

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristina Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom This May Concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My father has quite a few pre-existing medical conditions. Mostly, they are reminders from his childhood where he was in and out of hospitals fighting a deadly form of childhood cancer. He made it through; my uncle wasn't so lucky.

By passing a bill that would allow states to decide whether or not they wanted to continue protections so that people who have pre-existing conditions would not pay more PURELY based on that fact, you would put countless Americans in danger. Not only am I standing up for my family, but I am a future physician. In just over two years, I will enter the healthcare setting as an integral member of the healthcare team with a responsibility to my patients. This bill would negatively impact many people, and thus, I can not stand by and watch this happen. Therefore, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Kristina Carlson

Salem, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maggie Stark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Hello,

I would like to let you know that I, too, am against this latest health care attack. I'm a constituent and my name is [REDACTED] Part of a family of five in Chardon, Ohio. Like millions of others, I rely on the ACA to keep health care affordable and repealing it directly puts me at risk!! We are self-employed and have preexisting conditions!!!! I want Senator Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown to vote AGAINST the Graham-Cassidy bill that's currently before Congress.

Maggie Stark
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Deerkoski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Barbara Brem Noveau; Leni Preston; Lynda Honberg
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation

Dear Senator Cardin,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation. Because I work at a clinic I see how important good healthcare is to good hard working people with families and a love for America.

My daughter and her husband in Pennsylvania own a small business and rely on the ACA for coverage. My son in California works as a consultant. He has pre-existing conditions and also relies on the ACA.

The Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill will:

1. Defund Planned Parenthood for a year and threaten guaranteed maternity care.
2. End subsidies and tax credits that help working Americans afford coverage.
3. Allow states to waive key protections and let insurers raise premiums for pre-existing conditions.
4. Severely cut Medicaid.

The bill would cut federal funding to states by \$215 billion through 2026 and more than \$4 trillion over 20 years.

The bill lets federal funding expire in 2027, with no guarantee that Congress will renew it.

The bill will allow states to wave key protections and let insurers raise premiums for pre-existing conditions.

More people will be put at risk especially:

- Older and sick patients
- Veterans
- Low and middle-income Americans
- Minority communities.

If you're one of the 130 million Americans with a pre-existing condition, you may pay a lot more for your health care.

- For Diabetes, your premiums may go up to \$5600 per year.

- For Pregnancy, your premiums may go to \$17,320 per year
- For Arthritis, your premiums may go up to \$26,580 per year
- For Asthma, your premiums may go up to \$4340 per year.
- For Metastatic Cancer, your premiums may go up to \$142,650 per year.

Please do not pass this bill.

Katherine Deerkoski

[REDACTED] Maryland

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Wrencher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I am a cancer patient. I cannot live without affordable insurance. Why are you trying to kill me. I will surely die if this Graham Cassidy bill is passed. If you're so intent on repealing the ACA just rename it Trumpcare. Keep it and let that monster grin and call it his own. Or better yet, act like grown ups and work together to fix what needs fixing and get on with the nation's business.

Sandra Wrencher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie McColgin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare and decency

I forgot to include my town/state when I sent this a few minutes ago, so here it is again:

Our family relies on having reliable, affordable healthcare. My 30 year old son is self-employed as a small businessman and relies on the exchange to get his insurance. He has a chronic condition that sent him to the ER 14 times in one year in 2015 but is manageable with medication, now that he knows what is wrong. Before the ACA he could not afford insurance and went without. ACA came and he was able to be on my employer plan until he was 26 and then was able to afford an exchange plan, fortunately in time for all his ER visits and onset of his condition. Graham-Cassidy will take him back to the pre ACA situation.

My husband runs a small business providing foster care home services to adults with intellectual disabilities. He needs reliable affordable healthcare.

I had breast cancer in 2014 and have a number of other minor conditions. I am nearly 63 years old. I need affordable health insurance to be available. We built an active/passive solar home and took out a large mortgage in 2016 before the election, not realizing that everything could be in jeopardy. Graham-Cassidy would be devastating to me and would put us at significant financial risk.

My daughter is expecting our first grandchild in January. We all fear for her future and whether healthcare will be there when it is needed.

But most of all I want to talk about Medicaid.

I provide therapy services and 90% of my caseload relies on Medicaid to pay for those services. Children with autism and Down Syndrome. Adults on the expansion with serious health concerns that haven't yet been approved for disability. Most of all, this bill will be devastating to them. People with disabilities have come a long way fighting to get the services they need and this bill will wipe it all out with the devastating cuts to Medicaid. There is nothing "flexible" about having less money than you need to do the job that has to be done. There isn't enough money now and there is rationing of therapy services and a two to three year waiting list for those with intellectual disability to get on the Michelle P Waiver program they need.

States without exchanges would be particularly damaged and our governor dismantled the exchange we had and put us in a position where this bill will hurt my son. Telling us that our state can do a better job is a joke here in Kentucky where we have a governor hell-bent on moving us backwards on healthcare. So even if we vote him out and get someone better than the system gets upended every four years? That's not a recipe for stabilizing the healthcare market, it's a recipe for destabilization and disaster.

Kill the bill.

Start over and work in a bipartisan fashion and stop the politics and start focusing on policy.

Where is our decency? How can a country be "great" when it proposes to hurt so many of its vulnerable citizens?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Dupré [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill / ACA repeal

My family expects and relies on quality, affordable health care, which makes me squarely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Two years ago, my father -- a 20-year Air Force veteran -- dealt with a life-threatening health issue that required both immediate and sustained care, including surgery, dialysis, and rehabilitation. Because he is a military veteran with TriCare health benefits, he and my mother were able to fully focus on what needed to be done medically and emotionally to support his recovery, without worrying about the costs. Although there were certainly other issues with the health care system that were infuriating and need fixing, thankfully insurance was not one of them. This should be the case for EVERY American.

Not only that, health care is a significant portion of our national economy, and any changes to the system also impact the economy.

When health insurance reform was being debated in Massachusetts in the mid 2000s, our Republican governor Mitt Romney made the effective conservative argument that the individual mandate was a hedge against "free riders," those people that didn't pay into the insurance system and then ended up using emergency room care for either actual (costly) emergencies or for medical issues that should have been handled earlier with (less expensive) preventive care. The cost of unpaid emergency room bills were passed along to everyone else in the form of higher prices for both insurance and medical care. Alongside the moral argument that all of us deserve quality health care (via quality health insurance), this anti-free rider argument worked well in convincing the populace to back the new law. I don't understand why this commonsense and obvious case was never taken up nationally by Republicans.

Congress should be making efforts to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it. Expand Medicare to more people. Provide more subsidies to lower-middle income families for health insurance premiums. Keep minimizing the profit incentive in health care.

Using taxes for social goods is a no-brainer. Killing the ACA to "save" federal funds to be passed on as lower taxes for the wealthy is reprehensible. I have urged my Senators to oppose this and any further efforts to repeal the ACA, and would like to see bipartisan efforts to improve and expand upon the ACA instead.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Nicole Dupré
Somerville MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Treanor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We live in Virginia

We have good friends who adopted wonderful children from China. Some of these smart, great kids had/have special health needs. Should the Graham-Cassidy bill pass and become the law of the land, this family - also Virginia residents - will likely lose the health insurance they had under the ACA because the kids have pre-existing conditions. Virginia has never been a state that went even above what they absolutely had to for health insurance for kids and I would also reasonably expect it to be first in line to request waivers so that they would not have to cover these kids and thousands like them.

Giving states the options of how they want to spend block grant money and letting them receive waivers for covering kids who need coverage is not the way a great nation treats its vulnerable citizens. I am saddened by this additional effort to end the ACA which has served so many Virginia families.

Thank you for your attention.

Kathryn Treanor
[REDACTED]
Amissville, VA 20106

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Paslowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

My name is Sharon Paslowski. My son is 13 years old. He was born at 28 weeks with hydrocephalus, cleft lip and palate. He spent 74 days in the NICU. He has had 14 surgeries....bone graphs, ear drum rebuilds, brain shunts. He has sleep apnea, severe acid reflux. He is also an "A" student, a swimmer and a fighter. His medical bills have been in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even with decent insurance, we pay a lot for deductibles. But I am so incredibly grateful for the ACA- that he will never be denied for all of his ailments, that he can't max out. These protections have saved our family from financial ruin. I also have a diabetic mother and a dad with high blood pressure. My husband's dad has kidney disease. Graham Cassidy would be detrimental to all of them as well.

Think of the consequences to everyday people. Kids that may never be able to get coverage as adults through no fault of their own.

Sharon Paslowski
Deerfield Beach, FL 33064
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elicia Hicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

To Whomever it may concern:

I am completely opposed to the healthcare bill that is currently being considered. My daughter has a rare autoinflammatory disease. It is called systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis. She was diagnosed at the age of 4. The disease causes widespread inflammation in her body. It causes her body to attack her organs, muscles, and joints. There is currently no cure for this disease. All we can do is treat its symptoms.

Her disease can change at any moment and she can go from feeling fine to needing to be hospitalized. My husband and I are both hard working individuals but we don't make a ton of money. We have struggled for the last 4 years since her diagnosis to try to pay our bills and afford her care. We recently had to file bankruptcy due to all the debt that we have incurred most of it from having to pay medical bills and medications for her. She has been on Allkids insurance for most of the last 4 years. Which is a tremendous blessing, still our share of the medical bills even on allkids adds up.

Her disease is unlikely to go away so she will meet a lifetime insurance cap very quickly. The few medications that are approved to treat her disease are expensive. Her current medication cost about \$8,000.00 a month. Her previous medication cost \$19,000.00 a month. Thank God our copays are relatively small.

Without her medication her body would continue to attack itself until she eventually succumbed. Not to mention the excruciating pain she would be in 24 hours a day.

There is no way our family could afford to pay any more for medical expenses than we do now. Not to mention our son is on the Autism Spectrum and has weekly occupational therapy visits. I was also recently diagnosed with an autoimmune disease and need daily medications and frequent doctor's visits. Please take into account how passing this current bill would affect our families and millions of families like ours. Who are doing their best to care for their special needs children and provide the best life possible for them.

Sincerely,
Elicia Hicks,
Concerned mother of two special children

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

All Americans deserve quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My parents have relied on the Affordable Care Act to allow them to get affordable coverage after they retired at 62 and 64. Americans this age should be focused on enjoying their health in their golden years, not worrying about Congress taking away their health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Katherine Klein
Scottdale, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: June Konopka [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO

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.

Thank you,
June Konopka
Boulder, CO 80301

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing regarding healthcare

Think of some of your favorite moments in life as well as you worst. They probably have one thing in common: surprise.

Surprises may be great and a celebration. However if in an instant you are rushed to a hospital from an accident you now at mercy of a system many know little about. No matter who it is I hope that person can be rest assured that they are taken care of and will not have to change their financial situation drastically for it. That is what insurance is for. Does the entire healthcare system have flaws? Of course. However if you can in your heart cast so many aside for self interest will then I pity you. Your strength is then minuscule to those who are fighting diseases and health issues.

We should not be surprised that we cannot fix all of the issues in a huge system in one bill. It will take a village. A village of citizens who are compassionate to those who are sick and also detailed oriented to find the missing links in the system. Is it not an easy fix but I hope that if a fix comes it is well thought out and reviewed before people start writing it in the books.

When leaders make a decision regarding healthcare or any other major issue step outside and walk around the block. Look at the children they may surprise you. They are the ones that will be most effected by laws. They are vulnerable and if there are any negative impacts as their generation will have to deal with the consequences. We expect are children to behave, show respect and quite frankly hold them to a high standard to what leaders in the United States are held to.

When you vote for this legislation think beyond the circle of people in the room. Think about those in your state. Think about those who are the vulnerable and will be the most impacted. They have the strength to get up every day and be caring to others. You are tasked to do the same.

Sincerely,

-M

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marian Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am one of the, in my opinion, many you have used government health care with subsidies. I am 64 years old which automatically means preexisting conditions. Without subsidized health care it would cost me over \$800 a month for acceptable coverage. Under the new plan, the cost would be unplayable and I fear that I would have to settle for paying for health care that will do nothing to help me. All I am asking is for a chance to continue to have affordable health care that will meet my needs and the needs of many other people who need it. I know that our current system does not work well for everyone and needs to be reworked but I don't think this new bill is the answer. Please, Please, Please do not approve this bill. It will be devastating for so many people. What would be worse than becoming ill without the kind of insurance that will take care of you? I hope that Republicans and Democrats can find a way to work together and come up with the kind of health care reform that will help everyone.

Marian Andrews

19033
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

Hello.

I am writing to register my opposition to repealing the ACA and replacing it with the Graham/Cassidy bill. I'm someone with a pre-existing condition and I work at a small non-profit that does not provide benefits. I get my insurance (with no subsidy) through the ACA Exchange. Please consider fixing the ACA rather than repealing it. I am concerned that states may no longer elect to provide affordable insurance to those with pre-existing conditions, and also that Federal funds will be reduced in some states and increased in others. Frankly, people in all states deserve to have affordable health care. Why not do some real reform instead? The insurance companies are making millions on the backs of Americans.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Bailey

[REDACTED]
Georges Mills, NH 03751

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Kay Eiermann [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill

Pls. do not move on the Graham-Cassidy proposal/bill.

I have worked in the healthcare industry for many years, and considered Planned Parenthood an excellent organization to refer women and families. While in the public sector (DuPage County in Illinois), I found that the help my clients received from the Medicaid program was absolutely essential to their health and well being.

Now, with a 100 year old mother, I am concerned that her funds will run out and she will be forced to consider Medicaid assistance.

Thank you,
Mary Kay Eiermann
Tucson, AZ 85750

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Benjamin Crocker [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

This must not pass!

Benjamin Crocker MD Portland Me

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lorraine Chouinard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidybill

Please don't let this bill go through. This is not what will help our people. Pass something helpful to our people. Don't leave anyone out. Give everyone a chance to get medical help.

My son was able to get his ankle to function again and get some very needed dental work since he moved to New York from Florida.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnie Rowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Please STOP this mess of a healthcare bill immediately. It is worse that the previous attempts this year and is so misdirected that words fail me.

Obamacare should be improved via bipartisan effort, taking the time to do a proper job to fix its shortcomings. Insurance companies are pulling out. They can't forecast their costs/premiums, etc. in such an unstable environment.

This bill wants to turn healthcare over to states - who are not ready or staffed to handle such an undertaking. It rewards those who did not use the opportunity for Medicare Expansion earlier.

The GOP's stabs at "repeal and replace" so far are reprehensible. A "promise" (to kill Obamacare) that is stupid and ill-conceived isn't worthy of being kept... Those Congress people are simply afraid of not being reelected, at a cost of thousands of lives, should they succeed in their push for this idiot legislation. It will throw millions OFF healthcare coverage. That is NOT a plan. It is a death sentence.

Do the right thing. Stop this madness.

Then get behind single payer or "Medicare for all."

Thank you.

- Bonnie L. Rowe, active voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Celia Broderick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Just Say "NO", Please

Dear Members of the US Senate,

Please say NO to GrahamCassidy.

Thank you,

A Concerned US Citizen

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rosemary Regis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy

The American people deserve health care. Those trying to end affordable health insurance are not fulfilling the jobs for which they were elected.

Don't sell health care for a donation. That would be a shameful thing to do.

Rosemary Regis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kendra Moss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment for Testimony

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a 25 year old with no insurance through my work, I rely on the provisions provided by the ACA that allow me health coverage through my parents. Although that expires next year, I am terrified of the notion that I will not be able to enroll in health care. The American People deserve better. Countries around the world have made health care a right, and so should we. Medicare for All is the way to do that, and repealing the ACA will result in the deaths of millions.

Healthcare is a RIGHT!

DO NOT repeal the ACA or WE WILL VOTE YOU OUT OF OFFICE!

Sincerely,

Kendra Moss
Goleta, CA

--

Kendra Moss
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal/ Graham Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern:

Another attempt to repeal and replace ACA, another fax, email and phone call from myself and thousands of your constituents. The ACA is flawed, but working. However, it needs bipartisan cooperation to make it better. Replacing it with this death-bill that has been proposed is not the answer.

The Graham-Cassidy bill includes the worst of previous attempts to roll back current healthcare legislation, and adds the horrifying factors of letting insurance companies raise premiums astronomically on newly sick individuals and deny coverage of pre-existing conditions.

This proposed change is not reform, it is a death sentence for many Americans. It will result in crippling, permanent harm to otherwise healthy citizens managing their existing medical care.

This bill attacks women's healthcare programs and undermines the Medicare program our senior citizens, disabled, and almost 2 million veterans that have come to depend on it. A vote for this bill is a vote to take away vital healthcare from them.

This bill removes consumer protections, opening the door for insurers to put lifetime and annual limits and charge older Americans more money for coverage. This legislation is just another handout to insurance company executives at the expense of hard-working Americans. You must oppose it.

If it becomes law, this bill would result in people who can't afford insurance dying from treatable illnesses. We are too big of a country to have a fourth of its population go without health insurance. Congress found \$700 billion to continue funding an already massive military, but won't take care of those who defended our country. There is no logic, no compassion in doing this. No political victory is worth the cost of 30,000+ Americans dying every year from lack of medical care availability.

Please, step up, help take care of the people of this great country.
#countryoverparty always

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Karen Beensee
Arlington, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lotstein, Debra [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: From a Physician-who takes care of dying children

Dear Senators:

As a palliative care physician at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Cassidy-Graham bill. Families struggling with the unimaginable- a child with a life threatening illness- do not need to also worry whether they can afford the treatment. Or worry that even if their child survives, they will not be eligible for health insurance that is affordable. We are a better society than this. We can afford to continue to take care of our most vulnerable citizens.

Please don't let politics and greed win out over having a society that actually cares for its citizens.

Respectfully,

Dr. Debra Lotstein

Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Sent from my iPad

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kitt Lurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Thank you,
Kitt Lurie
Dayton, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Bernstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: opposing repeal of ACA

Please count me among the folks who prefer the US Senate act with due diligence on a matter of such importance to the nation. Due diligence would include bipartisan hearings and using the best calculations of the CBO.

At the very least, any change to existing law should dramatically *increase* the number of citizens covered, not decrease it.

The bill under consideration fails all these tests.

JABernstein

firefighter, farmer, underwriting inspector, US Army veteran.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Longtin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

On behalf of so many people relying on Medicare benefits for their life and of those with pre existing conditions, I must voice my opposition to this bill. It's a joke to believe that states can actually fund the care that is needed by affected constituents. It's sad to hear that the main reason is to keep a campaign promise. That shows no regard, respect, or human decency to the people who will lose coverage. I pray that this bill does not pass.

It is time for the United States to join the rest of the world and treat health care as a basic right, not just a privilege for those who can afford it. To those that say Medicare for all is too expensive, consider: 1.) the reduction of administrative waste now in the health care industry 2.) the clout the government would have to negotiate with the pharmaceutical companies and 3.) the benefits of providing preventive care to all rather than the high expense of reactive care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Longtin

[REDACTED]
Muscatine, IA 52761

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Bintz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham / Cassidy comment

Honorable Senators (we can hope):

I am a 63-year-old white male with multiple chronic health issues. I no longer work but do not qualify for disability support, collecting reduced Social Security benefits as my sole income. I would not qualify for Medicare until December 2019.

Passage of this bill would render my insurance or my therapies unaffordable. Without daily medical support, my health would deteriorate over the course of mere months. I am determined to survive by sheer willpower if necessary long enough to vote Claudia Tenney out of the NY-22 seat. I am not alone -- "We are Legion!"

James H. Bintz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie McColgin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health and decency

Our family relies on having reliable, affordable healthcare. My 30 year old son is self-employed as a small businessman and relies on the exchange to get his insurance. He has a chronic condition that sent him to the ER 14 times in one year in 2015 but is manageable with medication, now that he knows what is wrong. Before the ACA he could not afford insurance and went without. ACA came and he was able to be on my employer plan until he was 26 and then was able to afford an exchange plan, fortunately in time for all his ER visits and onset of his condition. Graham-Cassidy will take him back to the pre ACA situation.

My husband runs a small business providing foster care home services to adults with intellectual disabilities. He needs reliable affordable healthcare.

I had breast cancer in 2014 and have a number of other minor conditions. I am nearly 63 years old. I need affordable health insurance to be available. We built an active/passive solar home and took out a large mortgage in 2016 before the election, not realizing that everything could be in jeopardy. Graham-Cassidy would be devastating to me and would put us at significant financial risk.

My daughter is expecting our first grandchild in January. We all fear for her future and whether healthcare will be there when it is needed.

But most of all I want to talk about Medicaid.

I provide therapy services and 90% of my caseload relies on Medicaid to pay for those services. Children with autism and Down Syndrome. Adults on the expansion with serious health concerns that haven't yet been approved for disability. Most of all, this bill will be devastating to them. People with disabilities have come a long way fighting to get the services they need and this bill will wipe it all out with the devastating cuts to Medicaid. There is nothing "flexible" about having less money than you need to do the job that has to be done. There isn't enough money now and there is rationing of therapy services and a two to three year waiting list for those with intellectual disability to get on the Michelle P Waiver program they need.

States without exchanges would be particularly damaged and our governor dismantled the exchange we had and put us in a position where this bill will hurt my son. Telling us that our state can do a better job is a joke here in Kentucky where we have a governor hell-bent on moving us backwards on healthcare. So even if we vote him out and get someone better than the system gets upended every four years? That's not a recipe for stabilizing the healthcare market, it's a recipe for destabilization and disaster.

Kill the bill.

Start over and work in a bipartisan fashion and stop the politics and start focusing on policy. Where is our decency? How can a country be "great" when it proposes to hurt so many of its vulnerable citizens?

Leslie McColgin M.S. CCC-SLP
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rose O'Mahony [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This bill decreases access and increases costs. It hurts rather than helps Americans. No to Graham Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Mendelsohn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Honorable members of the United States Senate,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Four years ago, my husband started his own business. We signed up for healthcare on the marketplace and it is affordable. My husband and my son both have pre-existing conditions which would make it difficult to obtain coverage under the old system. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Amy Mendelsohn
Elkins Park, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marcia Weatherell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son has asthma and has experienced many medical emergencies since he was a newborn. This pre-existing condition would disqualify him from any of the options that are not protected by the affordable care act. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Marcia Weatherell

Talent, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shelley S [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham Cassidy bill

I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis when I was 27 and have been living with its myriad of painful, unpredictable, and terrifying symptoms for the last ten years. The unbelievably expensive medications for this condition are outrageous. Without health insurance, just one of my medications would cost over \$6,500.00 each month. There is no way that I could pay such an exorbitant amount on my own. My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare and 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.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Shelley Scanlon
Pasadena, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Umber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: If it's broken, fix it...don't throw the baby out with the bath water

As a 75 year old woman, I have a few years left for congress to screw up my few benefits.
But for generations younger than me and as a nurse, I see the devastation an illness can cause.
Young people with no insurance in 1 car accident are set back years because of debt.
Middle aged people w/o the right insurance can't get needed treatment for cancer, heart ailments.
All of us are held hostage by drug companies and insurance companies.
If you don't work with democrats to make ACA better, you WILL wind up with national health.
You either are sensible now or out on your inflated egos come 2018 and on.

Please help make America better than she has been lately
Thank you
Beth Umber

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Nevius <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bil

Hello. My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare—and millions of people in this country would slide into poverty without it. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. My brother is disabled and relies on Medicaid for insurance. I have worked hard and saved for a very long time plan so that I can retire in eight years, at 62—but I won't be able to if my brother's Medicaid disappears. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely, Monica Nevius

Stoneham, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Melhado [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Trumpcare

I have three pre-existing conditions. I take excellent care of myself but sometimes one of these conditions acts up. Trumpcare will cover pre-existing conditions but the high premium I will be charged will be too much for me and my family to afford. Therefore, I will die if I get sick with one of these pre-existing conditions. What I don't understand is that a few fixes would make the ACA a terrific plan for America!! Vote no on Trumpcare and work on a bipartisan bill to improve the ACA!

Gail Melhado
Aventura, Florida
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alicia Morgano [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Get it Together!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This bill isn't good for anybody! Except partisan republicans, devoid of souls and human decency, who insist on blowing up the healthcare industry and citizens lives to feed their hateful and racist vendetta against the Obama legacy.

Kill it now. Kill it with fire.

A. Morgano
Wayne, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sylvia Eastman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

The latest proposed health care bill from the Republicans is a disaster. I am 81, and personally would be likely to suffer greatly if it were passed. But I believe that is nothing compared with the millions of other American citizens who currently depend on Medicaid, who suffer from pre-existing conditions, and/or only find health insurance affordable with the subsidies and controls placed by the ACA. Children are the victims of poverty, and it is they who would suffer the most. Giving dollars to the states to do with as they please is a recipe for the most vulnerable of our citizens to be left without care and without recourse. Sylvia J Eastman, Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am resending this as I did not previously include my town, state.

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My oldest son was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was 10 years old. Type 1 Diabetes is an incurable auto-immune disease (not brought on by diet and lack of exercise) requiring daily insulin for the diabetic to stay alive. Insulin is just one piece of the puzzle Type 1 Diabetics need to manage their disease. Without health insurance and with limits to insurance for those with pre-existing conditions, Type 1 Diabetics like my son will be unable to affordably purchase their medical equipment, supplies and insulin in order to live a healthy life. Our middle class, tax-paying, family has been fortunate to have had affordable health care; however, with our family now relying on COBRA due to a recent lay off, there is much more concern for our son's access to affordable health care going forward.

In addition, last year, I was struck by a serious illness, which meant that had there been a lifetime limit on my insurance, I came close to meeting it within a span of a few weeks. Because of this illness, I have been further diagnosed with what could be construed as a pre-existing condition. That makes two of us in our family with pre-existing conditions. When insurance companies can exclude people like us or make it too expensive to attain health care, what can people do?

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I was not a fan of the ACA being quickly voted upon and shoved down the American people's throats, so to speak, so I am incredibly disappointed an attempted repeal is being done in the same manner! In addition, tacking on a funding ban to Planned Parenthood (PP) is a terrible decision. PP provides low cost health care to women, including mammograms and essential annual exams, as well as birth control. It is disappointing that efforts are not being made to improve the ACA but are made to attack a group helping low cost individuals attain health care.

Please, please, please work together in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA. Health care affects everyone in the nation; therefore, you represent everyone in the nation at this important moment. By taking your time to make this right for everyone, you will seal your legacy in something great! As it is now, this bill as is will hurt Americans.

Sincerely,

S.W. Adams

Mountain View, CA
(Native Texan)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Landseadel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

Vote No on the Graham Cassidy bill. We cannot fail to take care of vulnerable populations. There can be no vote without full disclosure and a CBO score!

Lynn Landseadel, MS, RN
Spring Hill, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Nye [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Repeal Bill

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill is NOT going to improve healthcare availability and cost. It is going to result in many thousand more people being uninsured. My son has a pre-existing kidney condition that requires much testing, scanning and surgery. His condition will likely not be covered under the proposed plan. He will not be able to afford treatment without insurance.

We need a true bi-partisan approach to healthcare, one that benefits all our people, one that reflects the integrity and stewardship of our government - not this bill that reflects greed. No one should have to forego necessary medical care.

Judy Nye

Sent from my iPad
Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Gotshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing for Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Senate Finance Committee

Title: Hearing to Consider Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date: September 25, 2017 at 2 p.m. ET

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson healthcare bill. The co-sponsors of this healthcare bill are telling constituents and news conferences that the bill is straightforward; simply transferring authority and money from the federal government to the states. They tell their colleagues that the bill will mean more money to the Republican states. They are misleading the American people.

Millions of Americans will lose coverage and those with preexisting conditions will not be honored. Insurance companies can go back to "junk policies".

Block grants would provide less money to states, to the tune of \$239 BILLION over 10 years (source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities).

The bill is NOT about healthcare; it is about reducing the federal budget.

Graham has now admitted the bill is bad for Democratic states.

Concerning Colorado: our state could lose \$700M in annual federal funding by 2025 which means hundreds of thousands could lose coverage.

Thank you,

Barbara Gotshall

[REDACTED]
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bradley Elskens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We cannot allow this to happen

Honestly, I'm not sure which emotion I'm feeling at the moment: anger, fear, hopelessness, outrage. I think outrage. It is outrageous that Republicans are trying so hard to remove affordable access to health care from millions of vulnerable Americans, all so they can make sure their wealthy donors keep the money flowing in. The truth is: **NOBODY WANTS THIS**. Even most Republicans themselves admit that this is a terrible bill, but they're trying to push it through anyway because...they said they would. That's all. [REDACTED]

Let me get personal for a moment: [REDACTED]

I am personally affected by this. I am autistic and suffer from many mental and emotional issues that keep me from living any kind of normal life. My family has a history of physical and mental illnesses and disabilities. [REDACTED]

Before Obamacare, people were required to prove they were disabled, to prove they were pregnant, to prove they didn't own a car worth too much money, to prove they didn't have some secret bank account, to prove that their home was not worth too much, to prove they couldn't find a job. [REDACTED]

Every state had their own rules for Medicaid eligibility and frequently had humiliating hurdles to get coverage. For most states, if you weren't disabled or pregnant, you got nothing, no healthcare, no matter how poor you were. [REDACTED]

Obamacare eliminated all of that. It replaced the disparate and onerous state rules with one simple, universal standard across the country. If your income is below the poverty level, you get Medicaid. No other questions asked. No questions about whether you were pregnant. No questions about whether you had a live-in boyfriend. No questions about if you tried hard enough to find a job this week. [REDACTED]

That is what real dignity is about -- not having to beg for a little assistance when you need it. Instead, Republicans have refused to implement these new dignified rules because they want Medicaid to be as undignified and humiliating as possible. Georgia is just one of those Republican states refusing Medicaid expansion. I'm lucky enough to live in a state that did accept it, but so many are not. [REDACTED]

We should be working together to make health care **MORE** accessible for our poor and needy, not **LESS**. [REDACTED]

Please do the right thing- the human thing-, kill this bill and find a better way. [REDACTED]

Just remember: if this bill passes-- the poor and needy can vote too. And we will remember whether you voted for us or against us. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Huchital [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2003, I had Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This puts me in good company with the likes of Paul Allen and Mario Lemieux (which incidentally is why this die-hard San Jose Sharks fan can't bring herself to root against the Pittsburgh Penguins). I had excellent health insurance and care at the time, and Hodgkin's has been treatable since about the 1970's, so I'm absolutely fine, EXCEPT for the amount of time I've spent in subsequent years arguing with health insurance companies about whether my followup doctor visits were covered because of my "pre-existing condition".

Fast-forward to the present. I've left the job with the excellent health insurance to join a startup. Our dream is that this startup will be a great success, providing jobs for lots of people. The ACA meant that I could get insurance for myself and my family at a reasonable cost. Without it, I might be back at the big company - much less chance that I'll have a huge positive effect on the economy.

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

Sincerely,

Jill Huchital
Saratoga, CA 95070

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My sister's family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Before the ACA, it was a struggle to afford the monthly premiums necessary to insure a family of five; a family headed by a hardworking barber who has a second generation, old-school barber shop. Self employment is always a risk, but it is this entrepreneurial spirit that has made our country great. People should not be penalized for providing valuable services working outside the corporate environment, and since ACA became law, it became much less of a financial strain for this family to buy what turned out to be better health care coverage.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Johnson

Blaine, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Wiegner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Ms. Carol Wiegner
[REDACTED]

Elkhart, IN 46514

Senate Finance Committee Hearing

September 25, 2017

I am opposed to the latest effort (Graham-Cassidy) of our Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. To write legislation behind closed doors without a full analysis of how it will affect people, especially the most vulnerable, is irresponsible. To have only one public hearing and try to convince the Republicans who believe in the legislative process to support the legislation before the end of the week is outrageous. Only by holding hearings from both sides of the aisle, listening to the recommendations of the nation's governors, hearing the plight of those who will be most affected by these cuts and including organizations that have researched health care can we really improve the system now in place.

As a member of the **League of Women Voters**, a group which has advocated for a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost for all U.S. residents since 1993, I strongly urge this committee to reject this ramrodded position.

As a member of the **American Association of University Women**, I stand firmly with this group in stating that everyone is entitled to high quality, affordable and accessible health care. Our organization is particularly concerned for women who earn less than men doing the same job and are often the primary wage earner in the family.

As a member of the **American Association of Retired Persons** I am concerned about this bill's effort to increase premiums and out of pocket costs, undermine protections for people with preexisting conditions and increase costs for older Americans, some of whom will be excluded once again because of prohibitive costs.

I implore this committee to reject this last ditch effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and begin working as a legislative bipartisan body to improve the current law.

I have contacted my Senators and Representative regarding this hastily prepared bill. It is obvious that both Republicans and Democrats lose if this bill passes. This a non-partisan issue.

Please reject this effort to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Carol Wiegner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: MAB [REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Absent a thorough committee process, hearing from advocates and opponents alike, before crafting a major bill such as this, a process which one committee meeting will certainly not accomplish, this bill should be shelved.

Please see that it is!

Mari Bonomi
VA district 1
22482

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-graham TrumpCare and the repeal and replace ACA

I am sending this e-mail to you to ask you to not support the Repeal and replacement of the ACA with the Fatal Health of Cassidy and Graham TrumpCare. This plan is a travesty and will cause millions to lose their healthcare coverage. I know the GOP says that it covers pre-existing and it might but it will be at whatever the insurance companies want to charge us. Some states may ban coverage for pre-existing conditions. This would cause the loss of healthcare when you need it most. Medi aid would be cut and millions of children and those with low incomes would lose their coverage. You know this is wrong. If it was a good plan Congress would not have exerted themselves from this plan. I am a breast cancer survivor, my husband is also a cancer survivor and I beg you to do the right thing. You can't in good conscience pass this bill that could do so much damage to so many of the people you were elected to serve to give tax breaks to millionaires and corporations. I was a Insurance agent so I understand how insurance works. Please reconsider this bill and due your due diligence, meet with experts and have committees to discuss the pros and cons of good affordable healthcare for all. Maybe a staring point keep what works with ACA and fix what doesn't. Please do the right thing.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis B Rubin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I do not want to worry that I'll be out of health coverage due to pre-existing conditions. I also don't want my premiums to increase so much that, with my husband's past employer, can't afford them. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

--
Phyllis B. Rubin, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
River Forest, IL 60305

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kate Wegrzyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

To the Honorable Representatives of the United States Senate.

1. It is of Utmost importance for the USA to maintain the Affordable Care Act
2. Consider the USA population of Veterans, Elderly and Baby Boomers
3. Pre-Existing Condition Coverage promotes Health Care for Chronic Illness and Analysis for Disease Research
4. Maternity Benefits are for everyone who has entered the Earth
5. Promote the upcoming November First enrollment period for 2017

Sincerely,
Kathryn Clare Wegrzyn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Blair Braney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Abomination

Hello,

Please do not allow this horrendous bill to go through your committee with approval. This is a disaster for millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid as well as ACA plans and gov't subsidies. Millions of Americans with pre existing conditions will no longer be able to afford coverage and millions more will be priced out. Americans will absolutely die from this bill passing.

Please do not rubber stamp this bill in this sham hearing and allow millions of Americans to be hurt.

Thank you,

Blair Braney
CA 93023
[REDACTED]

Blair Braney
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amanda Pirot <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Pass Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee and CBO,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the article Graham/Cassidy bill's proposed changes to the ACA. No matter how I look at it this bill will be catastrophic for millions of Americans, including myself. As someone with a pre-existing neurological condition (pre-Obamacare), I used most of my savings due to astronomical healthcare out-of-pocket costs. And due to this pre-existing condition, the only way to get healthcare THEN was to be put in a state exchange (with people dying of aids and cancer) for \$700/month (more than my monthly rent)!

Further, I am a self-employed professional; the Affordable Care Act has been a lifesaver.

As someone who has many self-employed friends depending on the ACA for affordable coverage that allows them the freedom to work for themselves, and as a friend to other people with preexisting conditions for whom the ACA's guaranteed protections, it is a literal lifeline.

Finally, many of my friends are Doctors, Nurses and healthcare professionals at some of the nation's top teaching hospitals and health facilities in the US, serving the most financially and medically fragile among us – they all agree this is a terrible bill.

Everything about it puts American health and American lives at risk, from the loosening of protections for preexisting conditions, to the predicted loss of coverage for 30 million Americans, to the Medicaid cuts and their effect on the health and lives of seniors and the disabled, to the sheer shortsightedness of pushing through a bill that will affect around 18% of the entire US economy without waiting for the CBO score.

This mean-spirited, fiscally irresponsible, poorly-conceived, hastily-written bill is a disaster – worse, it is a disaster for those Americans who are living just one mishap away from total catastrophe.

PLEASE do not pass Graham/Cassidy.

Amanda Pirot
California
94941

Amanda Pirot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Riggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam:

My family and I rely on our health insurance. I have a chronic autoimmune disease and therefore I will always be in need of quality healthcare. I cannot make it without, and as such I am asking you to please oppose this legislation. From my understanding of this bill, I will be much more likely to lose my insurance and be unable to afford coverage in the future.

Please do not pass this bill, and please work with your colleagues from across the aisle to work on a bi-partisan healthcare bill.

Best regards,
Katie Riggs
Pasadena, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Pasternak <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Testimony prior to Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My step-daughters, their families and many of my older friends not yet on Medicare rely on quality, affordable health care.

Therefore, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I think there should be a bipartisan effort in both the Senate and the House to improve the existing Affordable Care Act, not replace it.

Sincerely yours,
Carol Pasternak
Aspen, Colorado 81611

X

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Con Buckley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal ACA!

I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill and beseech you to turn away from this effort that will destroy millions of individuals and their families. I beg you to work toward a bipartisan program that will guarantee affordable healthcare to all Americans — improving, not repealing, the ACA.

I am a friend and relative of a number of people whose lives depend on affordable health care/insurance, and I take very seriously the American value of the importance of community.

Again, as caring and concerned citizen of the United States, I urge you— in the absolutely strongest possible way — to work toward a system of universal health care, managing an equitable, affordable system that provides quality care for ALL citizens.

Sincerely,

Constance R. Buckley
Forest Park, IL 60130

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Frame [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not let this bill come to a vote. I have children, grandchildren and myself all of whom have pre-existing conditions. We would be hurt by this bill. Please let this topic be approached, not in a "last ditch effort," but through a bipartisan discussion and effort to improve the ACA. Listen to people. Hear the concerns and fears. Please repeal this bill.

Anne Frame
Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jessica Garrett Swanson

Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:51 PM

To: gchcomments

Subject: OPPOSE GRAHAM CASSIDY BILL

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I both had unexpected emergency surgery in 2015 that cost more than our mortgage. Without health insurance we would have been totally bankrupt. Those surgeries that saved our lives are now pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jessica Swanson, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Jessica Garrett Swanson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nicole Serra [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'Nicole Serra'
Subject: Health Care

If our representatives think they're fooling us that they really care (insert eyeroll here...) about the health care of their constituents, then they're wrong. I'm so sick and tired of big donors and special interest groups/lobbyists getting in the way of THE PEOPLE, that I'm about ready to give up voicing, over and over, via email, text, phone and website, my objections to the self interests.

You guys do not need to get all your entitlements plus all the \$ you make from donors/lobbyists on our backs. Just do your jobs: When you leave your "jobs", you'll still get your massive retirement packages and your.... YOUR ... healthcare. Forget about the extras from your donors. Neither they nor you need to get richer. Get a conscience. Get some integrity. Get some balls. Or leave.

Nicole Serra

[REDACTED]

Greencastle, PA 17225

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: IMPROVE OBAMACARE, DON'T REPEAL

To Whom It May Concern:

I have several family members and friends who rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. All of them would go bankrupt--or die-- if they did not have affordable, reliable, quality healthcare which Obamacare IS. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort ***to improve the ACA, not repeal it.***

Sincerely,

Malissa M Haslam
Santa Fe, NM

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty Ridenour [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Tax Giveaways to the Already Wealthy & Disenfranchisement for the 98%

Finance Committee,

The newest version of TrumpDeathCare 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.

