we also created a non-profit drug system into which Americans could opt-in, we'd see extreme price innovation in pharma.

Thanks for your consideration and PLEASE put Americans first...before your donors' interests and. George your own jobs. If you get this right, and it works, you'll have better chance for re-election.

Have a good meeting and great week!

Regards,
Tina Nelson
Denver, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

What is the reason for this bill? All the major health organizations have said it would have disastrous effects. Even the insurance companies say that it is going to create chaos. What people want, democrat, republican, and in between is to have affordable healthcare. They don't give a rip about what it is called. We need a bi-partisan fix for the system we have in place. We can't go changing the healthcare system every time we change administrations. The present system was a Republican idea in the first place. If Republicans want to get rid of it just because Obama implemented it, well that's not taking care of the people of this country, is it? Go back to the bi-partisan effort that was cut short by the introduction of this present bill that NOBODY wants. Please vote no on this horrible bill.

Sincerely,

leslie hodes

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia DeSarno [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

[Patricia G. DeSarno
Brick, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jon Zasada [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Alaska Federally Qualified Health Center Comments on Graham-Cassidy
Attachments: AK CHC Letter to Sen. Murkowski - Graham-Cassidy .pdf

To US Senate Finance Committee Members: The following comments on Graham-Cassidy were provided to Senator Lisa Murkowski. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our insight.

Jon Zasada – Policy Integration Director
Alaska Primary Care Association

P [REDACTED] E [REDACTED] W [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Varnai Aronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote on proposed healthcare bill

I am writing to share the story of my niece whose life was saved due to the ACA. I am writing to say no to lifetime caps, no to Medicaid block grants, no to any cuts to Medicaid, no to discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. No to Graham- Cassidy. Fix the ACA don't kill it in the people of protects.

Judi Aronson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Highland Beach, FL
33487

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melinda Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions, including two rounds of cancer treatment that would make it difficult, if not impossible, to buy affordable insurance on the open market. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Melinda Hunt

Hillsborough, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy Bill

Please vote no on this bill. Lives are on the line. Protect the most vulnerable people you have sworn to protect. Those who will grow up to run this country one day. Those who fought to keep this country safe who now depend on Medicaid and Medi-Cal.

Thank you.

Heidi Catapusan
Oakland, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stacy Villagran [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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.

Sincerely,

Stacy Villagran
West Babylon, NY

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy S [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill hearing

Regarding September 25th Graham Cassidy Hearing:

Dear Finance Committee:

I do not want the Graham Cassidy bill to pass. Clearly the motive behind it is not to positively reform or improve the health care coverage of people that truly need those services, but is to free up funds for corporations and wealthy people that don't need them. Greed, not need, is what is driving these efforts.

If the well being of the people that these proposed changes were at the forefront, there would be no urgency to get it done this week because bipartisan support would be there for a "humane" bill to consider.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Seropian

[REDACTED]
Davis, CA 95618

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Glenda Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: senator@boozman.senate.gov

To the Senators of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill will end Health Care for over 30 million Americans. It does not have a CBO score yet, it has had no debate, no amendment process or hearings. It does away with Medicaid expansion (I live and work in AR), people with pre-existing conditions will be priced out of their insurance, essential health benefits will be gone. Why is this bill being considered? There has been no bi-partisan work on health care, why is this so hard for Senators to do?! I am 61, all my working life I have paid my FICA, Medicaid, my taxes. And now, as I near retirement it looks like my health insurance costs will skyrocket because of my age. And I am healthy. I take no medication. Others will fare worse than I will. That is one thing I have trouble understanding in this Health Care debate. So you Senators repeal the ACA, millions of people will not be able to afford insurance, they don't have to bog down the system anymore. So what happens to these folks? Do they just disappear?! They will still have health problems, so they go on welfare? They die? Senators, I know you can do better than this. You were elected to do better than this. Please stop this so called health care bill.

Thank you,
Glenda Allison
[REDACTED]
Berryville, AR 72616

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susana Terrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy

Please do not rush this bill through. I am **against Graham Cassidy**.

It has not been vetted or debated properly. Congress needs to work in a BIPARTISAN way for the good of the people which is NOT GRAHAM CASSIDY.

There are amendments that favor certain states to bribe them to vote yes.

There has been no CBO score.

People with preexisting conditions will be excluded.

Every professional medical organization is against it.

It is NOT RIGHT and too many people will suffer.

Asking states to design their own program will create inequities across the country. Some states will have gaps in coverage for years while they try to invent the wheel. If it is not simple for Congress, it is not simple for states.

It's going to create economic havoc as small businesses go under because they can get qualified employees without the ability to insure them for a reasonable fee.

The private school I work for may close because health care costs will increase. Do not do this in a big rush without debating and working on it together.

Priorities for Congress:

Stop the criminal activity of the President and **protect us from impending nuclear war**. Trump is a clear and present danger and innocent people's lives are in the balance. My father is a WWII vet and I keep thinking of him and the damage Trump has done to our democracy. He would be devastated by the lack of morals and ethics. I am devastated, as a teacher and grandparent of young children, I often think of the children all over the world that deserve to live, not be blasted to oblivion because of the mental deficiencies of this President. Trump's derangement is clear every day; to deny it is to doom the world. **Trump must be stopped right now.**

Start emergency spending and action for Puerto Rico - they need water now.

Sincerely,
Susana Terrell

life-time voter, taxpayer, teacher, community volunteer
concerned citizen of what once was a model democracy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No to Graham Cassidy Proposal!

As someone who interacts with people with disabilities and their families every day, I'd like to express my grave concern about the latest health reform proposal from Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller, and Ron Johnson, and specifically the changes being proposed to the Medicaid program. Here's why I urge you to vote no on this proposal-

- It would end Medicaid expansion and restructure Medicaid to a per capita cap, under a complicated formula that would mean less federal funding for Wisconsin's Medicaid programs over time;
- It would allow states to waive protections we currently have, such as coverage for pre-existing conditions, annual or lifetime limits, and Essential Health Benefits; and
- It would lead to loss of coverage for millions of Americans because of these proposed changes.

At a time when so many people I know and love are struggling with a health care system that is already not as accessible and affordable as it should be, how could you in good conscience support a proposal that would make healthcare even less accessible and affordable? This plan would cause people with disabilities specifically a lot of harm. I know many individuals who would personally be harmed if these proposed cuts to Medicaid would occur- people who rely on Medicaid funded services to take a shower, help them with their meals, access medical care, and get to work (and support themselves and pay taxes).

Please Senators, vote no and work to fix the system we already have!

Jenny Felty

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <writemax@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: FIX ACA - DON'T KILL IT!

I rely on Obamacare – it’s been a lifesaver. As a temp employee, I have to get my own insurance and I could barely afford it before. The Medicaid expansion made it possible for me to get health care which I desperately needed. 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, Max Smerling

Los Angeles, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I oppose it both on the grounds that the leadership and sponsors have not gone through the appropriate steps to bring it to committee with public hearings from health care experts and constituents, and because it is a cruel bill that will take health care from millions, erode the guarantees put in place for patients with pre-existing conditions, and unfairly distribute block grants favoring states that have refused Medicaid expansion until 2026, when states will be cut off from much of their federal funding.

I am a metastatic breast cancer patient and my private insurance and the ACA have allowed for me to concentrate on my treatment without worrying about premiums blowing up or a lifetime cap cutting me off from my health care. The attempts to repeal the ACA have led to a great deal of stress which, frankly, has made my dealing with my disease much harder.

Please show some compassion, find a way to work together to improve the ACA (including putting pressure on the executive branch to execute the law that is currently in place) and, if you feel that the law needs to be changed, go through the appropriate legislative steps (including holding adequate committee hearings and waiting for and respecting the CBO score). I expect this of my Senators, as well as the full body — all of whom need to remember they work for the people.