PLEASE stop the GOP/KKK/American Taliban Fascist Party members from their eager quest to STRIP we, the people, of our health care while they hand OUR tax dollars over to enrich themselves and the already-wealthy. We, the people, are REAL da*n tired of having OUR hard-earned tax dollars handed over to the wealthy, to corporations and to patriarchal politicians whose goal is to enrich themselves while they lie to us about what they are doing.

Patty Ridenour
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Oakwood, Ohio 45419

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My oldest son was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was 10 years old. Type 1 Diabetes is an incurable auto-immune disease (not brought on by diet and lack of exercise) requiring daily insulin for the diabetic to stay alive. Insulin is just one piece of the puzzle Type 1 Diabetics need to manage their disease. Without health insurance and with limits to insurance for those with pre-existing conditions, Type 1 Diabetics like my son will be unable to affordably purchase their medical equipment, supplies and insulin in order to live a healthy life. Our middle class, tax-paying, family has been fortunate to have had affordable health care; however, with our family now relying on COBRA due to a recent lay off, there is much more concern for our son's access to affordable health care going forward.

In addition, last year, I was struck by a serious illness, which meant that had there been a lifetime limit on my insurance, I came close to meeting it within a span of a few weeks. Because of this illness, I have been further diagnosed with what could be construed as a pre-existing condition. That makes two of us in our family with pre-existing conditions. When insurance companies can exclude people like us or make it too expensive to attain health care, what can people do?

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I was not a fan of the ACA being quickly voted upon and shoved down the American people's throats, so to speak, so I am incredibly disappointed an attempted repeal is being done in the same manner! In addition, tacking on a funding ban to Planned Parenthood (PP) is a terrible decision. PP provides low cost health care to women, including mammograms and essential annual exams, as well as birth control. It is disappointing that efforts are not being made to improve the ACA but are made to attack a group helping low cost individuals attain health care.

Please, please, please work together in a bipartisan manner to improve the ACA. Health care affects everyone in the nation; therefore, you represent everyone in the nation at this important moment. By taking your time to make this right for everyone, you will seal your legacy in something great! As it is now, this bill as is will hurt Americans.

Sincerely,

S.W. Adams

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adriane Lonzarich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham -Cassidy bill

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill and to urge a congressional effort to a bipartisan solution to the ACA.
I believe that the concern of a truly civilized country should be the health and well being of all it's people.

Respectfully,

Adriane Lonzarich
[REDACTED]
San Mateo, Ca. 94402

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hkrw [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Honorable Senators:

My wife nearly died three weeks ago from an inflammation of the lining of her brain, and now faces the prospect of a MS diagnosis (tests are still being done). The thought of anything possibly changing the healthcare we now have is beyond comprehension, especially in the form of the proposed hateful legislation. Please do not vote this monstrosity out of committee. Please let all copies of Graham-Cassidy be shredded and made into something more useful like toilet paper.

Very truly yours,
Henry Williams

Maplewood, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Darlene Ruiz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for considering my comments.

The proposed legislation you are reviewing seeks to replace the ACA with block grants to the states, while making a number of substantive changes that will result in the destruction of our health care system for the foreseeable future.

Please know that your effort to punish states that do not support Republican proposals reflects upon you individually and your failure to understand the oath of office. You seek to use public office for petty politics and not in the best interest of neither your constituents nor the people of the country. There are fixes to the ACA that will make it more viable and affordable for all but you now review a piece of legislation that is little more than a shifting of your responsibility to 50 different states who neither have the expertise nor the time and incentives to provide affordable care to their citizens.

Your effort to phase out federal obligation for health care is apparent in its goal of providing future funding for tax reductions to the wealthy. The wealthy are not the majority of your voters. We will not tolerate your politics as usual approach to governance.

We urge your no vote to the legislation under review and welcome all efforts to further support to make viable and affordable the ACA. Stop with your cruel and tortuous efforts to repeal and replace when you know full well you have no idea how to replace and now merely seek to shift the burden to the states by cutting funding and making the burden theirs after 2026. Where do you think the welfare states such as Kentucky and Arkansas are going to come up with the money to care for their citizens? No where, because their public office holders have convinced them they are not deserving of such aid.

Stop! Stop playing like children with matches in the fireworks factory.
Stop the foolishness and do your duty in the name of all that is decent.

Sincerely,

Darlene E. Ruiz
Sacramento, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Siegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Deborah Siegel
Subject: Attn: My Public Testimony Graham-Cassidy Hearing

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I rely on quality affordable healthcare. My husband is a free-lance musician. We pay for health insurance out of pocket with no subsidies. Prior to the ACA we paid out of pocket.

I paid out of pocket as a single person before I was married. I saw my premiums increase by 30% annually with no added benefits to me, but RECORD PROFITS AND CEO BONUSES to health insurance executives.

The ACA provides me with unprecedented security.

Prior to having health insurance I paid out of pocket for an emergency appendectomy.

Before leaving for the hospital I laid on my bathroom floor for several hours writhing in unprecedented pain contemplating allowing whatever was wrong with me to take its natural course, even at risk of my own death, out of fear of the cost for addressing this obvious medical emergency.

I am not alone in this experience. Millions of people are forced to choose between life saving medical attention and catastrophic debt. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE THIS WAY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It appears to strip millions of people of vital healthcare. It appears to be economically catastrophic. I believe in Medicare and Medicaid. I am appalled by this reckless unsound bill.

I am a woman approaching 50 years old. I should not be subjected to the fear of rising premiums with less health benefits simply because of my age and gender. My story is not unique. I want my tax dollars to be spent on quality affordable healthcare for all.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And frankly, I'm tired of having to fight Congress' constant attack on my ability, and millions of fellow Americans' ability to pursue happiness & liberty.

Sincerely,

Deborah Pearl Siegel
Jersey City, New Jersey

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kim H [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do Not Repeal the ACA - my story

Honorable Senators:

Please leave the ACA in place as it is. Do not repeal it or modify it unless you are ready to vote to replace it with single payer healthcare for all Americans.

In my case, I would not be able to afford health insurance without it. I have a Masters Degree, I've done everything that a person is supposed to do to succeed in our country, yet the economic crash of 2008 and the replacement of living wage jobs by technological innovation has left me in middle age with no pension, no health insurance and not much hope for my economic future if our government continues to support policies that favor the very wealthiest Americans at the expense of the lower and middle classes.

In Gainesville, Florida where I've lived for many years, there are many more small business owners than there are large corporations. None of the small business owners that I've worked for provides healthcare for its' employees. Therefore, you have a very large population in Gainesville and Florida in general, of skilled workers who are working 40+ hours per week, yet receive no 401k, and no healthcare. ***I find this lack of concern for human health and welfare unethical.*** I believe that we in United States of America can do better than this. Please help me retain hope for the future of this country.

I could be wrong, but I believe that the healthcare package enjoyed by Congress and the Senate is paid for by federal taxes. If you represent the people of the United States of America - why should you have great healthcare while I have none? Meanwhile, I pay federal taxes on an income that doesn't even afford me a retirement plan or healthcare.

Sincerely,

Kim Heiss

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Karp [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Garbage HealthCare Bill

Graham-Cassidy Garbage HealthCare Bill

Dear elected officials;

We (the people) are the majority in this country. Yet, ourselves, our children, our families are being greatly jeopardized by the actions of a few- our Senate. Our Senate. The very people we elected to serve us are placing us at risk.

Sadly, I have to speak up again and again or my family will suffer. I should not have to. You should respect that you were elected to serve us not the 1%ers but you don't. The Koch brothers have poured 400 million into defeating ACA. Why? Because they want more money for themselves. It is simply greed.

Please know that I see the "inhumanity of taking away healthcare from pregnant women, children, the vulnerable and those with pre-existing conditions". Why don't you?

I am disappointed in Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham. How could they do this?

Thank you for standing strong for the people Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Virginia is so proud of you.

I vote every year. I will organize and resist this Lindsey-Cassidy HealthCare abomination.

Shame on anyone that votes for this. It is a miscarriage of justice.

Special thank you to John McCain and stay strong!

Sincerely,
Marilyn Karp
Haymarket, Va

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham Cassidy

Hello,
I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy health care bill:

It will throw vulnerable Americans off of Medicaid. And it will defund Planned Parenthood.

These programs aren't luxuries. They are life savers for the people who depend on them. Denying health care to poor Americans or those with pre-existing conditions is not the right thing to do.

Graham Cassidy is a failure of a bill. I oppose it.

Thank you.
Suzanne Martin
[REDACTED]
Canton, Texas 75103

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Marchesani <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: what healthcare means to ME

What healthcare means to me is:

*Not to sacrifice my retirement to pay for one illness/accident that may befall me *Not to worry about my myself, loved ones, neighbors or anyone else who must go without care because they can't afford it *Being able to be seen in an ER when needed and not to have to wait behind those people whose only care option is the ER *Planning if and when to have a baby *Identifying and treating illness before it becomes a catastrophe *Having my broken bones set rather than becoming crippled *Treating a contagious disease before it's spread to a wider population *Keeping myself healthy enough to contribute to society *Peace in knowing that I and my fellow citizens have care at least as good as what we pay our members of Congress to receive

Cynthia Marchesani
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Frangicetto [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy bill

I work with individuals with disabilities and their families. Medicaid waivers allow many of the individuals and their families to have the support they need to have a more everyday life in their communities. Without this support, many of the individuals would not be able to remain in their homes with their families. Their caregivers could lose their jobs and put the whole family into poverty. Block granting would force the states to pick up costs that they do not have and to cut services and people from the program.

In addition, I am the mother of three adult children, two of whom have developed chronic illnesses. They both struggle to maintain their jobs. But despite having worked hard to obtain college degrees and still having college debt, their jobs do not provide health insurance benefits. The Affordable Care Act has allowed them to obtain affordable health insurance with subsidies and to obtain the essential healthcare they need which has in turn allowed them to maintain enough health to continue working. Without the Affordable Care Act they would likely not be able to obtain insurance or not be able to afford it. This would result in their health declining and their inability to maintain their jobs.

If you had someone in your family who you loved with a chronic illness who was already struggling, would you vote for a bill that would destroy their chance at a life? I doubt it. Please do not destroy this chance at life by cutting off the availability of real affordable insurance and healthcare. Please work to make the changes to the Affordable Care Act that would stabilize the market and allow the millions who have used the exchanges to continue to receive their necessary healthcare. Please do not sabotage the thing that keeps many Americans alive. Sincerely,

Carol Frangicetto

[REDACTED]

cfrangicett

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:17 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

.....
Health Insurance is not a political weapon. By taking the MEDICAID Expansion money away from the 31 States that took advantage of it, and dividing the money amount 50 States, you are "bringing home the bacon", or is it Healthcare PORK to the poor states that did not.

The biggest losers are, of course, states with large and/or dense populations, CA< NY< MD< MA. BLUE States will lose billions. But poorer, usually Southern States, that have long histories of not treating all citizens of their states equally, that vote RED, will get more federal money.....So much for the independent Southern rebel.

Margaret Clark

19083
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Louisa Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare and our democracy. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Every bill the Republicans propose contains items to enrich the already rich and to further impoverish the poor. It's clear the Republicans have no shame. They value money, especially their own, over people's lives or anything else on the planet. Donald Trump is the living example of this selfish philosophy.

This means that we who care about human life must constantly call the Republicans out every time they try to damage our lives, our welfare, our health care, our freedom, our livelihood, and our democracy.

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.

Louisa Turner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

New York, New York 10075

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Winnie Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill

As an American, a woman, a mother, a grandmother and a human I do not support this farce of a health care bill. It is nothing but a way to take as much away from true hardworking Americans as the Republicans can and hand it over to the rich.

Americans deserve a health care bill that will take care of them when they are sick, provide affordable decent coverage to our children, our elderly and our infirm. Americans deserve a health care bill that will give all of them the security they need for if and when they become ill.

Healthcare that will cover the life saving care that is needed for us and our children regardless of whether we are rich or poor is what our government needs to insure we all have.

I ask that this bill is voted down and no law is passed taking decent health care from any American.

No one in government has the right to deny all Americans the same kind of healthcare that every elected official is given and paid for by the American people.

Winnie Allen
American Citizen

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: saranadig [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 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,

Sara Nadig

Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JoAnn Claps <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy

This bill is a travesty. Despite what its authors are saying, it does not guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions. With the ability of states to get waivers, it doesn't guarantee ANYTHING.

How can anyone in good conscience vote for a bill that hasn't been scored by the CBO and hasn't been discussed in one bi-partisan committee? There isn't any "healthcare" in this bill; you just want the money to provide your donors with a big tax cut. I find it despicable that donors would be the motivation for anything a legislator would do but I guess I'm giving credit where it is not due.

DO NOT pass this bill. If you do, it will be a mark of shame on each of the senators' records forever. Remember, history has its eyes on you.

Sincerely,

JoAnn D. Claps
Randolph, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Abigail Cheskis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of the Affordable Care Act and to express my strong opposition to any future attempts to repeal or weaken this important public health law, including the Graham-Cassidy repeal and replace proposal that contains many of the same negative provisions as the proposals rejected by the Senate earlier this year. The Graham-Cassidy proposal would cut health coverage and raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for millions, eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, slash federal Medicaid spending and end the ACA's Medicaid expansion, allow states to weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions and eliminate Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood for one year.

Continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act is critical to addressing a number of the biggest challenges facing our health system, including uneven quality and deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health insurance providers and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care providers. The ACA is helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and any other effort to repeal or weaken the ACA.

Sincerely,
Abigail Cheskis
New Haven, Connecticut

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry Marquardt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Regards,

I just want to add my voice to the millions of others that would be adversely affected by the Graham Cassidy Health Care bill.

From where I sit, the Affordable Care Act was basically written by insurance lobbyists and there are two possible fixes for the problems it has caused. One is to truly open the insurance markets to real competition by making the companies able to operate nationwide instead of regionally as they are now required to do. Another possibility, and one that I prefer, is to implement a single payer system just as every other developed nation has done.

The latter solution is not palatable to most conservatives, but I think that opening the insurance markets might be something both sides of the aisle could work together to achieve.

Best,
Larry Marquardt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Machar Tromehtas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-cassidy bill
Attachments: IMG_20170923_164119.jpg

Please see that attached image for my message. While I do believe that many are looking to improve healthcare, it takes away from too many and does not benefit US citizens.

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Sessions [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senators,

I and my loved ones rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am especially concerned about the dramatic cuts to Medicaid that would deny coverage to thousands of Iowa children, and elderly and disabled citizens. And about the weakening of the federal protections against denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, lifetime benefit caps, and short-term rate increases, even for those with employer-provided healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jennifer Sessions

Iowa City, IA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Boni [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC Healthcare Bill

I am writing in regards to the GC Healthcare Bill currently under consideration in the U.S. Senate. Please allow this E-mail to serve as my statement in opposition to this Bill.

I am blessed to enjoy relatively good health. Many others are not. They rely on the protections codified by the Affordable Care Act. The GC Healthcare Bill undermines these protections. This is completely unacceptable.

Medicaid expansion helped millions of individuals who previously had no access to affordable healthcare. The Bill currently under consideration slashes the funding for Medicaid. It also disproportionately affects those states that took advantage of Medicaid expansion to help their citizens. Another completely unacceptable proposal.

I could go on and on about why this Bill is so horrible. Women's health, the ability of insurance companies to charge older Americans much higher premiums than the under the current law, etc.

It is unspeakably cruel to go after the most vulnerable among us for political expediency. The Republicans want to deliver on their vendetta against the ACA. They want this win - no matter the cost to fellow Americans. It is wrong. And I won't forget - and I vote.

I also want to tell you that I am more than happy to pay a little more in taxes to help those who are not as fortunate as I am. That is just the moral thing to do, the compassionate thing to do. And after all, someday I may need help too.

The Democrats and the Republicans should work together to improve the ACA so that it does work better for all Americans. We have made progress - now it is time to build on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

M. Boni

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Glaze [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill affect
Attachments: IMG_20170923_163635.jpg

I hope you fully understand the negative impact that the Graham Cassidy bill will have on millions of Americans. Refer to the chart from the Brookings Institute.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: claudiadavisburn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Gentlemen and Ladies,

I am very concerned about what will happen to my healthcare. I am one of those with pre existing conditions, as well as being retired and on a fixed income. I can't afford an increase in healthcare costs.

I know our present system is not perfect and some changes need to be made. I beg you to consider others like me and take the time to carefully and thoughtfully work on a plan that works for all of us.

Respectfully,

Claudia D. Burn

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David & Nidia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't proceed with Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Orrin Hatch and Other Members,

As a concerned citizen, I beg you not to move forward with the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have a number of reasons...the most important one being that the passage of the bill would hurt American citizens. But, since you are the Finance Committee, let me start with some financial questions.

Financial

1. Have enough extra dollars and other safeguards been put in place to stabilize the economy as 1/6th is disrupted?
2. How much would it cost to decommission the ACA? What would it cost my state, NJ? (I assume you are aware that Governor Christie is against this bill.)
3. How would the decommission affect jobs...net gain or loss? How would it affect jobs in NJ?
4. How much would it cost to rebuild healthcare markets and systems in 50 states? How about in NJ?

Process

Most of us law abiding citizens want to lead our lives right and we want our government to govern right. So many of us were deeply touched by Senator McCain's moving speech on the Senate floor...and his more recent re-statement of it.

Most of us want you to follow regular order. We want GOP and Dems to work together. We expect that each senator will have enough time to read the bill and discuss it with his constituents. We want you to give each bill enough time for discussion and for input from all stakeholders. Most importantly, we expect that you would not pass a bill out of committee without knowing the impact it will have on people. Passing the bill without a CBO score would be irresponsible.

People

The key reason I ask that you don't pass this bill is that there are people...millions and millions of people...who would be negatively impacted by the bill. Citizens would not have the "more, better, cheaper" healthcare that President Trump promised them. Citizens with pre-existing conditions may be priced out of having healthcare at all. Why would you want to do this to American citizens?

Honor

From following this bill, I'm left with impression that you are pushing this through only for political reasons. Angry donors? White House pressure? I don't know. Those are reasons being reported on.

Please, put politics aside and act honorably. Our nation is in dire need of having its leaders act with honor, respect...with "reputation"...the good 'ole way. Our new ways are tearing our nation apart.

Thank you.

Nidia Stone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ben Teitelbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I've been a freelancer who's been able to stay healthy because of the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Ben

New York, NY

--

Ben Teitelbaum
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: marlahill68 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To all who read this.

While attending college, after not having been insured for over twenty years, the ACA was helpful in making sure I was insured. I was on Medicaid for two years, even while working part time after graduation. I was able to have a physical and start on anxiety medications. That helped me elevate the stress of having left a good paying job in order to go back to school, earn my degree, and eventually have a career I love.

This is just my story. I personally know friends who will suffer greatly without Medicaid. They will have nothing. They cannot work due to disabilities but contribute what they can. This is only possible if they have insurance.

Please do not take away what little security people have. Elderly and disabled will be hurt the hardest. This tactic to repeal the ACA is heartless and 100% selfish. We know who will benefit.

Be strong and DO THE RIGHT THING.

Marla Hill

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Maxwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

My young friend Kelly relies on quality, and affordable healthcare. Because of this and the many other folks I know who rely on the ACA, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Kelly is a young adult who has been fighting Kidney Cancer for several years. She had to drop out of her Junior year at Washington State University because of treatments. She would not be living now if it were not for the ACA (although it could still use much improvement). Her pre-existing condition is life threatening. If she can beat her cancer she has a long and productive life ahead of her.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Maxwell

Edmonds, WA

--
Rachel Maxwell
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Haspel [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to The dreadful destruction of healthcare in this country

My brother in law has early onset Alzheimer's. Without healthcare, he was escaping his house and wandering the streets. Too many times, he was rescued by the police (thank goodness). Now with the help of Medicaid he is safe.

My daughter in law has two children under the age of three and was diagnosed with stage 3 brain cancer a year ago. Without healthcare, their family, and ours, would be bankrupt and unable to get her the medical help she needs.

Both of them now have pre existing conditions. Without the medical care they are receiving, they would both be dead.

Please, do not destroy their family and ours.

Vote NO to this odious healthcare bill.

Thank you

Diane Haspel

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My disabled daughter relies on Medicaid for her health needs. Taking it away is paramount to murder.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Laudadio [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to add my voice to the chorus of concerned Americans who does not understand why our elected officials want to kill the constituents that have put them in office.

I am a breast cancer survivor. Due to having good health insurance, that my husband's employer paid 100%, I am alive today. I realize that was 30 years ago, but back then companies valued workers. They provided health benefits, paid time off, and pensions, just like the federal government provides to Congress now. People worked hard, and companies rewarded them with decent wages and benefits. That has all changed. Companies have eliminated benefit after benefit claiming it eats into profits, and now the government wants to further decimate the American worker by taking away healthcare.

Not only is this bill a punishment to 4 Blue States who vote primarily Democrat, it is also a death sentence to those who have been born or have developed a disease. I did not choose to have breast cancer, it chose me. I was 33 years old. There was no history of breast cancer in my family; I did not have the known "requirements" to be a high risk person. I went through 52 weekly chemotherapy treatments. I was very sick Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, but I dragged myself out of bed and into work every Monday and worked Monday through Thursday because we could not afford for me to stay home. Like so many Americans, we needed 2 jobs to survive. My husband could not think about changing jobs, we needed the healthcare his employer provided.

I was fortunate, I fought hard, followed doctor's orders, and took my treatments as instructed. Not everyone is so lucky. We have always had insurance, and since we are getting older, it is very important. My husband's employer offers insurance, and we pay a major portion for that insurance, but we have insurance. There are many who are not offered insurance at work and/or cannot afford it.

I think it is the duty of every Congressional Representative and Senator to make sure the health of this nation is protected, and that includes the health of its citizens. I think it is the duty of Congress to make sure every citizen is represented not just the rich or special interests. It is not a partisan issue, it is a national issue. We as a nation cannot be secure if part of our citizens are sick and hungry. When people get desperate they do desperate things, and this could put our National Security at risk.

Do your job and work together as Congress, as Americans, and improve on what is already there to make sure all Americans are healthy and happy so we can move forward as a Nation, and be the beacon we have always been for the world.

Thank you,
Eileen Laudadio
[REDACTED]
Zip Code 92630
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Longworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO! to Graham Cassidy

Strongly opposed to even giving any consideration to passing a bill the contents of which are totally unknown or understood by anyone including the authors or our fearless leader!

Mark Longworth | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kensington MD 20895

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This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Glovers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Heath"care" bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice my opinion of the latest healthcare bill that you are considering. My perspective is that of a medical doctor, a mother of an 11 year-old-daughter who will live with type 1 diabetes for the rest of her life and a empathetic person who believes that healthcare in the richest country in the world should be a right that every American can attain. As elected officials you have been given the privileged position to decide how to best utilize our resources to take care of all of us. This bill is a cruel atrocity and every member of the Senate knows it. Some will vote "yes" for political and egotistic reasons, and frankly those members should be ashamed.

Please follow the example and advice of your colleague John McCain and make this bill fail. Healthcare deserves bipartisan compromise and commitment. Americans deserve that too.

Sincerely,
Lynn Glover, MD
Woodinville, WA

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gene Betit [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastate working families and roll 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 to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. 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, including healthcare for all working families.

Gene Betit

[REDACTED] m

[REDACTED] r

Cross Junction, Virginia 22625

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kajari Shah [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO -public comment Graham Cassidy HC bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill, like previous bills to repeal health care that were already rejected this summer in the Senate, would have a devastating impact on America's families. Specifically, Graham-Cassidy would:

- Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance
- Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.
- Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
- Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.
- Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.

This bill does not support better healthcare for Americans!

Kajari Shah
Charlotte, NC
US citizen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

9/23/17

Dear Committee Members,

I am a physician. I have always had good health insurance. Over more than 40 years of practice, I have seen hundreds of patients who postponed care, didn't buy medicines, didn't take medicines regularly, and suffered for lack of care.

Graham-Cassidy will deny care to millions, eliminate coverage for pre-existing conditions, and will, without a doubt, kill people.

No Senator of conscience should support this legislation.

Please see to it that this bill dies.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Brink, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Clare Nolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

The Graham-Cassidy bill, like previous bills to repeal health care that were already rejected this summer in the Senate, would have a devastating impact on America's families. Specifically, Graham-Cassidy would:

- Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance
- Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.
- Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
- Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.
- Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.

Do not pass this bill.

Clare Nolan
Albany, CA

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Désirée Schuler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy's Healthcare Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I fail to understand the motivation behind this bill that will cause a lot of suffering and pain in the communities that are the most in need. Many of the people affected work hard and deserve better. The only reason I can think of anyone is willing to support this bill is that donors who will stand to profit from people's misery are promising bonuses to those politicians who will sacrifice their humanity, dignity, and integrity. It appears that there are a lot of souls for sale in Washington. Sadly, they appear to be those who claim to be Christians.

I hope that more than three senators will stand up for human decency, dignity, and integrity to vote no when this bill is up for vote. I hope to be pleasantly surprised.

Respectfully,
Désirée Schuler
Warwick, RI 02888

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Morning Star [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep The ACA

I am 59 and just recovering from hip-replacement surgery. It was only possible because I was able to buy insurance when the ACA prohibited insurance companies from shutting people out, which they did for decades due to my cardiomyopathy. Two weeks after hip replacement, I'm gliding up hills, instead of limping.

If I lose my insurance, I will likely go on disability for my heart condition. I don't want to stop working. I don't want to be entirely dependent on Government services. The moderate subsidy I receive makes health insurance affordable. A bill promising access is not enough. Keep, and improve, the ACA!

Jeff Lange

--
Jeff Lange

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Spellman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,
Nancy Spellman
Concord, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cindi conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy health care

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Death To Many Bill! This is not a HEALTH CARE Bill as it will end Healthcare for many! This will cost many American citizens their life! This is tax break for the wealthiest Americans at the costs of the sick and poor! This sham of a bill will force many hardworking Americans to choose between living and sending their kids to college,between living and placing the family in financial ruin!This bill does NOT pass the Kimmel Test as promised by Sen. Cassidy! This Bill would force my daughter who's just turned 26,and been kicked off my insurance, who has a preexisting condition of Transverse Myelitis to not pursue her career in teaching,as she would not be able to afford insurance and to live in poverty to be eligible for medicaid,because w/o her bi-monthly Dr appointments in which she is injected with a medicine, Baclofen,she would not be able to WALK! I watched my daughter who was paralyzed from the waist down fight hard since the age of 14,to gain the ability to walk w/a cane. To see her crying because she just graduated college w/her teaching degree but does not know what she will do for insurance due to her preexisting medical condition is heartbreaking! To see her fight so hard to succeed to be slapped in the face by heartless bill,backed by a Republican congress to make their donors happy and give tax breaks to the rich at the expense of my daughter being able to walk is an egregious error by Republicans,as they were elected to represent THE PEOPLE not rich DONORS! Republicans will be the new villains in history book to come if they continue to put profits before people!

Sincerely,
Cynthia Moore, Concerned Mother, Concerned American

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment

As an RN I have many patients who rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I work with Veterans who rely on Medicaid to pay for their rehab after prolonged hospitalization. The cuts to Medicaid would be devastating for the veterans and their families. My mother-in-law also relies on the healthcare exchanges for her insurance and has a pre-existing condition. Without anti-coagulation medication she could have a stroke. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thanks,

Amy Chesbrough, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Cahill [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

September 23, 2017

Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Wyden:

As a parent of a daughter with a pre-existing condition, I want to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill. This bill would end the Federal protections for persons with pre-existing conditions, would allow states to reintroduce annual and lifetime caps, and allow insurance companies to charge women more for their coverage. In addition, the essential benefits established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would no longer be federally mandated. Prior to ACA, 75 percent of the individual insurance plans did not offer maternity care.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill also ends all cost sharing payments to low income Americans. My daughter works fulltime for a small business and purchases her health insurance through the ACA marketplace. She currently receives a cost sharing payment that comprises about 19% of the total cost of her monthly insurance premium. This is actually a smaller benefit than that she would receive if she worked for an employer who allowed her to pay for her health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. Why are the ACA cost sharing payments considered "bad" or "welfare" but not the tax subsidies being received by other Americans who pay for premiums with pre-tax dollars?

The nonpartisan experts who have reviewed the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill say that it will increase the cost of health insurance to individuals and tens of millions of Americans will lose coverage. This is not the direction our country should be moving in. These healthcare experts include: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, the Commonwealth Fund, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Center for American Progress, AARP, Brookings, Avalere, the American Academy of Actuaries, and the American Enterprise Institute. In addition, at least two major health insurance providers, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Kaiser Permanente, the American Hospital Association and a number of physician associations have released statements opposing the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill.

Finally, I strongly object to how the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill is being rushed through with limited discussion, and little outside input. It is being brought up for a vote before a score is released by the Congressional Budget Office. Healthcare reform is too important for it to be treated in this manner. The decisions the Senate makes on healthcare will not only affect who receives coverage but will also affect who lives or dies.

My daughter currently can hold down a fulltime position and is self-supporting because her illness is kept in remission by the care she receives. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill would make her care unaffordable resulting in a relapse of her illness and quite possibly a long painful death. Please don't tell me that the state high risk care pools for persons with pre-existing conditions would take care of her. The U.S. has tried that model and it failed miserably

because these pools were grossly underfunded. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill reduces funding dramatically to most of the states; this does not bode well for high risk pools.

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Healthcare Bill.

Sincerely,
Anne Cahill


Fairfax, VA 22032

cc: Senator John Warner
Senator Tim Kaine



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: George M Homewood FAICP [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

One of the things that makes our American economic system work is labor mobility. For mobility to function most efficiently, key benefits should be as portable as possible (eg: 401k plans). Having what could be dramatically different health care systems in different states retards portability and thus labor mobility which means likely a far less efficient labor market in the US. If it's all about jobs, this proposal should be a non-starter for that reason alone.

George M Homewood [REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Zunkel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Brent Stephens; Gretchen Zunkel; Paul & Sandy Staley
Subject: G-C Comments

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Once again, I write to express my disapproval of yet another partisan attempt to repeal the ACA. I am opposed to G-C on both process and substance grounds.

First, on process, this is not how laws should be made. There is no CBO score and there has been no attempt to even figure out how this bill will affect Americans. That is absolutely shameful! All so that Republicans can say they repealed and replaced Obamacare? How cynical.

Second, while I think there's something to be said for states having additional flexibility to experiment with programs that will lower costs, how in the world are they supposed to do that with so much less money? As Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval said, flexibility with less money is a false choice. I haven't heard one person agree for this bill on the substance and the merits. How does it help people? It clearly doesn't, and everyone in the healthcare industry agrees.

The best way forward is to work in a bipartisan way on lasting solutions to fix the ACA. Please do that, and do it soon.

Best,
Erica Zunkel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Wible <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON GRAHAM - CASSIDY

Dear Senators,

As a Pennsylvania voter, retired smallbusinessman, and a registered Republican until quite recently, I am horrified by the push from Republican leadership to move forward to a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill without even a full CBO score to evaluate the coverage loss or premium hikes that it would cause. You are playing politics with real people's lives. Graham-Cassidy would allow waivers so that states could let insurers hike rates on people with pre-existing conditions: or even raise rates for existing policy-holders who fall ill. What good is "insurance" if once you need it, you can no longer afford it?

Meanwhile, shifting to block grant Medicaid would leave states like Pennsylvania, with our aging population, especially vulnerable when needs expand during economic downturns. And it would leave us helpless to respond to expanding public health crises like the opioid epidemic. As a result of the ACA-supported Medicaid expansion, about 700,000 Pennsylvania residents have gained medical coverage, including drug addiction treatment. About 63,000 of them were treated for substance abuse in 2015.

Graham-Cassidy starts by shrinking these funds, and then cuts them off entirely. What does that say to our communities in southwest PA, where folks are struggling with the loss of loved ones, or trying desperately to get treatment for those addicted? "Your lives just don't matter"?

Stop the cynical games. Support the renewal of transparent, bipartisan hearings led by Senators Alexander and Murray through regular order to stabilize the ACA.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Wible
[REDACTED]

Pittsburgh PA 15206

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Lacy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassity bill

Our country is being lead by an greedy mad man. Who everyone knows did not win the popular vote and more than likely, not even legally. So for the GOP to just try and give this man a win, is not only unAmerican, self-serving, and a farce. I think the swamp has forgotten that they work for the American people or maybe they just don't believe that at all. Either way, this is not the way. If you want to "fix" or "enhance" ACA, then do that.

I think it's easy, give Americans the same insurance that our civil servants have! I mean yours! There's no way politicians should have better anything then the common American.

Angela Lacy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Audrey Kriva [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that as a recent college graduate, I needed affordable healthcare and have found it through the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Audrey Kriva

Richmond, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Seltzer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassid.

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.

Mary Ann Seltzer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]t
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Raj Chaklashiya [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Hello,

Healthcare is not only a right, it is a necessity, a means for me and my family to guarantee that we can go about our lives knowing full well that in the inevitable case of an accident or illness, we are guaranteed quality, affordable healthcare. Due to my belief, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without affordable healthcare provided by the government through the ACA, the story of how I overcame a huge cyst that formed on my upper eyelid would have taken a turn for the worse. The only reason why I can see today is because of the ACA, and I know that millions of other Americans have stories of their own health problems that took turns for the better under this program. But there is much room for improvement. However, bipartisanship in Congress is what we need, not extreme political positions that take away healthcare from Americans like me. I would like to see improvements made by both the Democratic and Republican Party on the ACA, not a repeal. Please heed the words of one of your fellow Americans. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raj Chaklashiya

Mira Loma, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Ann Seltzer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassid.

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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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.

Mary Ann Seltzer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Overland Park, Kansas [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Bedard Holland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: 'Tanya Dorf Brunner'
Subject: No - Graham Cassidy public comment
Attachments: Graham Cassidy.docx

The Honorable Orin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

The American Network of Oral Health Coalitions is an alliance of 41 state oral health coalitions, dedicated to ensuring that families have access to comprehensive, affordable oral health coverage and care, we are very concerned about the impact the Graham Cassidy Legislation will have on the health and well-being of Americans and the economies of the state's where our organizations are based and **we urge you to cease consideration of this proposal, or to vote no if it come to the floor.**

Of note, if Graham Cassidy becomes law it will have devastating ramifications:

- Allow states to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions and to end the requirements that insurers cover a set of essential health benefits like oral health services, prescription drugs, maternity care, and mental health care.
- Cause more than 30 million people to lose their health insurance
- Make devastating cuts to the expanded Medicaid program. Under Graham-Cassidy, the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion would end altogether by 2027, throwing millions of people off their coverage.
- Cap funding for the traditional Medicaid program, which provides vital medical and dental care to seniors, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
- Cut funding for the financial assistance that helps people purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces.

Sincerely,

American Network of Oral Health Coalitions Membership:

Alabama Oral Health Coalition
Alaska Dental Action Coalition
Arizona Oral Health Coalition
Arkansas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Oral Health Action California
Oral Health Colorado
Connecticut Coalition for Oral Health
Oral Health Florida
Georgia Oral Health Coalition
Hawaiian Islands Oral Health Task Force
Idaho Oral Health Alliance
IFLOSS - Illinois
Oral Health Kansas, Inc.
Kentucky Oral Health Coalition
Louisiana Oral Health Coalition
Maine Oral Health Coalition
Maryland Dental Action Coalition
Better Oral Health for Massachusetts
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
Mississippi Oral Health Community Alliance
Missouri Coalition for Oral Health, Inc.
Oral Health Nevada, Inc.
New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition
New York State Oral Health Coalition
North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative
North Dakota Oral Health Coalition
Children's Oral Health Action Team - Ohio
Children's Oral Health Coalition – Oklahoma
Oregon Oral Health Coalition
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health
Rhode Island Oral Health Commission
South Dakota Oral Health Coalition
Middle Tennessee Oral Health Coalition
Utah Oral Health Coalition
Vermont Oral Health Coalition
Virginia Oral Health Coalition
Washington State Oral Health Coalition
West Virginia
West Virginia Oral Health Coalition
Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Duncan Howatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: new health care proposal

Please do not pass the new health care proposal. With pre-existing conditions, it would make health insurance unaffordable for my wife and me.

Thank you,
Duncan Howatt

[REDACTED]
Gresham OR [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Lewers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

On every level, from personal to public health, Graham-Cassidy is a mistake. Witness the universal opposition of physicians' groups, such as the AMA, AAP; of patients groups such as the AARP; of insurers; of the directors of Medicaid for the states; and on and on.

No bill that affects 1/6 of our economy should be considered without a CBO score. No bill that impacts lives the way health care does should be considered outside of regular order.

Strangling Medicaid will deprive people like my daughter's birth mother of health care. She decided to carry to term and place her baby for adoption, but lost her job mid-pregnancy. The only reason she had health care during her pregnancy and delivery was Medicaid. And I have a wonderful healthy daughter now.

There are thousands of stories, each more poignant than the last, about how Medicaid or the ACA has saved lives but the GOP led Senate has so far shown that it doesn't care. It is past time to turn that around, hold town halls, allow debate, and negotiate a bipartisan improvement to our health care system.

Catherine Lewers
[REDACTED]

Boise, ID 83716

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Naomi Penner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I've just enrolled in healthcare. Next month, I turn 26, and am therefore off my parent's insurance and on my own. I live at home and work multiple part-time jobs without benefits, despite having a Bachelor's degree. There's no way I could survive financially on my own, let alone afford healthcare. Yet, thanks to the Affordable Care Act and what is offered under Medicaid, I am able to actually afford healthcare. While I am luckily healthy, knowing that I have health insurance just in case something were to happen lifts a huge weight off my shoulders. I am so grateful.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I oppose it even more in a state with a Governor that is against the ACA and has no problem taking healthcare away from millions of Kentuckians. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Naomi Penner
Louisville, KY 40207

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: improved healthcare please!

RE: Cassidy-Graham bill

It's obvious to Americans that the ACA/Obamacare is expensive and a long ways from perfect, but the repeated attempts to kill the ACA **without a workable replacement** is making the majority of people that we know---of ALL political beliefs---frustrated and disgusted that Congress is playing political games instead of pursuing thoughtful, bipartisan solutions to actually make American healthcare affordable and accessible.

Stop trying to push through hastily drawn bills in lieu of actually working together and making progress on behalf of the American people! If Congress is fearful about the seeming groundswell of support for healthcare reform that looks like European healthcare systems, then Congress needs to get serious about working together, reigning in the insurance industry, and ensuring that our citizens have the reasonably priced but effective coverage that they deserve, including no discrimination based on prior illnesses and no lifetime limits that sentence people to death if they are unlucky enough to contract a disease requiring expensive longterm care (and no big loopholes to try and make it look like these things are protected when the reality is that there are left to the whim of politicians in each state, meaning that most of the time, they will not be protected).

It's clear that the Cassidy-Graham bill is being rushed through the Senate without adequate information about it's likely effect on citizens like us and our family. (We have been forced into buying coverage in a public healthcare exchange because, despite being hardworking, high income earners, we are self-employed and don't have the advantage of working with a group to buy our insurance. Our insurance company, Lifewise of WA/Premera, refused to sell us insurance directly this year, insisting that we had to obtain insurance through the Washington State Health Exchange.) The Cassidy-Graham bill does not appear to do anything to improve our access to reliable and comprehensive healthcare coverage at a reasonable price, nor does it appear to do much, especially in the long-term, for more vulnerable segments of society who also deserve to have reliable and comprehensive healthcare coverage.