Thank you,
Nicole Cingiser
Norwalk, Ct

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Distinguished Senators:

I simply do not understand the urgency in rushing the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill to a vote! Since over half of the country voted the Democratic ticket in the last presidential election, why are you not working with other party to come up with a health bill that the majority can accept???

When the ACA was enacted, my cleaning lady was so grateful as she has a young, bright daughter with MG.

Before its enactment, her daughter was uninsurable. The medicine and treatments are extremely expensive, really prohibitive for even a middle class family.

So please, take your time and offer a bill that is fair (i.e., the same benefits for all regardless of income, race, or medical conditions), cost efficient, and financially affordable to all.

To be clear I mean as a country we must provide for everyone, not just those who are financially successful or whose ancestors fortunately arrived years ago!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
651-482-0232

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

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Before its enactment, her daughter was uninsurable. The medicine and treatments are extremely expensive, really prohibitive for even a middle class family.

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To be clear I mean as a country we must provide for everyone, not just those who are financially successful or whose ancestors fortunately arrived years ago!

Sincerely,

Dr.. Dody LeGault

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Please oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

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.

Finally, care for adults affects their children profoundly. Pediatricians care for families.

Sincerely,

Tina Hermos, MD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Professor of Medicine
D [REDACTED] Infectious Diseases
[REDACTED] Memorial Medical Center
[REDACTED] Department of Pediatrics
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Medical School
[REDACTED] 2-3947
[REDACTED] B
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] pediatrics/children
[REDACTED] on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massmemorialCMC

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

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. It is troubling to me to see that a piece of legislation as flawed as this gets pushed so hard - while the usual rules protecting us from such laws are somewhat circumvented.

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.

Thank you very much for your help,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@republican.org>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy public testimony

To Whom it May Concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I have had asthma my whole life and rely on affordable medication to keep it under control.

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

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,
I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a young individual with pre-existing, chronic conditions. I would like to see a move towards single-payer health care via a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Beyond my own individual needs, this bill will not be helpful for many people, particularly residents of Maine. Studies show that the people that would be most affected by this bill are old people, poor people, and rural communities. The residents of Maine are all three of those things. And as a resident of this state, I can say there is no way this bill lies within our best interests.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gavin

--

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and friends 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.

Sincerely,
Misty Brown
Pickett, Wisconsin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. As a small business owner I am concerned about affordable care for my firm and my family. My wife and one of my children both have pre-existing conditions. We are well insured, but I see my family's health care, my business's financial well being, and my community's health at grave risk under Graham-Cassidy. 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, Patrick Lee-O'Halloran
Minnetonka, Minnesota

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Susan LoFurno

[REDACTED] et

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Your vote now will definitely effect the vote you get in 2018.

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Lorraine Forte

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, New York 10009

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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Linda Kristenson

[REDACTED] du

[REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill


To the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would be a disaster for our citizens. 32 million Americans could lose coverage. It calls for radical changes to Medicaid and diminished funding for many states. What's more, it is being pushed through with only 90 seconds of debate — before the full CBO report is available!

I urge you to reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Julia Pearlstein
New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From:  <lyndseyhelen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Bill is terrifying - vote no

I am deeply concerned about the Graham-Cassidy bill and its ramifications and I hope it does not pass. As someone with a pre-existing condition, and who works full-time but cannot find a job that pays enough to lift me over the poverty line, I lived without access to healthcare prior to the Affordable Healthcare Act and medicaid expansion. I gambled with my life because I could not find a way to access the prescriptions and doctors I needed to stay healthy. Trying to improve my situation was nearly impossible when I was often sick.

This bill could cause me and millions of others like me to lose access to healthcare again. It will limit medicaid, putting burdens and obstacles to healthcare on our nation's most vulnerable. And it will loosen protections for those who most need to be protected. Voting for such a bill is amoral and un-American.

Furthermore, voting on an important bill so quickly, without even a CBO analysis and score is wildly irresponsible.

We need laws that will make access to healthcare more stable and more affordable, especially by the country's most vulnerable citizens. This bill does the opposite. This bill and others like it are a waste of our representatives' time, energy, and resources. Please be done with this bill and all similar attempts to undermine the welfare of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild
Mystic, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill on many grounds, but with regard to your focus on finance, I'll stick with those points in this letter:

1. The cost of delivering health care is not the same across the country—it is much more costly to engage in the same procedures in some states than others. Thus, a one-size-fits-all block grant program would disproportionately hurt some states.
2. We cannot have a healthy economy in the future if we don't invest in the health of children. According to CNN, there could be a **32% cut in Medicaid funding for children** (<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/22/politics/cassidy-graham-charts/index.html>). This bill's radical cuts and restructuring of Medicaid would disproportionately hurt our most vulnerable Americans: children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
3. We would be hit with a major health-care emergency across the entire country in 2026, when the bill's woefully inadequate block grants would be eliminated completely. We've already seen what happens when millions of Americans don't have health insurance. They defer treatment. Many end up in emergency rooms. The result is less effective health care that costs significantly more. Hospitals go bankrupt, and then everyone in that area is at greater risk.
4. By eliminating the federal provision that requires insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing conditions without charging higher premiums, the likely result is that people with pre-existing conditions will be priced out of the market. Millions more could find themselves uninsured.
5. Independent analyses suggest that out-of-pocket costs will rise significantly for individuals, even if they are lucky enough to be able to get some sort of insurance.
6. This plan would almost certainly destabilize the individual insurance markets in the short run and perhaps destroy them in the future. If, as the authors of the bill imagine, each state goes its own way, there would be no economies of scale, paperwork would become an even greater nightmare, and costs would rise everywhere.
7. How would the states pay for their higher burden? They'd have to raise taxes, cut critical programs such as education, kick more people off insurance, or cut benefits. Some of the likely targets would be community-based services that typically provide much better care and allow people to avoid living in institutions. That's why so many governors have come out against this plan.

Beginning in 2027, this bill would essentially amount to repeal-without-replace – ONLY WORSE – because of its extra cuts to Medicaid. The CBO estimated that the previous repeal-without-replace plan would leave 32 million more people uninsured. Clearly, this plan would create a far worse situation.

In fact, the one “benefit” of this bill might disappear before the vote. The provisions that would provide flexibility to states might well be cut out of the bill by the Senate Parliamentarian, who is likely to see through the rather transparent tweaks of language that was rejected during the “Byrd bath” of the previous Better Care Reconciliation Act. So states would receive less federal funding for health care and gain no freedoms.

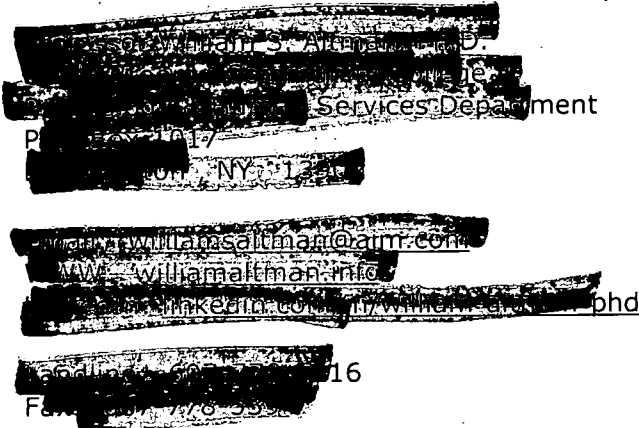
A great nation is measured by how well it takes care of its most vulnerable citizens. This bill does just the reverse! It's designed with an unfair distribution of money that's clearly based solely on political considerations. It would create economic turmoil that would ripple throughout our economy.

We depend on you to protect the American people. Please reject this plan.

Be well,

William S. Altman, Ph.D.