The Cassidy-Graham bill does not have the support of citizens. In fact, for nearly every person we know, which represents a wide range of political beliefs, this bill is viewed only as more ineffective political wrangling in DC, a way of governing that Americans are absolutely sick of watching, especially as it affects our lives in very personal and negative ways.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jenny seitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't let this bill pass

Please thoroughly examine this bill and let the CBO do it's job. It is obvious that this bill will hurt millions of Americans. I have a good friend who had a grandson born 18 months ago with heart defects. He had his first surgery at 9 months old, and possibly may need more. This child has probably already reached his lifetime limit for expenditures on healthcare and he has not yet reached his second birthday!

Additionally, it has been reported that Sen. Murkowski has been offered a deal to allow Alaska to keep most of the ACA in exchange for her vote! This is unconscionable, and I don't see how it could be legal. The governor of Alaska is against the bill, along with all 50 Medicaid directors. Every major medical group has come out against it. I don't know how Graham-Cassidy can imagine that they are able to defend their bill when teems of professional medical providers are against it.

I can only have faith that this committee will stand up for the American people and defend their access to affordable health care.

Sincerely,
Jenny Seitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J Wurzbach [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Here is our family's healthcare story:

In 2001 our son was born with a bilateral cleft lip and a cleft palate. As new parents, we were forced to alter our expectations. Instead of taking our son home, he was kept in the neonatal intensive care unit for several days until the staff was certain we could feed him: we had a lot to learn about feeding a newborn who couldn't suckle. We also learned that we were facing over two decades of surgeries and orthodontics. First the doctors unified his upper lip, then over the years they sealed the roof of his mouth, grafted bones chips from his hip into his upper jaw, and created an artificial pharyngeal flap. Our son went through two rounds of braces; he is now out of braces and wearing a retainer. Most recently the doctors broke his upper jaw to correct an underbite and align his jaw to the center of his face. He still needs rhinoplasty to extend his nose and a number of other corrections, surgeries he'll be dealing with until he is 25.

At the time, our Kaiser-Permanente medical insurance came from my employer. When our son was born, the plastic surgeon on-call happened to be one of the best cleft lip and palate specialists in the state, perhaps the nation. Ensuring the continuity of care this particular doctor could provide became a top priority for our family. But because our insurance came from work, our mobility was restricted: since he was a Kaiser doctor, access to him was only affordable with Kaiser coverage. So we could only consider new jobs that carried Kaiser. We had to forgo employment opportunities we would otherwise accept were it not for the need to maintain our current coverage.

When my husband found a lucrative, potential employer who didn't offer the insurance we needed, we looked into purchasing individual coverage for our son. Our hope was that we could pay for our son's coverage out of pocket, while the rest of our family (by now our firstborn had a younger brother) could stay on my husband's employer's plan. But given that he had a pre-existing condition, the request for individual coverage was rejected. My husband passed on the job.

The ACA changed all that.

With the ACA in place, Kaiser was now available through Colorado's health exchange. We were no longer limited in our selection of jobs and were able to pursue opportunities regardless of whether they offered a particular health plan. Now half our family is covered through one employer, and the other half through insurance we buy on the open market. Only through the ACA could we afford the longitudinal care our son needs, and will continue to need for the next 10 years.

Our family needs the ACA. It preserves our access to the medical care we need at an affordable price, enabling our economic mobility.

Sincerely,
Jued Wurzbach

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kit Goldfarb [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fix the Affordable Care Act, don't repeal it

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing you to express my support for fixing the Affordable Care Act rather than repealing it.

I am a middle-aged woman (not yet eligible for Medicare) who lives in a rural area and have a pre-existing condition. At this point, I am not sure what my health insurance will cost next year. I am already paying more than \$800 per month with a \$4,000 deductible. Predictions are that it will go up more than 40% next year.

In addition to that burden, if there is a lifetime cap put on health care payouts, I would likely face very difficult decisions. Do I get procedures that could save my life, or do I hope for the best.

I worked hard all my life, earned a reasonable salary, saved money, have never been without health care, and have never not paid my taxes. I never imagined that I would face the prospect of not being able to afford health care.

And I know that my situation is better than many people. I do not know how government leaders in the wealthiest country in the history of the world can even consider depriving its citizens of something so fundamental.

I hope that you will all do the right thing and work to improve our health care system, not destroy it.

Sincerely,
Kathryn K. Goldfarb
Washington, VA 22747

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hope Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

As an RN who has worked in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit for 35 years I have seen first hand the terrible consequences for families when pre-existing diseases are not covered by insurance. PLEASE stop this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Wieneri <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/ Cassidy Healthcare proposal

Voting for this terrible bill just to receive funds from constituents is wrong, wrong, wrong. Didn't your mother teach you anything. Voting for this proposal is a sham. Anyone who votes for this bill should not be in the Senate. Citizens require lawmakers to care enough for people so as to put them first and donors, who are really bribing the Senate, last. Be a caring citizen and support all NO votes

From: Charles Wieneri

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Menzel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why are you trying to leave millions uninsured?

Dear Senators:

This bill is awful, it punishes people with pre-existing conditions and will leave millions uninsured. My mother got breast cancer after she lost her job and this bill could affect her livelihood. We all know why the GOP is trying to ram in this healthcare bill without a CBO score: they want to appease their wealthy donors and get tax cuts for the rich. How about we do a bi-partisan approach that doesn't leave millions uninsured?

Thanks

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patrick Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GOP Healthcare Plan

How about we DON'T rush the Republican "Repeal and Replace" tax break for Corporations and the 1% through the Senate without the appropriate deliberative process and CBO score just because Republicans made a promise to gut the ACA that is going to throw 10's of millions off Healthcare and unnecessarily kill 10's of thousands of Americans!?! What kind of country are we?!?

Patrick Knight

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: June BlueSpruce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Letter to Senate Finance Committee about Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
Attachments: Letter to Senate Finance Comm.docx

Dear Senators:

Please see attached letter for my comments on this proposal. These are intended to provide information for your hearing on the proposal on Monday, Sept. 25 at 2 pm.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely yours,

June BlueSpruce
Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mel Vassey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 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 am a 48-year-old health professional. Twenty years ago, just a week after my 28th birthday, I was in a head-on collision with a driver who fell asleep at the wheel and crossed the center line. I had little time to react and no way of avoiding impact. I was extremely fortunate to have survived, but I have lived with constant pain ever since.

Under Graham-Cassidy, there is nothing to protect me from having that history labeled a preexisting condition, and nothing to keep my premiums from being raised out of reach. My husband is a small business owner and relies on my employer-provided insurance coverage. With preexisting conditions of his own, this bill will be equally devastating.

The simple reality is that everyone, at some point in their life, develop a medical condition that an insurance company could, under Graham-Cassidy, deem worthy of an unaffordable premium. Nobody, regardless of their station, should have healthcare put out of their reach this way. As we have seen with previous House efforts, you as legislators will simply exempt yourselves from the law. It is morally unconscionable to submit the American people to any law that members of Congress feel is too onerous for them.

—
"Hatred does not end by hatred; hatred ends by love. This is the eternal law." - Buddha

Emuel Vassey, DVM, MPH
Kittery Point, ME
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Sefton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam,

Return to regular order and put together a health care bill that doesn't terrify millions of Americans. Stop pandering to big donors and special interests and listen to your constituents. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully
Debbie Sefton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Spence [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to express my horror at the possibility of the Graham-Cassidy bill passing into law. Of all the iterations of Trumpcare surfacing so far, this one appears to be the most cruel, with the potential to inflict mortal damage on many millions more Americans. I simply cannot fathom how our elected officials are even entertaining it as an option, when this is the reality:

- Every major patients' advocacy group, medical associations, and the insurance industry is vehemently against this bill
- There is no CBO score so no indicators of just how destructive this will be to the economy down the road
- The vast majority of American citizens are against it
- Any tax reductions resulting from this act of savagery will benefit the wealthiest, while the rest of us will see skyrocketing premiums and no tax cut to offset the premium increases.
- MOCs will be exempt from this bill so they will not have to experience the financial disaster this bill will impart to so many families.

As a late middle age woman with a pre-existing condition, I've begged and pleaded with my TX MOCs to work across the aisle to fix ACA. Sadly, they continue to ignore their constituents and fellow Americans. I'm hoping sanity at some point will prevail, which is why I'm sending this email. Please do the sane, right, moral thing – scrap G-C and go back to the table for a bi-partisan fix to ACA.

Thank you for your attention.

Jane Spence
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeff Kronick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Is Crucial For All Americans: Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The latest and now most disgusting version of Trumpcare would dump 32 million people from the insurance rolls.

It will devastate millions of working families.

It will undermine most if not all the progress America has made in protecting so many of our citizens.

And now we've learned that hidden in this Graham-Cassidy bill is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry -- an industry that currently holds around \$230 billion in profits offshore, and hasn't paid a nickel in U.S. taxes on them.

The Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees and received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration back in 2009.

The single hearing on Graham-Cassidy being held this week is a travesty and an outrage considering the staggeringly horrible impacts on the public well-being this sick bill represents.

The Senate Finance Committee, and then the entire Senate needs to reject Graham-Cassidy. Protecting the healthcare of the millions of Americans this bill puts at risk is a moral and economic imperative.

And it's also a moral and economic imperative for highly profitable American corporations to pay their fair share in taxes. When they do, our country will be able to properly invest in America's future, including healthcare for working families.

Jeff Kronick
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: protect the ACA - VOTE NO against the Graham-Cassidy madness

Dear Senators,

Your actions are destructive, reckless and immoral. Repealing affordable healthcare for millions of Americans and putting those of us with pre-existing conditions at risk of being priced out of potentially life-giving care is not only irresponsible but devoid of any human capacity for compassion and concern for your fellow citizens. You are driven by your donors — a small number of wealthy individuals for whom none of these issues matter. But to the rest of us, it matters. Believe me.

Have the spine to acknowledge that you not only do not have a comprehensive and intelligent bi-partisan bill on the table, but what you will end up doing is crushing the people you claim to serve.

to quote those who do know something about healthcare:

for the record, from the NYT:

Defenders of the new Trumpcare — the Graham-Cassidy bill — are telling Jimmy Kimmel to be quiet and leave the health policy debate to the experts. So I wanted to give you a quick rundown this morning of what the experts are saying about the bill:

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.

Take that, Jimmy Kimmel. You’re nothing but a late-night talk show host trying to prevent your fellow citizens from losing access to decent medical care.

In today’s Times, Paul Krugman brings back the three-legged stool to explain Graham-Cassidy.

I don’t honestly know how you all sleep at night.

Respectfully,

Louise Wales

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlotte Innes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do NOT pass the Cassidy-Graham Healthcare Bill!

I think passing the Cassidy-Graham 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

Home: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Means [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family needs quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am disabled and retired and my husband is elderly and retired. We have planned and prepared the best we know how for our older age and assumed that we would have affordable healthcare. We are also helping pay for a niece to go to college. It is important to the whole family that the younger members of the family have good healthcare insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Martha Means

Seattle, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Star Geezer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My pre-existing heart condition and the cost of health care insurance may prevent me from continuing to obtain affordable health insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Wayne Thomas

Florence, Arizona 85132

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elliott Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I make \$30K gross. My mother's in a nursing home.

Finance Committee,

My mother would be kicked out of her nursing home were it not for Medicaid's funding.

My pay after deductions is under \$24K. I can't chip in.

You must not allow this to happen to countless mothers.

Sincerely,

Elliott Robertson
[REDACTED]
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A.J. Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare and reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask you to reject the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. This newest attempt to end the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) would take healthcare away from 32 million people, thereby devastating working families and rolling back the progress we have made in protecting so many Americans. Also hidden in this bill 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. Graham-Cassidy will have only one hearing, scheduled for this week; having only one hearing on this bill is irresponsible and unacceptable given the life and death matters at stake.

I ask the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans.

A.J. Brown

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Alabama 36609

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Honorable Senators,

I and other members of my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Although I work for some wonderful healthcare institutions, such as Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Health, I am hired as a contractor so these employers do not provide me with healthcare benefits. On a modest salary, as an independent contractor, I need to provide my own health insurance, in addition to other benefits that are provided to salaried employees that I do not receive. As an individual, this is costly and I am highly vulnerable to exclusions that would not protect me if it were not for the ACA enabling me the health coverage that I need. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Julie Forbes
Menlo Park, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Hello. I am a pediatrician who works only in the intensive care unit, which means that I take care of the sickest kids in the city. The Graham-Cassidy bill would devastate a lot of these families. Independent analyses (since you couldn't wait for the CBO score, that's what I have to go on), show that there would be a 31% decrease in funds for healthcare for kids. This is unacceptable!

Additionally, kids make up 40-50% of people on Medicaid/CHIP, so any cuts to Medicaid, as with this bill, would greatly affect them.

But it's not just kids. 32,000,000 Americans would lose healthcare coverage, and premiums would rise for most of the rest of us. Per the insurance industry, this bill would likely throw the insurance market into a death spiral. It cannot be allowed to happen.

Along with the 66,000 pediatricians in the American Academy of Pediatrics, I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for listening.

Dr. Deanna Behrens
Chicago, IL 60613

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: T. Zachary Frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is a Terrible Bill

To the honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Everyone who knows what is in this bill seems to not like it. Analysis shows this to be the most cruel, and callous of the repeals efforts launched since the start of the year. Why is it still a thing? The other efforts all went down in flames because the bills were bad. This bill is bad too.

I have a pre-existing condition, this bill will effectively strip away my ability to get medical care. So you know, such things matter greatly to me.

Thanks,
T. Z. Frazier, MLIS
South Carolina Voter

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Constance McConnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Health Care Bill---AGAINST

I strongly urge all senators of good conscience to vote NO on this rushed bill. The budget office should be able to evaluate it before anyone even considers a vote. It creates too much variability from state to state for an organized system and almost all major medical associations are against it. That speaks volumes in itself. This is too complicated and too important to our health and well being to be rushed through without hearings and amendments and all the traditional routes a bill takes to be made into law. The ACA took 18 months! We don't want advances made by the ACA (like preexisting conditions) taken away either.

VOTE NO.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chelsea Dommert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:33 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.

Chelsea Dommert
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not pass Cassidy-Graham

Do not pass Cassidy-Graham!

Sent from my iPhone
Ruth Weiner

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nina menkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee:

I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
I am over 50 and your bill would wreck havoc in my life.
DO NOT SUPPORT THIS CRUEL BILL!

Nina Menkes

[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA 90291
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Iris Greenberg-Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Republican health care bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill! What we need is a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Repair and renew, not repeal and replace!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mark Bartleman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Healthcare -- Reject Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

It appears the latest 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 US 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.

Mark Bartleman

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Laguna Beach, California 92651-3816

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lauren Busser. [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello Senate,

There is so much about this last-minute push to repeal that sickens me! After "skinny repeal" failed I was hoping that a bipartisan commission would come through with a **plan** and that the **senate** would give them time to formulate a plan that would allow **MORE** people to be covered, not fewer, and I urge Congress not to pass it!

First, it is absolutely reckless to vote on this bill without a CBO score that contains a thorough analysis of insurance loss and cost. I find this bill to be tantamount to buying a car and not knowing what the monthly payment is. It just doesn't make sense.

I am also concerned about the language that allows insurance companies to remove the protection for pre-existing conditions. I am a 27-year-old woman who knows how precarious health can be. At five, I was diagnosed with leukemia, and although I have been in remission for over twenty years, the fact that someone can deny me coverage because of that history when I didn't even understand that insurance was an institution, could hinder me from being covered.

Another section of this bill that I find hypocritical is the continuing crusade on women's health. As a young woman, I like to think that maybe someday I will have a family, and I would like for the child to be brought into the world healthy. The fact that the Graham-Cassidy bill would decide to allow states to decide whether or not maternity care is an essential health benefit, is insulting to me because how can a party claim to be pro-life and not want to see a child brought into the world absolutely healthy.

Please, do not support this bill. We can do better! Please return to regular order, and let a bipartisan commission work out a solution.

Sincerely,

Lauren Busser

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daniel Claussen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill

I am a retiree from the federal government. I consider myself fortunate that the combination of Medicare, the continuation of my FEHB election, and the inclusion of further coverage from the ACA (although I don't use the marketplace, per se), essentially provides what universal healthcare/single payer would provide for everyone....almost all of my healthcare is covered...at a reasonable cost. It is my opinion that this latest configuration of 'repeal and replace' is a grandstand effort that, at the very least, has nothing to do with 'replace', but, instead 'repeal' with 50 votes and no promises about what follows.

In my work career, as open season rolled around, I often thought how the combined negotiating power of the federal workforce had come very close to providing the kind of healthcare that the rest of the country could use as well. It has been suggested that the healthcare that senators and congressman have would work for the rest of the country.

After enrolling for Medicare, it was a pleasant surprise to see that my secondary federal insurance essentially would pick up the bill for things like copays, the deductibles, and drug costs. I still spend a great deal of time every year reviewing both Medicare and my secondary insurance in open seasons. Truthfully, I am dreading open seasons this year, because of the disruption and potential confusion that the repeated 'repeal and replace' efforts have caused.

I have had current federal insurance carrier (NALC or National Association of Letter Carriers) for years. Just yesterday, they released an article on their website telling their members that they are 'encouraged to tell their senators to oppose' the Cassidy-Graham Bill. They list 4 reasons why:

- " 1.The bill would take insurance away from millions of Americans, making premiums rise nationwide to recoup the cost of providing uncompensated health care (FEHBP, too).
- 2.The bill would waive insurance regulations, allowing health exchanges to collapse, weakening protections for those with pre-existing conditions and exposing FEHBP to similar disastrous consequences in the near future.
- 3.Corporations and the wealthy would get tax breaks through federal funds meant to pay for the ACA.
- 4.The "employer mandate," requiring USPS to provide health care for city carrier assistants (CCAs) and others, would be repealed. Although CCA coverage would still be guaranteed by our National Agreement with the Postal Service, without the mandate, USPS might try to drop CCA coverage in future rounds of bargaining."

I, personally, want a federally regulated universal/single payer healthcare that is delineated as a human right. I am in opposition to healthcare developed and run by special interest; whether that is insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, or states aligned with the current political ideologies. Study of costs indicate that a well run universal healthcare does and would actually cost less than the current insurance market models.

The ACA is ponderous and, as we all know by now, over 2000 pages in volume. **However, there is a reason the ACA is 2000+ pages. Our current health insurance system is complex and in need of an objective review.** To drop the ACA at this point and replace it with an mere outline of horrendous ideas is foolish, unethical, costly; and, obviously, a political ploy on the part of the senators sponsoring it. I sincerely hope that reasonable minds will prevail. Please look at all the costs associated with this, including wasted time and effort, and ultimately the human costs.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doug Brockway [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

What's the MATTER with you people?

Enabling and driving the denial of pre-existing conditions coverage, the bald refusal to support almost anything poor people and mothers need, the blatant attempt to bribe Sen. Murkowski...

What IS the MATTER with you people!

Doug Brockway
Westerly, RI

Sent from my iPhone [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please

Vote to NOT repeal Obamacare. It will destroy our nation!!

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: CONNIE EVANS [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C bill

Due to a pre-existing condition, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am retired and rely heavily on quality, affordable healthcare. I have always taken excellent care of my health, however, cancer affects everyone, no matter how well you work on good health.

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

Sincerely,

Connie Evans

Weare, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Kelley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I strongly object to the Graham-Cassidy bill, not only because it will hurt states like West Virginia, where many of its citizens depend upon Medicaid and Medicare to survive, but also because the bill itself is an immoral, shameful act of aggression against the citizens of the United States of America.

Watching Republicans to work so hard to punish their fellow Americans is a disgusting experience. They condone treason, they condone denial of facts, they condone financial irresponsibility, and they condone the psychological and physical torture of their fellow Americans who now live moment to moment, wondering if Republican success will result in personal bankruptcy.

This bill is a slap in the face of every American citizen. It should not be brought to a vote. If it is brought to a vote, the voice of the people and of medical professionals should outweigh political considerations. Not one medical professional group supports this bill. When the experts universally condemn a bill, the House and Senate should listen.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Kelley
[REDACTED]
Fairmont, WV 26554

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kay Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:27.PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham Bill Sucks!!!!

This bill will hurt millions of Americans by taking away their health care.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carrie Lester <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:32 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. Carrie Lester
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Madison, WI 53704
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shufro, Cathy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve the ACA, don't eliminate it

We need health insurance for everyone. Strengthen the ACA , don't repeal it and hand over money to states who have NO PLAN for how to use it, no matter how well-intentioned they might be. A huge change r4quires planning. By perpetuating uncertainty, you make it difficult for Americans to run small businesses or to start new ones. Don't Republicans value small businesses? Actions speak louder than words.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeannie Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly oppose Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. When I was a very healthy 20-something-year-old woman I was turned down for group health insurance because of a puny pre-existing condition no doctor has ever thought would cause real problems for me. I was working full time but with no benefits. I was very lucky I was never in an accident or had any serious illness causing me great financial trouble as well as lasting physical problems. I am also very lucky to have received insurance later through an employer and now my husband's insurance through his (now former) employer.

My husband decided last year to go into business for himself. The ACA is part of what made this decision possible for him. Now we are worried about what will happen when we have to purchase our own insurance on the open market next year. At this point both I and my husband have pre-existing conditions. I have two children, both of whom would likely be considered to have pre-existing conditions. I have hope they can get the coverage they deserve in the future without the worry they could go bankrupt if a health issue arises, or ever have to choose between paying for medical care and other necessities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Ward
Charlotte, NC

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sally Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with a pre-existing condition, is that I am pre diabetic.

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

*Sally Cooper
Emerald Hills, CA*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J HB [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: STOP the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Every American supports practical improvements to our healthcare system, but the Graham-Cassidy Bill is not by any measure an improvement. It only retracts an imperfect system (The Affordable Care Act) to return one previous upon which the ACA certainly improved. The Graham-Cassidy Bill only serves to return to an era when healthcare corporations reaped endless profit and gave little in return. No actual Americans want this; no Medicaid directors want this; no doctors organizations want this; no one wants this except for the Republican-led Congress and the corporations that lobby them endlessly.

It seems rather clear that the bill is meant to profit the few over many more than 360 million Americans. The only people who can actuate any of these changes is Congress. That means Congress is solely responsible for this terrible act, besides the obvious fact that they proposed it. People cannot afford these cost increases and reductions in healthcare. Some have projected \$50k more after a heart attack under the GCB. That is too much for the average American to afford and it's only the cost ABOVE the current. If one can scrounge the money, they will suffer still afterwards of poverty. Many will die because they cannot afford healthcare for themselves or family.

America will hold accountable every single official that supports the Graham-Cassidy Bill or any legislation that results in the death and poverty of citizens by way of willful negligence.

Do NOT allow Graham-Cassidy to pass. We do not want to pay MORE for LESS healthcare.

Jacob Hopkins

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hao [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy would be devastating to Americans

To Whom It May Concern -

While I have been extremely fortunate to have healthcare via my employer, MANY of my friends do not. One of my closest friends has recently been diagnosed w/ MS. While the diagnosis is terrible and stressful enough, it is even more stressful that he may lose his health coverage if Graham-Cassidy passes. He is currently has coverage through the ACA.

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

Thank you,
Hao Le
San Jose, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Kerschen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

To whom it may concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Nothing I have heard really helps the American people. I am self-employed and my income varies greatly. In America, it is VERY challenging to be self-employed. The current state of the ACA is literally saving me at the moment from really high cost of insurance and potentially needing to close down my business. The ACA absolutely needs improvement, but this rushed and forced legislation is not listening the US Citizens. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Beth Kerschen

Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name (of individual or organization): Catherine A. Smith
- Address: [REDACTED] Stoughton, WI 53589

I'm a middle-class professional, a university professor, still working full-time and more, and was diagnosed with a rare and incurable cancer called a neuroendocrine tumor about a year and a half ago. This is sometimes called "cancer in slow motion" because while it's not curable, and is treatable only by surgery, it is slow, and the symptoms I experience are manageable at the moment through a monthly injection. One monthly injection costs, according to my hospital bills, almost 2 months of my annual salary before taxes.

I am the only health insurance carrier in my family of three. As a 58-year-old with cancer, my only access to healthcare coverage if I am not employed consists of Medicare.

I am, as a 58-year-old with an incurable cancer, my family's safety net.

It is my fervent desire that in this very divided country we reach some kind of bipartisan accord that allows the ACA to be fixed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Corinna Loeckenhoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name (of individual or organization): Corinna Loeckenhoff

Address: [REDACTED] Ithaca, NY 14850

To the members of the Finance Committee:

As an expert on medical decision making at Cornell University and Weill Cornell Medical college and the mother of a child with a pre-existing condition (asthma) I urge you to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the Graham-Cassidy Bill which would cut key Medicaid benefits (including nursing home benefits for older adults), leave millions uninsured, and gamble the fate of individuals with pre-existing conditions on political decisions at the state level. Affordable access to health insurance will allow all Americans to live up to their potential and fully contribute to society. America deserves so much better than this poorly conceived, last minute effort born out of spite rather than true insight into the complex problem of providing proper healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Corinna E. Loeckenhoff

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mahi Palanisami [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: tblei@cohealthinitiative.org
Subject: Please say NO to Graham-Cassidy proposal

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am tired. While I work during the day I receive phone calls and emails from colleagues who are loving caretakers of disabled family members. I hear from colleagues who are breast cancer survivors. They are in a state of panic or have a calm resolve; they or their loved ones will die if this proposal goes forward.

I don't understand why you want your fellow people to suffer and die. I am emotionally exhausted from this attack my government has placed on us.
Please say no to this proposal. Please move forward constructively, and not at the cost of the American people.

I write to say 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 over 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands 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 do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

Sincerely,

Mahi Palanisami
[REDACTED]

Northglenn, CO 80233

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Evelyn Haaheim [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Everyone I know needs quality, affordable healthcare. We all wish we had healthcare plans like the Senate members do.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. If that bill is passed and pre-existing conditions are denied coverage, my family and many others all over the US would be in danger of bankruptcy. In many cases, we would have to choose between bankruptcy and death. Please don't let this happen on your watch. History will observe your choices, as will the US public, myself included.

The ACA, though flawed, stands in the coverage gap for many Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to **improve** the ACA, not repeal it. I know there is room for improvement, but improvement means **betterment**, not making something worse - or turning it into the opposite of what it was intended to be.

Sincerely, Evelyn Haaheim

Lawrence, KS 66046

--
Evelyn Haaheim
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancywriteon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please save Obamacare and don't allow Graham/Cassidy to go through
Attachments: no.bill.jpg

I beg you to please help us. It's terrifying to think this awful bill still might pass. Millions of people will lose their healthcare, the most vulnerable among us will lose Medicaid, premiums will skyrocket, and pre-existing conditions will no longer be covered - just to name a few of the awful things that will happen. We need a bipartisan, thoughtful way to improve the flaws in Obamacare, not to destroy lives.

I'm attaching a copy of a letter from people much more knowledgeable than I am to explain why. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nancy Rechtman

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Kimura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: opposing Graham-Cassidy to replace ACA

As a citizen who cares deeply about the ability of people 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.

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.

Regards,

Kathy and Alan Kimura

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Celeste Hampton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

My husband and I have been put \$20,000.00 out of joint because of Obamacare. We were almost bankrupt because both years after paying our monthly payment, our stipends were completely taken away forcing us to take loans out to pay for what the feds claim was our fair share.

We are happy Obamacare is going to be repealed, as it was never affordable for us. You like it so much, why don't you have that to ensure your family? If you are not willing to use it for you and your family, do not force it on the American people.

[REDACTED]
Celeste Hampton
[REDACTED]
West Milford, NJ 07480
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance).

From: Ellen Kamerling [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Like millions of others senior citizens, I am a concerned senior citizen who will be greatly effected by the passage of this bill. I stand with all the honest health professionals who attest to the fact that the Grahman Cassidy Healthcare bill "is not a win for the American people"! I strongly urge Congress to put politics aside and work together to build bipartisan cooperation to *REVISE* the Affordable Care rather than push through the latest version of "REPEAL and REPLACE" that has become a motto without meaning or benefits for real people. Please listen to comedian Jimmy Kimmel's warning that this bill is a dishonest joke on the American people who will be hurt rather than helped by its passage. Pushing this bill through without a time for debate or a score to let people the cost and impact is reprehensible!

Ellen Kamerling
Sedona, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ken schwer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy bill

To Whom It MAy Concern:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Without it, we would be financially ruined, and I'd probably not be alive. The pre-existing condition provision is of particular importance to us as well. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Ken Schwer
San Francisco, CA

Though we may not know it, we are all dancing to an inner music.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Scruggs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep ACA as is or make it better - no repeal

Honestly, each plan has been more Dickensian than the last. Single payer is the wave of the future and the sooner the senate gets to work on national affordable health care for all, the happier we'll all be. We are the only industrialized nation who doesn't have national health care. If we want to continue to think of ourselves of the leaders of the world, we need to actually lead.

Please do not vote for this oppressive bill.

Richard Scruggs
Chicago, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeremy Leff [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on the upcoming health care legislation (Graham-Cassidy bill).

Health care should be a right, as it is in many countries, including our nearest neighbor, Canada.

Growing up, my brother and I had asthma (as millions do), and without insurance, our hospital visits would have bankrupted my parents. Without guaranteed coverage of pre-existing conditions, millions of children with asthma—and their parents—will suffer.

Five years ago, I shattered my elbow playing softball several years ago (seriously, I broke it sliding into first base!), and I required two 7-hour surgeries to and two hospital stays, not to mention countless hours of supervised rehab. Without my expensive insurance plan, I would have easily been bankrupted by the event, and might have lost my house. I can't even imagine that, on top of the extremely painful injury from which I was already recovering.

Health insurance has helped millions like me. Please ensure that people are able to be insured.

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Leff
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phil [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 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.

Philip Wade
Buffalo, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gretchen Morgan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

I am deeply opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. It has not been properly evaluated. We really don't know how many people will lose insurance because of it. And why should ANYONE lose insurance. There needs to be improvements to ACA, but it does not need to and should not be repealed. I worry most about my friends with pre-existing conditions. They could die soon without insurance. Without the rules of ACA, there is a high probability the insurance companies will up their premiums to such a high rate that it would be impossible for them to have insurance, and they would not be able to afford their life-saving treatments. I have friends in this category and before ACA, they would have literally died because they would not have been able to afford insurance or their treatments at all.

Please do not put so many people in jeopardy! IMPROVE ACA by working across the aisle! That is what Congress is supposed to do. We all know there are problems with ACA, but don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Work together!

Sincerely,
Gretchen Morgan, [REDACTED]
Sacramento, CA 95864

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Ramsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Statement Submitted by Richard Ramsey
Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living chronic conditions that require 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 chronic conditions and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect those who need coverage the most and is absolutely unacceptable because it would:

- a. Remove full pre-existing condition protections by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals' health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people 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. 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.
- 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 chronic conditions 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 who would be negatively impacted by this legislation in mind as you consider this bill.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Tani [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:42 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment in opposition to Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This message is to urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. Although the public awaits a full assessment of the bill's impact, it seems clear that it would cause tens of millions of people to lose their health coverage, while also severely damaging Medicaid and harming vulnerable members of our communities. I am particularly concerned by the concerted opposition to the bill from state Medicaid directors. The fact that this group unanimously opposes the bill signals that it is not the right fix for the problems with our healthcare system.

Sincerely,
Karen Tani
Kensington, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vik Verma [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:41 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Affordable Care Act

My ACA Story -- by Vik Verma

Much of the year 2017 has been consumed with topic of healthcare. In particular, the repeal of Affordable Care Act has been a hot topic. It is often discussed in ideological terms without consideration to the lives affected. It has become a partisan game where the political winners and losers appear to take precedence over the people directly affected by the Affordable Care Act and healthcare in general.

The Affordable Care Act is not hypothetical for me. I broke my hip and ankle in a serious car accident on February 20, 2017. I was first taken to Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center here in Longview, Texas. They were unable to perform the specific surgery required on my hip, so I was then transferred to East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, Texas. I had other health issues related to the accident, including respiratory distress syndrome, which required me to be on a ventilator for several days, a blood clot, and sepsis, It was a touch and go situation with respect to my survival. I spent 2 weeks at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler and then 2 weeks at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Rehabilitation Hospital. Since my discharge, I underwent additional, extensive physical therapy at the Good Shepherd Institute of Healthy Living here in Longview, which I completed in July 2017. I am much better than I was on February 20, 2017, though I am still not fully recovered, and I am grateful to all my dedicated medical providers.

The total amount of my medical bills is \$450,000. My out of pocket for my ACA exchange plan is \$3500. Needless to say, I am very grateful for the security that the ACA has provided me.

The ACA has allowed me to have the recovery and treatment that I need. It has given me peace of mind that I wouldn't have otherwise. I am eternally grateful to have this insurance, which has aided me considerably in my recovery.

And millions of others are grateful for their coverage. For many, it has literally been the difference between life and death. It certainly was in my case.

There are those who look at the people who may lose their insurance as a number. Well, there are names and faces behind those numbers. There are families behind those numbers. There is a moral compass behind those numbers. For me, one person losing his or her insurance is one too many.

My story is not the only one. I know many who have seen the benefits of the ACA. I am proud to have worked to get the ACA passed in the first place. Back in 2010, I had insurance before the ACA so it didn't have as direct an impact on me at that time. Today, it does. I worked on the ACA because I felt that it was important for all Americans to have health coverage. We have made significant progress in the right direction on that front. And I have no intention of going backwards.

Thank you

Vik Verma
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Strong [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy hearing

An incomplete list of those who object to this bill are below:

American Medical Association
American Lung Association
American Heart Association
Children's Hospital Association
ALS Association
American College of Physicians
Academy of Pediatricians
Arthritis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
American Psychiatric Association
American Hospital Association
Nurses Association
National Health Council
Multiple Sclerosis Society
American Cancer Society
March of Dimes
Blue Cross Blue Shield
AARP

The bill is also opposed by **all 50 state Medicaid directors**, from both Republican and Democratic states, as well as dozens of governors, including many GOP governors, my own: **Charlie Baker**, who is well-known as a political healthcare expert due to his work in the healthcare industry prior to running for office. Even some of your colleagues, such as Chuck Grassley, have admitted that the bill is deeply flawed and should otherwise not be passed (except for an intellectually dishonest attempt to fulfill a campaign promise).

Recent polling has shown this bill to be historically unpopular. PPP found that just 24% of Americans approve of G-C, and **68%** want Congress to wait for a CBO score before passing the bill.

I also take particular issue with the assertion that C-G is the only solution, when as recently as this week there was found a bipartisan proposal introduced by GOP Senator Susan Collins to try and shore up ACA markets (source below). There have also been other bipartisan efforts to try and find real fixes to the flaws in the ACA, one of which was recently scuttled by GOP leadership simply because it interfered with the promotion of Cassidy's plan.

Hello Senators of the Finance Committee,

I remain a very lucky man, as I have the privilege to work in a very lucrative and in-demand field, and this has allowed me to maintain very excellent private health insurance for my professional life. However, many members of my family and friends are not quite like me; they are all very hard working people (some, I can attest, even excessively so), but they are unfortunately, in less lucrative professions that do not offer the same financial and insurance benefits that I receive from the technology industry.

Without assistance, these members of my family and friends, and millions of people like them, would simply have no choice but to forgo health insurance, and would be spending their lives in a subtle and continuous state of fear over the risks of an unforeseen accident or medical crisis. And during such times of ongoing fear, all people are forced to become more cautious than they could otherwise be, as individuals, as professionals, as consumers, and as citizens. Those in such a state of constant fear will guard their money and their resources more closely, and will make professional and personal decisions that center around financial security and healthcare, rather than what is truly the most appropriate decision.

Societies (and economies) **thrive** when people are secure. It makes them happier, and from an economical perspective) it makes them dependable consumers and societal contributors.

Even the most ardent supporter of the ACA will usually admit (if they have any sense) that the ACA has flaws and will require many fixes. But Cassidy-Graham is simply **not** an appropriate fix. It does nothing to improve healthcare conditions for the average American. It will divert many billions of appropriated funds that would otherwise help subsidize the great cost of private health insurance for the most vulnerable members of our society (and, rather more insidiously, it does so in a punitive fashion against states who did right by their constituents and opted to expand Medicaid when the ACA was first enacted), it removes guaranteed protection for those with pre-existing conditions (using weasel words about state-granted protection without any tool of enforcement or oversight), and is likely to spike premiums and lower coverage options for even those with private, employer-paid health insurance (like me). Many independent, non-partisan studies have already confirmed this, including Avalere, a non-partisan healthcare think tank, who has estimated that Cassidy-Graham will entail cutting Medicaid by \$713 billion through 2026, and over \$1 trillion through 2036, even if all federal grants are renewed (source provided below).

<http://avalere.com/expertise/>

The flaws in Cassidy-Graham have been found to be severe enough to warrant the widespread and nearly unanimous objections of nearly everyone in the healthcare profession, from health insurers to doctors to hospitals to advocacy groups.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rabia Khan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

My family members are beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid and will be negatively affected by Graham-Cassidy. I urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and to please work on a bi-partisan solution to reform health care.

Thank you,
Rabia Khan

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mani Varadarajan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 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.

Mani Varadarajan
Palo Alto, CA

--
sent from my Android
pardon typos and brevity

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Peters [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

Dear Senators and Representatives,
My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.
Currently, I am very concerned about the future of healthcare services and insurance affordability in the United States and therefore, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Personally, we have seen insurance costs sky rocket and insurance needs to be available for anyone with a pre-existing condition.

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

Sincerely,
Karen Peters
Bethlehem, PA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Morgan Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of creating a Medicare-for-all system.

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.

Morgan Martin
Prairie Village, KS

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cherie whyers [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments; hunter@senatedem.state.il.us; hendon@senatedem.state.il.us; john@senatorcullerton.com; john_damico@sbcglobal.net; viv6215@millnet.net; dburke@ilga.gov; mmadigan@ilga.gov; senator_meeks@ameritech.net; Collins@senatedem.state.il.us; crotty@senatedem.state.il.us; ilsenate20@aol.com; carole@pankau.org; senator@kdillard.com; chrislauzen@lauzen.com; illsen26@aol.com; johnjmillner@aol.com; ilsenate29@sbcglobal.net; senator@link30.org; info@senatoralthoff.com; info@senatorbrad.com; harmon@senatedem.state.il.us; senator@debbiehalvorson.com; cradogno@aol.com; billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com; randy@rhultgren.com; senator_bomke@yahoo.com; Watson@gvc.net; jojones@mvn.net; haine@senatedem.state.il.us; clayborne@senatedem.state.il.us; sendavel@midwest.net; forby@senatedem.state.il.us
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy Bill - I am BEGGING YOU!!!

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!!!!!!!!!!!

Members of my family and many others will be immensely hurt if this horrific bill were to pass!

Please! I beg you not to pass it.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Whyers
Evanston, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Wurtz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Graham-Cassidy must fail.

Removing insurance protections from people with pre-existing conditions will not only help kill ACA, it will help kill people. Federal protections for pre-existing conditions is morally advanced, and the justifications for removing protections are morally degenerate.

Cast yourself, as a representative of the American people committed to life and the pursuit of happiness, as an agent of health care. Why would you remove protections from people whose very lives depend on you? From what I've read, not one entity involved in the medical field is in favor of this law.

Recently, I was pretty darn sick for more than a year, and the doctors and nurses and my health maintenance organization valued my life and brought me back to health, and they would do it again. They would do it for anyone: your constituents, your kin, you. If you retain the ACA provisions for protecting pre-existing conditions, you would stand with those who value life. If not, you stand with the kind of person who might be described this way: "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Reject this immoral law.

Ron Wurtz

Oakland CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kuhn, Nicholas J. [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Nick Kuhn
Subject: thoughts on the health care bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing as a private citizen regarding the Graham-Cassidy-et-al health bill being discussed by Congress at the moment.

From independent and multiple sources that I have read, implementing this bill will cause many millions of people to lose health care coverage in just a few years. I know the political party in power has campaigned hard against the ACA, but the fact is that the ACA made a good faith first attempt to deal with a number of huge problems in the American health care system.

In particular, it was crafted to get insurance to many of the too many Americans without health insurance previously, and on this score it has really changed many lives for the better. Related to this, it also proposed protecting people with pre-existing conditions, which seem particularly important in the modern US, where people tend to move from job to job more often than previous generations. (A lesser issue, but also one that has worked well for many people, has been allowing young adults to stay on parents health plans through their mid 20's. This my own daughter, trying to find her way as she makes a living in Chicago, has been able to take advantage of.)

On all of these issues, the bill being discussed right now is a big step backwards. These are real peoples live that will be horribly effected by this. I urge you to not pass a thoughtlessly put together bill like the one in hand. Especially not quickly, solely for political expediency.

Yours,

Dr. Nicholas J. Kuhn
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zee K [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:40 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I have family members who are beneficiaries of Medicaid services and will be negatively affected by Graham-Cassidy. I urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and to please work on a bi-partisan solution to reform health care.

Thank you,
Zeeshan Khan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Datlow [REDACTED] > on behalf of Ellen Datlow
<datlow@datlow.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:39 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.

Ellen Datlow
New York, NY

--
Ellen Datlow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Angela Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:24 PM
To: gchcomments

[REDACTED] copy of what I sent

Dear Committee Members:

This is the time to illustrate to Americans that you are true to your oath to protect the interests of everyday Americans. Cowring to the interest of the incredibly wealthy will destroy the lives millions of honest, hard working Americans who REALLY love their country n fellow Americans. We ALL know how CEOs of insurance companies are benefiting from the erosion of benefits to the insured and this began long before the adoption of The ACA! We know hospitals are closing because poorly insured in rural areas don't have adequate insurance to meet the costs of operation. And we know many are not aware of the suffering they themselves will endure without affordable, comprehensive healthcare. It is your responsibility to protect them and not political interests.

Please address the issue of overpriced medicines n procedures that benefit only a few. Please address the greed that is destroying our country. Every industrialized nation offers benefits to its citizens. How can we call ourselves the greatest land of opportunity when we throw millions off healthcare to line the pockets of the wealthy without being hypocritical? There are many issues to address: waste, fraud and GREED.

I pray your conscious, knowledge and love of our country will guide you in an honest effort to provide low cost n effective health care for Americans.

Sincerely,

Angela Moore

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Iscoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on health care from a former EMT

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is David Iscoe, and in 2009 and 2010, I served as an EMT with a private ambulance company called SeniorCare in New York City. A lot of people don't know what private ambulances do – it's one of many cogs in our complex medical system. New York is a city with over 60 hospitals between the five boroughs, and hundreds if not thousands of care facilities. When people need to go from a care facility to their home or a hospital, or need medical care on the way, the place contracts with a private ambulance company to take them there. We also handle medical emergencies for our clients - particularly when their preferred team of doctors is at a hospital that's not the closest to their home or their care facility. 9-1-1 would always take them to the nearest hospital in an emergency, but SeniorCare would take them where they needed to go.

Our company prided itself on customer service - for patients who have frequent health care needs, how you get treated by your caregivers is nearly as important as the care you receive. On the way to and from treatment, we'd talk to patients and their families, and often we'd visit someone's home to take them to or return them from care. We got to see healthcare from a perspective beyond just treatment - we saw how it fit into their personal and family life. A lot of our patients were on Medicare; some were on Medicaid; very few were on private insurance, because at that time in New York, before the ACA, it was very hard to afford private insurance with a chronic condition.

Most of you don't represent New York, but I'll bet many of your constituents have relatives here, and even if they don't, they'd empathize with many of the New Yorkers I cared for. My patients included veterans, fishermen, crane operators, Metro drivers, teachers, people with special needs who had never been able to work but had hard-working families. Yes, I took care of a few of the big city lawyers you hear about and one time a (not famous) movie producer, but for the most part my patients were from working-class families that shared the same values as any of your constituents: trying to get a better life for themselves and lift the next generation higher. Many of them have been through more than most of us ever will. One was an officer shot in the line of duty. A few were Holocaust survivors.

Most of our patients at SeniorCare, the people who deal with health care as part of their daily reality, don't care who gets a political "victory" or bragging rights or whether, abstractly, you prefer libertarianism or social democracy, or whether Bill Cassidy can establish himself as a rising star. Most of them have too much to do day-to-day to follow insider politics very closely, and as someone who does follow it, I don't blame them. I'd probably be better off myself if I didn't.

But if Graham-Cassidy passes, and takes billions of Medicaid dollars away from New York State, they'll know when their care becomes harder to afford or even gets cut. They'll know when some hospitals have to close down from lack of funding. None of the political insider goals or inside baseball will matter when that happens. Lindsey Graham (and Paul Ryan) said this bill is the "last, best chance to repeal ObamaCare." But the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, and National Association of Medicaid Directors all oppose it, and I could go on. When the people who would implement health care tell you not to do your health care plan, it's no kind of "best chance." It's just something you

shouldn't do. Would you tell a patient with a cancer that you voted against the recommendation of the American Cancer Society? A mother who lost her child that you ignored the March of Dimes?


If you start at the patient, and then go to the people who care for them (doctors, nurses, hospitals), or the people who administer and organize those systems (insurers, Medicaid directors) or the organizations dealing with specific ailments (patient advocacy groups), you'd never in your life come to the conclusion that this plan was a good idea. You'd only hear a lot of people saying "no." There's only one major doctor saying to do this plan, and he's the one trying to sell it. I mean, technically Bill Cassidy may be a doctor, but he doesn't seem to know the first thing about his profession: do no harm.

I'm not a health care expert, and not a health care provider any more. I'm a writer now. But I've been educating myself for months, and by now I could talk your ear off about block grants and community rating, actuarial value, loss ratio, and 1332 waivers (which are a way you can get your vaunted "state innovation" without destroying Medicaid, by the way). I've also learned who all the key Senators are leading the push to destroy health care, and many of the key names in the other chamber, too. If you vote for this bill, I'll make damn sure as many people as possible know what was done and who did it and how they can use their political power as Americans to replace them with people who will take their health care more seriously than a sense of victory.

I'll even learn how to speak more clearly and use fewer words to get my point across.

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in and stand up for my former patients. It's been years since I worked as an EMT, but it made a profound difference in my life. I hope you'll use this opportunity to stand up for patients, too, and vote "no."

Sincerely,

David Iscoe
Brooklyn, New York


PS: Why isn't this being heard in the HELP Committee? Were leaders worried that that committee might have too many informed opinions about health care?

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janet Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill
September 25, 2017

From:
Janet Ferguson
[REDACTED]
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I write to voice our extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. I am 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 Illinoisians 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. 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.

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 Illinoisians 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.

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. I 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.

On a personal note:

Before the ACA, I learned after a job change that we could not purchase family health insurance due to my daughter's congenital heart defect. We do not need to go back to those times.

Today the daughter of a close friend is being treated for breast cancer. She and her husband are self-employed and insured through the ACA. Their 12 year old daughter wishes to continue to have a mother. We would all prefer that the choice to survive does not require bankruptcy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Sandiford [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill--"Health Care"

This bill is being put on a fast track for purely, self-serving political reasons and has not been properly debated nor followed the Regular Order. It will have disastrous results for millions of Americans --those with pre-existing conditions; those who rely on Medicaid for their health care insurance, those who are currently able to have health insurance with the help of federal subsidies & cost-saving tax relief.

With an estimated 32 million Americans losing health insurance coverage by 2027 as a result of the enactment of this G-C bill, it must not go forward. I urge all Senators, Republicans & Democrats, to vote NO if this bill comes to the Senate for a vote.

Thank you,
C.A. Sandiford
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is opposed by roughly 65% of Americans (those who understand it), as well as every major group with expertise in healthcare issues, including Medicaid directors in all 50 states. It would imperil the more than 60% of seniors in nursing facilities who depend on Medicaid, and the more than 50% of births in this country dependent upon Medicaid.

My healthy 3-year-old granddaughter was safely born by emergency C-section, and my daughter with preeclampsia, Factor V, and gestational diabetes, came through a challenging pregnancy and delivery, thanks to Medicaid.

It is unconscionable and un-American to upend a sixth of our economy, not to mention jeopardizing millions of lives by leaving people to die without insurance, when we have no CBO score and have had no open, bipartisan debate on the bill.

Susan K Wright
[REDACTED]
Bridgeville PA 15017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lena Nilsson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Affordable Care Act allows me to run my own computer consulting business

To whom it may concern:

For me personally, the Affordable Care Act has given me the peace of mind to run my own small computer consulting business, without needing to worry about whether I will be able to renew my health insurance coverage each year. With the ACA, I know that I will be able to buy health insurance that covers any procedures, surgeries or drugs I may need, and that isn't capped at a certain dollar amount, either annually or over my lifetime.

Thankfully I have so far been in good health, but an illness, or even just an abnormal test result, that becomes a "preexisting condition" can strike anyone at any time. The ACA is very clear that I can't be denied insurance or charged higher premiums if that were to happen to me, and it also defines affordability as a percentage of a person's income. The Cassidy-Graham bill only says that states must explain "how the state intends to maintain adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions", but doesn't say what is considered "adequate" or "affordable". I would much rather know, in specific numbers, up front, instead of hoping that my state (Michigan) will uphold protections on par with the ACA, even with the reduced funding it will receive under Cassidy-Graham.

Another scary aspect of medically underwritten policies is that they often allow insurers to cancel a person's coverage if they can find a mistake on their application. Several years ago I worked for an employer who wanted to switch their health insurance benefits to medically underwritten insurance. The application required of each employee requested a detailed explanation of every visit to a health care provider that the employee had made during the past five years. Luckily I was able to get help from my primary care physician to make sure I didn't miss anything, but it was very time-consuming work and I can see how easy it would be to miss some detail. Worse, most likely it would be a large claim that would trigger an audit, leaving the person to fight the insurance company's attempt to cancel their policy just when they are severely injured or ill, and least able to fight back. Also, with their insurance coverage in doubt, health care providers may refuse to treat the patient until the insurance situation is resolved. With the Affordable Care Act, there is no medically underwritten health insurance and this entire problem simply doesn't come up.

Please keep the Affordable Care Act and focus on bipartisan solutions to make it better for all Americans!

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Lena Nilsson

[REDACTED]
Goodrich, MI 48438

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Business Advisory Bureau <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:37 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: DO NOT REPEAL ACA

I am currently in treatment using MediCal please do not repeal the ACA thank you,

Baldemar Peralta

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: me [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What Health Care Means to ME

Health care means my life , As I lay here in
the. UNMC Buffet Cancer Center..

The Afordable Care act has this saved my life 3 times since 2016.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Kellogg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. It does not protect those of us with pre existing conditions like my daughter who suffered from endometriosis and PCOS who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in January. It doesn't protect me. I have Rheumatoid Arthritis. It wouldn't have protected my 53 year old brother who died from a stage 4 glioblastoma but was helped by Medicaid.

Do the right thing.
Vote NO.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Kellogg
Goodyear AZ

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Berman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Do Not pass this horrible bill!

Barbara Berman in Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: anita simons [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I urge all senators to vote against this horrible bill to repeal and replace ACA. The ACA is not perfect, but it needs adjustments to make it better not worse. Every citizen should have access to free or lowcost healthcare NOT health INSURANCE. Medicare for All is the easiest solution for the U.S. We are the only industrialized nation where someone can go bankrupt with one major illness or accident. This is insanity.

VOTE NO ON graham cassidy.

anita simons
92056

--
Anita Simons

"You must do the things you think you cannot do."

Eleanor Roosevelt

A message from my talented and recently deceased friend Joan Kurland
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacqueline Haessly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE TO PROTECT Affordable Care Act

Urging ALL Senators to vote to Protect the Affordable Care Act.

Urging ALL Senators to vote against the Graham-Cassidy Bill because it will destroy the lives of far too many people, AND the lives of the people who love them.

Urging ALL Senators to spend the next 6-12 months working TOGETHER to develop a way to FIX the Affordable Care Act so that ALL people have access to quality affordable health care from conception to elders and everyone in between.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Haessly
Brown Deer, WI

Jacqueline Haessly
Peacemaking Associates

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brown Deer, WI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We create what we can imagine.
Imagine Peace!

1974-Education for Global Living-2017

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 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.

Moira Armstrong
Warren, Ohio

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Power [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 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.

Sharon Powers
McKinleyville, CA

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nora Saunders [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My son was just 18 months old when he was diagnosed with Autism. Though both my husband and I work at jobs that provide health insurance, our son would not be progressing without the help of Early Intervention and speech, OT, PT and ABA therapies that are funded via Medicaid. Children and adults with disabilities of all economic backgrounds rely on Medicaid for therapies that help them to more fully participate in their communities while providing vital healthcare to improve quality of life. Graham - Cassidy is yet another attack on the most vulnerable segments of our society while financially rewarding those who need it least. This legislation is cruel, immoral and intentionally harmful. It must be rejected.

Nora Saunders
Wantagh, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Carey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We are currently covered by a COBRA plan but once that expires we will be unable to get an affordable individual plan because three out of four family members have pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,
Mary Carey
Beaverton, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eileen Vachher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare/Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a mom, and am fortunate to have health insurance through my employer. If I did not, I cannot imagine the pain, the stress, the worry of not being able to take care of my child's health needs. My daughter has had recurring ear infections and needed ear tubes. Without health insurance, the cost of the procedure would have been exorbitant. With insurance, I still had to pay a lot but it was within reach and I never had to worry about whether I could afford it.

I want that for all parents, for all kids, for all families. For all Americans. Please don't take that out of reach of more Americans.

Eileen Vachher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RICHARD G KEMPSELL [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy/Graham bill

I'm a Colorado naive, raised with a strong work ethic, compassion and a strong sense of right and wrong. I've lost my father, brother and both of my in-laws to Cancer. Last month, my sister in law and today my 25 year old niece were diagnosed with Cancer. My daughter and daughter in law both have debilitating Lyme disease and my elderly mother is disabled due to acute sepsis this past Spring. None of them chose these circumstances. I'm a NICU nurse who has dedicated my life's work toward nurturing our most at risk population.... Babies that now have pre-existing conditions. The Cassidy-Graham healthcare bill is an insult to the hard working diagnosed, waiting to be diagnosed, born with diagnoses and every American that will eventually be diagnosed with something!

Repeal for the sake of pride, party affiliation or fear of humiliation is a disaster and devastation to you, to me and to our loved ones! We deserve better!! We demand a hold on the ACA repeal until the necessary changes reflect the kind of people we hope to be... compassionate, mindful and yes, human.

STAND UP AND VOTE NO.

Heather Kempzell, RN

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Perkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy "health-care" legislation. This will harm millions of citizens, potentially causing care in-equality from state to state, allowing states to give leeway for insurance companies to penalize people with pre-existing conditions either by denying them coverage or by charging them prohibitively high premiums. In addition, our most vulnerable citizens will be left without health care if the Medicaid expansion is done away with, leading to higher ER utilization and a return to a time when healthcare costs could bankrupt families. Our healthcare system is not perfect but this bill is not what our country's citizens need.

Sincerely,

Mary Perkins

Moreno Valley, CA 92557
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Monica Strathman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

OMG! No. Please do not support this bill. The pharmaceutical and insurance companies have profited handsomely for decades on the backs of Americans. And politicians maintaining this deplorable system got campaign contributions from their ill-gotten gains. The best thing about the ACA is that it mandated coverage for everyone...healthy and sick, young and old which should drive down costs (if politicians don't sabotage it) while ensuring nobody goes bankrupt due to healthcare. It is inhumane and an egregious injustice to put profits and political seats before the health and well-being of families.

Please do the right thing...do not vote in support of this bill.

Monica Strathman
[REDACTED]
Kansas City, KS 66109

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mendy Salvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: This bill

As a voter from SW VA, I implore you to not take away healthcare access through this bill. No American child should hit a lifetime cap at a year old and no child should be orphaned because of a lack of care for their parents due to income

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Derwent Suthers [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Daniel Suthers
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please pass on my conviction that this bill should be defeated. Time should be allowed for a carefully-constructed bi-partisan effort to provide affordable health care to all who need it.

The Rev, Derwent A.Suthers

[REDACTED]
Rio Rico, AZ 86548

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristi Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

I, and every one of my friends and family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Several of us have chronic conditions that will require maintenance medications and care for the rest of our lives. Others are just aging and are experiencing all that comes with that.

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. The health of ALL Americans is too important to crush a working ACA and put something in place that will hurt so many people. It shouldn't matter your age, state you live in, sex, employment status - healthcare is a right.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Ferguson
Newburyport, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jay Bennett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on TrumpCare

Please oppose TrumpCare.

It is wrong for the fortunate to get to live in the same medical situations where the unfortunate must die.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erica Bigelow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comments

Hello,

I'm writing in regard to the Graham Cassidy bill. Though I am fortunate enough to know where my own senators - Elizabeth Warren & Joe Kennedy - stand on this bill, I implore those from other states to more deeply consider the implications of such a bill.

I want to begin by acknowledging that I am undoubtedly fortunate when it comes to healthcare. I'm 21, so I have 5 years remaining on my parents' insurance. We have Harvard-Pilgrim, with arguably one of the most cost-effective plans available, which we receive as one of my father's work benefits (retired MA state police). I've never had to worry whether my mental health care, wisdom teeth removal, or any (of many) cheerleading injuries would be covered, or whether my family would be able to afford our co-pays. Sadly, however, my case is riddled with privilege, and is far from the norm that millions of people face daily.

I have seen a friend writhing in pain because her insurance wouldn't cover a surgery until it was considered an emergency procedure. I have seen the look in people's eyes in doctor's offices as they await hearing their co-pay, as the amount that they owe may determine how well their family will eat that month. I have seen a friend constantly on edge because she was without coverage for a few weeks.

In more recent years, though, I have seen people breathe sighs of relief, as what once seemed impossible to obtain was made accessible. I have seen a couple whose daughter was diagnosed with glioblastoma cry silently from happiness when describing the millions (literally, millions) of dollars that they would have had to spend on medications to buy more precious time with their seven-year-old.

Any senator who actively opposes this bill should be required to sit in on a briefing with the thousands whose lives have been saved by the ACA. They should be forced to tell these citizens to their faces that they don't feel that they deserve healthcare.

Healthcare isn't a commodity, and repealing the ACA shouldn't be viewed as a purely economic action. Repealing this bill without a stronger replacement, one which would guarantee affordable insurance for **all** Americans, is a morally reprehensible act. I am constantly dumbfounded by the sacrilegious actions performed by those who claim to hold God dearly in their hearts. The eyes of the world are watching.

To my senators, and those who continue to fight for the rights of all Americans to afford to live, thank you. Thank you for standing up for us, and for at times standing up to your own party.

All my best to those who vote against GCH,

Erica Bigelow
Taunton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 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.

Patricia Nelson
Plainsboro, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara J. Gehrung [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:29 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: American Healthcare

To whom it may concern:

I am urging the committee to reconsider their current plans ending the ACA and ending Medicaid in its current form.

My husband and I are small business owners, parents of two children, currently insured through my husband's employer plan. My husband would prefer to fully work for himself or start a partnership, however, because of the insecurity and risk of potentially not being able to obtain health insurance in the future we have been holding off on this plan, and his potential business partner can't afford to lose her employer coverage because she has an incurable illness. At the same time I know people who can't stay home with their children, because they cannot afford to lose employer based coverage because they have a pre-existing condition such as cancer.

I would like to see a system, single payer or multi-payer with a public option, and income/salary based premiums. Children should be free until they are 18 and then be able to stay on their parents' plan for an upcharge while they complete their education. With % based premiums, which are split between the employer and employee, the system would be just, because everyone pays what they can, and I would be able to offer health insurance to my employees. Maybe people who are self-employed or are above a certain income bracket can choose cheaper, less comprehensive or private plans, but pay a 'solidarity' tax for not having comprehensive health insurance, or opting out of public insurance plans. Unemployed people or people on disability should be covered by the state.

I grew up, was educated and worked in Germany, before moving to the U.S. and becoming an American citizen. Germany has a system similar to what I described - with a combination of non-profit and for-profit insurance companies. There are of course some problems, but it is much more affordable, the public plans don't cover luxuries such as private hospital rooms, but no one has to die because they can't afford health care or go bankrupt over an unforeseen illness.

Thank you for reconsidering -
Sincerely,

Barbara Gehrung

Barbara Gehrung

[REDACTED] | Charlottesville | VA 22902 | USA

phone: + [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:28 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.

Cheryl Davis
Folsom, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Pharo [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy Legislation

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to describe my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation this committee means to discuss on Monday, and to urge the members of the Senate to oppose it as well.

First, the methods by which this bill has been developed and promoted are unworthy of the United States Senate, whose long-respected norms and traditions have helped ensure that legislation was debated thoroughly and considered deliberately. The slipshod, secretive, and dishonest means by which Graham-Cassidy was written are an embarrassment to the Senate and to the country it is supposed to represent. I was raised to revere the institutions of our government, which were established to enact and defend the will of the people. The way you are abusing the power we have granted you, with your hasty, ill-conceived attack on the Senate's time-honored procedure, makes me sadder than you can know. Listen to your colleague Senator McCain, and put a stop to this mockery of government.

If for some reason the dignity of the Senate does not matter to you, then I beg you to consider the numerous Americans you would harm by passing this bill. Its authors submitted it without time for a proper CBO evaluation because they are afraid that once you know the magnitude of the devastation this bill would wreak on the lives of your constituents, that then you couldn't possibly support it. Every analysis undertaken projects that millions would lose insurance coverage and that healthcare premiums would rise. The nation's poorest and sickest will suffer if this irresponsible legislation passes. Many of them will die who might otherwise have lived. Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,
John Pharo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Regarding: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date: September 25, 2017
Submitted by: Donna Martin, 1917 W Berwyn, Chicago, IL 60640

Good Morning,

I'm writing to voice my concern about this bill.

I've been self-employed since 1999 and have had to fend for myself to find health insurance. I guess you could say I was on the cutting edge of the 'gig' economy that is really taking off these days with the likes of Uber and Lyft. Many, many more Americans are in the position of shopping on the individual market now than were back when I was making a go of it.

Back in those days, a female like me had a hell of a time finding good coverage. I was charged more, was offered coverage that didn't cover a plethora of conditions, including pregnancy, and was always worried that if I had an accident or illness, I would hit a lifetime limit and be financially ruined. Finding and retaining adequate insurance was a major source of stress in my life.

When the ACA passed, I cried tears of joy and relief. Honestly, I sobbed for over an hour. It meant that I wouldn't have to worry about being unable to afford coverage, that my gender was no longer a pre-existing condition, and that I could sleep at night knowing that an insurer couldn't deny me and many of my colleagues coverage after some arbitrary limit, or because of something as stupid as teenage acne.

I am once again terrified about the possibility of the return of pre-existing conditions, and lifetime limits.

This bill is inhumane. It exposes many millions of Americans to the possibility of inadequate coverage and financial hardship (and I haven't even addressed what the bill would do to those on Medicaid).

I urge you to withdraw this bill.
It's not the right thing for America.

Thank you,
Donna Martin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller.

Senate Finance Committee,

As the mom of a special needs daughter with prenatal preexisting conditions, literally homeless due to Hurricane Harvey, I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering.

Our state, Texas, can't take much more, and a terrible rushed bill on top of a terrible president is just too much. 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.

Also please stop Donald Trump before he destroys everything good about America. Please.

Jennifer Wells
Katy, Texas

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Steidel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare through the exchanges of the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability, is that as older Americans and under employed rural Californians in our early 60's, we have been paying out of pocket for our health insurance for many years. It has been very economically challenging for us and hurt our ability to retire (we are still working and will be fore the foreseeable future). Once we signed onto the exchange we were able to find quality health care, with a lower deductible and foresee making it to 65 when we can finally get on Medicare.

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

Sincerely,

Jane and David Steidel

Quincy, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Eve Wolff [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:26 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony

I and my two young children rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son has asthma, and more than once has had to be rushed to the ER in the middle of the night. Before he was 2 years old he knew what riding in an ambulance was like. Having the ACA in place has made dealing with his healthcare and the costs more easy to navigate. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Eve Wolff

Flushing, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 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.

Leslie Conn
Crown Point IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan Swindlehurst [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies, and will continue to rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am 68 years old. My mother is 90 and in assisted living.

Nine years ago, my parents (WWII generation) had, including their house, \$1.3 in assets. This was not unusual for their generation. My dad had Alzheimer's and my mom did her best to care for him until she broke her elbow. That started a cascade of physical problems for her necessitating their move into assisted living (my father on a memory care unit.) Within six months, my dad died but my mother developed vascular dementia, spinal stenosis, COPD, and a swallowing disorder.

She continues in assisted living today but her money is running out. We have broken a trust that was to be her daughter and three son's inheritance. We broke it so that we would have funds to buy her way into a nursing home in the not too distant future and private pay for a period of time. And then we would count on Medicaid to pay for her care until she dies.

We do not mourn our lost inheritance. We all believed that my parents' money was to be used for their care. We are terrified about the potential loss of Medicaid dollars.

All of her children are heading into, or already on Medicare and need our money to pay for our old age and medical care. This truly keeps me up at night.

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

Sincerely,

Jan Swindlehurst

Newburyport, MA 01950

--
- Jan

Jan Swindlehurst
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stevie Andersen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 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.

Stevie Drake
Albany, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly Cassidy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:10 PM
To: gchcomments

Please protect Americans with pre-existing conditions and those on Medicaid. Health care access is a human right. Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and commit to improving the ACA in a bi-partisan way.

Regards.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Torch Archibald [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is about my 46 year old son who had triple heart bypass surgery 10 years ago. Moving from Louisiana to Colorado the premium for insurance on their exchange was too high and deductible \$10,000. Just starting a new career, my son was not able to pay this high premium. ACA is not perfect but is a great start to a healthy nation. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jonelle Archibald

Lafayette, LA 70506

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pitman, Nicky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I support quality health care for all. I am willing to pay higher taxes ALWAYS so that everyone in the United States can have quality health care. Being a person who has a pre-existing condition - and knowing many other Americans who have the same, I find it repugnant and negligent that a decision to provide affordable health care - and health care that could deny those with pre-existing conditions - be left up to individual states. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to *improve* the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Nicole Pitman

--
Nicole Pitman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lake Forest, IL 60045
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hannah Ligon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 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.

Hannah Ligon
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Greg Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 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.

Greg Roberts
Columbia, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Scharfstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Healthcare / Graham-Cassidy / ACA Negotiations

FYI: I am a constituent of New York (NY-12) and my address is:

Matthew Scharfstein
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10022

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

From: **Matthew Scharfstein** [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 12:19 AM
Subject: Healthcare / Graham-Cassidy / ACA Negotiations
To: gchcomments@finance.senate.gov

Dear Chairman Hatch & Ranking Member Wyden,

I write to you today to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal and replace bill, and to encourage the Senate to resume bipartisan negotiations on fixing the ACA.

I, like many Americans, have a preexisting condition. If Graham-Cassidy were to become law, my insurance company could choose to charge prohibitive rates to cover me, and I would no longer be able to afford my medications. So this is a very personal debate for me.

But I know the ACA is not perfect. What I, and I believe the overwhelming majority of Americans want, is for Congress negotiate a bipartisan improvement to ACA and to stabilize the exchanges as soon as possible.

Please consider your constituents who aren't pinnacles of health (there are more than you might think) and vote 'NO' on the Graham-Cassidy repeal and replace bill. Then, restart bipartisan negotiations to stabilize the ACA exchanges and improve the law.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matt Scharfstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: S Spate [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: A Statement In Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that I'm a widow of 10 years with a developmentally disabled son. I am self employed. this bill would make my situation so complicated that I'd have to attenuate my full schedule as a practicing physician in a field that suffers a huge shortage of physicians. I am speaking of being a Psychiatrist providing coverage for Article 31 Mental Health Clinics in NY State. This bill would impact both my son's and my own access to health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Spater, MD

Port Washington, NY 11050

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: You must 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 would not only see these people (friends, family, community members) lose healthcare coverage, but in many cases, also die because of that loss. The effects of this bill would be devastating and you cannot allow this to happen.

Sincerely,
Jayke Bouche
Belmont, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melodie Ramone [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

There is not one Republican Senator right now serving who has any knowledge or background concerning healthcare. 50 plus health organizations, countless hospitals, and millions of families have spoken against this bill. This bill should never have been pushed through without debate, review, and careful diagnosis. As a woman who suffers from one of the diseases that is classified within the framework, I would lose my health insurance within a year and would be dead within another.

Lindsey Graham should stick to his military/foreign police work, where he is effective. Bill Cassidy should serve several more years and learn how to do his job before he makes a charge.

In closing, I state that the Graham Cassidy bill should not make it to the floor, but if it is shoved through, it should be voted down. It is an assault on every American and the results of its passing are unquestionably criminal.

Sincerely,

Lena Davis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 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.

Martha Smith
Corvallis, OR 97333

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Payson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Can you guarantee there will be NO cap on policies, are pre-existing conditions guaranteed(no ifs ands or buts) to be covered and affordable for all, not jacked up to rates that no one can afford? Will Medicaid continue to cover people as it does now?

Melissa

Inhale the future
Exhale the past

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: On the Graham-Cassidy Bill



Dear Sirs,

I have a debilitating panic disorder. I've had occasions where I could not leave my house, could not use public transportation, could not sleep properly for days at a time, and could not eat without being racked by fear. I went on medication for the disorder a number of years ago—and since then, I've had steady access to affordable medication through the ACA, at first through my parents' healthcare plan, now through an employer plan that's mandated by the ACA's Essential Health Benefits requirement to cover medication at a fair price. Without my medication, I would not be employable. It is very likely I would be confined by agoraphobia to my home. I could not get through a day without multiple traumatizing panic attacks which have driven me to the brink of suicide in recent years. Thanks to affordable medication and therapy, I was able to claw myself back from the brink. Under Graham-Cassidy, my stability is threatened.

The purpose of me sharing this story is to point out that while Graham-Cassidy endangers many lives, it also endangers the quality of life, and employability, of millions of Americans like me, who are able to live productive and engaged lives because of affordable medication. Without affordable medication and therapy, my ability to support myself is jeopardized because of a condition I can't control. I do not wish to become dependent on a shrinking state safety net, or on my family; I love the sense of purpose and financial independence my work affords me. But losing access to quality, affordable health insurance puts my quality of life at risk. Republicans champion self-sufficiency and independence, but I have only been able to achieve those thanks to mental health care.

By axing protections for people like me, Graham-Cassidy will create millions of people whose ability to function, to be productive, to be creative, to be full citizens of this country, is annihilated by profit-motivated insurance companies. While mercy might be too much to expect, pragmatism surely may prove an argument in favor of keeping mental health care affordable and robust. For me, it will mean the difference between an existence riddled with pure agony, and a life worth living.

Thanks for your consideration,

Talia Lavin
Brooklyn, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Trimmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:12 PM
To: gchcomments; Portman, Casework (Portman)
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Please consider how many people will be hurt by this bill. All I hear is Republicans saying they ran on the repeal and replace of the ACA. But I also remember the promises of replacing with better coverage for all Americans.

Trump specifically promised CHEAPER and BETTER health care for ALL Americans. None of the plans the Republican Party has proposed have even come close to that.

I have pre-existing conditions that I know would keep me from getting any health insurance.

If you vote to support this bill or any bill like it, you are passing some thing like the house passed months ago.

REMEMBER THE SUPPORT TRUMP GAVE THEM: HE CALLED THE BILL MEAN AFTER CELEBRATING

Please do not pass some thing just for the sake of passing some thing.

Senator McCain is the only Republican Senator I have heard call for working together with Democrats and come up with some thing that is a health care bill. Trump and Senators should be praising him. Look at Trump's tweets to see what kind of person Trump is.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE ACA AND MEDICAID EXPANSION JUST TO GIVE TRUMP A TAX CUT.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Widdows [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 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 ethics's 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.

Nancy Widdows
Danbury, CT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anabelle Acevedo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 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.

Anabelle Acevedo
Arlington, VA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryl Iree [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Save it!! Fix it, yes. Destroy health care for Americans with these horrendous bills, STOP
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 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.

Carol Forden
Sarasota FL

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jen W [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GrahamCassidy "Healthcare"

Dear United States Senators,

As a healthcare professional who has recently been on the receiving side, I would like to voice both my professional and personal knowledge on this topic.

I've had various life threatening medical conditions occur in a short period of time and had to take time to be a patient. Ask anyone in healthcare and they'll tell you Doctors and Nurses can make the worst patients. In my case it was true. I convinced everyone I was fine to leave after 3 weeks in the hospital. That night, I fell at home, pulled some sutures and made everything worse. Next day back in the hospital for another week. Thankfully I have insurance through my employer & arranged a payment plan with the hospital.

Obviously now I have quite a few pre-existing conditions on your list and that worries me. Not just for myself but for my patients as well. This proposal DOES NOT protect any American for having to pay excessive and ridiculous amounts for pre-existing conditions. It does not protect us like the ACA did. Americans who have these conditions did not ask for them. Some were even born with them and that's what I find most disturbing. You're going to let an insurance company punish someone for being born. And on that topic, pregnancy is a pre-existing condition? So you're not pro-life? I'm confused. If this is a way to control the population just say it. Definitely would make more sense and make Senators Graham and Cassidy look a tiny bit better.

This is the United States of America. However you are dividing it by the haves and have nots. The abled and disabled. The elderly and young. The veterans and non-vets. And above all else YOU half the Senators against the American people. I cannot tell you how many comments (verbal, written, typed) that say if this plan is so great why don't the Senators use it?

So in conclusion Senators pause and really search deep in your soul of souls... Is this the healthcare plan you want for YOU? Any pre-existing conditions or family pre-disposition?

All of America is counting on you from the ones who haven't been born yet to the ones planning their departure. Please respect all of us enough to think about us before you vote.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer W [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen Wilhelm [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony Opposed to Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

1. I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I am a veteran. It seems you do not know that nearly 2 million veterans will lose healthcare under the Graham-Cassidy bill. More than 50,000 veterans will lose coverage in my state, Washington. In Senator Murkowski's state nearly 4,000 veterans will lose healthcare. It is not acceptable for Republicans to treat our nation's veterans in this cavalier manner. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wilhelm

Edmonds, Washington

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Samantha Cicero [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill to replace ACA: vote NO

Dear Senators,

You represent Americans. Simply put, the majority of Americans are against this bill (~80%) and ACA is gaining in popularity.

If you are trying to win votes by throwing millions (set. 20-30m) people off health insurance, removing essential health benefits, taking away healthcare from millions of women by defunding PP, not protecting pre-existing conditions and causing increases in insurance rates by throwing instability into markets and then blaming states, you are mistaken.

Add to that, ending Medicaid by 2026 (knowing CBO won't score past 10 years): your political calculus is cruel and depraved.

Americans know that just voting to pass a bill to say you "did something" is a political ploy. If you want to really represent Americans and make the country better, do it through a truly bipartisan process that improves ACA. Use regular order, hold hearings with experts and stakeholders, and get a CBO score. Anything less is a dereliction of your duty to the people you represent.

Do not vote for bills that harm your constituents. Do not vote yes on bills that threaten the health of the majority of women and children. Women vote and are very politically active. Now more than ever. It is politically foolish, shortsighted and extremely cruel.

Do your job: represent us (that majority that do not want Graham Cassidy passed). Vote No.

I am tired of having to remind you what you have been tasked with doing as a Member of Congress. I have a full time job that actually benefits the health of thousands. Your constituents shouldn't have to ask, tell, or beg you not to take away their health care, and their very lives. And we shouldn't have to constantly fight for you to do what is right for your constituents.

Kind regards,
Samantha

Dr. Samantha Cicero

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kj h <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 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.

Kerry Hagans
Florence, KY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matthew Scharfstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare / Graham-Cassidy / ACA Negotiations

Dear Chairman Hatch & Ranking Member Wyden,

I write to you today to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal and replace bill, and to encourage the Senate to resume bipartisan negotiations on fixing the ACA.

I, like many Americans, have a preexisting condition. If Graham-Cassidy were to become law, my insurance company could choose to charge prohibitive rates to cover me, and I would no longer be able to afford my medications. So this is a very personal debate for me.

But I know the ACA is not perfect. What I, and I believe the overwhelming majority of Americans want, is for Congress negotiate a bipartisan improvement to ACA and to stabilize the exchanges as soon as possible.

Please consider your constituents who aren't pinnacles of health (there are more than you might think) and vote 'NO' on the Graham-Cassidy repeal and replace bill. Then, restart bipartisan negotiations to stabilize the ACA exchanges and improve the law.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matt Scharfstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hermine Girardin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To Whom it may Concern:

Please consider that when you are discussing Graham-Cassidy, you are, quite literally, talking about one-sixth of the U.S. economy and an issue that affects all Americans. To push for a vote before you have a full score from the Congressional Budget Office is an egregious dereliction of duty. It is partisan politics at its worst:

“You know, I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn’t be considered,” Chuck 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.”

I implore you to push partisan politics aside and do what truly is truly best for our nation. Here are facets of Graham-Cassidy that greatly concern us:

- The provisions for pre-existing coverage are a farce and endanger countless Americans. Giving states the ability to allow insurance companies to base premiums on a person's medical history is untenable. It strikes at the very heart of a "risk pool" and will force people out of the health care market. A vague and very dangerous reliance on undefined terms, such as “adequate” and “affordable,” would be laughable if lives were not at stake.
- Adequate and affordable health care, particularly for those with pre-existing conditions, is not possible without the mandate for everyone to have health care. Without a mandate, Graham-Cassidy - and any other proposal for that matter - will collapse. No one argues when we have to have home insurance to take out a mortgage. We all accept that we must have car insurance to drive a car. Health care is no different.
- Allowing insurers to cap the amount they would pay for treatment outside of essential health benefits also risks lives. That is only made worse when you are giving states the ability to strip away essential health benefits in the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA). Remember that before the ACA, health care bills were one of the leading causes of bankruptcy.
- Pushing people out of the market will increase premiums. As Rep. Raúl R. Labrador, a member of the influential House Freedom Caucus said, “Nobody dies because they don’t have access to health care.” Despite his inartful wording, he is correct that “all hospitals are required by law to treat patients in need to emergency care regardless of their ability to pay.” But where does that money come from? Do the hospitals take the hit? No, they pass those costs on to those with health insurance. Do the insurance companies take the hit? No, those costs are passed down to consumers in the form of higher premiums. Tossing millions of Americans off health care will increase all of our premiums.
- The term “access” to health care is a perversion of the truth. I have access to the Beverly Hills real estate market too.

I also agree with Sen. John McCain that "The issue is too important, and too many lives are at risk, for us to leave the American people guessing from one election to the next whether and how they will acquire health insurance. A bill of this impact requires a bipartisan approach." Based on past comments, I believe his colleagues agree - or, at the very least, should agree:

Sen. Lindsey Graham in a floor speech, Dec. 19, 2009, "Here's what they did to get that one vote: They had a deal cooked up that no one knew about but the two people talkin'. There was no input from anybody other than the majority leader and the senator from Nebraska. And after that meeting was over, they come up with a 380-page amendment to a 2000-page bill, they file it yesterday, we hear about it for the first time yesterday. ... And this is a transparent new way of doing business? You cook up a deal in a backroom that is essentially sleazy in my view to allow one state to be held harmless for Medicare enrollees to get that vote."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, then the minority leader, in a press gaggle, Dec. 18, 2009, "This massive piece of legislation that seeks to restructure one-sixth of our economy is being written behind closed doors without input from anyone in an effort to jam it past not just the Senate but the American people before Christmas."

House Speaker Paul Ryan, then a House member from Wisconsin, to MSNBC, July 29, 2009, "I don't think we should pass bills that we haven't read and we don't know what they cost. You rush this thing through before anyone knows what it is, that's not good democracy, that's not doing work for our constituents."