--

A large block of contact information is redacted with heavy black bars. Visible text includes:
- William S. Altman, Ph.D.
- Services Department
- P
- NY
- williamaltman@aim.com
- williamaltman.info
- linkedin.com/in/williamaltman phd
- 16
- Fax: 718-335-1111

"There is no sin except stupidity" (Oscar Wilde)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony on the Graham-Cassidy health care bill

Hello, I am a relative caregiver caring for 1- adult and 1- 16 yr old special needs consumers. With Medi- ca, it is already hard to get the service Needed. We need better Acess to mental health and medical care. If you pass this bill my two boys will be without some services. Can you live with that? [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA.

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.

Thank you,
Anjali Ahn

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Anjali M.D.
[REDACTED] Mount Sinai Deaconess Medical Center
[REDACTED] Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
[REDACTED] b2
[REDACTED] 64

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opose the Graham-Cassidy bill Please

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 of Massachusetts 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.

I would be happy to speak to someone in more detail about this matter.

Anne M. McCaffrey, MD, MPH

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

[REDACTED]



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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Repeal and replace will NEVER work without the individual mandate in play. This proposed bill is a disaster and leaves our most vulnerable citizens, the poor and those with pre existing conditions, without the coverage they so desperately need. We, as a society, will be judged by future generations, by how we treat the least of us. The current administration is doing everything in its' power to divide our great Republic in to "us" and "them". There is only "WE" as in "WE THE PEOPLE, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...."

Health care is a right for every American and is included in "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness". Is should not be left up to the states to decide who gets to have insurance. This should be mandated and protected by the federal government!

Please get off your asses and work in a bipartisan way to shore up the ACA.

My daughter, who is a graduate student, has an ACA policy. She was hospitalized last year due to depression. She should not be penalized for this illness, nor should she have to pay more for a policy to cover this illness. As a woman, she should not have to pay more for a policy that covers birth control and maternity care. It is absurd to think that an insurance carrier would charge women more for this. What about Prostate cancer coverage, PSA tests and anything else that has to do with men's health issues. I haven't heard any talk about men paying more for that type of coverage! The American people are "WOKE".

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Beth_Pearson@markey.senate.gov; Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy Bill

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 of Massachusetts 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

*Howard Abrams, MD
Salem, MA*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of Serenity House Counseling Services, Inc., 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.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

Kimberly Stephens

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please oppose this next incarnation of TrumpCare, the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Plan. Instead of correcting the problems of ACA, thus making it helpful for more Americans, this bill will only take away the healthcare of millions of Americans while allowing tax cuts to the wealthy. That being said, the Graham-Cassidy bill has less than 20% approval, so who would you be doing it for exactly??

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin.Wright@seattleacademy.org
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. The bill will cause harm to millions of Americans, with the harm falling disproportionately on some populations, particularly those with low incomes. It is also economically foolish.

As a two-time cancer survivor, I have previously had the benefit of good health care coverage (getting treatment that would have bankrupted me, had I not had that coverage). Under the Graham-Cassidy bill, I could potentially lose coverage, or face high premiums and deductibles, due to the pre-existing condition of cancer.

For the final decades of my life, my mother suffered from COPD, and was disabled and unable to work. She was able to receive good health care, thanks to Medicaid. The proposed per-capita limit on Medicaid is a serious issue for anyone with circumstances similar to my mother's. The coverage gap that already exists in states that opted out of Medicaid expansion (as shown in chart below), due to the 2012 Supreme Court ruling, would widen across all states under the Graham Cassidy bill.

The effects of the Graham-Cassidy bill would be--

- Millions fewer people with health insurance coverage.
- More people would face loss of coverage or higher premiums due to pre-existing conditions and other factors.
- The loss of access would fall disproportionately on the poor (see excerpts from Harvard Gazette, below) and on women (loss of coverage for pre-natal maternity care, Planned Parenthood services, etc).
- A significant economic cost to the USA in lost productivity and health care expenses.

A recent study by the [Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies](#) found the following, in terms of the economic cost of poor access to health care and insurance coverage:

This study, commissioned by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and carried out by leading researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, provides important insight into how much of a financial burden racial disparities are putting on our health care system and society at large. The researchers examined the direct costs associated with the provision of care to a sicker and more disadvantaged population, as well as the indirect costs of health inequities such as lost productivity, lost wages, absenteeism, family leave, and premature death. What they found was striking. More than 30 percent of direct medical costs faced by African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans were excess costs due to health inequities – more than \$230 billion over a three year period. And when you add the indirect costs of these inequities over the same period, the tab comes to \$1.24 trillion.

According to a recent article in the [Harvard Gazette](#):

Easily the most significant recent step to lessen health disparities came when Congress passed the ACA in 2010. The law requires people above a certain income to have health insurance, and it expands the Medicaid program to cover those who can't afford it. A 2012 Supreme Court ruling created a significant pothole on the road to universal coverage, however, allowing states to opt out of the Medicaid expansion. That left 4 million poor Americans in 20 states ineligible and on their own.

“Under the ACA, we created a new structure where just about every American citizen and legal resident has access to some kind of affordable health insurance coverage, except for poor adults in states that have not accepted Medicaid expansion under the ACA,” McDonough said.

Despite that large pool of uncovered people, McDonough said, the ACA has clearly reduced health inequalities in much of the nation, particularly for minority and ethnic groups.

“The ACA has succeeded in taking a major step forward in reducing inequalities as pertains to access in health insurance coverage,” McDonough said. “It has not solved it, but it's a major step forward.”

The act also has reduced disparities in medical care and in health status, according to McDonough and McGuire. By requiring insurance companies to cover people regardless of pre-existing conditions, it has worked to level the financial gap between the sick and the well.

Though researchers will require time to prove whether illness and chronic disease have dropped as a result, early studies — including one in 2012 by Benjamin Sommers and another last September led by Joshua Salomon, both at the Harvard Chan School — indicate that health insurance coverage can prevent tens of thousands of premature deaths and prompt more than 650,000 people to control chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

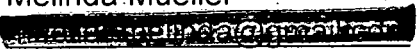
McDonough said that Oregon presented researchers, led by the Chan School's Baicker and Amy Finkelstein at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a natural experiment when it used a lottery to expand its Medicaid program in 2008. The lottery was a randomized control designed to show that people newly covered by Medicaid took advantage of more preventive care, prescription drugs, and doctors' office visits to stay healthy, as well as more hospital stays and emergency department visits to treat worsening conditions. Their self-reported access to care and quality of care both rose. In addition, they reported better health and lower rates of depression.

“Having insurance improved access to care. It also provided financial protection, which is a component of insurance that people don't talk about but which is really important,” Baicker

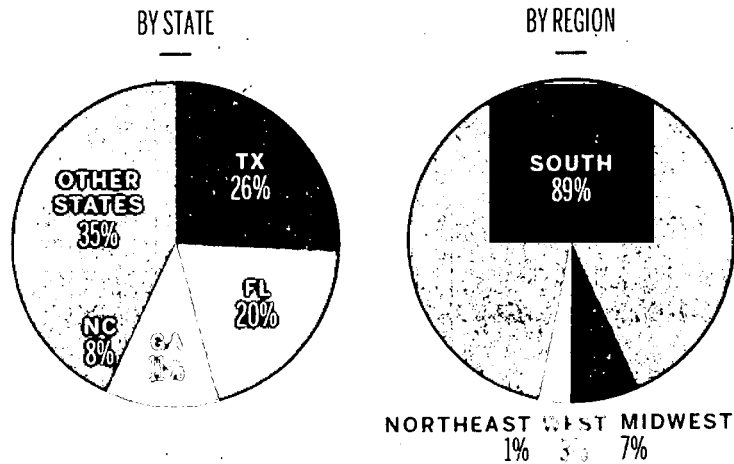
said. "Insurance is not just supposed to get you access to care; it's supposed to keep you from getting evicted from your apartment because you paid your hospital bill instead of your rent."

Please do not approve the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Melinda Mueller



**COVERAGE GAP
IN STATES THAT DIDN'T EXPAND MEDICAID**



Distribution of adults with incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits but below lower limit for tax credits

Source: The Kaiser Family Foundation, 2016

**POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE
Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal and Replace Bill**

<p>1 Repeals the ACA marketplace subsidies and federal funding for the Medicaid expansion in 2020 and creates temporary block grants for states that end after 2026.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>32 MILLION PEOPLE could lose coverage after 2026.</p>
<p>2 Repeals the individual and employer mandates requiring coverage or the offer of coverage.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>15-18 million people could become uninsured IN THE FIRST FULL PLAN YEAR 2019 after enactment.</p>
<p>3 Creates a waiver program for states that would allow insurers to charge people more based on their health and cut benefits like maternity care.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>50% OF THE U.S. POPULATION lives in states that are likely to enact waivers eliminating consumer protections or reducing required benefits.</p>
<p>4 Places per-capita spending limits on the traditional Medicaid program.</p>	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>Funding losses for states could exceed \$172 BILLION over 2020 to 2026, based on earlier bills.</p>

Sources: Congressional Budget Office, C. Mann, et al., "Expect the Unexpected: The Impact of Medicaid Caps." *To the Point*, The Commonwealth Fund, June 30, 2017



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comment - Testimony against The Graham-Cassidy Bill

My daughter is 30 years old with a neurobiological brain disorder that causes her intellectual disability and impacts her mental health. She relies on Medicaid Waivers in the State of Connecticut to be able to live independently in her own apartment.

She also receives Medicaid Extra Help for the payment of needed medications that help her function and remain safe in the community.

Medicaid also pays for her to receive weekly visits from a Visiting Nurse to assist with medication administration and monitoring of her health.

We are against the Graham-Cassidy Bill as it will remove all the supports she needs.

We are fearful for not only our daughter but the millions of others who rely on Medicaid and healthcare which is being adequately provided by the Affordable Healthcare Act.

Thank you for considering the needs of millions of Americans that rely on the Affordable Healthcare Act to provided needed medical assistance.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [Allan Timke <AllanTimke2@juno.com>](mailto:AllanTimke2@juno.com)
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Finance Committee Members:

Please do not support the proposed Graham Cassidy replacement for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Rather than improve, health care provided under the ACA, Graham Cassidy will strip health care away from millions of Americans. What healthcare Graham Cassidy does provide will be largely be dependent on where a person lives, and the political climate of the locality. The occurrence of disease, disability, preexisting conditions, and financial need are totally unrelated to those factors. All Americans should get the same, high quality healthcare at a cost they can afford given their respective income level. That is not what Graham Cassidy will provide, and you should oppose the bill.

Allan Timke
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Ernest Green, MD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 815
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

This is outrageous. Apparently Republicans are not content to just let individual Americans risk bankruptcy due to bad healthcare options: Now they want the states to risk going bankrupt, too. All so they can score a few political points against a man who isn't even president anymore.

I am sick of you playing politics with people's lives. I will never vote for another Republican as long as I live.

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8

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:20 PM
To: gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL ACA!!!

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a pediatrician 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 like children with disabilities, pregnant mothers. Any child with a chronic illness would be at risk of losing health insurance when a parent changed jobs.

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.

Thank you,

Lori Andersen, MD FAAP
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ashina <ashina@no...>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee,
I am a 73 year-old woman who is finding it essential to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill on so many fronts. We all need good healthcare. And those of us who do not have it, nor the income to make it happen need our help by being a voice for the poor and disenfranchised. PLEASE, VOTE NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO on the GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL.

Thank you,
Marijane Mercer
[Redacted]
[Redacted] 5

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I need to let you know my vehement opposition to this bill. It will endanger the lives and health of millions of Americans and in my opinion will end up costing this country more money than the Affordable Care Act. People will be turning to emergency rooms for care when they cannot afford health insurance, adding even more expense.

Please work together to improve what we have now, not to go back to the bad old days when there were annual or lifetime caps on coverage, when you could be turned down or priced out of the market for pre-existing conditions, when one serious illness or accident could bankrupt a family.

Sincerely,

Sandra Michaud
Silver City, NM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Denise McNamee <denimac619@va-hca.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Frederick, Julia (Warren)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

The Graham-Cassidy bill is cruel and poorly developed and lacks good judgement and common sense. Stop trying to repeal the ACA for childish political and bigoted reasons and work in a bipartisan manner to fix it. The ACA is not perfect, but it is far superior in practicality and humanity than the Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal or any of its predecessors. Stop the hurtful fighting on Capitol Hill and do the jobs you were elected to do. Leaving the fate of the coverage of preexisting conditions up to the whims of politicians at the state houses is unconscionable. You have a moral duty to protect the American people, not hurt us.

Denise McNamee
Attleboro, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal ACA

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a chronic health issue (lupus) and I rely on quality care for my day to day living. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Deb Berenbaum

Waban Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frankel, Tracy <trfrankel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Repeal ACA

I am writing to implore the Senate not to repeal Affordable Care Act and do what's right for the American people. Please find a way to work in bipartisan cooperation to fix what's wrong with the Affordable Care Act

Tracy Frankel
West Hartford Connecticut 06117

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with medicare is that I am retired and need healthcare to be more affordable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Susan Urquhart-Brown

Oakland, CA

--

[REDACTED]
Susan Urquhart-Brown, RSCF, KAT
Yoga Classes, Workshops & Retreats
www.ameriyoga.com
907-241-5081
susan@ameriyoga.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Heuer, hilary.heuer@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill. I'm lucky enough to have good coverage offered through my employer, but many people I know rely on Covered California or Medicaid. Quality, affordable healthcare is essential for the well-being of our populace. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The bill does not cover pre-existing conditions -- or essential preventative health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for taking the time to register my opinion and commentary.

Hilary Heuer
San Francisco, CA 94121

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA/Graham Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with disabilities is that many of my family, friends, and I would have little to no coverage of our mental health with this bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Shannia

Brisbane, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <lisa@lehman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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

Sincerely,

Lisa & Chuck Lehman

Monte Nido, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a Professor of Medicine and clinical cardiologist I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. My home state of Hawaii 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.

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.

Ralph Shohet, M.D.

[REDACTED] of Medicine

[REDACTED] John A. Burns School of Med

[REDACTED] HSP 011 654

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 80

[REDACTED] s. [REDACTED]@hawaii.edu

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Voter Feedback on The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Elected Officials,

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill would be devastating to our family. I am a father with 2 children effected by pre-existing conditions including autism, genetic disorders, visual 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.

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.

Voter, and Father of 2.

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Save our healthcare

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.

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

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I think this is a bad approach. It will weaken care for many patients, provide an easily manipulateable pot of money for pressed local governments, and inhibit eventual real health care reform.

Stephen B. Shohet, M.D., — a non-partisan Professor of Medicine, and a former Director of The Cancer Institute at the University of California, San Francisco

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

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.

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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.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Department of Radiology
UMass Memorial Health Care

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <maren.christenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you regarding the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill that will be coming before the Senate next week. I am appalled that we are even talking about this again. This bill is irresponsible, and holding a vote on it before receiving a CBO score is frankly immoral. It will have a devastating effect on millions of Americans, my family included.

I urge the Senate to vote against this horrible bill.

Sincerely,

Maren Christenson
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

In addition, rare disease patients and their families rely on Medicaid for life-sustaining and life-saving care. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, federal funding of Medicaid would be substantially weakened by per capita caps and block grants, resulting in states potentially delaying or outright refusing coverage for necessary care.

I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Rare disease patients and their families rely on the patient protections that the Senate is considering eliminating by passing the Graham-Cassidy plan. Specifically, this legislation brings back annual and lifetime caps, limitless out-of-pocket costs, and inadequate coverage by rolling back essential health benefits. This bill would also allow insurers to discriminate against rare disease patients by charging them premiums based upon their health status, thus pricing them out of the market.