Vice President Mike Pence to The Washington Times, Oct. 19, 2009, "They've gone from regular order to smoke-filled rooms, so there's no real way of knowing when [the final bills] are going to emerge."

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/20/republicans-obamacare-too-secretive-239755>

Health care is an extremely important and deeply personal issue to our family: Our granddaughter, the youngest of two, was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, the same congenital heart disease that afflicts Jimmy Kimmel's son. We will remember each and every vote. We will remember who chose partisan politics over the American people. Who put party before country. Just as importantly, we will remember those who put people before politics.

Respectfully,
Hermine and Charles Girardin


Wantagh, New York 11793

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brian Shedrow [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Connelly

Pls do not support this travesty of a bill. Go back to work on a bipartisan solution between Murray and Alexander.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gary Kleinman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Gramm-Cassidy

I urge you to abandon the Graham-Cassidy bill and instead work toward a bipartisan solution to fixing the ACA. It is unconscionable to support legislation that has not been fully vetted and threatens to leave millions without health insurance.

Sincerely,
Gary Kleinman

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Phyllis DelRosario [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:18 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is a travesty. Every major health organization is against it. The majority of the American citizens are against it. This will do harm to millions of people and to the states.

This was supposed to be bi-partisan. The only reason this bill is being shoved through is to give the GOP one win and to appease the big money donors.

This bill is a lie. This bill harms its citizens. This bill must not be allowed to pass

Sincerely
Phyllis Delrosario

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Walker [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.

Jason Walker
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tyraina Berry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone dealing with a pre-existing condition (anxiety and depression), I am concerned about potentially losing my mental health coverage and not being able to afford my doctor visits and treatment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Tyraina Berry
Burien, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melanie Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC is not helping Americans

The proposed bill is unacceptable. (1) it destroys Medicaid as we know it by fundamentally and permanently transforming the funding for the program into a capped system, (2) the caps limit how much federal money states have to spend on Medicaid limits coverage, access, and states' options when more people need coverage, which could mean people go without coverage, (3) caps to Medicaid could mean the elderly are kicked out of nursing homes - elderly account for 2/3 the cost of Medicaid (4) the bill eliminates protections for people with pre-existing conditions - even if your state makes a law that pre-existing conditions will be covered, insurance companies will just pull out and focus on states with no such law, (5) the new tax breaks for HSAs may cause employers to just put tax-free money into these HSAs and stop offering their staff health insurance all-together, (6) the bill has total prohibition on any covered insurance plans from offering abortion coverage - this could be life-threatening for many women, (7) the bill takes money from states that expanded Medicaid and gives it to states that did not, which simply makes no sense whatsoever outside as a carrot for senators from those states to vote for the bill. Conclusion: This bill is just like other TrumpCare bill in that it destroys Medicaid as we know it by turning Medicaid into a capped system. This hurts children with disabilities, seniors, and even victims of natural disasters like Harvey and Irma. It also takes away funding to help people afford health insurance through the marketplace, and it hurts states that have expanded Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bart Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Vote No

Please do not cut Medicaid or permit insurers to raise rates based on preexisting conditions or otherwise. Please do not pass any major legislation without a CBO score to tell you what it is likely to do. Please do not pass GCH.

Thank you,
Bart

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: tom hagamen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

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

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

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

Tom Hagamen, MD
Turners Falls, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: campmail@pattymurray.com
Subject: Health Care

This is my statement regarding the Graham Cassidy Bill.

I am adamantly against the Graham Cassidy Bill regarding health care. It will be devastating financially to many people including myself. People will die if this bill is passed. I encourage the Senate to work in a bi partisan manner to fix the parts of the ACA that need fixing rather than sabotaging it. I am one who has benefited greatly from the ACA.

In 2008, I had my first surgery for metastatic thyroid cancer. Since then I have had 2 more surgeries and radiation. I was fortunate to have health insurance but the premiums were \$1,112 by 2014. They had averaged 20 to 30% increases each year. As a self-employed professional, there was no such thing as sick leave. I quickly ran through most of my savings even with insurance, returning to work before doctors were aware so that I could pay for health insurance. I was often exhausted. My life consisted of making it to work, assisting my elderly mother who died in 2014 and then collapsing at home. Health insurance was the one bill I paid before any others as my income declined and bills increased. As my endurance flagged and memory difficulties increased over time, I had to reduce my practice to maintain high professional standards. The inability to work more and increasing premiums had me in a financial and physical bind until the ACA was enacted. I took early Social Security at age 62, bought my insurance through the Washington State Health Exchange and retired in March, 2015. I had had no plans to retire that early as I loved my work and had been in the field for over 30 years. I could no longer provide the high quality of care for which I was known and was in danger of falling asleep while driving home from the office.

My health is stable although the cancer is still present. I am able to rest when I need to and I can pay my health insurance premiums through the ACA which in Washington State has been well designed. I kept all my doctors and continue to receive quality care.

I have also witnessed others benefiting as I had accommodated many clients over the years who had no health insurance and could be termed "the working poor". They earned too much to qualify for free clinics but could not afford to pay privately. Often their employers did not offer health insurance or it was catastrophic care only. I have seen families with children now able to get medical help when they desperately need it. I have friends who used to delay important diagnostic medical tests because they had no insurance. Donated care cannot possibly help the numbers of people who need care. I know because I donated countless hours of free care, especially to working single mothers.

Provisions such as premium assistance and no pre-existing conditions denial of coverage clauses are vital. I, along with millions of others with life threatening illnesses are extremely scared of what will happen if the ACA is gutted.

Melinda K. Holman

[REDACTED]
Olympia WA 98506

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Johnston [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

There is nothing fiscally responsible nor morally responsible about rushing this bill through the senate. Partisan issues aside, we are talking about a bill that will end up with millions of Americans without insurance, one medical emergency away from financial ruin. Americans.

If you want to look at lowering costs, which seems to be the official argument for repealing ACA, let's start with setting some rules for these For-Profit industries. What are the CEOs of the healthcare companies making? Of the BigPharma companies? When their salaries are so exorbitantly paid out, of course it looks like they're losing money on healthcare policies.

The point of insurance is that we pay into a pool ahead of time and take out money for legitimate claims when needed. It is not for the top executives to get filthy rich.

Either go back and find a plan that will do what was promised: to offer better, more, and less expensive care then you will get 60 senators who will vote for it, or find a way to improve the Affordable Care Act (AKA RomneyCare).

The government is supposed to protect its citizens from all threats foreign and domestic. There are crackdowns on price gouging in emergencies. Except with Graham-Cassidy, this bill will open the door for companies in some states to gouge their customers by raising rates as soon as they get ill, or pregnant, or injured, or old. If insurance companies do not want to pay out on claims, then it is time they consider another business. I couldn't imagine a world where a grocery store looks at a customer and says, wow you are hungry, let me increase those prices because I know you need this product more right now. Why is this okay in the insurance industry?

Elizabeth Johnston
[REDACTED]
Normal, IL 61761
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Greene [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill - ACA

Dear Senators:

My husband has been unemployed for a year and I am self-employed. Our family relies on affordable healthcare of good quality that we can purchase ourselves. My history of cancer and our son's issues with asthma make us view health care with extra appreciation. We need an accessible and affordable health plan and recognize how valuable it is.

We would very much like a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Margaret Greene and Brian Greenberg

Margaret E. Greene, PhD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Social change for health & development

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catia Cecilia Confortini [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No no no no!!! Your bill is no good

What this country needs is Universal Health Care. Single payer health care has worked for decades in Europe, where life expectancy is a lot higher than in the US and where people have no insurance middle-men between them and their doctors.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a bad idea. ObamaCare can be fixed but the GCH direction is the wrong one.

Sincerely,

Catia Cecilia Confortini
[REDACTED]
Wellesley, MA 02482
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane and/or Dick Gerber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing to be held Monday, September 25

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this and my concern for all other individuals and families that may be adversely impacted, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Though healthy now, my young granddaughter experienced a major health crisis and very expensive surgery to correct it. My own brother and my son-in-law's mother have dealt with serious cancer diagnoses and the need to try and fund treatment options. My husband and I are retirees living on a fixed income. Seemingly minor surgeries for both of us this year have exceeded \$40,000 in costs. Had we not had Medicare and Medicare Supplement coverage it would have been extremely difficult for us to manage without incurring a financial hardship.

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

Sincerely,

Jane M. Gerber
Saint Paul, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Vogel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy, and give this issue the deliberation it deserves

Hello --

I'm personally a supporter of Sen. Sanders' Medicare for All proposal. HOWEVER -- absent any other proposals, the Graham-Cassidy bill is still absolutely awful.

It's insulting to Americans that at least some members of Congress would support this bill simply because they feel they have to, rather than on the merits of the legislation. I have to assume that is the case, because this piece of legislation has very few merits and its primary purpose seems to be a combination of spite and party obligation/campaign promises.

It does not have a full CBO score, and likely won't before the scheduled vote. It does not support the full health care women deserve. It eliminates resources from communities suffering from addiction, veteran communities, and folks who rely on mental health services. I am ashamed this bill is even considered viable for a vote.

I urge all members of Congress to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. To do anything else would be a disgrace to your office.

Thank you,
Pam Vogel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: by the way

Vote No on Graham-Cassidy.

Signed,
An American

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello,

My name is Pamela Campbell. My son is Autistic and attends a progressive Transition program at Morning Star School in Winter Park, FL. The Morning Star School is a wonderful school and offers a much needed Transition Program for individuals with Disabilities ages 21 – 30. It offers Behavior therapy, recreation programs, adult vocational training, job training, life skills, community outings as well as after-school programs for individuals with special needs.

Its programs are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

People with disabilities rely on Medicaid for the 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 everyone with a disability.

I have worked so hard to support my child so that he can be part of our community and do not want to see that go away or be forced to make a decision about an institutional setting. My son has benefited from this program so much and has learned skills I never thought possible. He will never be able to live on his own, but because of this important program and the dedicated staff at Morning Star, he has a purpose each day.

We respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of my son.

Sincerely,

Pamela Campbell

[REDACTED]
Orlando, FL 32824
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miranda Janeschild [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I URGE YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Senators,

I am in support of the Affordable Care Act to be preserved. I encourage a bipartisan effort to improve the bill to allow all Americans to have access to quality and affordable health care. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill 100% which will take away health care insurance from many recipients and probably throw the insurance market in further disarray with the shifting of state grants. The health care market needs to be strengthened and secure while ensuring United States citizens access to care as right.

Thank you,

Miranda Janeschild
[REDACTED]
Santa Cruz CA
95060

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miriam Pollock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

I'm writing to say that I'm appalled that the GOP & Trump continue to force the parents of sick children to DC to beg for their lives.

This latest attempt to repeal the ACA is inhumane and the motive--to secure money from wealthy conservative donors--is unethical & demonstrates the utter debasement of the GOP and our democracy.

You're not fooling us. We know this bill will be the death of Americans. Do members of Congress feel comfortable with that on their conscience? How many lives will you trade for a tax cut?

We will work toward Medicare for All. We must, given Trump's plans to sabotage the ACA.

I only hope that we someday find a way back to genuine representation of the people in government--and that I will have the healthcare to live to see that day come.

Sincerely,
Miriam Pollock
New Jersey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Stocke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Finance Committee,

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans.

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.

Sandra Stocke
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sparks, Nevada 89436

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jerry Mogul [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
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.

cc Senator Warren (Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov) and Senator Markey (Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Neuhauser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Kill Americans. 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.

Alice Neuhauser
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Manhattan Beach, California 90266

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lisa willinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The ACA

Please don't overturn the ACA!

My life was saved by my dual union provided health insurance that paid for over \$2 million in care when I came down with a rare pregnancy complication 7 years ago.

Without health insurance and the ACA lifting lifetime caps my family and I would have gone bankrupt! Don't make people have to choose between saving a loved one's life and surviving themselves!

Thank you!

Lisa Willinger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

COMMENT ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL and the REPEAL OF THE ACA

Nancy Andrew
[REDACTED]
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to relate my experience with health insurance BEFORE and AFTER the ACA. I am a single, 60-year-old private music teacher (flute) and have been purchasing my health insurance on the individual market since leaving full-time college teaching in 2007. The first year I sought insurance in this market, I was shocked to learn that my uterine fibroids, which up to 80% of women have by age 50!, was considered a PRE-EXISTING CONDITION and that my reproductive organs would NOT be covered. Had I contracted uterine or cervical cancer, this underwriting would have made treatment financially challenging, if not ruinous. I also have "Hashimoto's Disease" or Hypothyroidism, which affects nearly 25% of people 60 and over; this was also considered a PRE-EXISTING CONDITION and not covered. When states and companies are permitted to make their own determinations of what constitutes a pre-existing condition and how they will cover it (or not cover it!), as they were before the ACA, this type of negligence can be rampant. With the ACA, these conditions are covered, as is women's preventive care (PAPs, Mammograms, and yearly exams). My situation and my conditions are moderate and modest. Many of your constituents have stories that are much more graphic and serious.

Please do right by the American People and vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill now before the Senate. Please take the time and make the effort to work across the aisle to construct a healthcare bill that will truly serve your constituents.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Conroy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We're Not Buying The Lies. 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.

Thomas Conroy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Manhattan Beach, California 90266

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: vincent caggiano [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I just wanted to voice my opinion on the whole ordeal that Congress has staged to Repeal the ACA. When your motivation is to simply repeal ACA and nothing else, you present a very reckless agenda. No review of your proposal by any organizations, no partisan assistance, and, another attempt to hurt the average American. Shame on you!
Health Care for ALL would be better than this attempt to repeal, under these circumstances. Start working for the American People rather than you SELF Interests.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Susan Smith-Heisters [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

As retired senior citizens living within modest means, my husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely,
~~S. Smith-Heisters
Windsor, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Drury McAlarney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My younger brother has severe and chronic asthma which has sent him to the emergency room multiple times over the course of the past few years, and as it is, my parents are often told that they must pay the entirety of the cost of his (life saving and necessary) medication, such as inhalers and epi-pens. They are both teachers and barely have the money to cover his medical expenses as is; a repeal of or change to the ACA's rules about pre-existing conditions could make his medical expenses even more prohibitively high and be ruinous for my family. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Drury McAlarney
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michael Solomon MD <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Pearson, Beth (Warren)
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal

Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov and Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov. You can use the sample email below, and feel free to add your own

*Members of the Senate Finance Committee,
Yes*

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.

Michael Solomon, MD
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am a 62 year old woman who was disabled in a car accident on Dec 2, 2015. Prior to my accident I had worked as a CPA (certified public accountant), walked daily for over 30 years & was physically active most of my life. Currently, I am not able to work, which I have done for 45 years, & rely on ACA supplement for healthcare insurance.

In my educated opinion (also have MBA) this Graham/Cassidy healthcare bill will take away my health insurance bc I will not be able to afford health insurance, especially now that I have pre-existing conditions. "Affordable" is not defined and there is NO guarantee of coverage for people with "Pre-existing Conditions". I would like Mr Graham & Mr Cassidy to explain to me how I will afford their health insurance plan on my \$2,126 monthly disability check!

PLEASE WORK TOGETHER AS ADULTS & COME UP WITH A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO IMPROVE THE ACA.

BOTTOM LINE: It's all about money & not about humanity!!!!

--

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"- gandhi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jackie Wellman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

My name is Jackie Wellman. I have Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia, which is a rare motor neuron disease similar to ALS but much slower progressing. I have been diagnosed for 20 years. My son was five at the time and healthy but now he is 25 and was diagnosed with HSP last year.

He has enough difficulties already without losing the ability to get healthcare at a reasonable price. I cannot sleep at night worryiing about this. How can you think of doing this to people? I am on medicare and do not have to worry but please consider all of the people that need healthcare.

Yes, the ACA has problems.

Doesn't it make more sense to fix them than disrupt the insurance industry and people's lives. I know that it is important to the GOP to repeal and replace but be reasonable. That is wrong. Most people wanting to repeal and replace are Christians. This is not the Christian thing to do.

Jackie Wellman

"I believe in truth, science and reason."

President Obama who increased funding for NIH rare disease research

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stromhome [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:38 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: What my healthcare means to me.

Dear Senators,

When my baby was 4 months old, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fortunately, I caught it early and had extensive treatment: surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy. Fortunately also at that time, I had great health insurance.

When she was 8 months old, we moved to New York. We enrolled her in Child Health Plus, an HMO for which we paid premiums based upon our tax returns. It was so simple - if we had a good year, we paid as much as \$125/month. If we had a bad year, sometimes the premiums were as little as \$9/month.

But for my husband and myself, there was no such program. We were both self-employed, both college graduates from upper middle-class families, both white and both working. But once our premiums reached \$9,000/year for an HMO with a \$2500 deductible each, we had no choice. We let our health insurance go. I don't know whether you can appreciate being a young parent of a young child and a cancer survivor with no health insurance. Neither of us has ever been on any kind of public assistance. We have always worked, we have always earned and are middle class.

My husband was offered a job with the state of California in 2006, and we moved 3,000 miles. For the excellent health insurance. Which was fortunate, because I had cancer again and had proper care. Seriously, we moved here for one reason and it was the health insurance.

Like you, I am happy to say that my husband and I (and our daughter, until she's 26) will always have this excellent, private health insurance, with access to the best doctors and hospitals. Our lives have been saved, and we don't have to worry ever again.

But our child will. I can never erase the terror of getting ill, losing our home, losing our lives. And even though that's no longer my personal concern, I understand that we're lucky - just like you. We have many friends and family members on the ACA. You have many constituents on the ACA. I know you are decent people, people of faith. Don't turn your backs on your fellow citizens. The Americans on the ACA may not be able to pay for lobbyists, but they're the people who need you most. Please don't take their health, peace of mind and potentially, lives away, for them or for their children. The ACA can be made better by expanding Medicaid. Don't take this away from the people who need you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Strom
San Diego, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina Breci <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop GCH

Please stop this monstrosity of a bill. 32 million people could lose health insurance! You need to go back to regular order and come up with bipartisan solutions.

Please put the people of this great country before cheap political "wins."

Thank you.

Gina Breci

Oakdale MN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Ichioka <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

My husband and I are seniors and rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, we oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We are seniors with a limited income and we would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ichioka
Victor Ichioka
Berkeley, California [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debbie Bendever <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is this: I have pre-existing conditions that prevented me from receiving health care coverage for the years before I was eligible for Medicare. During that time, my appendix burst and I almost died because I waited so long to go to the ER because I didn't have insurance. My husband is not old enough yet to be on Medicare, but he has severe Rheumatoid Arthritis and is permanently disabled. We do not make enough money to be able to afford any insurance that the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill would offer, and without insurance we would not be able to afford the health care that we need. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Debbie Bendever
Lawrenceville, GA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paige McCoy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:12 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Please encourage all senators to vote against the Graham Cassidy bill. Pre existing conditions must be covered. Allowing insurance companies to charge whatever they want for people with pre existing conditions will price many people out of insurance. Every single person in my family has a pre existing condition. Most people don't understand what constitutes a pre existing condition.

Be real leaders. Represent the people. Sit down with Democrats and Republicans and truly research the issues. Regardless of party, consider single payer.. Look at the numbers objectively. I can't understand why you would rather vote for a bill that hurts a lot of people than actually consider other options. Why wouldn't you want to do what actually helps more people?

Do the right thing. Market forces aren't always the best option.

Thank you,

Paige McCoy
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kyna Glover <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I vote every election. I ask you to vote no.

Please work in a bipartisan manner to find a better solution.

This is not a political contest, but a need for the American people for good healthcare for all. Coverage for women and children. No limits. No preexisting condition limits. We are counting on you .

Unfortunate that you promised to repeal with no plan for your constituents. You can do better.

Kyna Glover

[REDACTED] r.

Boulder, CO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Kyna

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teri Browne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller and work on a bipartisan solution to healthcare. 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 work with people with chronic illnesses and know this bill will be extremely harmful for SC in many ways. 1. it allows for SC to allow lifetime and annual caps for insurance that would bankrupt many who have medical emergencies, chronic illnesses, premature babies. 2. it allows for SC to allow insurance companies to remove essential benefits from insurance plans, so your insurance is able to NOT cover maternity care, lab tests, prescriptions, mental health and substance use care, physical therapy, outpatient visits, hospitalizations, lots of things 3. Overall, it drastically decreases the funding for Medicaid, which would lead to lots of people not having insurance that pays the most for nursing homes and disabled children of all income brackets (as well as care for the most vulnerable South Carolinians) 4. It will allow for insurance companies to charge South Carolinians way more than 31% more for their insurance if they are old or sick 5. It will allow for insurance companies to charge LOTS more if you or a dependent have a pre-existing condition. 6. SC hospitals will be devastated by this bill's decrease in Medicaid funding, and may have to shut down- this would be horrible for South Carolina, especially rural SC. Hospital associations are against this bill. Even the SC Medicaid director is against this bill 7. There is a reason why AARP and AARP South Carolina do not support this bill- older adults in SC will have to pay as much as \$10,000 more in premiums a year because of this bill and will have thousands of dollars more to pay out-of-pocket http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2017/09/graham-cassidy-legislation-threatens-affordable-coverage-for-older-americans.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=health-care There are ZERO patient, health care professional, provider, payor, or policy organizations that support this bill for all these reasons and more- dozens of them have come out strongly against this bill for a reason here is a list of some of them https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/09/22/heres-a-list-of-medical-groups-opposing-the-cassidy-graham-health-care-bill/?utm_term=.f86f8c5d4b71 they include Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and lots more. There are zero health care professional organizations who support this bill. There is not one thing in there that would lower insurance premiums. We absolutely have problems in this country with our health care system. There absolutely needs to be more marketplace plans and lower premiums. There are zero democrats, incl Obama who claim that the ACA is perfect and needs no fixes. I would never claim that. But, this bill is not the answer. we need to have regular order, and have hearings with experts (patients, professionals, payors, providers, policy makers), and have the public be able to weigh in on the bill, and we need to know the financial implications of bills, in order to have solutions for us all.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Viren Kaul [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am a pulmonary and critical care physician from NYC, and I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I treat patients with serious and chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma, COPD, pneumonia and sleep apnea who need access to continuous affordable quality health care. As part of my work in the Intensive Care Unit, I take care of the sickest patients in the hospital and they cannot afford to lose insurance coverage for any period of time.

I am deeply concerned that the bill would eliminate the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) health insurance subsidies and Medicaid expansion and replace them with state block grants. But the estimated block grant funding provided under the bill is substantially below what is necessary to meet the health needs of Americans covered.

I am alarmed about the Graham-Cassidy bill's changes and funding cuts 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 and adults with chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD, 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 people with chronic life-threatening health conditions being priced out of the insurance market.

Lastly, without a full appraisal from the CBO, and appropriate assessment (this bill is likely to affect millions of Americans by conservative estimates), 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 health care coverage for all Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions.***

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns as a worried physician caring for New York City's patients and a member of two national organizations that staunchly stand against this bill (American Thoracic Society and American College of Physicians).

Regards
Viren Kaul, MD
Clinical Fellow
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai / Elmhurst Hospital Center
Email [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: leslie brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Importance: High

Dear Senators,

Please Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill.

I have relatives--a brother, nieces, and nephews--who work but their income is limited. Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, they had to ignore basic healthcare needs. They used the emergency rooms when they needed medical care. This also meant a simple problem could become chronic condition, which can require long-term treatment.

When I was younger, my former husband was an adjunct instructor at several local colleges. I worked often in part-time positions we did not have health insurance. We were healthy and young. Fortunately, we found full-time positions with health insurance benefits just before my first Asthma attacks and later breast cancer, I did not have to fear denial of service.

Today I meet workers with families, who are working two full-time or three part-time jobs just barely making their rent and food needs, who need a reliable, affordable health insurance that allows **pre-existing** conditions.

The health profession and insurers support, the Affordable Care insurance. Yes it needs to be improved you can do that.

On the other hand, the Graham-Cassidy Health Bill is emerging as critically flawed alternative.

Please Senators good grace and consciousness, Vote NO on the GCH bill.

(Diseases, especially, contagious ones, do not recognize individual or national borders.)

Leslie Brown
Arlington, Virginia Resident
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Romenesko <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

The narrative around healthcare reform and the Graham-Cassidy bill is that those with chronic health conditions are "less than" others who are otherwise healthy. I'm somebody who's dealt with 'pre-existing conditions' since day one. I was born 3 months premature (of no fault of mine or my mother's, I guess I was just excited to get started!). Since then, I've had two liver transplants and countless other procedures. My stomach shows all this. It's a road map of scars that show my life experience and show how much I've gained and how I'm so much more because of my diseases. I've got small pokes from suture changes, bigger holes from JP drains and biliary drains, marks from multiple Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiograms, dots from liver biopsies, and the big ol' scar from two transplants. These all are pieces of my story, of why I am who I am today and I refuse to buy into the narrative that it makes me less than anybody else.

Implied in Senators Graham and Cassidy's bill, whether they intended it or not, is that I should be ashamed of this. That it's a burden on everybody else. I'm a problem because I have to deal with all of this even when I didn't ask for it. What I have to say today is that's garbage. I will NOT accept that narrative, nor should anybody else that's ever struggled with anything that makes them different than what's the mainstream.

This bill would kick millions off of insurance, severely decrease funding for numerous programs and people who need it, and cause an explosion of speculation in the health insurance markets. In short, I see it as doing nothing good for the vast majority of Americans. I cannot believe that a bill like this is up for vote, let alone has the prospect to pass.

Thank you for your time,
Steve Romenesko
Resident of ZIP Code [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gina Frankhart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal proposal

Please consider voting NO for this latest proposal to repeal the ACA. I'm not sure how you can in good conscience repeal the ACA and leave millions of American uninsured. We need to fix the ACA not replace it with this cruel proposal. We need a bipartisan effort to make this a better Proposal.

I have two pre-existing conditions. I had good insurance and still had huge medical bills. I am reminded every day that if I didn't have insurance, I would be bankrupt or dead. What is your proposal? Leave people destitute or dead because they don't have insurance? Healthcare should be a right. It's a travesty that this country can not provide this, but we can spend trillions on defense and propose giving billionaires a tax break.

Please take the time and work on a bill that benefits our country. We can not handle this healthcare crisis morally or financially.

Sincerely,
Gina Frank

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing

Please be honest about this bill! It will not give people the help that they need. ACA definitely has problems but fix it not scrap it! That's what the people want why won't you listen to them!

Please don't allow insurance companies to charge people huge fees for pre existing conditions. Don't allow them to bankrupt people with long term illnesses like cancer or even autism. It shouldn't be about the profits it should be about the people.

Thank you

Sara wessendorf

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Sanger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:24 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA: Please do all you can to keep this important act of Congress

Hello. My daughter and two grandchildren (ages 1 and 4) are all insured through the ACA. We strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill which portends less care at higher prices. I still believe that Americans care about one another in way that G-C profoundly undermines. No one denies that the ACA needs to be improved. It does not and should not be repealed. If every we could pull together, is this not the moment when the health of the nation is at stake?

Most sincerely,

Carol Sanger
Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

[REDACTED]
New York, NY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Gilberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:23 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Thanks.

Julie A. Gilberg
Austin, TX [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sam.lloyd1965 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:22 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Republican healthcare bill!

I am writing because the ACA allowed me to purchase insurance that I would have been unable to purchase otherwise. And even though the premiums aren't as affordable as I believe they could be, at least I am able to have some hope of treatment in the event of a life-threatening illness or accident.

The Republican bill would absolutely destroy any hope and any possibility of treatment and recovery from a serious medical issue. I have friends, family, and neighbors who are all in the same situation.

Do not allow this country to become the dystopian nightmare that the Republican bill would usher in.

Regards,
Sam Lloyd

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Cannon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:21 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 directly impacts me in almost every capacity. I have a terminally ill brother, and we require all the guarantees for pre-existing conditions provided by the ACA, along with Medicaid (in top of my parents' top-tier comprehensive insurance policies). In addition, my employers are chronically ill, and if the insurance market destabilizes they may need to fire me in order to cut costs and remain healthy. Please don't let a reckless piece of legislation destroy my family and my future.

Thomas Cannon
Greenville, SC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bridget Berry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:19 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

The Republican proposed Healthcare Bill is a disaster. Pray tell how much time needs to be wasted on these silly political games? Can you just fix what needs to be fixed with the current law? Is it really to hard to compromise and work with the the other side of the aisle ? Is it really asking too much for you people to buck up and do what is in the best interest of those citizens who pay the taxes that pay your salaries? We deserve a right to to affordable healthcare. The ACA needs to be fixed not repealed. Do the right thing. Be a patriot

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Richard Boggs <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:17 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, such as my own daughter.

Richard Boggs
Lewisville, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kelly's Email [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Do not sign in favor of a hasty bill stripping away healthcare from millions of Americans.

My only sister developed juvenile diabetes at the age of 3, and I watched her struggle with severe health issues from the time she turned 21 and no longer had my parents insurance coverage. Unable to work much of the time due to her illness, so unable to get healthcare, her health gradually declined until she lost an eye, a kidney, and eventually both of her legs.

She died at the age of 43. The ACA would have provided her with health care coverage so that she could have had medical attention throughout her adult life.

Why would you strip away insurance from a young American who already suffered from a terrible disease? So that those who are blessed to be healthy and well off don't have to pay a little bit more for their insurance?

I'd like you and your family to live without insurance and take the chance that maybe you won't get sick or injured, or if you do maybe you'll be bankrupted because of it.

Kelly Snow
Friday Harbor, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Virginia Morris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: cassidy-graham health care vote

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please vote unanimously to reject this bill: it is cruel, ill thought out and shortsighted. Go back to the drawing board!!!!

Personally , i think the time for "single payer", comprehensive national health care coverage has come! (We waste far too much on drug companies- with non-negotiable prices, and on insurance companies- with the private insurance system we have- but the Affordable Care Act is a lot better for the previously uninsured than this Cassidy-Graham bill!!)
Thanks, Virginia Morris CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jóhann Hannesson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:44 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. Don't gamble on 1/6 of our economy and tens of millions of livelihoods.

Without the health coverage my mom has today through the Affordable Care Act, due to her pre-existing conditions, she may very well have died in the past year due to not being able to afford care for her chronic auto-immune conditions.

This bill can put her at risk of not affording her care once again. I urge you to consider the bipartisan bill the HELP Committee was exploring.

Jóhann Hannesson
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: R Ohnegeyer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller amendment. Several members of my family have serious illnesses and live in states which are likely to request waivers for coverage of pre-existing conditions if the amendment were to pass. They won't be able to afford their treatments without adequate insurance. Without treatment, they will die. My family isn't unique. This story will play out in millions of American families.

Every major doctor's organization, hospital organization, and patient advocacy group has made statements against this amendment. Less than 20% of the American people support it. There is no good argument in favor of it.

Please do what's best for the American people and support bi-partisan fixes for the ACA, with proper hearings including expert testimony.

Rachel Unkefer
Charlottesville, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: april lowery <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:13 AM
To: gchcomments

Hi, my name is April Lowery. I live In New York zip code [REDACTED]. I am writing about the Graham-Cassidy bill currently in the senate. I believe it is irresponsible and dangerous to pass legislation without a comprehensive assment or the time to debate the contents of the bill. The American people have a right to know what is in it and not be lied to from either side of the aisle. Please take into consideration the recommendations from the various associations representing the people of this great country. There are real peoples lives on the line. Please dont rush a vote and put party before the people.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Larry and Ellen Marschall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please register our strong opposition to the Graham Cassidy Bill

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As parents of a son who depends on Medicaid for his health---and as citizens of our great nation--- we strongly oppose the proposed changes in the Graham Cassidy bill that is before you for consideration. The changes will gut a program that, though flawed, deserves fixing rather than repeal---and does nothing to address the two most important goals of legislation for the health of our nation (1) Increased access for all citizens; and (2) Lower medical and prescription drug costs.

The Graham Cassidy bill appears to be rushed to the floor--only to meet a partisan deadline---and will not even receive the CBO scrutiny in full before it presumably comes to a vote. Is that what serious legislators want to do? Isn't the welfare of all citizens your prime concern, rather than some imagined loyalty to party or ideology?

Please do the right thing, rather than the "Right" thing...show some compassion, levelheadedness, and moral strength in this matter.

Yours truly,
Laurence and Ellen Marschall

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jacalyn Dougherty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:18 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
....
ACA needs a lot of change. Work on changing what's wrong, not take away what we do have.

Jacalyn Dougherty

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

What you are all planning to do by repealing the ACA is not good for the American People. The only people who have a problem with health insurance or all are people who do not bother to insure their home or vehicle, costing everyone more in insurance. These are people who are not responsible. Then there are the congressmen like you all that want to repeal the ACA, because corporate America has greased your palms. You are all shameful, and that monster in the Whitehouse is out of control, because you allow it. I have a preexisting condition and worry I will never be able to afford to retire. I realize rich people like you all do not have these concerns. Your concerns should be about us, not who will be giving you money to vote a certain way. SHAME on you, ESPECIALLY SENATOR GRAHAM!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Toodles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No Graham Cassidy bill

Please vote no for the Graham Cassity Bill I am a person with disabilities who needs Medicare funds for my services
please vote no!!!
Robert Jones II

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Archbold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 4 Comments

A couple of notes:

- 1) History shows that turning health care and insurance over to the states led to the massive numbers of uninsured. It was George Bush (#1) who "called on the states" (his own words) to innovate and fix the problem. And how would it be different this time?
- 2) This bill will, unbelievably, bring back the dreaded health questionnaire and the practice of making insurance unaffordable? Why do that when you could fix it?
- 3) The fix is to end the practice of group plans, and just sell individual plans on a single national exchange. That would fix everything, since we would no longer divide people into very exclusive groups based on employer, if any, and who you happen to be married to.
- 4) Whatever you do, don't call the individual market a free market. This market is for people who cannot qualify for a group plan and you pay a lot more for a lot less. If you want a group plan, you have to get a job with an employer whose policy you like. That is a major obstacle to purchase. A major obstacle IS NOT a characteristic of a free market.

Mike Archbold

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Albert LeBlanc <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Members of my family have been helped in the past by Medicaid and Obamacare coverage. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it will have the effect of reducing effective coverage to poor people. Poor people deserve quality healthcare as much as any American.

--Albert LeBlanc, [REDACTED] Williamston, MI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: B Zedan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy

My household and family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordability and accessibility of insurance is that my household is still paying off an emergency room visit from ten years ago. Most of the people in my family are also freelancers and rely on the accessibility of the ACA to be able to afford health care. My only sister has pre-existing conditions thanks to a car accident and repealing the ACA is dooming her to a short life.

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

Thank you,

Brenna Zedan
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Annie Bourneuf <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt disabled Americans

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My son, who will be 3 soon, was born with muscular dystrophy.

I want to register my deep concern that he--and many, many other Americans who, through no fault of their own, are born with disabilities--would be gravely harmed by the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would take a huge amount of money out of Medicaid, *including* from non-expansion Medicaid populations.

I believe that you are, as Senators, morally obligated to weigh what it would mean to take away necessary medical care for one of the most vulnerable groups in the US--children with disabilities.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The goal should be to work together to improve access to health care.

Health care is a matter of life and death. It is much too important to make into an arena for partisan point-scoring.

Sincerely,

Annie Bourneuf
Chicago, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bonnie Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill- Please Consider the Damages

Dear Financial Committee Members,

I ask you to reconsider the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill. Please have regular order to discuss its contents and debate the ramifications of this very destructive legislation to so many people. We need the CBO score before proceeding with voting. If not vote no. I have the privilege of volunteer teaching of many adults to increase their literacy to get better jobs. They must have the healthcare for themselves and their children to be able to do their jobs and run their homes. I, additionally, help people to complete their taxes so I know that there are many seniors such as myself who cannot increase their incomes. We must have affordable healthcare whether it is Medicare, Medicaid or Affordable ACA or private insurance. I beg your for the many people, I help in my community. These people as well as myself must have the confidence that pre-existing conditions will be covered and treated with affordable care and medications. You cannot help your genetics but you can work within it.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Smith
Williamsburg, VA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephen V. Kobasa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The Senate and the Senate Finance Committee must reject Graham-Cassidy and protect the healthcare of millions of Americans.

Stephen V. Kobasa

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

New Haven, Connecticut [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steve Dickman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:38 PM
To: gchc@comments
Subject: Please Reject Graham-Cassidy!

Finance Committee,

Are you loyal to the American people or to an ideology that will destroy them -- while letting a few wealthy individuals get richer?

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. It 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.

Please do the right thing -- for all Americans!

Steve Dickman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Vestal, New York [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beth Wittcoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Helath Care Ammendment

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please consider this email my statement for the record. I oppose the Graham Cassidy Amendment for many reason, Firstly it has not been debated nor marked up. It has not received a CBO score are the two lack of process that should occur. normal order of business. Further, it does not guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions, rips medicaid away from children , elderly and the poor. Most importantly there is not one reputable medical organization or patient organization that does not oppose this bill.(American Hospital Association, ALS, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes American Heart Association AARP, etc. etc.

Your first duty is to recommend against this bill, Your second duty, if it does come to the floor, that each of you vote no.

Respectfully,
Beth A. Wittcoff

[REDACTED]
Southboro, MA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Bregor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill to repeal and replace Obamacare

To all,

What kind of politician thinks it's a good idea to take health care away from the poor, disabled, sick and elderly?

What kind of politician thinks it's a good idea not to cover pre-existing conditions?

What kind of politician thinks it's a good idea to make it difficult for women to receive health care services including constitutionally protected abortions?

What kind of politician thinks it's a good idea to allow the insurance companies to control health care?

What kind of politician thinks it's a good idea to destroy health care for so many because of a false promise to destroy Obamacare because it's Obamacare?

What kind of man or woman are you?

Are you the kind that wants to be remembered for helping those less fortunate? Are you the kind who has values and beliefs that transcend petty politicals?

The kind of person you are demands a NO vote! Please do the right thing!

We are watching and waiting.

Thank you,

Cynthia Bregor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Henry Lopez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AGAINST Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Legislation

I am against the proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill!

Sincerely,

Henry Lopez

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Renee Amori <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators of the Committee,

My name is Renee Amori, MD. I am a practicing physician writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed health care bill known as the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have practiced as a physician before and after the ACA, and before and after the Medicaid expansion in the state of Pennsylvania. The ACA has saved lives and continued health care services for thousands in my state.

I feel the current bill would be a giant step backwards in the health of my patients and the country. The ACA has flaws that need to be addressed, but Graham Cassidy is not the way to address these. This bill has the potential to limit access to care, and force struggling urban and rural hospitals to close. The most vulnerable citizens of the United States stand to suffer immensely.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Renee E. Amori, MD FACE

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tassler, Nina <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO ON CASSIDY-GRAHAM

As a woman, mother, sister, daughter - this bill is hateful and cruel, hurting the most vulnerable in our country - children and the elderly. Not to mention a fatal blow to all of women's reproductive health care.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Cook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill - I'm a pre-existing condition

Issue one: Pre-existing condition

I'm a 52 year old woman who was diagnosed with Hodgkins in 2008. I was lucky that it was caught at an early stage. There was never a chance of it being fatal, still I went through a year of treatment that without proper coverage would have cost me more than 100,000.

At the time I was in my early 40's and well employed, making just under 100K. I have a master's degree. I have never had trouble getting work or getting good work.

Without proper coverage I would have gone deeply in debt. Without treatment I might have died.

Now I am a pre-existing condition. Without protection I risk going deeply into debt.

I am one of hundreds of thousands in the same situation.

Do not allow a bill to pass that leaves the pre-existing condition protection at risk or to the will of states.

Issue two: Medicaid

I'm lucky that with luck I will likely never need Medicaid. This is not a gray issue. It is morally wrong to leave people without the means to pay for healthcare without support.

We all need government. We need to it work for us, not against us. Where is the moral center?