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I am asking you to stand up for the rare disease community by opposing the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

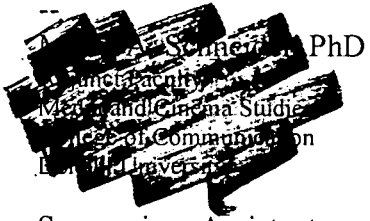
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 83
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy Bill

I would like to register my profound disagreement with the Graham Cassidy Bill to change the Affordable Care Act. This is a callous, ill-conceived, unconsidered mess of a bill. This will be horrible for the country and its citizens. Enough already! What a global humiliation this Senate group is. I'm embarrassed to be an American now.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



PhD

Media and Cinema Studies

School of Communication

Northwestern University

Symposium Assistant

"Lucid Figurations: Iranian Movie Poster & Film Art"

Northwestern University

Block Museum of Art

November 17-18, 2016

Today I write in vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy “healthcare” bill. You don’t need me to tell you how terrible it is. You know how terrible it is. You know it would be devastating to our healthcare system and to the people who already have the most difficulty accessing care. Many senators have admitted as much while still insisting they will vote for it anyway. This is despicable, petty, and, frankly, childish. It’s also incredibly stupid. Any Senator who votes this way ought to be utterly ashamed of themselves. Not only how dare you, but how COULD you?

As you consider a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill, please ask yourself this question: Is this the person I want to be?

Every major medical association has denounced this disaster of a bill. Passing it would mean increased suffering, financial ruin, and, yes, death, for many Americans. This bill is a stunning act of revenge that uses the health of millions of Americans as a political bargaining chip. If you vote for this bill because of the political advantage you think it will garner you, you are a terrible excuse for a leader and a terrible excuse for a human being.

It’s a bad bill, and you should not vote for it. The fact that anyone should have to tell you this is outrageous. The fact that so many people must spend so much time contacting their senators to beg them not to vote for a very obviously disastrous bill is both pathetic and infuriating.

You work for the American people. Prove that you have earned their trust. Be a leader. Do the right thing. Do the correct thing. You know what it is. Do not vote for this terrible bill.

I wish you the strength to do what you know is right.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

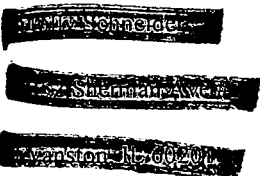
[REDACTED]

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I wish you the strength to do what you know is right.

Sincerely,

The signature area is redacted with three thick black horizontal bars. The first bar is at the top, the second is in the middle, and the third is at the bottom. The text is completely obscured.

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 2:48 PM, Molly Schneider <schneider.molly@gmail.com> wrote:

September 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance

Attn: Editorial and Document Section

Rm. SD-219

Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510-6200

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (09/25/17)

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill
Attachments: SFC Graham-Cassidy bill statement.pdf

(PDF of statement attached.)

September 22, 2017

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] On
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (09/25/17)

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate,

Today I write in vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy “healthcare” bill. You don’t need me to tell you how terrible it is. You know how terrible it is. You know it would be devastating to our healthcare system and to the people who already have the most difficulty accessing care. Many senators have admitted as much while still insisting they will vote for it anyway. This is despicable, petty, and, frankly, childish. It’s also incredibly stupid. Any Senator who votes this way ought to be utterly ashamed of themselves. Not only how dare you, but how COULD you?

As you consider a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill, please ask yourself this question: Is this the person I want to be?

Every major medical association has denounced this disaster of a bill. Passing it would mean increased suffering, financial ruin, and, yes, death, for many Americans. This bill is a stunning act of revenge that uses the health of millions of Americans as a political bargaining chip. If you vote for this bill because of the political advantage you think it will garner you, you are a terrible excuse for a leader and a terrible excuse for a human being.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Position of opposition : Graham-Cassidy bill
Attachments: Story to go with testimony- state comment.docx

To Whom it May Concern,

Good afternoon. Attached within this email is my testimony story of opposition for the Graham Cassidy bill. Please feel free to contact me at

Katelynn Smith
Disability Resource Coordinator
Directions in Independent Living

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The hearing will be established on Monday September 25, 2017. Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,
Katelynn Smith



Katelynn Smith, BA, MA
Employment Disability Resource Coordinator
Directions in Independent Living Inc. / Cattaraugus County American Job Center

p: [REDACTED]
a: [REDACTED] 44760

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill.

My name is George J. Costanza 3rd and I have Stage IV Prostate Cancer. Losing my Maine-Care (Medicaid) would make me unable to pay for my. Oncologist, Urologist, Prescriptions and my medical supplies. This might be a tax cut for the Senate but it's life or death for me and I'd bet lots like me. Please vote no on this bill.

George J. Costanza 3rd
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

I am opposed to the Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill. The American people were promised better care at a lower cost. I do not want to see people dying of treatable diseases in a country that has so much. The only improvement, the next logical step is a single payer system.

Christy Walker
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robbin Keenan <robbin.keenan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Re: Graham Cassidy bill

Senator Chuck Grassley has stated: "You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered," Grassley said. "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."

This is decidedly NOT a reason to pass legislation, any legislation, but especially one that will strip affordable healthcare from tens of millions of our most vulnerable citizens. No campaign contribution is worth endangering one-sixth of our national economy.

You and your colleagues must work to find a bi-partisan solution that will not endanger lives and livelihoods of American citizens, especially those with pre-existing conditions, the elderly, and children!

Copies sent to Senators Duckworth and Durbin via their respective Contact pages.

Robbin Keenan
Ottawa, Illinois

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 2:35 PM, Robbin Keenan <robbin.keenan@gmail.com> wrote:

Senator Chuck Grassley has stated: "You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered," Grassley said. "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."

This is decidedly NOT a reason to pass legislation, any legislation, but especially one that will strip affordable healthcare from tens of millions of our most vulnerable citizens. No campaign contribution is worth endangering one-sixth of our national economy.

You and your colleagues must work to find a bi-partisan solution that will not endanger lives and livelihoods of American citizens, especially those with pre-existing conditions, the elderly, and children!

Copies sent to Senators Duckworth and Durbin via their respective Contact pages.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@notman.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Strongly Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy Bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

It “violates the precept of ‘first do no harm’” and “would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage.” – American Medical Association, which represents doctors.

It is “the worst healthcare bill yet.” – American Nurses Association.

It “would erode key protections for patients and consumers.” – American Hospital Association.

The “process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn’t buy a used car with this little info.” – AARP.

The bill will “weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve.” – American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others.

“This bill harms our most vulnerable patients.” – American Psychiatric Association.

It would hurt “consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for pre-existing conditions.” – America’s Health Insurance Plans.

It “would lead to a loss of health insurance for at least 32 million people after 2026. ... By repealing the ACA’s coverage expansions and cutting deeply into the Medicaid program, the Graham-Cassidy bill threatens the health care of as many as 100 million people, from newborns to the elderly.” – Sara Collins, The Commonwealth Fund.

Sincerely,
Davnet Schaffer

Davnet Schaffer

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Struthers <sandrastruthers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject 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.**

Sincerely,
Sandra Struthers
Registered voter!
Minneapolis, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As an emergency 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. We see many patient in our nations' emergency department with mental health and substance use disorders and other chronic conditions (including those who served our country that don't use the VAH) who lack adequate insurance to cover access to primary care and affordable needed medications. Appropriate regulations of the health care industry and insurance carriers mean protection of the public and not government controls. 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. We in our state are providing insurance coverage for medications for addiction treatment that are essential to containing the opioid epidemic that effects all of us deeply.

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.
Sincerely;

Edward Bernstein, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comment

Attn: Senate Finance Committee

I am writing regarding the Graham-Cassidy ACA-repeal bill. I am against it, and I urge you to reject it.