This country is in a precarious balance between maintaining a position to lead and slipping into meaninglessness. We are already a laughing stock with this president. Why wouldn't the world simply turn away from us in disgust? And where will that leave us? Those of us who continue to live here feel our trust wildly slipping away.

Vote no on this bill.

Improve what's not working in the ACA.

Stop acting like children.

Laura Cook
New York NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tammy Lattner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing.

This is in regards to Graham-Cassidy Hearing, on 9/25/17. My name is Tammy Lattner and my address is 2403 Antler Ridge Drive, in Asbury Iowa. I STRONGLY oppose this bill.

My 24 year old daughter was diagnosed with kidney cancer 5 weeks before she was to start law school at the University of Pennsylvania, in July of 2015. She had surgery that summer and decided she would go forward with her plans to start law school that August, as long as her health stayed status quo. I am proud to say that so far she is fulfilling her dream and she will graduate in May 2018 with her law degree, and has accepted a position in a Chicago law firm post graduation.

She is a smart, contributing member of society. She has volunteered for numerous organizations, and has always been greatly involved in school activities, whether in high school, college or now grad school. She did not ask for cancer. She should not be penalized because she has this monkey on her back for the rest of her life. How dare anyone think that she should. She has a pre-existing condition that she never asked for and does not deserve. She will ALWAYS be at risk for this monster to return. How cold and just plain mean of people who disregard the need to protect people with pre-existing conditions as well as creating lifetime caps. As a mother, and a nurse who has worked in healthcare for 30 years, I passionately oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Tammy Lattner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bernadette Spencer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

My name is Bernadette Spencer, and I am emailing you to comment on the Graham-Cassidy bill before you. I implore you all to vote against this bill. I am very worried about the financial impact on myself and family if provisions mandating coverage of pre-existing conditions and universal birth control are rescinded.

I have endometriosis, a chronic condition that can never be cured and is partially managed by hormonal contraceptives. Thanks to Obamacare, I have been able to secure relatively affordable insurance coverage regardless of my employment status. During a stint in Washington State, I was able to secure Medicaid coverage while I was in between jobs that ensured that I could continue to job hunt without being in extreme pain. If these coverage guarantees were to disappear, I would be chained to jobs and possibly be forced to purchase insurance that would not help me.

I implore on my behalf, and the behalf of those who rely on Medicaid expansion funds and other Obamacare provisions, to do everything to oppose this bill. Our lives literally depend on it.

Bernadette Spencer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charles Bradley Jr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I and my family and many friends depend on good, comprehensive health care. Graham-Cassidy won't do that. If Congress thinks it is a good deal they should wait to see how many people would be left out. Giving block grants to the states will allow for lack of coverage when the money runs out. It will also allow states to prohibit many of the kinds of care provided by the ACA. I do not want those with pre-existing conditions to have to pay more or to not be covered. Democrats and Republicans need to work together to improve on the ACA. Before we pass a health care bill, we need to know what it would cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be hurt or helped by it. Graham-Cassidy is an attempt to rush something through without finding out these things or it is an attempt to get a bad bill through before anyone can find out how bad it is going to be.

Susanna Bradley, County Bd. Supervisor, Columbia County, Wisconsin
[REDACTED], Portage, Wisconsin, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Len <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

The following groups and Associations oppose the passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care bill.

American Association of Retired People, ALS Association, American Medical Association, Blue Cross/Blue shield, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), 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 of America, March of Dimes, National Health Council, National Association of Medicaid Directors, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization of Rare Diseases, Volunteers of America, and Women Heart.

The following support passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care (tax relief) bill.

The Koch brothers and Shelden Adelson – the masters who apparently control your thoughts and actions.

If you had any integrity, you would put the health and welfare of those you are supposed to be serving above the selfish interests of a few donors, and oppose this immoral bill which will be hurtful to millions of your fellow Americans.

The Graham-Cassidy bill currently under consideration in the United States Senate will have the following results if passed:

1. Lifetime caps, annual caps, and higher charges for seniors under 65 are all back.
2. Mandatory essential benefits are eliminated. Junk policies are back.
3. Medicaid expansion vanishes. Millions will lose or be unable to obtain insurance. These people disproportionately will be children and the disabled. Essentially those who have the greatest need and the least capability.
4. Premiums will go up for everybody and they will sky rocket for those who are below 400% of the poverty level.
5. There will be massive funding cuts to states. This will result in slashing programs and/or higher state level taxes.
6. States will not be able to keep pre-existing condition exceptions because individual mandates will be eliminated. This shrinks the risk pool and will increase costs.
7. This bill has been written in secret and will have no CBO score when voted upon. This bill only serves the political interests of 12% of Americans and cynically ignores the health needs of the other 88% of Americans. We want quality health care at an affordable cost. This will require care, due diligence, and an open bi-partisan approach.

Sincerely,

Leonard Lingo
Denver, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Meredith Nemirov <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge you to stop sabotaging the ACA and fully fund it. All these alternatives that are being proposed are not sufficient. I would also like to see research into establishing a single payer option too. Do not vote for Graham Cassidy's bill at the hearing on Monday.

Please enter my statement as expressed above into the record for the Senate Finance Committee Graham-Cassidy hearing on Monday.

Sincerely,

Meredith Nemirov
Ridgway, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marisa Natale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to comment on Graham-Cassidy, the much discussed healthcare legislation. My family and I depend on access to quality, affordable healthcare in order to fulfill the American promise of pursuing life, liberty and happiness. My younger brother has a disability that he takes medication for, which helps him succeed in school, and that medication would be completely unaffordable without health insurance. My mother has chronic late-stage Lyme disease, and she recently lost her job, which is causing my entire family to panic, because her medication is very expensive. She infuses with doxycycline through an IV line, at a cost of \$1,000 per bag of antibiotics. She uses one per day. Even with an insurance plan that so far has covered 90% of her medication costs, the burden on my family has been immense. However, we are very lucky that we have had any insurance at all. As a teenager, I watched my best friend's mother die of cancer that could have been easily caught and treated if only she had access to preventative screenings. Graham Cassidy would ruin the lives of people like me, my mother and my brother, and create more people like my best friend's mother, who left her teenage daughter alone in this world too soon, simply because she could not afford the care she needed.

The ACA is not perfect; rising premiums have also caused my family to struggle. But I would rather see a thoughtful, bipartisan effort to address its shortcomings or reform the system than a rushed, cruel, thoughtless bill that only helps the insurance CEOs who don't need any more help making money. Please save our healthcare. Thank you.

Best,

Marisa Natale, MA Resident
B.A. Clark University, '17

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bryan Barbee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

I lost my job and healthcare at 56 in 2008. My family at the time included 3 kids to get through College. My wife had a job and 3 yrs latter after many freelance jobs I was hired to a job that payed half of the salary of my previous job. My wife was diagnosed with MS a year later and after 5 years is now on Medicare and retired. I am a diabetic with several work related injuries and waiting until 2 years from now to retire. My 401k disappeared getting my kids out of College. They graduated and have jobs but 2 are in heavy debt. So now the Republicans want to cut Medical insurance and Social Security for Seniors. Well boys you got all. My "Golden Years" are looking just dandy.

Bryan Barbee

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David King <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Supposed Health Care

Sirs and Madams..

Have you lost your damn minds? Seriously, have you given up all pretense of giving one tiny iota of care about the health of ALL Americans? You care more about "keeping a promise" , which said promise was one of THE most stupid things you've done, than you do about ALL Americans. You CONTINUE to stick a hot poker up the little guys back door all the while making sure the millionaires and billionaires of this country have enough money for their yacht payments. You sicken me to death. Hey! That's what you want. An America that DIES because they can't afford reliable, decent and affordable healthcare. More money for your buddies, right? Take a look at other countries and how they do it and forget this nightmare that keeps rising from the dead like a freakin' zombie. Get your SH*T together and , I don't know, WORK with the other party to get great health care passed. or do you just mouth the words? Quit pretending you give a damn and really fix things for the good of ALL. Yes, I'm mad and I have a right to be. You idiots couldn't find your ass with both hands. I will continue to be angry, as will MILLIONS of other Americans, until you put politics aside and HELP US!

David King
Monroe, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mona Kanin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #Greedvs.Humanity

September 23

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a 66 year old professional, mother and grandmother. I took care of my great-aunt when she was in her 80s. She never married and had no children, but she was an intelligent, productive and upstanding American. She loved to work and for over 60 years, she was never out of a job. Her life was comfortable. She rented a studio apartment and had friends, but with all her hard work, she never made enough money to save a dime. If she were still alive today, she'd be crushed, metaphorically and emotionally by the terrible and cruel Graham/Cassidy bill. Without money for medical care in her late years, she would simply die.

I fight for morality and principals every day and my great-aunt is one of my touchstones. Speaking of principals. How did people like Graham and Cassidy become so proficient and callus about lying? Is this how you'd like the next generations of America to grow up?

Do we have to reform health care in this country? Certainly.

Do we have to look at what other nations do (since they have better and less expensive healthcare than we)? Yes.

Do we have to go back to that time when money didn't run politics? Of course.

Because we are already losing our Democracy to people like the Koch Brothers, people who fund the GOP.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Mona Kanin
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diana Tibor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

For the record. I am against the current Graham Cassidy bill before the Senate. It does not help American citizens. It is dangerous

Diana Tibor

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Penny Egan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

As an employee of a local Emergency Department, I have often seen what happens when people do not have adequate health insurance. It is a travesty that this country has under consideration putting many of our citizens in that position.

This bill is morally wrong !!!

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH

Many families, men women, and CHILDREN rely on quality, affordable healthcare. The idea of ramming this vote through without WAITING for the CBO score is ridiculous and appears to be based on the Sept. 30th deadline for the majority vote issue. 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. Shame on you if you pass this bill. Shame.....

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Congress,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone who is over 55, and a breast cancer survivor, if I could obtain any insurance at all under this bill it would be unaffordable. And as I am sure you know, my case is like that of millions of other Americans, and, there are still millions more who have other, even more serious medical situations who would be in the same situation.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Navarro

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Jordan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am writing about the upcoming vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Members of my family depend on quality, affordable healthcare. It's the difference between life and death. Thirty years ago, my husband's life was saved with kidney transplant that gave him a new chance at life.

Because of the importance of healthcare to my family, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I would like to see a bi-partisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not REPEAL it.

Carol Jordan
Redwood City, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jason Kerr [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
Full Name: Jason A. Kerr
Address: [REDACTED]

I am writing to oppose this bill, which state Medicaid directors are united in opposing. This bill would shift significant financial risks to the states without providing the states with means to develop infrastructure adequate to handle those risks. This approach is a recipe for failure, but more is at stake here than the embarrassment of the United States Senate and the fiscal well-being of the states: people will die because of this bill. People I love were uninsurable before the Affordable Care Act: one suffers from mental illness, and having access to care these past several years has literally saved her life. Another has a child who was born with a rare condition that was rectified shortly after birth, but that nevertheless constitutes a pre-existing condition of the sort that, pre-ACA, meant immediate rejection from insurers. Passing this bill would put these dear friends' lives in jeopardy.

The price projections for various procedures and conditions currently circulating on the internet cannot be responsibly fact-checked, due in part to the haste with which this bill has been assembled and its being designed to thwart CBO scoring. They are nevertheless alarming. Passing a bill of this scope without adequate knowledge as to its effects would go beyond irresponsible to being outright callous. I echo Sen. McCain's recent statement for a return to regular order in the Senate.

News reports last week quoted Sen. Grassley as saying that this bill exists only because of Republicans' desire to "repeal Obamacare." Scoring political points against the former president and his admirers is not adequate reason to propose legislation, let alone pass it, especially when the lives of millions of Americans are at stake.

My senator, Orrin Hatch, chairs this committee. As his constituent, I have called his office numerous times to oppose the various health care bills that have been proposed this session. I am thoroughly tired of calling my senator and asking him not to vote for legislation that will kill people I love. These bills value political gain over all else. They are morally unconscionable, and they constitute a severe breach of the trust that We the People repose in our elected representatives. Cease and desist, please.

Sincerely,
Jason A. Kerr

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Bonadonna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am very concerned about this proposed bill and repeal of the ACA. I am a family physician and work in a low income area of the Bronx in a community health center. So many of my patients did not have coverage before the ACA and will lose it with this new bill. People die without health coverage as you know. They avoid seeing the doctor until the cancer has spread. They don't get medication for diabetes and hypertension and die of strokes and heart attacks and kidney failure.

We need a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA. I strongly opposed the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue Bonadonna
Bronx, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Connolly. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: for humane health care. no graham-cassidy.

a note to express my deep concern + dread for what will become of me and other consumers of behavioral health services through medicare + medicaid.

the bill will do nothing to fix what is not working in aca + is actually very dangerous + mean-spirited in its neglect of basic care for those who are differently abled / the elderly / already ill / children.

pls vote vs. this bill.
thank you.
- linda.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judie Anders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect our healthcare and our country. 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. This along with the \$700 billion defense budget will bankrupt this country financially and morally!

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.

Judie Anders

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare decision

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is full of times when mine or my children's health has been positively affected by having healthcare available. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Mary Hussaini

Cullowhee, NC
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Henry Strozier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vengeance

To Whom It May Concern;

It concerns all of us, and I doubt this will ever be read by any human being, but the main idea behind the so-called "Graham-Cassidy" bill is just another attempt to undo the work of a fine President, who just happened to be not all white, by a bunch of cowards who don't give a damn about the people of America, and only care for the tons of money they will rake in from being bought out by the Insurance companies, but ,if you have a brain, you know this. However, I guess you have to pretend to care what the public think, which is nice, because it's something that is never even considered by anyone in the Trump cabinet or the Republican house and Senate.

If you think this letter is too political, you're right, because that's what this travesty (Read Paul Krugman's article on it in the New York Times) is all about.

And, as I just said, you already know it.

Sincerely,
Henry Strozier

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brooklyn, NY [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsey Biel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Aca repeal

I am a pediatric occupational therapist in NYC and the author of two books regarding helping kids with special needs. The proposed Cassidy-Graham plan would devastate services for my clients who range from babies to teens with autism to physical disabilities. Medicaid reimbursement, already seriously problematic, would leave hundreds of thousands of people without coverage. It's an outrage!! I can hardly afford my own insurance as it is.

I am disgusted by the cruel and heartless politicians that would even consider such horrific legislation!!!

LINDSEY BIEL, M.A., OTR/L

Occupational Therapist

Author, *Sensory Processing Challenges: Effective Clinical Work with Kids & Teens*

Co-author, *Raising a Sensory Smart Child*, foreword by Temple Grandin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa May <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I'm appalled at this bill and all the lies Republicans are telling about it. It does NOT protect people with pre-existing conditions. It allows state insurers to charge people with pre-existing conditions higher premiums. That's not protection. That's how it was before the ACA. It will also cut funds to many states and depend upon states' "creativity" to figure out how to make it work. It's a disaster. Every respected association say so. The AMA, The American Cancer Society - the list goes on and on. The fact that you're trying to get this passed shows how little you care about the American people.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: robyn jorgensen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

You should be ashamed to even put your name on a bill such as this.

This country is more divided than ever among socio and economic backgrounds and now you want to even widen that gap by taking away our healthcare.

For lower middle income families that are barely getting by taking away their healthcare will only drive them to a lower economic scale pushing them to a welfare state where the states will have to carry the burdens in more than one way. To this point I have only touched on the financial factors as it seems the GOP doesn't see people only dollar signs but we need to also look at the human toll. More families torn apart due to illness and inability to pay and even a freshman in high school can see that. Lost wages due to having to stay at home and care for elderly or sick family members that otherwise might have had caregivers.

The bottom line is you know everything I've written is true but the GOP is just hell bent on keeping a campaign promise that no one wants you to keep that will further divide and destroy this nation.

It's time you get with the American people or resign and get out of the way for a younger and more progressive thinking person who is in touch with the people.

Thank you,
Robyn Jorgensen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Prosser <nancyprosser@...>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy

We all need affordable healthcare. Graham Cassidy is not it.

I secure my insurance from the open market in New Mexico. For about \$1,000 in total medical services and pharmaceuticals, I pay nearly \$6,000 in premiums. My nephew Silas will never be able to live on his own due to a syndrome called P9 minus. Silas and his parents rely on Medicaid to make his life something more than vegetating at home.

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

Nancy Prosser
Santa Fe, NM

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Walter Gray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy is not the answer

Graham-Cassidy is a cruel and mean-spirited bill. I know nothing about Senator Cassidy, but I suspect the time will come when Senator Graham and his family will look with deserved shame on his having sponsored this travesty.

Walter Gray
Middleton, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Guiney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

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

I am not even 2 years in remission for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a cancer that, while not uncommon, is extremely uncommon in a 50-year old. Thankfully I had medical insurance, and thankfully I had a tenacious support system and medical team willing to fight with the insurance company to make sure I received the appropriate standard of care.

If you open the door for states to determine that insurance companies could have the right to deny me coverage for my preexisting condition, you put the future of my family and me at risk. Without medical insurance coverage, we could not have afforded to treat my cancer, and I would have died. You cannot give the option to deny coverage based on preexisting conditions.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Stop playing politics with people's lives and futures.

Sincerely,

Andrea Guiney

Chandler, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ceil Gross <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments

Please do not repeal ACA. The Graham-Cassidy bill isn't even worthy of consideration. Fix the problems with ACA, it is fixable. Return to regular order and work together. Restore funding and increase the sign up period. Stop playing politics and do the job u were sent to D.C. to do!

Cecilia Gross
Marlboro NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vanessa Wallace <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal Obamacare

Don't repeal Obamacare. Fix it instead. This destruction of American human rights and health and welfare is not worth the campaign donations from rich ultra conservatives.

Thank you,

Vanessa Wallace
Lower Merion, PA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: JAMES DRISCOLL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham/Cassidy

Stop your silly political revenge games. Fix what might be wrong with the Affordable Care Act. Everybody hates you; this is a good chance to get back on the right track.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: barbara ward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: affordable healthcare

I am in my eighties and rely on affordable health care. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As my medical needs and expenses grow with every year my financial resources diminish. i would like to see a bipartisan effort to keep and remedy the flaws in the ACA.

Sincerely,
Barbara Ward Stinson Beach CA

Becky Hustad
Wisconsin resident

Note: My husband of 24 years and I both work, both vote and we have well-adjusted, almost-grown children who will be voting VERY soon. My husband's job provides us with health care. He is a cancer survivor. We are grateful and one of the main thoughts during his treatment was "what if I had to be fighting with insurance companies while I am struggling to keep my family going while my husband is fighting for his life?" I couldn't imagine it. Don't make people fight with the insurance companies during the worst moments of their lives.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky Hustad <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am not in favor of the Graham Cassidy bill. Sounds like ALL states will lose out in 2026. Don't pass it.

Do NOT take away protections for pre-existing conditions.

Do NOT remove requirements for essential health care coverages (for maternity care, newborn care, birth control, mental health issues, substance abuse, rehab, prescription drugs). Safeguard future and current Americans.

Do NOT allow limits on how much can be spent for the elderly and sick individuals. Guaranteed coverage is important.

If you allow the protections above to be removed, the insurance companies will dump people and not allow coverage. They don't care about people's lives. They are looking at their profits. Don't allow this immoral behavior.

Do NOT allow a vote on this bill prior to receiving all of the data from the CBO. Rushing it through to fulfill a campaign promise is underhanded and not as important as the health of the American people.

We need the sick and the healthy in this system. Everyone! People in their 20s get horrible diseases too, they just believe they won't.

Major patient advocate groups and medical professionals are NOT in favor of this bill. They are the experts and help to convey what the citizenry are wanting and needing. Listen to them.

Keep Medicaid expansion. Many people are now working multiple jobs (that don't offer health care) to make ends meet. This problem is only going to get worse. Working for the same company with great health benefits for all of one's life isn't really available for most of the population (due to automation and other changes in the economy).

The future of jobs and what our economy will look like in a decade is uncertain, having access to health care for everyone could actually be great for business and the economy and the strength of our country. If people aren't worried about being wiped out by a catastrophic illness, they might create new businesses. Seems like business would be better able to compete on a global level if they weren't always wondering how high next year's health care costs were going to go. Make the insurance companies work for us, they are inefficient and giving too much money to their CEOs.

Do not give block grants to the states. Some states (Wisconsin included) did not take the money offered through the ACA. This was shortsighted...it was not ACA's fault. Our state can't even figure out how to fix the roads and bridges, please don't let our legislature be in charge of people's health.

If you were running a business and had 50 manufacturing plants that were all in need of similar supplies, you would request that vendors provide you with a quote for ALL of your locations and give you the best price. You would be purchasing in quantity and they would want to give you a good deal in order to get your business. Do that for prescription drugs and health care. Get better prices for all of us.

The ACA needs to be improved not repealed. The goal should be to cover everyone....the rich keep getting richer, the poor poorer and those of us in the middle class are hanging on by our fingernails hoping we don't have a major illness that wipes out our current way of life.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gena Eichenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy Hearing

As a 70 year old woman, I rely on affordable health care. Friends and family members are battling cancer & other pre-existing conditions. I want a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA. DO NOT repeal it!

Gena Rae Eichenberg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Heidi Ewing <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "But if they are to die then let them die! And decrease the surplus population." (AKA, don't pass this bill)

In the George C. Scott version of *A Christmas Carol*, there is a moment as Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present stand invisible in the house owned by Scrooge's employee Bob Cratchit. Scrooge asks if Cratchit's young disabled son will live, and is told no. After pleading with the spirit, this exchange happens:

Present: But if he is to die, then let him die! And decrease the surplus population.

Scrooge: You use my own words against me?

Present: Yes! So perhaps, in the future, you will hold your tongue until you have discovered where the surplus population is, and *who* it is. It may well be that, in the sight of Heaven, *you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child.*

"Where the surplus population is, and who it is." The surplus population looks an awful lot like me.

I'm 27, almost 28. I graduated college cum laude and earned a Masters' degree in criminal justice, and was on my way to my desired job - working in the UN opposing human trafficking and/or genocide. But now I am disabled, working part time retail for barely any money.

I did everything *right*.

But when I was 15, I was diagnosed with major depressive disorder - clinical depression, the kind where an issue in your brain causes it to produce less serotonin than necessary. Because Maryland didn't require mental health coverage in 2004/2005, I watched my parents - a farmer and a veterinary technician - shell out hundreds a month for my medication, psychiatric care, and counseling. Imagine being a suicidal, depressed teenager being told that your insurance would cover if you attempted to kill yourself or got put into an inpatient program, but not preventative care.

Despite that, that episode was treated successfully with medication...

... but the one that started when I was 22 was not.

Alone and isolated in an unfamiliar city, earning my Masters' degree, dealing with an uncooperative thesis committee and a program that practically ignored their Masters' students, beginning to experience severe, chronic full-body pain, and the slow, slow descent of my grandfather toward death, that darkness crept back up again.

But my family was dealing with the fall and eventual passing of my grandfather, and I didn't want to worry them - and I still didn't have mental health coverage even though it was 2012 -- because I was on my father's small business plan and Maryland still didn't require that coverage.

That's what women do, yeah? We carry on.

It wasn't until I was in a Ph.D program, on my school's health plan, that I finally saw a doctor. I explained in tears about my depression, how I'd been diagnosed but hadn't been able to seek help for *over a year* since the new episode started, about how I didn't think my medication was working anymore, about the full-body pain I'd been experiencing for a year and a half.

That was when diagnoses started rolling in.

Generalized anxiety disorder caused by my masters' thesis and program. Panic disorder, caused by the anxiety. Later, ADHD, when we realized my medication had been blocking it for years.

And then the big one: fibromyalgia, with a preliminary diagnosis *on my 24th birthday*.

Fibromyalgia is a chronic pain disorder characterized by full-body pain. Mind tends to hang around a 5 or 6 on the pain scale, which people will recognize as "interferes with tasks/concentration", but it can spike to a 9 or 10 ("time for the hospital") and as low as a 3 or 4 ("interferes with tasks but not as bad as usual"). It also comes with a whole host of fun symptoms like

- insomnia
- irritable bowel syndrome
- allodynia (unusual skin sensitivity)
- paresthesia (unexplained tingling or numbness)
- excessive sweating
- extreme fatigue
- sensitivity to fragrances, odors, bright lights, noise, medications, some foods, cold, heat, other random things not included in that list
- muscle spasms and tightness
- stiffness upon waking up or staying in one position too long
- tension and migraine headaches
- jaw and facial tenderness
- anxiety and depression
- irritable bladder
- reduced tolerance for exercise and muscle pain
- feeling of swelling (without swelling) in hands and feet
- worsening symptoms at certain times, with fatigue, under stress, inactivity, changes in the weather, overexertion, cold or drafty conditions, hormonal fluctuations, depression, and other emotional factors

There is no cure, and most medications only treat the symptoms. We don't even know what it is yet, just that it affects 2% of the population.

I was forced to drop out of my Ph.D program after almost failing out my second semester, and moved home to get my life and health under control. 3 years and 200+ job applications later, all I've been able to find are retail positions for low wages, part time, that don't even come close to scraping at my \$80,000 student loan debt. At this rate I couldn't afford to return to school anyway. Now, at 27, I am the only one of my friends who has to use a cane to walk, and has to measure all her activities -- like being social -- against the energy she needs for her job.

This has ruined my life, but thanks to the ACA, I've been able to mostly recover from my mental illnesses and can manage my fibro... at least until the next time my depression decides that it's

time for me to fall back into that bottomless pit again. But right now, I'll always have my mental health coverage - and I can get in as soon as I feel it coming back, not a year later.

But under Graham-Cassidy, I have no recompense. I will have no mental health coverage. I will not be able to get insurance because of my fibromyalgia.

I will have nothing.

There's another part in the same *A Christmas Carol* movie, again with Present and Scrooge, this time standing under a bridge watching a homeless family celebrating Christmas with two small potatoes the man found in the road. Scrooge mistakenly asks "Why did you show me this? What has it to do with me?" Present replies, "Are they not of the human race?"

Am I not of the human race?

The spirit opens his robe to reveal two filthy, corpse-like children, and states:

"They are your children! They are the children of all who walk the earth unseen! Their names are Ignorance and Want. Beware of them, for upon their brow is written the word 'doom!' They spell the downfall of you and all who deny their existence!"

A better name for the Graham-Cassidy bill is perhaps not *Ignorance and Want*, but *Malice and Greed* - and upon it is written doom, for me and millions of other Americans.

And now I have to look at Graham and Cassidy's smug faces as they announced this bill, acting like it was "so much better" for people who can't afford health care to die from treatable conditions. But they can stand there knowing they and their families will be covered, grinning like thieves while approximately 19% of the country - nearly 56.7 million people - hold their breath, waiting to know whether our lives are worth anything to these selfish, wealthy old men.

And if you asked Graham and Cassidy this, about what this means for us, about what this means for the least of these their religion *orders* them to help, I can't help but wonder if we wouldn't hear the words of Ebenezer Scrooge come from their mouths, too. *But if they are to die, then let them die! And decrease the surplus population.*

And perhaps, in the sight of heaven, they too are more worthless and less fit to live than 56.7 million other disabled Americans like me.

-Heidi Ewing

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Worst healthcare bill yet!

To Whom it May Concern:

Hi, my name is Lena Gilliam, and I'm a constituent from Chicago.

I'm calling to demand every senator to vote against the Cassidy-Graham ACA repeal bill. It's appalling the Senate GOP is pushing through a bill without a CBO score instead of working to strengthen the ACA's individual markets. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

I'm only on my parent's insurance for one more year. I will be very sick without proper coverage and access to medication.

--Lena Gilliam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Kaiser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Senators -

I, and all US citizens, rely on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My personal experience is with pre-existing conditions. I've had both fibroids and bad knees and my husband had to have a heart valve repair. These medical conditions developed over a number of years - more and more extensive bleeding, more and more out-of-whack arrhythmia, progressive knee soreness to the point where I couldn't function at work or otherwise - and would be considered "pre-existing". These are not unusual physical conditions when, as in our case, you're over 60. The surgeries were extremely expensive, and, luckily, we had good health insurance, so we could afford them. Many, many, many people could not afford them, and either would have to sell assets, eventually declaring personal bankruptcy, or would suffer and die prematurely. It's that simple. The figures already show that a huge portion of personal bankruptcies are caused by medical bills.

Additionally -

- 1) Block grants have failed time and time again for poor and low income citizens - lots of proof of this - and
- 2) By no longer requiring that preexisting conditions be covered, or, alternatively, by allowing insurance companies to raise prices to those w/ pre-existing conditions, you will allow millions of people to be deprived of adequate healthcare - either because a state won't cover it or because people won't be able to afford it!
- 3) By shoving everything to the states, you're also forcing every insurance company to deal w/ different requirements and policies in each state - a business nightmare.) (One of the reasons most insurance companies oppose Graham-Cassidy).

This is a terrible bill for all sorts of reasons - proven by the fact that the authors have NOT been willing to put it through anything that even looks like regular review and process! Where are the hearings with participation by insurance companies, the public, medical organizations, hospitals; etc. - all who will be affected? Where is floor debate and discussion and the chance to offer amendments? It is just unconscionable that the Senate would vote on this without a CBO analysis!!! Healthcare affects everyone and is a huge portion of the economy. If anything should go through Regular Order, this should!

Please listen to the citizens of this country! Huge numbers of constituents (i.e., AARP, League of Women Voters, etc.) and almost every medical group is opposed to this legislation! Only 12% of people were for the ACA Repeal that was defeated in July! Most people want the ACA improved, not repealed!

Many, many other countries have solved their healthcare problems. Why not us?! I want to see a by-partisan effort to improve the ACA - similar to what Senators Murray and Alexander have initiated. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is terrible and the "process" is worse! Senators need to come up with something that stabilizes the healthcare market and then proceeds to bi-partisan improvements to the ACA.

Barbara Kaiser & Ken Agle
Menlo Park, CA
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Morley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Save The ACA

My name is Peter Morley. I am want to share my healthcare journey with you.

I have had 9 surgeries in 10 years
I have 17 different doctors that manage my care
In 2007 I was disabled from a fall off a ladder
I have had 3 failed spinal surgeries
I was diagnosed incidentally with kidney cancer in 2011
I lost part of my right kidney, but I fought my way into remission last year.
I have had two neuro surgeries for a benign pituitary tumor.
2 carpal tunnel surgeries
1 surgery to remove a malignant melanoma

In 2013, I was diagnosed with what has become my primary health concern to-date: Lupus, which is an autoimmune disease when activated, creates autoantibodies that attack not only an invading infection, but will turn and continue to destroy healthy cells and organs, thus causing inflammation known as a Lupus flare. Therefore, I **must** be checked frequently by my rheumatologist.

Despite my health challenges, I have flourished by the continuity of care provided to me by the Affordable Care Act. **I am alive because of the ACA.** And I am grateful to be here. As someone who has successfully navigated the ACA, I know how essential it is to protect our care. I also know that due to my advancing diagnoses I am thankful and appreciative for every day.

I take 38 different medications yearly, 15 daily and receive 12 life saving infusions yearly for for my Lupus. Without the Affordable Care Act, I could **not** afford to pay for these medications and would lose access to my team of doctors. As a result, my disease would progress and I would die.

Peter Morley
New York, NY [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susannah Saunders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please let my family keep ourselves healthy

My husband has heart disease through no fault of his own. He eats a healthy diet and cycles three hours a day. We now eat a low fat, vegetarian diet to combat the build up of plaque in his arteries caused by genetics.

My daughter was born with asthma. My children were raised on whole grains, low fat meals, deserts only on special occasions, and always drank water, never soda. I listened to my dentist when he said soda will rot their teeth and only to have it on very special occasions like their birthday. They have exercised regularly and take care of their health.

I have medications I take on a daily basis I could have never afforded without AFA. I can get my colonoscopies covered. I hope to avoid the colon cancer both my father and mother were afflicted by with these tests which can detect precancerous polyps and remove them before they become an expensive cancer treatment cost.

My sister had ovarian cancer she survived, but the treatments caused Multiple Sclerosis. She has to have yearly MRIs, take expensive experimental drugs to keep her disease from causing her death.

Any of these conditions could cause our premiums to rise under this poorly defined healthcare bill. We would no longer be able to afford coverage and could die early as a result.

I hope you can find it in your heart to protect my family from catastrophic disease and death by voting no on this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tricia Hedin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill comment

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My state would be hit the hardest by Medicaid cuts. I have a pre-existing condition of incurable glaucoma which requires regular specialized testing and expensive eye drops to prevent blindness. In addition, my son lives in Nevada and relies on Obamacare for his health coverage due to being a contract employee. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hedin

Eugene, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DAVID TALLEY <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:15 PM
To: gchcomments; lcantrell@thearcofva.org
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not vote for this bill. If you are someone who depends on medicaid, because you were born with a life long disability, but not with a rich family, what would you do for medical care? All of our institutions have been taken away. So many people with disabilities, that can't work, now live in the community. This is good, but what can they fall back on if they lose medicaid. Please keep Medicaid and don't reduce it in any way. Sheila Talley, mother of a 48 yr. old son, who can not speak. Someone must speak for him.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Diamond <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because this would harm American citizens, leading to unnecessary and unprecedented suffering, pain, bankruptcy and loss of life..

This bill is a violation of the public trust and of the senate' duty to protect the welfare of all Americans. Reductions in funding overall, plus ending coverage for reproductive health care, diverting funding to block grants that sunset in 2026, all will be terrible for American families and will be devastating for families with family members who are medically, cognitive and psychologically vulnerable.

Allowing insurance companies to reinstate lifetime caps and to end coverage for preexisting conditions -- all. terrible changes that imperil all Americans, Democrat and Republican, rich and poor of all faiths and races alike.

Deliver us from this evil and cruel legislation. Start over with bipartisan leadership and public input like we deserve in congruence with American values, norms and institutions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Diamond

Jessica Diamond
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Navarro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I am writing to strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which is draconian in scope of its damage to Americans' healthcare coverage and is actually cruel, in that it will result in loss of coverage for extremely low income Americans, children, seniors, and those with disabilities. It would also be a threat to coverage for middle class citizens if and when they experience a chronic or acute illness or injury that impacts their health, most likely in their 50's and 60's. It even eliminates the mandate for employer coverage. The fact that its proponents are trying to leverage Senators considered to be undecided, promising them benefits for their state's citizens that will not be offered in other states, is a deceitful ploy, and should be called out as such.

Smoke and mirrors:

- 1) It claims to allow states to make their own decisions on healthcare, yet it strips away the federal funding required for them to provide adequate healthcare coverage to their citizens.
- 2) It ends expanded Medicaid in all the states that welcomed this (about half of all states), while promising extra dollars (though woefully insufficient dollars) to states whose governors did not expand Medicaid for their citizens. This is a form of bribery.
- 3) It leaves it up to each state to decide a) whether or not to protect people with pre-existing conditions from obtaining affordable coverage; b) whether or not to allow a lifetime cap on those who have lifelong illnesses or effects of injuries; and c) what kinds of coverage can be dropped: maternity leave, behavioral health treatment, dental, etc.

Worst of all, it avoids bipartisanship altogether, which means it avoids the normal process of legislative work: committee hearings, months of discussions among senators from both parties, and amendments to the current bill which has been sprung on everyone for a quick vote. In short, it violates the principles of our legislative branch, rushing through a bill of this magnitude on our economy and the well-being of our citizens.

Please, if you are a Republican in the Senate, do not vote "lock step," selling out to the notion that you promised to end Obamacare with a bill, ANY bill. This would not "replace" Obamacare, it would only repeal it, ending coverage for millions, including for 300,000+ in my state of New Mexico.

Instead, work with the other side of the aisle to carve out a compromise that will fix Obamacare, rather than dismantle our entire healthcare structure in this country.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris Ianni <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: AGAINST THIS AWFUL BILL

I am vehemently opposed to this last ditch effort by four Republican men behind closed doors trying to rewrite 1/6 of our economy. It appears I am not alone, in that no medical groups, insurance groups, health care advocacy groups, in fact few Americans are in favor of this bill. It is **irresponsible** to vote on something without a CBO score. It is **unconscionable** to hurt the most vulnerable, our seniors and children, by ending Medicaid expansion. It is **dishonest** to say that states will have more power and flexibility to provide services if the money is not there for them to provide those services. It's simply washing your hands of the problem and telling governors to handle it, knowing that they are required to have balanced budgets. It is **deceitful** to say preexisting conditions are covered, when you then place those people in high risk pools that will make insurance so unaffordable that in effect they are not covered.

This bill is an assault on women's health in that it defunds Planned Parenthood, and I have no doubt that contraceptives, maternity care, and pediatric care will be the first of the essential benefits to disappear. And the BRIBES being offered to Alaska and Montana in exchange for votes are truly **unethical**. Speaking of unethical, it is quite clear this bill does not put the health and well-being of constituents ahead of the Republican donor class. It is a sad day for America when Republicans care more about their next election than the health and welfare of those they are elected to represent.

Disappointed and Disgusted Citizen,
Christine Ianni

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice West <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

I had bladder tumors 15 years ago. Fortunately it was not cancer but I have been denied insurance because of it... until ACA. My husband and I are small business owners. We pay taxes and contribute to our small community. We are able to do that because, thanks to the ACA, we are not constantly worrying about losing everything if one of us becomes sick or has an accident. Please stop torturing people with these terrible plans. Listen. Pay attention to those who care for patients. Take your time. Make bipartisanship part of the solution.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do it right

Your finance committee needs to spend weeks on hearings on the repeal and replace bill. You need to actually hear from all the constituents as you did for the affordable care act. It is not fulfilling a promise to pass an unstudied bill. You need information and time to make a considered decision. Please show some spine.

Martha J. Smith
North Bend, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kari Kells <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not a partisan effort to repeal it. That's because I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

Despite having a chronic, pre-existing condition that prevented me from continuing to use my Masters Degree to work for employers that offered benefits packages, I work my tail off to make very little money. I absolutely require AFFORDABLE healthcare.

Sincerely, Kari Kells

Olympia, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: elissa gershon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Preserve Medicaid and the ACA!

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I am writing to plead with you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill and work in a bipartisan way to shore up the ACA markets to make sure that people like my niece will be able to have health care. My niece was diagnosed at age 11 with a rare heart defect. Normally infants receive this diagnosis when they experience heart failure but Talia was lucky--hers was detected during a routine physical. Because she lives in Massachusetts, her care (including pre-op, surgery, and post-op) was completely covered by MassCare, the precursor to the ACA. As a single mother, my sister would have gone bankrupt if she needed to pay for her daughter's lifesaving treatment but amazingly, her care cost her almost nothing. I worry that if the ACA and its protections for people with pre-existing conditions is repealed, she will not be able to get affordable health care in her lifetime. At age 14, she should not have to look forward to that nightmare. Moreover, what about the thousands of other children who need lifesaving, unexpected health treatment. Whether they live or die should not depend on their family income or which state they live in.

As an advocate for people with disabilities for more than 20 years, I also know first hand the importance of Medicaid to their health and quality of life. If Medicaid is block granted, capped, or cut, many of my clients will undoubtedly die or face the prospect of life in institutional settings. As a woman and mother, I am appalled at the targeting of women in this bill including the defunding of Planned Parenthood and the removal of protections for pre-existing conditions like pregnancy.

The lives of millions of people are in your hands. Please do not play games with their lives for the sake of short-term political gain.

Respectfully submitted,

Elissa Gershon
[REDACTED]

Berkeley, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Tassari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

....
I want it kept at the federal level!!!!

Christine Tassari

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: colleen carlton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

I'm a retired teacher. I spent 27 years of my life in service to my country. I saved and lived frugally so so that I could enjoy a life after teaching. I'm on the individual market and now may be faced with spending all my retirement savings on health insurance. And yet, I'm in a better position than most. I urge you to care for our neediest, our youngest, our disabled, our elderly. Passing of this bill will be devastating and it's infuriating to have to ask you to care about Americans. Please kill this bill.

Colleen Carlton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brenda Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear elected officials:

You represent me. You represent us - We The People. Yet the actions of the Senate are jeopardizing the well being of the people you were sent to Congress to work for.

The Koch brothers have poured \$400 million into defeating ACA - not to improve the lives of citizens but to take away medical coverage in return for pure greed.

Please take time to listen to and consider the the lives of the people who will be hurt by the Graham-Cassidy bill - pregnant women, children, the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. Can you even fathom what it would be like to watch your parent, sibling, spouse or child suffer with no way of getting the medical care they need?

I am fortunate to be represented by Mark Warner and Tim Kaine in the Senate. I offer them my sincere gratitude for standing with the people whom they represent. Virginia is so proud of them. I am so proud of them.

Also, special thank you to Senators McCain, Murkowsky and Collins for their careful consideration and skepticism of this bill - and hopefully their ultimate opposition to it.

Please stay strong and don't give in to the pressure to do something you know is wrong. Please act in the best interest of the people you were sent to Washington to serve. Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy unhealthy healthcare bill.

Sincerely,
Brenda J Davis

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aimee Pfister <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please vote No on Graham-Cassidy. Our state has thousands of disabled people who can't afford health insurance on a waiting list for Medicaid Waivers. Block grants will ensure that none of those people get services. Thank you.

Aimee Pfister

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Vukelich <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill - BAD for America!

The fact that the senate is going to vote on this bill without a rating by the CBO is appalling. It looks like politics, not responsible lawmaking. To campaign on the pandering sound bite of "repeal and replace" is not particularly admirable, but to put the health and financial fate of millions of people at risk just to be able to say "we fulfilled our campaign promise" is shameful. Follow the lead of John McCain and do the right thing. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,
Mary Vukelich
Mechanicsburg, PA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: joni walter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:05 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: kamalaharris
Subject: Graham Cassidy Repeal Bill 9/25/17

I am opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. It is reprehensible that our elected officials are trying to repeal the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs. Imposing this new law, which will destabilize the insurance markets and deny millions of American citizens health insurance, simply to say you repealed Obamacare is cruel. My research has revealed that 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 is a right of all Americans.

Joni Walter [REDACTED] Atascadero, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dawn Kubie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments

Dear Senators,

Thank you for taking a moment to read my email. From what I understand of Graham-Cassidy, states would be allowed to seek waivers to not provide essential health benefits to insured persons, and coverage of pre-existing conditions, which is sacrosanct, is woefully lacking. People should not have to bankrupt themselves to have babies or to sadly suffer with cancer. This notion that there are healthy people and sick people is ill-conceived. Many of the folks I follow on Twitter followed a trend this week of announcing how long they paid into the healthcare system, subsidizing others' insurance, before they were stricken with cancer or some other account-draining disease. At some point in our lives, we may fall down the stairs, be stuck by a car; get cancer. No one is immune and the circumstances are often immediate and heart-breaking.

On a personal level, Graham-Cassidy affects us in the following ways. Firstly, my husband and I are both self-employed; he a web designer and I a photographer and doula. We purchase insurance from the exchanges. Secondly, our oldest son Sam was born with a bicuspid valve and systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (clearly, both are pre-existing conditions). When Sam was 7-years old he was prescribed injections of Ilaris for his JIA. The first injection he received in the hospital as he was suffering from pericarditis, a potentially fatal symptom of arthritis. Afterward, he was to receive one injection a month for six months. Due to a clerical error (that *I* discovered), Aetna would not cover the injections. The insurance company was billing \$95,000 per injection for Ilaris at the time, meaning my family would have incurred over \$500,000 in debt for a *non-fatal condition,* an amount we did not have in cash or equity. Finally, after I discovered their error, the insurance company relented.

There is a country full of people who need help. We need to be cared for and we need care without going bankrupt. It is impossible to believe that of all of the industrialized nations of the world who care for their citizens, the United States is not one. Put your heads together in a bipartisan way and solve it. This issue needs to be approached with empathy. Healthy people work and contribute the society. That part should be very simple.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Dawn Kubie



Virus-free. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Brenneman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public comment for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Dear Senators,

I am a 40-year-old woman in good health and employed in rewarding jobs. I work part-time as an adjunct religion professor and part-time as a hospital chaplain. I feel a strong commitment to the work I do, yet I do not receive health care through my jobs nor through a spouse's plan. I need to pay for my own insurance, but the jobs (that I enjoy) do not pay well enough for me to afford a plan with quality coverage. I rely on the Affordable Care Act to have just that—affordable health care—and it works very well for me.

I am originally from West Virginia and although I no longer live there, I have many friends and family who do and who also rely on the ACA. They rely on it for good insurance options (including expanded Medicaid), for the lifted lifetime spending cap, and for premium tax credits. I am worried what will happen to me and people I care about if the Graham-Cassidy bill is passed.

I believe that the ACA has alleviated suffering for many Americans. It has for me. I also believe that the ACA could be made better through reform, particularly in the federal health insurance exchange. Please consider my testimony and work on reform rather than repeal and replace.

Thank you,
Laura Brenneman, PhD
Champaign, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan McHugh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because, without healthcare insurance, I would have died of Hodgkin Lymphoma six years ago.

Although I have no chance of that cancer returning, four months of an aggressive chemo regimen followed by a month of radiation has significantly raised my risk for other cancers and heart disease. I have already been denied in my attempt to purchase additional life insurance. I am terrified of what will happen to me and my family if my state allows my insurer to deny me care, which will follow from Graham-Cassidy.

There are so many more stories to share, but just one more should give you pause. My neighbor, a career-long primary schoolteacher, just made it through treatment following a second, unrelated diagnosis of breast cancer, for which she would have been denied coverage under the provisions of Graham-Cassidy. She's perfectly healthy now, she's back teaching with the children she loves and who love her, and people like her will be dead if the bill becomes law.

Please do what you can to reform, not repeal, Obamacare.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan McHugh
Professor and Chair | Department of English | University of New England
Series Co-editor for *Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature*
Humanities Managing Editor for *Society & Animals*

[Dog](#) | [Animal Stories](#) | [Handbook of Human-Animal Studies](#)

Indigenous Creatures, Native Knowledges, and the Arts (forthcoming)

Human-Animal Studies: Global Perspectives (forthcoming)

This e-mail may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you suspect that you were not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender as soon as possible.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save ACA

To Whom It May Concern,

As the father of two severely handicapped children- one physically and one psychiatrically- I am begging you to appreciate how challenging life is for those who are unable to afford health care.

ACA is not perfect, and should have been "tweaked" and amended many times over the past several years. Major legislation always needs to be adjusted subsequent to becoming law. But Republican intransigence, Obama hatred, interfered with the normal process of moving forward to make things better for the American people.

We desperately need patriotic Senators to do the right thing for the entire nation- yes, put love of country first. This is enormously too important to use as blackmail for political advantage.

Tens of millions of Americans are threatened with losing health care coverage, of being priced out of the market. States might make it effectively impossible for those with pre-existing conditions to afford coverage.

I have been an educator for 47 years. I opened two adolescent medicine clinics in high schools in which I worked, and saw the magnificent effect of having primary care physicians and nurse practioners available to service the critical needs of my students.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE- do not weaken, undermine, abandon, render ineffective ACA.

Our seniors, our neighbors with disabilities, those with pre-existing conditions, children, desperately need and deserve high-quality health care.

Please follow your consciences, follow your heart, do the right thing for the American people.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman M. Wechsler Ed.D.

[REDACTED]
Bronx NY [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Trono [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My 31 year old son has had Type 1 diabetes since he was 10 ½. Because of his need for health insurance, his options for employment have been limited. Until the ACA, he could not even consider starting his own business or being a contractor, even though he has a PhD in engineering and is a licensed professional engineer. Similarly, I am 60 years old and about to lose my job and health insurance due to state funding cuts to the UT health science center where I have worked for the past 7 years. At least with the ACA, I can get insurance, even though it will cost me at least \$700 per month. If you repeal the ACA, I hate to think what the rates will be or even if I will qualify. I may have to go without insurance until I am 65 and can qualify for Medicare. Please do the right thing. Think about the public good, and not political posturing. A bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, would do so much to restore the nation's faith in our political system and politicians.

Sincerely,

Carol Trono

Comfort Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joseph Carr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We are concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because we are concerned about the possibility of degraded access to Medicaid. Our son, Jake, is 17 years old and has autism, intellectual disability, and epilepsy. Medicaid is essential for him to live a healthy and productive life. Life saving medications and therapies are accessible to him only through Medicaid. Please do everything possible to protect access to Medicaid for our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Trisha Carr
Aston, PA

Joseph Carr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Lowell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:06 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments healthcare

> Hello

> I am horrified at what the healthcare bill would mean for my family. We are self employed older couple still 6 years from Medicare. We live in Massachusetts where the ACA has worked. Although Obamacare needs help we believe it should be a bipartisan solution without removing millions of people from healthcare. We have pre existing conditions which should not preclude our getting healthcare. This is a deathcare act. I implore you not to support it either. Stop listening to dark money and start working for the people who employ you--the American people!

> Pamela Lowell

>

> Pamela Lowell, LICSW

> [REDACTED]

>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: c. mark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:04 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

I am a retired widow and business professional, age 74, who has ALWAYS been able to afford and have paid for my own healthcare insurance. I now have a pre-existing condition, as well as live on a limited budget. I depend on my social security check (approx. \$1000/mo) to make ends meet. If the current healthcare insurance system is altered to eliminate or increase fees for pre-existing conditions, services for seniors, etc. I will not longer be able to afford coverage. Due to age and health issues, I have few, if any options for additional income. All my life I have been responsible; planned carefully to be self sufficient, financially independent as I aged. I have served, and continue to contribute to my community and country. Healthcare affordability MUST NOT BE LIMITED TO THE WEALTHY. As in other first world countries HEALTHCARE MUST BE A RIGHT AND AVAILABLE TO ALL.

You have been elected to serve all citizens. Please govern by ethics, have the courage to put people before politics, and DO THE RIGHT THING!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Huntley, Kirsten [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

This bill is a disaster for several in my immediate family--my husband with Crohn's Disease and my child with ADHD. Pre-existing conditions simply can't be refused, or it's a death sentence for my husband and a life-time of my son being dependent. Please don't let this go any further, and give us all a real health care solution.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Huntley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rick Trautner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:03 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I have two 20-something daughters and the prospect of them not having access to healthcare is simply not acceptable in a civilized country. Should the ACA be repealed, the results for them and many other millions would be potentially devastating. A bipartisan effort to strengthen this already highly successful healthcare program would be welcome!

Please oppose this harmful legislation and urge our legislators to work on a true bipartisan effort-you know, like when they used to actually talk with one another.

Thank you.

Rick Trautner
Greenbrae, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeanne Alicandro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

My 39 year old brother in law died after reaching lifetime insurance cap and policy canceled. By the way , he was still working and it was an EMPLOYER based policy. Stop Graham Cassidy bill; it's a killer.

Dr. Jeanne Alicandro

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Coronado <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham/ Cassidy

To the Honorable Senators of the United States Senate:

Roughly 10 years ago, my mother passed away from multi-myeloma. It's a rather devastating form of cancer..as all are. She spent a year before her diagnosis, not feeling well, but afraid to go to the doctor because of lack of insurance. Prior to that my Mom, had had multiple strokes due to high blood pressure which made her someone with "pre-existing conditions," "another thing that insurance was not fond of at the time.

I wonder...what kind of care my Mom would have had, had Obamacare existed during her illness? Would she have been more comfortable? How much less financial stress she would have had? This is not a political issue, truly. It's a humanity issue.

Now my youngest brother who is not yet 30 has discovered he has a heart condition he has had since birth. Because of the actions of some Senators I am now afraid for his life. What if he needs surgery and can't work for a period? Will healthcare be cut off? How can you say you represent us when you choose politics over humanity? Why do I live in the greatest nation on earth, if our representatives choose their campaign coffers over their constituents?

I am so very grateful to the Senators that held the line on behalf all Americans. I hope that someone's Mom, Father, Sister, Brother or Child continues get the care they're need.

Regards,

Jennifer Coronado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: cielo rios <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:02 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: improve, do NOT repeal the ACA

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,
Cielo Rios
berkeley, ca

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: alvaro:garza <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please protect our healthcare. Reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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.

Please do the right thing for Americans.

alvaro garza

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

modesto ca, California [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jeanine potts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: keep and improve the ACA

Dear Finance Comittee,

Please keep and improve the ACA. We need to have a stable health care system not dependent on corporate employment. Reliable affordable insurance will encourage entrepreneurs and help the economy improve a hell of a lot more than tax cuts.

Sincerely,
Jeanine Potts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: ROSLYN DUFFY <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please save affordable care act

Please do not vote for this horrible travesty of graham Cassidy death sentence Non care.
Fix the affordable care act and stop this evil insanity.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Sanger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

As a Veteran and as a parent of an adult child with pre-existing conditions, we rely on quality, affordable healthcare under the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There are fixes and a real bi-partisan effort is what is required. Additionally, as a resident of a rural state, repeal or lack of real support for the ACA will devastate the health care situation for rural lowans and the small community hospitals that support them.

Sincerely,

HollySanger

Iowa City, IA

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Rosenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Affordable Care Act

Dear Senators,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions and affordability is of paramount importance at age 61.

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

Sincerely,

Jean Rosenberg

Arlington, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Banks [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Finance committee:

Please do the responsible, human thing and oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The majority of Americans oppose it (88%).

It is a terrible bill which will hurt Americans, depriving millions of health insurance, causing rampant job loss, setting up massive health care bankruptcies for individuals, gutting Medicaid and harming our most vulnerable citizens, who are senior citizens in poverty and those with disabilities. It ruins protections against preexisting conditions, eliminates lifetime caps and makes insurance unaffordable. It keeps self-employed persons from having access to health insurance.

In short, there is not one thing good or helpful about this bill or the process of how it has been written. It has been written under threat of loss of political donations by Koch brothers, Mercer family and other high-dollar donors--a shameful and unAmerican process.

As a tax paying, self-employed person who is healthy but in an older age group, I have a right to affordable health insurance. I am a physician and a mother of a healthy young adult who was gravely ill as a child. We could not purchase good insurance pre-ACA. The ACA needs repair, NOT repeal.

I am a one-issue voter on this. ACA needs to be retained, or start the process of moving toward single-payer health insurance. We are the ONLY industrialized country that doesn't prioritize access to health care and it is shameful.

It is both economically important and socially valuable to keep and repair the ACA.

Please do the right thing and shut down the Graham-Cassidy bill. That will buy the Republicans/GOP more in voting capital than any amount of tainted high-donor money ever could.

With sincere hope that you listen to us voters out here who pay your salaries and health benefits,

Kathy Banks
Dallas, Texas
Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Lemond <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham-Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy bill will be a disaster for so many citizens in our country. There is nothing that makes this better than what we have currently!!! Please, please, please do not let this bill pass!!!!

Lynn LeMond

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Beverly Pegnato <[REDACTED]@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:58 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,

Beverly A. Pegnato

Marlton, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Mauro <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Buried in this healthcare repeal bill is a big \$20 billion tax break to the medical device industry. 10 such corporations have a total of \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which they have not paid any U.S. taxes. This Republican sponsored bill gives them \$20 billion while kicking 32 million people off of their healthcare. This will devastate working families which benefitting companies that are already keeping tax-free profits.

Voters deserve to know exactly how this bill will impact them and their families. One hearing is wildly inadequate for something as complex as healthcare.

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.

Nancy Mauro
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Denver, Colorado [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Steven Weinberger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

I work part-time teaching and as a research associate in the Religious Studies department at the University of Virginia, as well as working as an independent scholar researching and translating ancient religious texts. Since the ACA took effect, I have had affordable coverage through the marketplace. However, due to the uncertainty created by multiple attempts to repeal the ACA, the vendor (Anthem) has withdrawn from my area (Charlottesville, VA). The Graham-Cassidy bill would leave millions of other people like me without affordable insurance.

Please do not pass this bill!

Sincerely,

Steven Weinberger

[REDACTED]
Charlottesville, VA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hilary Markow <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is a national calamity

This bill is opposed because there isn't a single metric of health or health care it makes better. It is an abomination.
H Markow

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Carol Schneck Varner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please reject this terrible bill

The Graham-Cassidy plan would be an absolute disaster for millions of Americans. Please vote no.

--
Carol Schneck Varner
Lansing, Michigan.



Virus-free. [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Ivory <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I am a future nurse and I am against Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to register my disgust with the Graham-Cassidy Trumpcare legislation. This is not healthcare, it's death care. We the voters are watching your actions, and we will vote accordingly! Do not take your constituents for granted; those of us who see this for what it is (death care!), will NOT vote Republican anytime soon if you continue down this road.

A very regular voter,
Rebecca Ivory

--
Rebecca Ann Ivory

alis volat propriis

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Brooks-Young <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments; Google mail
Subject: Why good health care is important to me

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I understand that getting a 'win' is important to the Republicans among you. However, I do not understand how getting that win is more important than the lives of your own constituents.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. For example, two years ago my brother was diagnosed with a type of cancer that is so rare that there are no treatment protocols for his oncologists to follow. Therefore, they are developing protocols using his case as a baseline. He has opted to continue working so he is eligible for health insurance through his company, but the provisions of Graham-Cassidy place his future treatment in serious jeopardy. Despite claiming that states will be required to offer insurance for people with existing conditions, you all know that the clause allowing states to apply for exemptions with nothing more than a letter means that people like my brother are at risk of being priced out of insurance.

My brother's situation is just one of the many reasons I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I agree that the ACA needs to be improved and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please let Senators Alexander and Murray get back to work on finding reasonable solutions that do not cause millions of Americans to lose coverage.

Sincerely,

Susan Young
Bremerton, WA

--
SJ Brooks-Young Consulting
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Web site: [REDACTED]
Twitter: [REDACTED]
Facebook Business Page [REDACTED]

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robyn Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C Bill

Dear Senators,

This politically motivated attempt at legislation will kill people, will bankrupt people, and will brand each and every one of you who vote for it with a mark of shame. This bill might save your donor base, but it will strip you of your voting base. Constituents don't take kindly to having their lives and livelihoods threatened in order to give tax breaks to the rich.

We see what you are doing; we will never forget. God will never forget.

Robyn Jackson
Registered Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Namir Yedid <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA's Community Rating & OOP Maximum



My story below highlights why this bill must not pass, and why we must protect the Affordable Care Act's patient protections. The two key provisions in my story are the annual out of pocket maximums and community rating.

I am a self-employed resident of California, and I buy insurance on the exchange. In 2014, when I left my previous job to start my own business, I was able to do so with confidence knowing I would be able to buy reasonably priced, very comprehensive insurance that had even better benefits than the one provided by my previous employer.

A little over a year later, I was diagnosed with a rare cancer: an aggressive soft-tissue sarcoma that required urgent removal. Thanks to my exchange-purchased PPO plan, I was able to select excellent doctors to care for me during this trying time, without worrying about the implications for my future coverage. Within the next few weeks I had two major surgeries and spent multiple nights in the hospital. It was an immensely trying time physically, mentally, and emotionally. However, knowing that I had good coverage helped me get through that difficult period.

Without the ACA's caps on out of pocket expenses, I would have been liable for \$57,000 in costs based on the total billed (\$185,000) and the percentage of costs I was required to pay (30% on a Silver 70 PPO). These bills would have forced me to declare bankruptcy. However, with the ACA's protections, my costs were capped at \$7,500.

Even though I'm now healthy and two years cancer-free, an insurer who did not need to adhere to community rating rules could charge me exorbitant rates for insurance simply because of my medical history. However, the ACA's community rating rules demand that I not be charged more.

These two key protections-- the out of pocket caps and community rating-- would no longer be federally required under the Graham-Cassidy proposal. This would place me and millions of other Americans in financial jeopardy should we get sick as well as after we recover.

I urge the Committee to recognize the financial risk this disastrous proposal forces onto hardworking Americans like me.

Many thanks,
Namir Sincoff-Yedid

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hedy Helsell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham bill

I am writing in opposition to this bill. I am in support of health care for all Americans.

Hedy Helsell

[REDACTED]
Dallas, Texas [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Donna Presnell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill is a death sentence

I believe the sponsors of this bill and those who supported do not care about the American people. All they care about is doing something to spite and to remove the legacy of the ACA from Obama. It is petty. It is dangerous. It is an affront to the American people. The majority of Americans support single pair healthcare. Almost no one supports this atrocious a bill. If this bill passes people will die. Stop playing games with peoples lives.

Donna Presnell

Sent with thumbs. Please disregard any typos or other weirdness.

Donna Presnell

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Shira Hecht <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

The ACA allowed me to be insured when I was working multiple part time jobs - up to 60 hours of week a work, but nothing with insurance. Without it, I could not have gotten treatment when I get infections or hurt my foot. Please keep and fix the ACA< not repeal it!

Shira

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Axelrod <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My sister, as well as my 27-year old daughter 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. Please do not rush this Graham-Cassidy bill through. Instead, I encourage you to work at a bipartisan solution.

Sincerely,

Karen Axelrod

Northampton, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Howland Walker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Opinion

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly oppose this latest bill by the Republicans to take healthcare away from millions of citizens. My husband, who is a heart transplant recipient, will not be able to afford his medications if Medicaid is decimated, which is what this bill does. Please don't look at just what it does within ten years, but the misery it causes beyond that time.

I will lose coverage under this plan. Yes, I will have "access," but I will not be able to afford the premiums, despite being healthy. People over 50 will not fare well.

I know Republicans want to please their donors, but they also promised to replace the ACA with something better. This is NOT better. It is a moral travesty.

Thank you,
Nancy Howland Walker
Kissimmee, FL [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rev Andy Brock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing on "Graham-Cassidy" health care bill.

Senate Finance Committee, let me state for the record, I'm an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. I believe health care is a fundamental right of every person irregardless of economic status. I also believe that the Affordable Care Act, is a flawed plan, BUT it is a far more serviceable plan than any that the Republican Senate or House have proposed to date. I also recognize that the many of the flaws of the ACA were built into the bill through the greatly flawed political system that allowed the likes of many Republicans who were not interested in a fair or just system, to corrupt the bill with the intent of sinking it if it were to be passed.

If you desire to truly to provide for the care of the American public, I suggest you model it off your own health care plan, or agree to accept the same insurance plan for yourself as that you desire to place on to the backs of the American public. It is time for you to turn you place of white privilege to a place of leadership for all peoples of every ethnicity and racial makeup. If you were such leaders, you would cease th charade of proposing bill after bll to fix ACA and get on to the meaningful and hard work of fixing the health care system for all Americans.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. Andy Brock

--
Rev Andy Brock Greenwood-Montague Ave Charge [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Ann Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

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

My daughter has a pre-existing health condition. Along with student loans incurred by both of my children, they barely have enough monthly income to pay rent, etc.

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

Sincerely,

Lee Ann and Floyd Anderson
Oak Park Illinois

Lee Ann M. Anderson, CKD

LMA INTERIORS LLC

[REDACTED]
Oak Park, IL [REDACTED]

T [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Krause <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-cassidy would have devastating effects

Legislators,

The Graham-Cassidy bill does not contain the framework that is needed improve health care access and affordability for Americans. Instead, it will drastically and devastatingly increase the number of uninsured and ultimately lead to suffering and death for Americans. Please do not support this effort that does not have the health of Americans as its goal (it's incompressible how could a "health-care" bill could not). Instead, work with fellow legislators to fix the current issues under regular order to make real improvements, rather than create a man-made, self-inflicted disaster again us as citizens.

Regards,
Kevin Krause
Fort Collins, CO [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Kamerling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Like millions of others senior citizens, we are concerned that we will be negatively effected by the passage of the Granham Cassidy Healthcare bill.

The Affordable Care Act has allowed us the necessary health coverage to lead healthy lives with preexisting conditions. We stand with all the honest health professionals who attest to the fact that the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill "is not a win for the American people"! We strongly urge Congress to put politics aside and work together to build bipartisan cooperation to *REVISE* the Affordable Care rather than push through the latest version of "REPEAL and REPLACE" that has become a motto without meaning or benefits for real people. Please listen to comedian Jimmy Kimmel's warning that this bill is a dishonest joke on the American people who will be hurt rather than helped by its passage. Pushing this bill through without a time for debate or a score to let people the cost and impact is reprehensible! This is a chance for you, our senators to put principles before politics and stand up for what they know is right for their constituents. People of good conscious know that passing this bill would be a sin rather than a win.

Donald and Ellen Kamerling

[REDACTED]

Sedona, AZ [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lauren pett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. While there is still no CBO score this bill is estimated to result in a loss of health insurance for millions of Americans. It will also increase the cost of premiums and remove (at least in some cases) protections for those with pre-existing conditions.

Unlike millions of Americans, I do not have any personal stories about I've suffered due to lack of health insurance. While it hasn't always been easy or affordable, I have always been able to have some kind of insurance (though it was terrible and expensive for many years when I was on the individual, pre-ACA market).

In 2001 my father died after a year-long battle with leukemia. He was 54 years old. His treatment over that year involved multiple month-long hospital stays in private room (required due to his suppressed immune system), a stem-cell transplant, and ultimately a bone-marrow transplant. While sadly, none of the treatments or procedures worked, he was able to try them because he, a self-employed lawyer- had good insurance. Without it, my family would have been out on the street. There is no way we-or anyone not in the 1%- could afford this.

So my view on health care is different in that I know my family has benefitted from our ability to afford decent insurance, and I feel every family in America should have the same options. Because health care is a human right.

And so I strongly oppose this bill. Obamacare is not perfect, but this is definitely not the solution.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Pett
Chicago, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruthanne Taylor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My name is Ruthanne Taylor, a registered voter from Otis, OR.

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I spent my entire life with a preexisting condition due to a genetic birth defect on my spinal cord. Every time I sneezed it was blamed on my preexisting condition & coverage was denied. I now have a large family which includes members who will be seriously harmed if Graham-Cassidy passes.

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

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Taylor
Otis, OR

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Sarai <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill on Healthcare/ACA Repeal

Dear Senators,

My loved ones 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.

My story with pre-existing conditions, affordability, etc., is one which has prevented me from getting various services - all of which are available to you, under your health coverage via the taxpayers. I have nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews. I want to grow up knowing they can expect and pay for a reasonably government-backed insurance system. I have yet to hear one explanation of the benefits you are offering the average taxpayer. I have yet to hear anything but a ruthless hatred of our current system of healthcare. Is that based on racism or are your strings being pulled by financial interests? YES, the system is not perfect.

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

Thank you,

Sarah Sarai

New York City, NYC

Sarah Sarai

"Wish Me Luck"

"With 'Y' as an Absence of Pain"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Mahowald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare must be protected!. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

No no no to ending coverage that is urgently needed by 32 million 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.

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.

Mary Mahowald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
El Paso, Texas [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Diane Bellard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to express my concern about the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. While I understand Congress doesn't intend to wait for a score by the CBO, by all accounts from every analysis I've seen, this bill will result in millions of Americans losing their health care coverage and an escalation in premiums. It places the protections for people with pre-existing conditions at great risk, and could return us to the days when insurance companies were permitted to impose lifetime limits on coverage. It is particularly cruel for seniors, children, the disabled, and lower income Americans. While the ACA is imperfect, it did accomplish the goal of reducing the number of uninsured Americans to a record low, and started us down the road toward access to health care for all Americans. Polls indicate that most Americans do not want the ACA to be repealed and replaced, but rather prefer a bipartisan approach to fix the problems.

Working class Americans pay taxes to provide health insurance for members of Congress, and we expect you to act to protect our access to affordable and quality health coverage. Imagine yourself or a loved one enduring a serious illness or injury without the resources to afford access to health care. A bipartisan approach that everyone can support is the only way forward. The country cannot afford to spend a lot of effort and money implementing your bill, only to have it discarded with the inevitable change in political winds.

I am a retired registered nurse and member of AARP. I have seen hundreds of patients facing the worst health care battles of their lives, and adding the financial stress of worrying about how to pay for their care is the lowest form of cruelty. I believe our country is judged by how we care for the less fortunate among us, and this bill hurts the most vulnerable of our citizens.

Sincerely,
Diane Bellard
Ohio
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Dils <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: change needed but not this
Attachments: pastedGraphic.tiff

Although I have enjoyed the efficiency and coverage provided by Medicare and my supplement, my adult daughter relies on affordable healthcare. She is working and pursuing a second degree. The exchange needs some work, but I would like to see either a) a system more like Medicare for everyone (read T.R. Reid's book "The Healing of America" which explored numerous quality healthcare systems in developed countries throughout the world) or b) a bipartisan, THOUGHTFUL Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it until we can get something better. There's more than one way, but this Graham-Cassidy bill is NOT a good one so I oppose it.

Karen Dils

Emeritus Board Member

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Frances Gill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Repeal of affordable care act

As a doctor I have seen the harm caused by lack of adequate health care. These recent proposed plans are disasterous. We would like to improve from 11th place, but theses plans would plummet us even farther down.

Give up and plan to strengthen the ACA.

Frances M. Gill, M D

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gnomic <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop GOP attack on Americans

Beyond the completely unpredictable impact the GOP assault on healthcare will have on the insurance and healthcare industry, I'm not sure how this will impact me. Perhaps I will become unable to support my family because my medications will cost too much. Perhaps we will lose our home to pay for an injured child. It's impossible to know what our future holds.

I am more concerned about my fellow 40,000 Americans who will die because of GOP ideology. I'm concerned for the suffering of those who will be dying faster. I'm concerned about the impact to our economy. I'm concerned for the horrid future the GOP are inflicting upon our world.

Just don't. Just stop. This isn't governing. This is domestic terrorism

~Harvey Summers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Lisa Crawford. My daughter Chloe volunteers at a progressive program at OCA in Winter Park. OCA stands for Opportunity, Community and Ability and it offers Behavior therapy, recreation programs, adult vocational training, summer and holiday camps as well as after-school programs for individuals with special needs. Its programs are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter has witnessed the amazing impact the OCA program has on so many by allowing them to be part of our community and we do not want to see that go away or parents be forced to make a decision about an institutional setting. We respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of all the children and adults whom rely.

Sincerely, Lisa Crawford

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julia Nichols <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Medicaid

I am the single mother of a 34 year old man with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Please do not cut his Medicaid benefits.

Julia Nichols
Orlando, FL

10/1/17

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Gordon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy -- TERRIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE!

Voters will remember those legislators who attempted to force-feed this horrific plan on us. Yes, there are some issues with the Affordable Care Act, but nothing that cannot be fixed. Graham-Cassidy is nothing but an inhumane take-away at the expense of people, including families in this country, while congress uses tax dollars for their own health care. I am sooooo looking forward to 2018 and 2020 to vote our as many Republicans, especially those who make it okay for themselves to hurt people by doing something like taking away their health care and trying to replace it with something like Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Howard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:48 PM
To: ghcòmments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

For heaven's sake! This bill is worse than the previous ones. I have a pre-existing condition that would disqualify me for any reasonable rates.

For the sake of the country, will the Republicans please consider the option of including the entire population in their bill? For that, there will need to be bipartisan action. You simply cannot consider it fair that the two Wyoming senators have as much sway in this discussion, when they have a population of 5 or 6 hundred thousand people--and we in California, have the same number of senators--but a population of nearly 40 MILLION.

If the Republican Party continues to refuse to govern for ALL 50 states and their populations, the Republican Party will be set on a downhill slide to irrelevance.

Sincerely,

George Howard
Berkeley CA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brandi Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:55 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 my husband has a pre-existing health condition: Multiple Sclerosis. He got this disease through no fault of his own. Without our health insurance, we could not afford the medicine that keeps his worst symptoms at bay. I'm concerned that this bill does away with federal protections for pre-existing conditions. If left up to the state, which will also be receiving less federal money in the coming years, those protections become jeopardized. Please vote NO on any bill that doesn't continue to guarantee access to insurance for my husband and other people with life-threatening conditions.

Brandi Kennedy

Brandi Kennedy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rick Hodges <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Sept. 25 hearing
Attachments: Hodges statement.doc

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Senate Finance Committee

September 25, 2017

Statement by Fredrick Hodges, Jr.

[REDACTED]
Arlington, VA [REDACTED]

My 16-year-old daughter, Audrey, has Down syndrome. My wife and I received a prenatal diagnosis and chose not to terminate the pregnancy. Audrey is a tremendous blessing to us and everyone she meets.

We have been able to raise Audrey at home rather than sending her to a state institution because of the support provided to her at home and in school through Medicaid. Living at home not only was a far better life for her, us, and her community, it actually cost the taxpayers far less than institutionalization would have.

As she reaches adulthood, Audrey will want to live even more independently, and Medicaid will be the bridge to that independence. Not only will it likely be her only possible source of health insurance, Medicaid will provide her with help to live a normal life – to live in a home away from us, get a job, etc. Audrey is not lazy or unwilling to work. She is simply dependent on others to help her live a life like ours, and I and the rest of Audrey's family will not be able to fulfill that role forever since our resources and life spans are limited.

She may have difficulty getting these supports when she needs them, though, since in Virginia there is a waiting list of 10,000 people like her seeking similar help from Medicaid.

It is unconscionable that Congress would consider cuts, caps, block grants or other such changes that would result in reductions in benefits to people with disabilities like Audrey who have no other place to turn and already face a dearth of resources.

Audrey was worth bringing into this world, and she is worth supporting now that she is here. I add my voice to millions of people with disabilities and their families—and speak on behalf of Audrey—in my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill and specifically to reductions in Medicaid benefits.

Sincerely,

Fredrick Hodges, Jr.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Owen Raccuglia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I ask 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.

Thanks for your time.

Owen
Sharon, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: R Newsome <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am totally opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Vote NO on this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Reichert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

My 30-year-old daughter has asthma. Without the current protections guaranteeing coverage of pre-existing conditions, my daughter would not be able to get health insurance. Without the current protections guaranteeing that coverage for pre-existing conditions cannot cost more, she would not be able to afford health insurance.

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

Sincerely,
Linda L. Reichert
Tempe, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Thomas Hull <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 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 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.

Thomas Hull
Holyoke, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sheila Hugo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No repeal

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

My friend was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation leading to heart failure before Obamacare and Medicare provided healthcare coverage for her. No insurance company would provide coverage and she was forced to pay out of pocket for doctors' visits, surgery and ongoing medications. She is not alone! Americans deserve affordable well managed healthcare coverage.

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

Sincerely, Sheila Hugo

Woodland, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erickson, Kaitlin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kaitlin Erickson. I am a nurse, a public health professional, and a family nurse practitioner student, but first I am a family member of many who would be placed at serious risk if the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill passes.

I implore you to do the right thing and vote no. Moreover, this bill is completely antithetical to what the American healthcare system should resemble. It is absolutely **SHAMEFUL** that Congress has approved a budget of \$700 for the military, while we have a maternal mortality rate in many pockets of this country that is similar to that of a developing nation.

If we want to be a strong and prosperous country, health has to come first. It is our responsibility to offer healthcare that is accessible, safe, and affordable. If this bill passes, the blood of many Americans will be on your hands.

Thank you in advance for supporting your fellow citizens by voting no.

Best,
Kaitlin Erickson

Kaitlin N. Erickson, RN, MPH
Yale School of Nursing | MSN '19
Executive Director | HAVEN Free Clinic
[REDACTED]

The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential. If you are NOT the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately with a copy to hipaa.security@yale.edu and destroy this message.

Please be aware that email communication can be intercepted in transmission or misdirected. Your use of email to communicate protected health information to us indicates that you acknowledge and accept the possible risks associated with such communication. Please consider communicating any sensitive information by telephone, fax or mail. If you do not wish to have your information sent by email, please contact the sender immediately.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Jarrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:54 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.

Ricky Jarrett
Waynesboro Va

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No vote on Graham Cassidy bill

It is time to stop the corruption in the senate and return to regular order. Graham Cassidy is another attempt to ensure that the wealthy receive an unneeded tax cut at the expense of the American citizens. Congress should be working on repairing Obamacare and developing and passing a bill to overturn citizens United.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jim Bulak [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, September 25, 2017

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill that will eliminate basic health insurance coverage for millions of Americans. I support a bipartisan effort to fix problems with the Affordable Care Act, which was a step in the right direction of supplying basic health coverage to all Americans.

It's time for Congress to stop listening to their wealthy sponsors and to start working together - in a bipartisan fashion - to, at the current time, fix the major flaws in the Affordable Care Act.

My 26 year old daughter is dependent on Affordable Care Act coverage as she works for a small firm with less than 10 employees.

Thank you,

James Bulak

[REDACTED]
Hopkins, SC [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Barnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I survived cancer 7 years ago and without healthcare (and having a forever pre-existing condition) I would not get the annual medical monitoring I need. Also my parents are on Medicare and my father has Alzheimer's. Without Medicare he would not have the care and medications to keep him safe and well and my mom would not be able to afford for them to stay in their home. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Barnes

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Mast <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Britton, Brennen (Moran); Christian, Kyle (Moran); Richard, Alex (Moran); Lee, Victoria (Moran); Mueller, Emily (Roberts); Cottrell, Jackie (Roberts); Allen, Chris (Roberts); Molly; CJ; Badger, Joe (Moran); Heidi; Jawanda Mast
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Testimony Finance Committee
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Bill Testimony 092417_rachel_mast.pdf

Dear Finance Committee, Senator Roberts, Senator Moran and Congressman Yoder, I have attached my testimony opposing Graham-Cassidy Bill. Thank you .

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charlene Willey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Submitted for: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
September 25, 2017

By: Charlene Willey
[REDACTED]

Broomfield, CO [REDACTED]

Thank you for holding a hearing and listening to and reading public comment on an issue that is a life and death matter to many of us. My daughter was born with a disability, a result of her father's employment at the Rocky Flats nuclear plant, a government facility that made bombs during the Cold War. He sustained plutonium exposure at the age of 32 in the first six months of his job. He was banned from telling me about this incident, as it was considered "top secret." Although I did not learn about this until after his death over 25 years later, he sustained genetic damage from the accident. He was diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis, a crippling condition, within a year of the accident. Our daughter, Briana, was born with unexplained brain damage about a year and a half after his accident. She has multiple disabilities, including a developmental disability, visual impairment, mild cerebral palsy and epilepsy. We worked very hard to make her as independent as possible throughout her life.

My husband died of cancer related to his accident about 10 years ago. The first thing they did was to take health insurance away from me and my daughter. I struggled with high premiums and deductibles until I became eligible for Medicare about a year ago. My daughter, Briana, has been able to maintain a job since her graduation from High School, and they are one of the few retail employers who provide health coverage. We are blessed with that.

To assure that disability does not become a tragedy and that people can be good citizens, a certain level of support is needed that is NOT provided by any health insurance. Only Medicaid provides support for people like my daughter to live in the community. Otherwise, she could end up in an institution (yes...it happens all the time to people who are productive with the right supports but fall apart w/o them). In Colorado, and around the country, Medicaid is the system that finances this support. In Colorado, Medicaid provides the majority of supports for those with disabilities. The expansion also covers caregivers of people with all sorts of disabilities. Some people with disabilities on the expansion are not employed because their disabilities, while hidden, do not allow them to work and also do not allow them to complete the Social Security disability determination process.

Cassidy-Graham is being billed as a "repeal" of Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act. This goes way beyond the ACA and completely upends the Medicaid program including the parts of Medicaid that have been in place for decades and have nothing to do with the ACA. My daughter and millions like her will be victims of this terrible legislation. I am an aging parent. Who will put in the hundreds of unpaid hours for her care each year when I am gone? That is a worry for me. But, Worse, what would happen if all the funding for Medicaid was gone? Then what would become of Briana and millions like her?

I ask you to take a "normal process" when considering legislation as monumental as health care for our country. This is a complex and difficult area. It has major economic and social impacts and affects every American. Get it right this time.