I work for a hospital which self-insures their employees, and I have already reached menopause so I have less need (though not no need) for women's health services, so I probably won't personally be too badly affected by this bill. I might even benefit from the lower taxes which I keep hearing can't be passed unless an ACA repeal is passed first. But I don't want blood money on my hands, and since this bill will clearly result in higher rates of adverse health outcomes, including death, I would consider any tax reduction so passed to be blood money.

While nobody skips with joy to pay taxes, I am generally in favor of higher taxes for people like me who can afford them, because I remember being poor when I was younger and I am grateful for the social safety net that allowed me to get an excellent education and work my way into the top 10%, and (to tie this back to health insurance) because I like living in a society where I don't die in an epidemic because my waiter can't afford to take the day off when he's sick.

I am an immigrant. I lived for the first 30 years of my life in Canada, where my family still lives. For all Canada's system's flaws, it is still vastly better than America's in practice, because nobody is left out. America's healthcare is second to none if you can afford it, but too many Americans can't afford it, because of the way health insurance is structured.

Right now, my best friend back home is dying of an untreatable cancer (to clarify, it would be untreatable anywhere). This is a tragic waste of a kind heart and a keen mind, but at least she and her family don't have to worry about how they're going to pay for her many in-patient stays at a topnotch Dalhousie University-affiliated hospital, her chemotherapy, her laboratory tests, her pain management, or any of the other indignities this disease visits upon her. It's a huge comfort to me to know that her younger siblings (upon whom the financial burden would fall if the government weren't covering it) won't have to choose between paying for her care and saving for their children's educations. She doesn't have to fill out endless forms or figure out an opaque bureaucracy.

I work in oncology, in a not-for-profit academic hospital. I regularly have to draft correspondence for my doctors to insurance companies to cover medical benefits, or to our chief medical officer to approve a single case agreement for an out-of-network patient who has no doctor in-network who can handle their rare cancer. I take phone calls from frantic, tearful patients and their family members worried about how they're going to handle the financial burden of their cancer. This is a burden of worry that nobody should have while also handling such a frightening diagnosis.

This bill does nothing to solve the ACA's flaws, and introduces new ones: it brings back pre-existing conditions clauses, raises premiums for the elderly, allows states to let insurers exclude maternity care and mental health and pediatric dental care and a host of other things, and forces states to pick up the shortfall of reduced funding. It hurts the people it claims to help, and lowers standards in the name of states' rights while stabbing states in the back.

Please kill this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joanne Merriam



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comment

To whom it may concern,

I was born with an imperforate hymen, a condition that without surgery made it impossible for me to receive basic gynecological care such as pap smears, ASCAS screenings, etc. I was also unable to use tampons, have intercourse, and obviously, have children. With the coverage I received under the Affordable Care Act, I was able to get the necessary surgery, and now I'm able to receive standard medical care. However, for many other young women who may have this condition, and particularly for children who, like myself, will probably not be diagnosed until they are adults, this would qualify as a pre-existing condition, and make it possible for insurance companies to not only refuse the necessary surgery, but refuse coverage at all. Because of this, I opposed the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

St. Paul, MN

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY / I SUPPORT KEEPING AMERICANS INSURED AND HEALTHY

I am writing to plead with Congress to support all Americans by opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill. The bill would lead to many millions of people being uninsured. Our family, as an example, is a middle class one. We are in our 60s, but not yet eligible for Medicare.

We would be very hard hit financially if Graham-Cassidy becomes law. We would not be able to afford insurance given our income level and our ages. We would have to forego insurance and risk everything we have saved should a medical event hit our family. I support a bipartisan effort to improve the current ACA rather than a repeal and replacement by a very punitive and unsustainable bill as Graham-Cassidy.

Please adhere to legislative protocols and go back to the drawing board in an effective, bipartisan manner. No more secretive, unilateral ramming through of health legislation. YOU ALL KNOW that is an untenable strategy. As soon as the opposite party takes over power in Congress, the pendulum will swing the other way. This is very unstable for our healthcare system, both the insurance companies and the insured.

THANK YOU,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I find it alarming that the Senate would undertake to pass a bill composed by an all-boy group, with no facts about the cost either in money or in human life, and that I suspect most members of the Senate have not even read.

It was my understanding in grammar school civics class that a bill is proposed, written, argued in the Senate, amended, evaluated as to cost, and acted upon after due deliberation by all members. None of this is happening, and it is dangerous to our legislative process and our country.

Despite Senator Cassidy's allegation that no one with a pre-existing condition will be harmed, various responsible institutions (AMA, AARP, etc) have determined that this is not true. I am a cancer survivor. Do you care if I can't afford treatment if the cancer returns? Am I collateral damage? Am I expendable?

How many deaths is the Senate OK with if this bill passes? A hundred? A thousand? A few million? People will most definitely die. Are you ready to say that's the cost of doing business? What if the block grant to my state runs out before the sick people got well?

When I was a child in the fifties, my Pop had cancer and we had no insurance. My Mom had to beg the doctor to give him a radiation treatment because we didn't have the fifty dollar fee. If we return to those days what will be the damage to our country? Or do you not care.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to this cruel and fiscally irresponsible bill. It is opposed by doctors, insurers, and by the medicaid administrators of all fifty states!

The proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low- and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 30 million Americans losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.

I believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

Emphatically,

Nancy Ellman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill and experts in healthcare.

NEJM

PERSPECTIVE

The Graham–Cassidy Plan — The Most Harmful ACA-Repeal Bill Yet

Article Tools

Loren Adler, B.A., Henry J. Aaron, Ph.D., Paul B. Ginsburg, Ph.D., and Matthew Fiedler, ...1

September 22, 2017

10.1056/NEJMp1712614

Senate Republicans are making one last attempt to pass legislation repealing major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) before September 30, when their ability to use the “budget reconciliation” procedure to prevent a Democratic filibuster expires. This effort centers on a new proposal introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA). The Graham–Cassidy proposal excludes most of the tax cuts that were central to previous “repeal and replace” efforts. But in many ways, it would go even further than the earlier Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) and the American Health Care Act (AHCA) in reducing health insurance coverage and affordability.

The Graham–Cassidy bill would begin by repealing the individual and employer mandates retroactive to 2016. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) previously estimated that repeal of the individual and employer mandates would immediately increase the number of uninsured Americans by 15 million or more and increase individual market insurance premiums by 20%.¹ Uncertainty about how the Graham–Cassidy proposal would affect insurance markets in subsequent years could lead to larger adverse effects on insurance coverage, particularly in light of the prevailing uncertainty with respect to whether the Trump administration will discontinue cost-sharing reduction payments to insurers or take other actions to undermine the individual health insurance market.

Effective in 2020, the bill would repeal the ACA’s Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies. In their stead, it would provide states with a block grant. The nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the block grant would reduce support by \$107 billion, or 8%, cumulatively from 2020 through 2026. In 2027, the block grant would end.²

Funding cuts would vary widely between states. The Graham–Cassidy formula would shift money from states that expanded Medicaid coverage under the ACA or increased take-up among previously eligible groups to those that did not. It would also shift money from high-cost to low-cost areas. Funding levels would also not respond to unforeseen contingencies, such as recessions that increase demand for subsidized coverage or faster-than-expected growth in health care costs that increases the cost of providing coverage.

In addition to curtailing and then eliminating federal support for insurance coverage, starting in 2020, the bill would permit states to waive the ACA requirements that insurance sold in the individual market cover essential health benefits and that insurers not vary premiums on the basis of health status, thereby restoring the ability of insurers to engage in “medical underwriting” and effectively deny coverage or limit services on the basis of

preexisting health conditions. Since most states allowed medical underwriting before enactment of the ACA and few imposed strong essential health benefit requirements, it seems likely that many states would pursue these options if given the opportunity.

The Graham–Cassidy proposal would also cut federal support for the base Medicaid program by capping per-enrollee spending. Because these caps grow more slowly than Medicaid spending anticipated under current law, the cuts would grow progressively larger over time. Caps on per-enrollee spending, together with other Medicaid provisions in the bill, would cut the base Medicaid program by 8% by 2026, according to calculations from the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (which were based on CBO estimates), and cuts would probably grow steadily thereafter.³

There can be no doubt that Graham–Cassidy would boost the number of people without health insurance. Exactly how many additional people would become newly uninsured under the proposed law is subject to some uncertainty and would depend on various factors.

One factor that would influence the scope of coverage losses is the extent to which states use some or all of the block-grant money to support existing state programs, thereby converting funds targeted for helping the needy afford health services into a form of general budget support. Because the Graham–Cassidy bill lists a series of potential uses for the block-grant money that encompasses programs states already operate, states are likely to have ample opportunity to shift funds in this manner. The incentive to use block-grant funding for general budget support would intensify during recessions, when revenues fall and state balanced-budget requirements often force spending cuts.

States would also face substantial technical hurdles in setting up their own systems for subsidizing individual market coverage. The federal government had nearly 5 years to craft and implement the ACA; under Graham–Cassidy, states would have slightly more than 2 years to do the same. If politics or the nearly inevitable technical problems of implementation delay or prevent a state from enacting and fielding a new program, many residents of that state may be left without any real options.

All told, we estimate that under Graham–Cassidy, an additional 21 million people would be without insurance coverage in 2020 and later years, and this figure may be conservative.⁴ Implementation challenges, as well as insurer uncertainty about what will happen after block-grant funds expire in 2027, may cause larger reductions toward the beginning and end of the period from 2020 through 2026.

Reductions in insurance coverage would grow again after termination of the block-grant funding in the Graham–Cassidy bill in 2027, when states will be forced either to end programs they established using block-grant funds or to finance them with state funds. A CBO analysis of prior proposals implies that after block-grant funding ends, the number of additional people without health insurance would grow to more than 30 million.⁵ Because the per capita cap cuts to the base Medicaid program would also grow over time, the number of uninsured people would also continue to increase.

Advocates of the Graham–Cassidy bill have claimed that Congress could reinstate block-grant funding in 2027. However, finding \$200 billion annually to maintain the block grant would prove challenging. Late in the next decade, budget pressures will be severe as retiring and aging baby boomers, as well as continued growth in health care costs, drive up Social Security and Medicare outlays. Congress also appears poised to consider tax-cut legislation that would add to those pressures. And many conservatives would probably oppose reinstating such funding on policy grounds.

In normal times, one might suppose that the Graham–Cassidy bill would have little chance of passage. It appeared on the scene just weeks ago, completely circumventing the normal process for developing and considering legislation. It replaces effective coverage programs with a block grant that is inadequate in the aggregate and blind to variations in local costs, shifting considerable risk onto states. It would slash the program that provides health insurance coverage for the poor. Because of these various changes, it would immediately reduce the number of people with health insurance coverage by 15 million — a figure that would grow by millions over time. Yet the Senate is poised to vote on this proposal in the days to come. By September 30, we will know the outcome.

Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available at NEJM.org.

This article was published on September 22, 2017, at NEJM.org.

SOURCE INFORMATION

From the Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments; Senator, Jon Tester (Tester); Sen. Steve Daines (Daines)
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Sirs:

I write you from Montana and ask you to please stop this bill and reconsider your actions. Montana delegation I implore each of you to vote NO against this bill. Your bill, for which you hold value, hurts those that need it the most and hurts America. How could you in good conscious vote for something that hurts those your represent.

I have been fortunate enough to benefit from the Medicaid expansion. I lost my job about a year and a half ago and as a result lost healthcare coverage for myself and my children. I am a single mother of two teenagers and have been for over 15 years, and up until I lost my job, I had held a full time job and was afforded healthcare coverage from my employer. The Medicaid expansion provided coverage to my two children through the HealthKids Montana program and I also received coverage for which I pay a small monthly premium - which I am happy to do to maintain coverage. This coverage ensured that my son, when he was hit by a car on his bike received the care he needed and it did not bankrupt me when the third party carrier denied coverage. This coverage has afforded my daughter medication for her migraines and has allowed her to graduate Summa Cum Laude from Hellgate High School with an IB degree and attend the University of Montana as an incoming Sophomore. Because the current Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill doesn't ensure that those with pre-existing conditions will be covered - if passed my daughter will have a hell of a time getting medical coverage and continuing to treat her migraines. Moreover, my daughter is allergic to all antibiotics and if she gets sick has to be treated with alternative medicines that are expensive and without coverage will likely bankrupt us.

The current administrations ongoing campaign to dismantle and repeal Medicaid may seem attractive to some, but it will hurt Americans like myself - who because of no fault of their own find themselves without coverage they once had and thanking their lucky stars they can obtain coverage for themselves and most importantly for the ones they love. I cannot for the life of me understand why you would want to take that away from good Americans. Americans you were elected to represent and swore to do so to the best of your ability. If this is the best you've got, then you need to reconsider why you asked to have this job, because I am sure it wasn't to hurt millions of Americans.

Don't get me wrong there are things that can be done to the current system to make it affordable and available all Americans, but this current bill is not that.

Steve Daines - Montana has been calling on you to vote against these bills and to date you have refused - it is time for you to represent Montana and get out of the pockets of the GOP.

Jon Tester - Thank you for staying true to Montana. Our other representatives could learn a lot from you.

Greg Gianforte - Your new, your on the hot seat, take a page from Tester and represent Montana.

VOTE NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY AND YES FOR AMERICA!



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Courtney Elliott <courtne Elliott@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: no on Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability is myself and my children wouldn't get the preventative care we need to stay healthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Courtney Elliott
Portland, Oregon

--
Courtney Elliott

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Reed, shiread109@yah.com
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I also rely on my students having adequate access to healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. A world of unnecessary pain and suffering occurs when people I care for and dedicate my life to are left with no health insurance, or insurance that they can't afford and won't cover their conditions. Because of this, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Holly Reed
Elementary school teacher in California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

My family would have gone bankrupt without the Affordable Care Act after my husband was suddenly laid off, after working 25 years for the same employer.

Our son continues to rely on the ACA because his employer does not provide insurance.

Every member of our family has pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

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.

Sincerely,

Melanie Cote

Monkton, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:57 PM
To: gchcomments; larkin@nysenate.gov; larkin@senate.state.ny.us
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy health care bill

[REDACTED]
Cornwall Hdsn, NY 12520

Dear Senator:

I am NOT in favor of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, I believe this bill would leave millions of Americans without the health care they need for themselves and their families. This bill is not well thought out and will do harm to Americans that need health care coverage. Please Say NO to this bill.

Sincerely:

Michelle Abraham Denega, CRNA

Constituent

Confidentiality Note

The information contained in this E-mail is confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copy of the telecopy is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please immediately notify sender at the above address.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Fey <rfev@thenc.org>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Wright, Kevin (Finance)
Subject: Statement for the Record - GCH Hearing - The national Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Attachments: The National Campaign - Statement for the Record - GCH Senate Finance Cmte Hearing 9-22-17.pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy respectfully submits this statement for the record in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson amendment. Like previous proposals in the House and Senate, the proposed changes in Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson would fundamentally damage the ability of millions of women to decide if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant. Should this bill become law, millions of women, especially those with modest or lower incomes, would lose their health insurance and, with that, their coverage and access to birth control. For these reasons, The National Campaign stands opposed to this bill and urges the Senate to reject it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Fey

Rachel Fey
Director, Public Policy
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW - Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 438-8529 (toll free)
rfev@thenc.org
www.TheNationalCampaign.org

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ned Swanberg <ned.swanberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill

Stop this. This is obscene.

It “violates the precept of ‘first do no harm’” and “would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage.” – *American Medical Association, which represents doctors.*

It is “the worst healthcare bill yet.” – *American Nurses Association.*

It “would erode key protections for patients and consumers.” – *American Hospital Association.*

The “process [in the Senate] is just as bad as the substance. ... Most Americans wouldn’t buy a used car with this little info.” – *AARP.*

The bill will “weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve.” – *American Heart Association, jointly with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Diabetes and Lung associations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the March of Dimes and others.*

“This bill harms our most vulnerable patients.” – *American Psychiatric Association.*

It would hurt “consumers and patients by further destabilizing the individual market; cutting Medicaid; pulling back on protections for pre-existing conditions.” – *America’s Health Insurance Plans.*

We need adequate health care for everyone.

Ned Swanberg

Montpelier, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Forsch <meforsch@rochester.az.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:26 PM
To: gchcomments

My husband and I live in Rochester MN with our disabled deaf blind 10 year old daughter. We have great insurance, but it does not cover many of Elizabeth's medical equipment needs and PCA care. I had to quit my IT programming job to care for Elizabeth. Medicaid paid for her stroller, walker, her medical bed and much more. Her medicaid through Tefra allows her to be home and cared for by us.

The Cassidy Graham bill would hurt Elizabeth by cutting Medicaid. She has many pre existing conditions. She will need medicaid for home care when I am no longer able to care for her due to age or illness. She will be an adult in 7 1/2 years. Her needs will increase as she ages.

We moved from Wisconsin to Minnesota to ensure Elizabeth would have care. Please do not let states to completely control Medicaid.

Please come up with a medical bill that does not hurt the disabled like this one does.

Thanks
Margaret Forsch
Rochester, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aleph Johnston-Bloom <aleph@aleph.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO vote on Graham-Cassidy Bill

I and my boyfriend rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My boyfriend is a 35-year old survivor of cancer and would not be able to afford continue his follow-up care without his tax credit from the ACA. Healthcare is very expensive in Alaska. I also stand with Panned Parenthood and the affordable women's health care provided. I do not want a bill that is rushed and takes healthcare away from millions pushed through. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Aleph Johnston-Bloom

Girdwood, Alaska

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Diana Kliche
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Long Beach, California 90804

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because pre-existing conditions would prevent my family members from getting the care they need. As small business owners and self-employed workers, my family members would be unable to access any health insurance plan if Graham-Cassidy is implemented. Please reject this unworkable and heartless bill. A strong America is a healthy America.

Adella Harris
San Mateo, CA 94402

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ~~Christine.fisher@maine.gov~~
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Maine

If thee is a prize for callous inhumanity,
your so-called Health Care bill wins.

Christine Fisher
Lubec, Maine 04652

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Good afternoon. My name is Allison Brown. I am from Minnesota and have been in the benefits industry for 25 years. What I am witnessing and hearing is the most offensive rhetoric I have heard in my career. The outright lies, proper communication on how insurance works, the hiding of SBCs tied to the scare tactics and commentary for the senators on cost of premiums with no comparison to what was available to people BEFORE the ACA.

I implore you and the GOP to consider more than this need to destroy something done by the last administration and continue to support a president that is so beyond his skills. This bill will destroy your citizens, tens of millions not to mention the entire country is saying no with FACTS.

Bipartisan, controlled and effective hangs is needed, not the need to scream "checkmate" at the 11th hour. Your country needs you to think about them and the progress that has been made over the last 7 years.

Please do not put this abomination up for a vote. Happy to give my expert opinion. I have done so before to IRS, DOL and Treasury when the ACA was being crafted. My only concern is for his country. As should be your only concern.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

gwen irish

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 78

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gwr.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families. This bill is absolutely IMMORAL! Instead of trying to kill people while giving huge tax breaks to corporations that have vast sums of money stashed in other countries lets expand medicare!!!

gail santos

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

south berwick, Maine 03908

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@actionnetwork.org
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Joan Steck

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] t>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I believe in keeping and supporting the historic ACA and expanding Medicaid for all Americans! The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Chrissy Hoffman

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
B [REDACTED] 9/23/17

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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Stephanie Wellemeyer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Berkeley, California 94710

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Me and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am especially concerned about a young family member who suffers from crippling anxiety and depression. With the proper medication this person is able to live a full and productive life, contributing to our country -- but what happens if that medication is no longer available?

There is a lot of good in what is derisively called Obamacare: It has given millions of people insurance for the first time, and it has extended care for those with pre-existing conditions. Instead of focusing on "killing" the ACA I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kump Leghorn

New Rochelle, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to tell you that I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My ACA care has kept me healthy and able to work. Prior to the ACA I was at risk of becoming unemployed/unable to work due to a hand injury and surgery I could not afford. The ACA made my hand repair affordable and accessible. I have been able to continue to work, pay my taxes, and remain an active part of society. I am terrified that the latest attempt to "repeal and replace" will cost me my healthcare, at the minimum. As a 48 year old woman I am aware that healthcare becomes more crucial with each passing year. I cannot afford the kind of rates we had prior to the ACA. And I am scared.

Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is just one of many I am aware of - how many of us would lose our healthcare at the minimum, should this cruel and poorly thought-out bill become a reality. Personally, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Reinish

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy is Operationally Dysfunctional

I am resident of Northern Virginia and a supporter of Congresswoman Barbara Comstock. I would like to convey to you what I recently was able to communicate to her Chief of Staff Susan Falconer: as the parent of a special needs adult I am staunchly opposed to any cuts to the basic medicaid program.

My Mother, Abby Block, oversaw the implementation of the Medicare Part D program under President Bush. She believes the Graham-Cassidy bill is completely operationally dysfunctional as the states will never be able to get their healthcare systems up and running in two years.

It's time to stop posturing and time to focus on real solutions for the American people. I support the Repatriation Tax Holiday with incentives for infrastructure investment. Please work on getting this done. Thank you.

Eric Rothman

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Dorf
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Republican Senators,

Read your own bill. If you cut funding for Medicaid and give states the ability to opt out of the pre-existing condition, some, probably many or most, states will opt out, and many many millions will lose healthcare. You can lie about this all you want to hang on to your wealthy donors who don't care because it doesn't affect them, but that doesn't change the facts, including the fact that if wealthy donors control your vote at the expense of the millions, you're participating in the downfall of democracy and strengthening our current form of government — oligarchy, kleptocracy, plutocracy, or whatever you want to call it. Worse, if you're concentrating on taking health care away from millions, you're not concentrating on stopping this out of control president, so you're not only participating in the end of this republic, you're threatening the world. PLEASE. DON'T. Go back to the regular order. Find a bi-partisan way to fix the Affordable Care Act. Have hearings. Heed the judgment of every medical organization we have in this country. People's lives are at stake. Call it Trumpcare if you must.

Best Regards,
Fran Dorf, Stamford, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

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.

--
Joanne Wilkinson
.MD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

E149 County Road B
Scandinavia , Wisconsin 54977

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

My husband and I will be OK as of now. But we are 66 and 70 so there are no guarantees. However, I have a son-in-law with type 1 diabetes and several friends who are fighting cancer or are survivors. My son has had cancer surgery so would probably be rejected due to pre-existing condition. His wife has had 4 c-sections so any problem caused by that could be considered pre-existing. I have a sister who has type 2 diabetes, has been on dialysis and had a kidney transplant. Her daily medications are necessary to prevent rejection. I have former students who are type 1 diabetics and have many years of being insulin ahead of them. This is only what comes to mind immediately.

Again do not do this to your constituents.

Terry Bobbe

Terry Bobbe
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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val palicki

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 00174

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Beverly Sweeney

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose the

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! Please, do NOT pass this devastating bill—it would hurt millions in our country and many in my family. We pay taxes, volunteer at our public schools, serve in the military, and take care to be good citizens of this country. Now please do your job and improve the ACA, don't replace it with this horrible Graham-Cassidy bill, which would leave many of us paying more for the insurance we currently have.

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

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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lynn marcus

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED] Oct 23, 2017 3:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Thank you for your concern for the most vulnerable among us.

LaVonne Batalden

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
St. Paul, MN 55105