Our Governor Hickenlooper and Governor Kasich of Ohio have demonstrated the power of a bi-partisan effort in this area. A similar effort was underway in both the House and the Senate. What happened?? Get back on track. We are all watching.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Charlene Willey
Broomfield, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marietta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a primary care physician I want to strongly protest the Graham/Cassidy Bill to repeal the ACA. Please vote against this bill and work with all of the elected officials in the country to reform the AVA while keeping all of those reforms we all have come to rely on.

Thank you

Marietta Angelotti, MD

Board Certified by the American Academy of Family Physicians

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Therese E. Brzezinski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing Testimony on Graham-Cassidy Bill (September 25, 2017)
Attachments: Senate Finance Committee Hearing Testimony.Graham-Cassidy.docx

Please accept the following (below and attached) as testimony for submission into the record of the Senate Finance Committee Hearing scheduled for September 25, 2017:



September 24, 2017

To: US Senate Finance Committee
RE: Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

Today, countless citizens with disabilities are frightened because the healthcare coverage upon which they depend for their very lives is in danger of utter extinction. We write to you to voice the fear of not only the citizens with disabilities whom we serve in our local Long Island, New York community, but also on behalf of the entire community of Americans with disabilities who stand to suffer and even die if the Graham-Cassidy Bill is allowed to pass.

For the following reasons, we respectfully ask you to recognize our vehement opposition to this destructive bill and should it come to a vote on the Senate floor, we urge you to pointedly reject it.

As a consumer-controlled organization committed to advocating for the right of people from all disability backgrounds to live independent and productive lives in their communities, The Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL) witnesses daily the tremendous value of Medicaid coverage and access to Home and Community Based Services in the lives of people with disabilities. Yet, the intent of the Graham-Cassidy bill to shift the financial burden to the already strapped states will leave them with no choice but to find methods to reduce their costs. That will most certainly result in dramatic slashes to the very services essential to the vitality of people with disabilities. A reduction (or elimination) of Home and Community Based Services will send us on an absolute reverse-course with history -- forcing people with disabilities back into institutions and in the long-term, costing a great deal more in the process. We are gravely alarmed by the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy, as they will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk.

By turning Medicaid into a capped system Graham-Cassidy will, in effect, stop delivery of vital home-based supports and services that millions of Americans rely on to live independently so that they can go to school, work and make their own decisions. Disabled people are one in five of the U.S. population and this bill hurts disabled people across the board — just like the earlier GOP reform bills. No one will go unharmed. This includes children with disabilities, students with disabilities, working people with disabilities, senior citizens, and even victims of natural disasters like Harvey and Irma who suddenly find themselves needing unexpected and ongoing healthcare. In addition, it also seeks to cut and eventually eliminate funding for Medicaid expansion and life-saving subsidies that help people buy health insurance through the marketplace, allowing states to get rid of important mandates like non-discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions.

Therefore, we implore you to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill and instead, take up the bipartisan, transparent process Senators Alexander and Murray are advancing through the regular order. Such an approach will immediately help people without an unwarranted attack on Medicaid recipients. To truly help over 57 million Americans with disabilities, you must respect regular order and reject the Graham-Cassidy bill if it comes to a vote.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to emphasize the extremely negative impact the Graham Cassidy proposal will have on Americans with disabilities and to voice the very real trepidation which currently overwhelms of the broad range of individuals and families we serve. The disability community will be looking on with hope and expectation as you reach your decision.

Sincerely Yours,

Therese E. Brzezinski

Therése E. Brzezinski
Director, Planning and Public Policy

LICIL is a 501(c)3, non-residential, cross-disability advocacy organization with more than 30 years experience in direct services to people with disabilities and their families. The Center is committed to shaping public policy that promotes full community access and seamless integration of people with disabilities into the fabric of society. Further information about LICIL programs and services may be found at www.LICIL.net.

Therése E. Aprile-Brzezinski, M.A.
Director, Planning and Public Policy
L.I. Center for Independent Living, Inc. (LICIL)

Levittown, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Page Fortna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't repeal the ACA

Like many others, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My elderly mother would not be able to stay in her home without Medicaid to help pay for the home health aides who help her and keep her safe -- she and my father went through almost all of their savings paying for healthcare before he died last year. So many Americans of all political persuasions and backgrounds need affordable care to stay afloat. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not a last ditch effort to repeal it to score political points. Please put Americans' needs above petty politics.

Thank you,
A concerned voter.
Page Fortna

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Zahn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Why national healthcare is so important to me

To my elected officials,

I'm one of the walking wounded. I'm one of those people you've heard stories about.

About 8 years ago my life was turned upside down due to two unrelated health events. I had full coverage insurance through my employer, what some would call a "Cadillac plan" because it was better than most at the time, and yet it still wasn't enough to prevent eventual disaster.

It started with a stomach surgery, something that was initially approved by my insurance plan. But during the pre-surgery testing they discovered a potential complication and my surgeon made the professional decision to step aside and have a colleague from his same practice do the surgery instead because he was more prepared to deal with the complication if it arose while I was on the table. It was a decision made in good faith and in my best interests. Months after the fact, I was informed that this second surgeon wasn't actually participating in my insurance plan, even though he was in the same office, and thus my surgery was considered out-of-network and they wouldn't cover the vast majority of it. I suddenly found myself drowning in endless medical bills! I went through arbitration TWICE, including submitting a letter from my initially approved surgeon explaining the situation, but they rejected it both times. I had no recourse but to use a personal credit card to pay for things as best I could.

About 9 months later, while still going through the nightmare of the bills above, I woke up to discover that my jaw was completely unhinged. I've dealt with mild TMJ my entire life, but this was a first, to have it completely unhinge. I quickly discovered that NOBODY touched TMJ. My medical insurance specifically excluded it from any coverage, and my dental only offered \$2,000 lifetime cap, which wasn't but a drop in the bucket of what this condition would ultimately cost. That barely covered the initial MRI to diagnose. I had to go to a TMJ specialist who refuses to work with any insurance companies on principle because they are so horrible. My initial appointment and round of treatment and corrective appliance cost nearly \$7,000 out of pocket, with an additional \$3,000 whenever the appliance broke down and needed replacement, which was about every 6-9 months. With no end in sight.

Today my jaw is STILL unhinged, 7 years later. It has impacted how I chew and cause teeth to break and need replacement, which meant new crowns and implants. It is a chronic and obviously pre-existing condition that I will have the rest of my life.

All of this happening within 16 months, with no hope of every paying everything off, let alone getting ahead enough to save money, meant I was eventually forced to declare bankruptcy. Despite having both medical and dental insurance through my employer. As of right now this is still a black mark on my credit report.

As I stated, I AM THE WALKING WOUNDED. If it can happen to me, it can--and does--happen to anyone.

Susan Zahn
[REDACTED]
Alexandria, VA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

***** According to the official figures, 78% of all statistics are totally worthless.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rita Messer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:51 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. Here is my story: I am a self-employed mental health professional (all my work is 1099). Living in Ohio, I depend on the Healthcare.gov marketplace in order to access health insurance. When the ACA went into effect, I was finally able to get quality coverage at a comparable premium to what I'd been paying before. The difference was that I could have a plan that covered necessary things like my contraception because I wasn't ready to have a child yet, and I was no longer faced with having to appeal every other claim because it was supposed to be covered and the insurance company was trying to cut corners.

Now, several years later, I am expecting my first child in roughly two weeks. What will happen to my health insurance? Will I be able to afford covering my child? Will I be able to keep my doctors? Imagine being faced with the possibility of losing healthcare for an infant when this is supposed to be a joyous time- not fearful.

I don't have the luxury of paid time off. If I don't work, I don't get paid. Furthermore, I pay self-employment tax on top of my regular income tax, I receive a subsidy to help cover my monthly premium, and I'm very healthy, rarely going to the doctor for anything other than annual exams and immunizations. But if my premiums go up beyond what will happen already by adding a dependent, and fewer things are covered, I don't know how I'll make ends meet. I planned my family very carefully, made sure to have a well-established career, and bought a house with a low enough payment I can save a little every month. I am 33 years old. The Graham-Cassidy bill could take all that away. It is not only my personal health and that of my child's that could be impacted; if insurers are no longer required to cover mental health benefits, my income as a clinical social worker in private practice will be hit hard as well. And then, I think of all the people who already struggle to get mental healthcare (which is deeply connected to physical health, by the way). I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please consider, for example, ways to improve access to more physicians (such as notifying them all much sooner about when their enrollment periods are, or keeping it open all year for providers to join).

Sincerely,
Rita Messer

[REDACTED]
Columbus, OH [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Brandi Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the proposed health care bill

Dear Senator Toomey:

I urge you to vote "no" on the Graham-Cassidy proposal as it threatens my husband's federal protections due to his pre-existing health condition, Multiple Sclerosis. He got this disease through no fault of his own at age 43. It has been devastating. Should the decision be left up to states, which will also be receiving millions of dollars less in federal monies for health care over the next few years, to let the protections stand or fall, I fear what could happen to him and our family.

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 one million Pennsylvanians 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. 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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.” 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 301,632 Pennsylvanians 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 Pennsylvania's 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.

Thank you,
Brandi Kennedy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lindsey Prestrud <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I write to you today to implore you to vote no against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

This is not a political debate with your fellow politicians or the media. This has very real consequences to living, breathing human beings. Humans who do not have your privilege and are simply trying to make a life for themselves.

I do not have a story made for the headlines. Mine is the story of a pretty average middle-class American.

I am a healthy, single white woman with no children. I went to college and I work full-time at one of the most well known companies in the world. I make an above average income.

I pay for my own insurance because it is actually more affordable than what my employer offers. I do not qualify for subsidies. I pay the total of my insurance premium myself.

Yet, my premium stresses my income. My economic stability could easily be upended by just one "not covered until deductible met" healthcare event.

So, I can imagine the fear, stress, hopelessness, and desperation that others must feel listening to this conversation on healthcare and hearing the very thing that is critical to their survival is at risk.

I encourage you to embody the role you accepted when you took office as a representative of the people. Speak for us. Act as our advocate.

Remember that you are not an advocate for only the wealthy (as they only represent 1-5% of the country). You are not an advocate for insurance companies. You are not an advocate for pharmaceutical companies or big business.

I'd like to ask you, as you consider your vote, to remember the regular human beings who are working hard every single day paying taxes so you can get your paycheck and government provided health insurance.

Moreover, if you are going to vote yes, I ask you to write in a final addition to the bill that would require all Senators and Representatives to take advantage of the new healthcare provided in Graham-Cassidy. Or at the very least, do what I do and turn down your employer provided healthcare and sign-up for individual insurance that would be available through this bill.

If you are unwilling to do either of those two things, then you know in your heart the only real vote you can make is a vote for no against the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Prestrud

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jan M Dougherty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Do not allow this bill to pass. The devastation will be monumental.

Regards,

Jan M Dougherty

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Goldsberry-Troyer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save our healthcare! Please!!

Hi,

My name is Mary Goldsberry-Troyer, and I am a mother of two small children, a three-year-old and a one-year old. The ACA has greatly improved my life and decreased the stress that I used to feel about how I was going to pay for my family's healthcare.

My family has been very fortunate, we haven't had any major medical problems. But, even with good luck, routine medical expenses are financially out of reach for most middle class Americans.

My hospital bills for labor and delivery were \$20,000 for EACH child. There is no way that I could have afforded that without insurance. We were fortunate, at the time I had excellent insurance and only a \$1,500 deductible. When I take my youngest to the doctor for his routine well-child checks at 3,6,9,12,15 months, etc the doctor bill is HUGE. My last one was nearly \$1,000 before insurance. Without insurance, many moms would end up having to look through a list of immunizations and their respective costs to decide which ones they could afford. **I don't want my baby to get measles because another family couldn't afford to vaccinate their child.** We all do better when we all do better.

If you have to raise my taxes, fine. Just don't turn your back on America's children.

Mary Goldsberry-Troyer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Jaffe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

My family relies on affordable health care and we are deeply concerned about pre existing conditions and the cost of health care for people with pre existing conditions in your bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Government should ensure that everyone has affordable , accessible health care.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Webb <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Help Us not hurt us

Most honorable Senators,
Please do not pass the bill before you on health care and insurance. This was so hastily pushed forward it lacks true oversight and examination. Most Americans have pre-existing conditions and to not regulate premiums it will become unaffordable yo most of us. A sole provider system would cut costs on prescriptions and care. Please listen to your constituents and not pharmaceuticals and insurance companies. We survived as a country with the horseless carriage, we can weather this as well. Don't pas this bill, thank you.
Rebecca Webb

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Harris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

This is a time to do the right thing, to put the needs of the people ahead of politics; to pass a bill, without discussion or scoring, just to "get a win", is shameful, and beneath the dignity of Congress. This is the time to thoughtfully work together, in a bipartisan way, to make sure the needs of our children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions, are taken care of. This is the time to improve the ACA, not destroy it. It is not perfect, but it is far better than the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This is the time to bring the country together, not tear it apart.

This is the time!

Sincerely

Susan Harris
Oak Park, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin Cole <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. This plan would result in some 32 million people losing their health coverage. Please don't support something like this that will literally result in American deaths, and preventable ones at that. It's time to stop playing partisan games with our healthcare.

Respectfully,
Kevin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebekah Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony for GCH Bill

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearings
Monday 9/25/2017

Rebekah Moore
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Seattle, Washington, [REDACTED]

The newest attempt to repeal and replace Obamacare (ACA) is poorly considered and would be a moral, financial, and health disaster for tens of millions of Americans. I'm one of the 32 million people who could lose their access to the most basic healthcare. I'm a university undergraduate student studying Physiology, and I hope to eventually get a Phd in Physical Therapy and care for residents in Seattle. I have multiple disabilities that would be considered a pre-existing condition if the Graham-Cassidy Bill passes. If this bill passes, I wouldn't be able to afford insurance due to astronomical premiums, let alone afford to buy groceries and pay rent due to healthcare and medication costs. The Graham-Cassidy bill would likely kill me, among millions of others. If Republicans want to improve the economy and middle class, this bill is not the way to do it.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is also a thinly veiled tax cut for the super rich (1%) that was promised to donors. I find it evil, frankly, that Republicans think that the death of millions of Americans is an acceptable price to pay to line the pockets of super rich donors. Republicans will be aligned even further with fascism, and history will see this bill as a genocide of disabled citizens, if this bill passes.

Do not pass Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zia Dawn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:48 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.

Ketsia Mareck-Loftus
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of James Davies <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Committee Members:

The Graham-Cassidy bill will be a death sentence for millions of Americans. It does not require that pre-existing conditions are covered and it allows lifetime caps.

I'm a healthy individual, I don't smoke, eat a healthy diet and get plenty of exercise. But when I was in high school I had intestinal bleeding from some sort of inflammatory bowel issue. I've had no symptoms for years and years, but before the ACA I couldn't get insurance.

I currently work for a small business that provides healthcare, but if Graham -Cassidy passes, the cost of my 'preexisting' condition could make it unaffordable due to the small size of the company. Graham-Cassidy is not good for me, the millions of people on Medicaid or the small business owners and entrepreneurs across this great country who, many for the first time, are able to risk starting a business because of real insurance offered through the exchanges that can't discriminate against people based on preexisting conditions.

Before the ACA the deaths of those who died due to a lack of healthcare were nebulously on the hands of the whole country. But if you repeal the ACA, the blood of those who die will be on your hands.

Best,

James Davies

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele McMahon-Cost <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

As an American woman, living with multiple sclerosis I am terrified about how the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill will strip away the guaranteed, essential health benefits of the Affordable Care Act. As a Pre-existing Condition, I face the possibility of loosing my affordable and comprehensive. Don't we want a health country?

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Michele McMahon-Cost
San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Kramer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I am actually for single payer health care for all. I was an international Flight Attendant for 34 years and have been to doctors in at least a dozen countries. I always find it amazing that I get such good health care on a minute's notice for usually about \$30-\$40 for an office visit. It makes me HATE our system. Those of you who think other countries with universal health care offer substandard care are just listening to false rhetoric. France's health care is better than ours and most places are just as good, yet much less expensive. We are the only first world country that does not offer universal health care. It's not something to be proud of.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kramer
Julian, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Anne Cauley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother, a recent college grad and artist, has been able to afford healthcare because of the Affordable Care Act. It is essential to young people like him who are working many part-time jobs at this stage in his career to have access to affordable healthcare. Otherwise he would opt out.

People like my brother should be able to have healthcare. I implore congress to take the time to find a bipartisan way to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Repealing it and replacing it with a sup-par replacement will set us back. Let's build on what we have and make it better for all Americans.

Sincerely,
Anne Cauley
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Chris McElhany <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please vote no on the health care bill this week. No one knows exactly what will happen if it passes, but it sounds like it will hurt many people including veterans. Time to do the right thing! We pay taxes and should be able to determine how that money is spent.

Please don't allow this bill to pass.

Chris McElhany
Springfield, Oregon

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Al Stawsky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against Graham-Cassidy Bill

To All U. S. Senators:

All the evidence and the expert conclusions of virtually all professionals in the field of healthcare indicate that this is an extremely destructive bill. Why do not those who seem to support this instead try to really find ways to build a workable healthcare system that will serve everybody? Please vote this bill down and support a bi-partisan path to really solving this.

Thank you,
Al Stawsky
Teaneck, New Jersey.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Olivia Rogers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: delin@cff.org
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy to SFC

**Statement Submitted by Olivia Rogers, age 16, future constituent of Senator John Thune- SD
Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
September 25, 2017**

My name is Olivia Rogers, I am 16 and I have a sister 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 sister Madelaine is 14 years old and a freshman in High School. If you met Madelaine, you would not suspect she was sick at all. Madelaine is active in cross country and basketball and a kid like any of the rest of us. To see Madelaine, you would have no idea that she requires approximately \$42,000 in medication MONTHLY just to keep her living a healthy "normal" life. Madelaine deserves more than anything to live a healthy normal life like all of the rest of us. I understand that the current health care system is far from perfect, but these changes cannot come at the expense of those who need lifesaving care the most. My Mom and Dad will not be able to provide these costly medications and lifesaving treatments, in just two short years should this bill pass. This would be life threatening to my sister and friend, and I cannot imagine having this conversation with her. PLEASE, consider Madelaine, and the rest of my family when making these most important decisions regarding the future of our health care system.

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 individual's 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.

Sincerely,

Olivia Rogers age 16
Deadwood, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Miriam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose ACA Repeal Efforts

Importance: High

I'm a woman in my late 50's. I've been on Medicaid/ACA since 2010. I've had cancer and a spinal cord injury in the past 6 years. Since 2011 I've had 6 surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy, and been seen by numerous medical and mental health specialists. One of the Drs I saw a year or so ago told me that I would have been dead if I hadn't had Medicaid/ACA coverage. I am very grateful for this medical/mental health care. I ask that you do all you can to preserve this type of excellent medical care for myself and the millions of other Americans who are also on Medicaid/ACA.

Miriam Lange
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joni Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA.

I am a 71 year old retired teacher living in Iowa City, Iowa. Iowa is already struggling with finding insurance companies willing to insure people who are independent workers, those who are not connected to businesses that provide health insurance. This makes me frightened for myself, but even more for my daughter. What if she loses her job? Where will she find health insurance? And what about the pre-existing conditions that individual states will choose to cover or not to cover? I worry how repeal of the ACA will impact me and Medicare as well as what impact it may have on the supplemental insurance I buy.

Please work with the Democrats to make the ACA better. Let's put some bipartisan effort into making healthcare available and affordable for everyone. Let's not let this be an example of the old saying, 'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater!' Please build on what we've already got. This 'Baby' has ten fingers and ten toes and it just needs some nourishment and guidance to grow and develop into a health plan that provides quality and affordable health care for all our citizens.

Thank you.
Joni Jones

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Powers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do the right thing

What is the right thing?

It's not throwing millions of people off health insurance.

It's not getting rid of Medicaid.

It's not playing partisan politics and refusing to work across the aisle.

It's not getting rid of the ACA just because you hate the name Obama.

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching." C.S. Lewis

America is watching.

Do the right thing and don't shove the Graham-Cassidy bill through just to be able to say you got it done before Sept. 30th.

Do you have integrity?

I'd like to know.

Linda Powers

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ruth Grindinger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Senator, Jon Tester (Tester); senator@daines.senate.gov; [REDACTED]
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Committee on Finance U.S. Senate,
September 25, 2017

I am a registered nurse and a member of the American Nurses Association with 36 years as a health care professional.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would make it legal to price my husband and I right out of healthcare. We are both over 60 with preexisting conditions. Without the protections put in place by the Affordable Care Act we would not be able to afford our insurance. We are not unusual. We are not some extreme case. We are two people who have always paid for our health insurance in good years and bad.

I believe this bill would not only be bad for millions of individuals but additionally it would disrupt our healthcare system to the point of seeing rural hospitals close for lack of funds.

Please do not take healthcare away from millions of people.

Ruth Grindinger
[REDACTED]
Livingston, MT [REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Constance Cannon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no on Cassidy-Graham

Please accept this email as a comment from a citizen fervently opposed to the repeal of the ACA, and even more fervently opposed to the passage of the Cassidy-Graham bill.

While the ACA isn't perfect, it is working, despite recent efforts at sabotage.

The Cassidy-Graham bill will deprive millions of health care.

Health care should not be considered a privilege reserved for the rich.

Please work to improve the ACA. Or institute a single payer system.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Huey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Repeal of ACA

My husband is currently fighting cancer. We simply cannot afford for his (very expensive) treatment not to be covered because it is considered a pre-existing condition. We are less than a year into his treatment and it has already cost well over \$2 million, between hospitalizations, surgery and medication. We also cannot risk the states implementing any life-time caps on coverage for this same reason. The Affordable Care Act isn't perfect, I will admit.. But this current iteration of an ACA repeal is a terrible idea, both for my family and for the rest of America. Americans on both sides of the aisle agree that working in a bipartisan manner to improve the system we currently have is a much better idea than a plan that would have millions be completely without insurance and so many more facing premiums that would completely devastate them financially. Even Americans who voted for those currently in office don't want this. Please listen to your constituents.

Thank you!
Kris Huey
Royersford, PA

Sent from Kris' iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christine Moretti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:26 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 becauseI feel it will be disastrous for this country denying tens of millions healthcare. I am not deceived by the wording in the bill saying there will be coverage for pre existing conditions, that is a lie. Lifting essential coverage will give insurance companies the right to deny coverage, or offer empty policies at exorbitant rates, making healthcare u affordable for the most vulnerable and the elderly. We deserve healthcare for all in this country, not a cruel excuse for handing huge tax cuts to the rich. Do the right thing and vote no on this abomination of a bill.

Christine Moretti

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amy Nadel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Senators,

The Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the ACA will do nothing to stem steep increases in the cost of health insurance for those who will be able to afford it. **Do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

Sincerely,

Amy Nadel

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: sue hanson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcommerfts
Subject: Healthcare ☉CassidyGrahamBill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Suzanne Hanson. My address is [REDACTED]

The proposed #CassidyGrahamBill is worse than #BCRA. It would destroy Medicaid and gut protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

It is reckless and immoral for Republican Members of Congress to ram through profound changes to our healthcare without regular process and a full #CBO scoring.

I prevail on the Democrat Members of Congress to use every tactic available to defeat the #CassidyGrahamBill a potential death sentence for sick and vulnerable people.

I implore all Members of Congress to support a bipartisan effort to stabilize the #ACA exchanges and mandate outreach in order to prevent spikes in premiums and lapses in coverage.

Finally I request that #PresidentTrump stop his singular crusade to sabotage the #ACA. Healthcare is a right not a privilege.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hanson us

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Pranaat <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family and my patients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that my husband is a cancer survivor - he underwent diagnosis and treatment in 2007. He was subsequently denied health insurance when we moved to a new state due to his pre-existing condition. We were fortunate to have the option of continuing his insurance for a short time under COBRA, though that has a hardship for our family as the monthly payments cost more than our rent. The requirement by the ACA that those with pre-existing conditions not be denied coverage is a life saver for our family and for so many others like us.

Additionally, in my work as a women's health care provider, I care for many patients on Medicaid and see on a daily basis what a difference it makes in their lives as they strive to care for themselves and their families.

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

Sincerely,

Holly Pranaat, CNM
Rochester, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Pranaat <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote down Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a resident-physician who helps care for the sick and I am a cancer survivor. All of us will need healthcare at some point in our lives, though we are unsure of how much and at what expense. State endorsed plans are insufficient to care for the task as people often cross state lines when moving, vacationing, or when life-flighted to receive care that they are unable to receive in their own states. Only the federal government can ensure that health care is a right and not a privilege for a select few who are able to pay for it.

I have been a cancer survivor for 10 years this year. I was diagnosed in my early 20s and was fortunate enough to be insured through the HMO of Illinois. After treatment, I worked just to pay for my COBRA benefits which were >\$700/month. I had family support and was eventually able to be accepted to medical school. I still have the rejection letters from Blue Cross Blue Shield saying that because I had had cancer, they would not cover me. This was before the ACA requirements for pre-existing conditions.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The ACA is not perfect, believe me, but it is still better than what we had before and what would occur with passing of the Graham-Cassidy bil. Perhaps your legacy can be improving the ACA for the betterment of our collective health and wellness.

Respectfully,
Robert Pranaat, MD MCR
[REDACTED]

Rochester, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Morris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

My name is John Morris and I am a resident of Oregon. I am writing to share my view that in no way, shape or form do I support the passage of the Graham Cassidy bill. If passed it will hit the state of Oregon extremely hard with hundreds of thousands of Oregonians losing health care coverage. Do NOT pass Graham Cassidy.

John Morris

John C. Morris
CEO
Morris Energy Consulting
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Be sure to ask me about:



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Akin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Please vote NO on this bill:

TRUTH ABOUT GRAHAM-CASSIDY

#HeroesResist @IronMan2017

- Massive cuts will be made to Medicaid.**
- At least 32 million people will lose medical coverage after 2026.**
- States can let insurers charge more for pre-existing conditions and to older Americans.**
- Eliminates subsidies that get middle/lower-income families coverage.**
- Allows many vital situations to be uncovered, i.e. maternity/childbirth.**
- Ends employer-based coverage for many Americans.**

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebekah Chodoff Kuschmider <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on G-C

This bill is bad policy. You know it's bad policy. Send it to the trash, not the floor.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jo Elsbury <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am a family physician in Idaho. I am also a person with a pre-existing condition (two knee replacements), married to someone with an even more severe pre-existing condition (my husband was left a paraplegic after a car accident 5 years ago.)

I am appalled by the Graham-Cassidy bill. We are the richest country in the world; we spend more on our military than the next 8 countries combined, and Congress just voted to increase our military spending by 13%. Analysts estimate the Graham Cassidy bill would result in 32 million people losing health insurance (some 12 million more than have gained it under the Affordable Care Act). It does NOTHING to reduce the cost of medical care -- all it does is push the burden onto states and individuals, who have much less negotiating power than the federal government. Its authors claim it maintains protections for pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps, etc, but in reality it requires each state to enact those protections for itself. And prior to the ACA, states did not provide those protections for their citizens; there is no reason to think they would continue to do so now. It also essentially eliminates Medicaid, again pushing that burden onto the states. Many sparsely-populated rural states, my own state of Idaho included, do not generate enough tax revenue to replace federal Medicaid subsidies.

This means my elderly patients who have worked all their lives but now have broken a hip and need skilled nursing care (but can't afford it) will be on their own. One patient with cerebral palsy, whose arms and legs are permanently flexed in a fetal position, will have no one to help him get out of bed and dressed in the morning to go to his job as a software engineer. Another patient with cerebral palsy, who is independent with activities of daily living but requires a walker or wheelchair and works at Opportunities Unlimited with no benefits, will be unable to get healthcare for his children. My small business owner with ankylosing spondylitis, who obtained health insurance for the first time under the ACA and thus was able to see a rheumatologist and begin treatment with disease-modify anti-rheumatic drugs rather than just pain pills, would face prohibitively expensive premiums. I have many more such examples.

The campaign promise was that Obamacare would be repealed and REPLACED WITH SOMETHING BETTER. That second portion appears to have been entirely overlooked not only in the current proposal, but all the proposals put forth by the Republicans so far. It's time to listen to Senator McCain, go back to regular order and produce a well-crafted, well-thought-out bill that has plenty of public input and earns bipartisan support. That's what the American people expect and deserve.

Thank you for listening and for serving the American people, not just the Koch Brothers.

Sincerely,

Jo Elsbury, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Scott Barngrover <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family rely/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.

Scott Barngrover

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Julie Van Keuren <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

I find it outrageous that the Senate would consider rushing through a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act without first even receiving a CBO score or having any meaningful debate.

The ACA has worked fairly well for our country and should be supported or improved, not replaced. Let's use some common sense and act cautiously when it comes to something so important.

Sincerely,
Julie Van Keuren
Billings, Montana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Spero <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose GC bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Several if us have pre-existing conditions: cancer, Celiac disease, congestive heart failure, and osteroporosis. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Nancy Spero
San Francisco, CA

--
Nancy E. Spero [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen Satrom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I am writing to say that my family and I are strongly against the Graham-Cassidy bill. Too many necessary protections would be stripped away. As someone who has faithfully contributed to my health plan all my working life and has worked hard to live in a healthy way but who now has a serious preexisting condition, I am extremely concerned about leaving so many decisions up to individual states. Too many will lose coverage, which will prove disastrous. Please think not of politics but of what is best for your constituents. Respectfully yours, Ellen Satrom (from Virginia)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: krista westendorp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy puts my son at risk.

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My 32 year son Aaron, who has multiple disabilities and Medicaid has paid for the health related services he gets since he was born. My husband and I have always had him on our policy as a disabled dependent, but Medicaid covers the costs that our insurance doesn't. This is vital for Aaron's well-being. **No Block Grants! Before Federal Medicaid Waiver Programs**, in the 1980's, our family could only access the medical funding for Aaron to be cared for at home by living below the poverty line so he qualified for Medicaid. The **Federal Waiver Programs**, starting with the **Katie Beckett Waiver**, made it possible for children with disabilities to receive nursing care and extraordinary medical costs based on their disability, not on family income. Aaron now has a **Federal Cadi Waiver**, which covers overnight nurses for his respiratory support.

Block Grants would be a disaster for families like ours. With decreasing state allocations and the ability for each state to define its own criteria for eligibility families would have ongoing uncertainty and hardship, the way it was before Federal Waiver Programs.

It took FOREVER for the state and federal programs to sync up requirements and define criteria for these programs. The criteria have been changed according to budget requirements and recipient needs. **To uproot these long-refined programs and start from scratch would be EXPENSIVE, UNNECESSARY, AND DEVASTATING FOR FAMILIES!**

Families who use an array of services find that the eligibility criteria and services available now differ from county to county, but much more so from state to state. **BLOCK GRANTS WOULD WRECK PORTABILITY OF SERVICES FOR KIDS WITH EXTENSIVE DISABILITIES.**

PLEASE KEEP THE PARTS OF THE ADA THAT ARE WORKING FOR SO MANY PEOPLE! A PROGRAM THAT LARGE WILL OF COURSE NEED REFINING TO TWEAK DETAILS, BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE TO THROW IT OUT AND START OVER!

THANK YOU FOR YOU DILIGENT WORK FOR US! PLEASE DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margeson, Paula <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Members of Congress:

As a person with a disability and the director of an organization that assists people with disabilities, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Again and again, the disability community has informed congress of the danger to health and wellness and the very lives of at-risk people within our population if Medicaid is diminished. Therefore, I beg, plead, urge and request that U.S. senators and representatives not pass this harmful legislation. People with disabilities are among your neighbors, friends, work associates, and family members. We are not an unknown segment of society.

Someone has wisely said that the true measure of the advancement of a civilization is how well it treats its most vulnerable members. Please demonstrate that America "measures up" by defeating the Graham-Cassidy bill!

Sincerely
Paula Margeson

Paula Margeson
Executive Director
Dayle McIntosh Center

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Kaye-Beall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

I and the rest of the American public are tired of this threatening abuse heaped on us since Donald Trump took office. The Republican obsession with shoving horrible healthcare repeal options down the throats of US citizens has literally caused a form of PTSD to the public. American citizens live in terror, not so much because of a foreign power, but because of this narcissistic, self-centered game Republican man-children insist on foisted on us. And I have had it. First do no harm. Isn't that what humans should value? But the majority of Republicans lost their way and all they want to do is harm Americans and lie to both themselves and lie and oviscapte the truth to Americans about what is best for us. What is best for us is replacing every single politician who votes YES on Graham Cassidy.

I have two adult children with autism on Medicaid. They need the level of funding they are on to be able to live in the community and have the staff support they need. Making pre-existing conditions cost more, or putting citizens at the mercy of their state government with block grants. Making us fear that we will lose Medicaid and leaving it up to state officials as to whether we would get or stay on insurance is DOING HARM.

My sister has Leukemia and she lives in Colorado. Her cancer Center of Excellence takes the Obama Care policy she is on. If that gets taken away, you will be killing my sister. That is DOING MAJOR HARM.

If my kids loose their funding and my sister loses their funding, I have to use my savings as a 65 year old woman to make sure THEY CAN LIVE...and you caused a family catastrophe and here there is no hyperbole. It is fact, so no rationalizations like the lying Senator Cassidy tries to shovel out.

To say that I am disgusted by the boys club antics that is beyond any normal person's values, that the desperate Republicans embrace just to WIN, well, everything that goes around, comes around. Where is the conscience, wisdom and heart of the Republicans. GONE.

It is now time now to stop this insanity. Stop supporting this imbecilic, treasonous president like rote boys-club robots. And begin by voting absolutely NO on Graham Cassidy. We are not stupid constituents, what the Republicans are doing is clear to any thinking person. It is a moment of truth. VOTE NO and save me and my family from the HARM THAT GRAHAM CASSIDY WILL DO. Let's get a bipartisan fix voted on.

Karen Kaye-Beall, mother of Tyler and Amelia Beall (both with autism – loving sister to Sue Ziemann, Leukemia patient
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marilyn Paulson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am writing to express my **OPPOSITION** to this proposed health care bill.

The senate is ignoring regular order by not allowing debate or hearings.

It's an 11th hour last ditch effort in response to GOP fears about their positions come 2018 elections...not out of concern for American people.

It makes bogus claims about retaining clauses for pre-existing conditions and other popular ACA provisions because states would have waiver options.

Health leaders in all 50 states and a majority of health care experts and organizations object.

The majority of Americans think ACA is fundamentally sound and support bipartisan efforts to shore up insurance markets and work to improve not dismantle ACA.

Sen. Collins and Nelson have proposed a reasonable bipartisan idea that is getting no attention.

MILLIONS of American citizens will lose coverage and/or be priced out of the market with elimination of Medicaid and tinkering with Medicare. Their costs will fall on the rest of us until we too are priced out. It rewards the wealthy who can afford to pay. This congress is out of touch with average citizenry.

Sincerely
Marilyn Paulson
From Neenah, Wisconsin (represented by Senators Baldwin and Johnson)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: R N <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:31 AM
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.

cc Senator Warren ([REDACTED]) and Senator Markey ([REDACTED])

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristi Weisenburger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother relies on Medicaid and is a breast cancer survivor. She can barely afford the costs of her medical coverage with Medicaid. She and my father have worked hard their whole lives. My father worked 7 days a week and multiple jobs, while my mother taught full one and never made over 25,000 a year. They are now 70 and finally retired. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kristi Weisenburger

Shorewood, Wisconsin

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bill Gee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

I employ over one thousand employees working in the wholesale bakery sector and I can attest to the good that expanded coverage requirements gave to my employees (most of them temp service staff). The Graham-Cassidy bill is being pushed through for political cover rather than for the thoughtful consideration of improving upon the attempt by Obamacare (ACA) to provide protections and coverage to many of the people who work for me. Please put this Quixotic exercise aside and get back to the business of forming a bipartisan effort to improve our healthcare system.

Sincerely, William Gee
Chicago, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LuAnn Kanabay <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I write to urge you to vote NO on putting this bill forward for a full vote. Due process for consideration of all aspects of this bill - its costs to the economy, health care delivery systems, and most importantly, families who rely on Medicaid & Medicare to support disabled and elderly family members - has not been done. The CBO has not completed final scoring. It's irresponsible and deceptive to vote on a measure, sold to your constituents as a "better" plan providing "freedom" and "access " to healthcare, when you don't even know its full costs!

Do the right thing. Listen to your constituents. Vote NO on #GrahamCassidy. Fix the ACA!

Sincerely,
LuAnn Kanabay

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Bovy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller bill

Please do not cut medicaid- several of us with special needs children rely on that to be able to have a meaningful life.
Medicaid needs to be expanded not cut.
gail Bovy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Christian Axiom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I am lucky that I now have healthcare through my employer, but a couple of years ago, I found myself without a job that offered health-insurance benefits. Without the ACA, I would not have had health insurance, and the struggles I faced would have been that much greater. Under our current system that relies so strongly on employer-based health insurance, it is easy for a person struggling to find a new job to feel as though lacking health insurance is just one more thing that means they are a failure set apart from the "haves" of our country. That is why it is important to me that the ACA continue. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA (or even to create single-payer healthcare/Medicare-for-All), not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Christian Axiom
Ellettsville, IN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:19 PM
To: gchcomments

My family relies on quality affordable health care, especially now that I am over the age of 65 years. We also are responsible for those who are less fortunate than us; otherwise we belong with the vultures. I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. I would like to see both the Republicans and the Democrats work together on a bi-partisan bill to improve the ACA **not repeal it**. Joan Angulo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Roche <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: In Opposition of Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. In addition, I am the Executive Director of a small nonprofit, who believes in providing quality health care for all our employees - it is a value of our organization that people matter. A value that is shared by the American value system. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, to make sure all are able to enjoy the promise of the pursuit of health and happiness. Repeal will injure too many, leaving them without access to preventative or necessary medical care.

Sincerely,

Jill Roche
Jackson Heights, NY [REDACTED]

Please work with your colleagues to protect our nation's most vulnerable patient population and preserve their access to prevention and treatment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Threadgould
[REDACTED]

Lansing, MI [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Melissa Threadgould <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

9/24/17

Attn: Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senators:

Hello. As a constituent concerned about preserving access to lifesaving mental health and addiction services, I am writing today to urge and request your support for keeping recent gains in access to coverage and care for people living with mental illness or addiction.

I work with children and volunteer at my church with the children who have autism and physical disabilities in a classroom called God's Gems. The mother of 1 child in particular's was clinically depressed and could not care for him such that I thought we would have to involve the authorities. I helped her get hooked up with Medicaid which lead to her connection with a primary care physician and mental health care provider. With these supports and links to a support group she is now quite the advocate and engaged parent for her child. This would not have been possible without the MA expansion. Because of what I know about the Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale, Medicaid not only saved her but lowered her son's risk of negative health outcomes in his future.

Recent health insurance data show that Americans with mental health and substance use disorders are the single largest beneficiaries of Medicaid expansion. Nearly one in three people who receive health insurance coverage through the Medicaid expansion either have a mental illness, substance use disorder or both. If the Medicaid expansion were to be repealed, this population of vulnerable Americans would be left without access to lifesaving treatment, driving up costs in emergency room visits and hospital stays.

I am also concerned about the impact that Graham-Cassidy plan to restructure Medicaid as a block grant or capped program would have on people who rely on Medicaid for addiction and mental health care. By reducing federal investment in Medicaid, these proposals would shift costs to states and place individuals' coverage at risk – potentially leaving millions of Americans without access to needed mental health and addictions treatment in our state of Michigan.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Birgit Buss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill: Please do not repeal the ACA

All Americans rely on quality, affordable healthcare. We live in a country that leads in the medical field, with health- and life-saving treatments available. We need the ACA, or an improved version of it, so that all Americans can benefit from this, not only those who have the financial means to purchase healthcare at any cost or who happen to live in a state where funds are available to help those in need.

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, Birgit Buss, Flagstaff, AZ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pamela Buchignani <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Hello,

I am writing today to express my thoughts on the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Monday, Sept. 25, 2017.

Please do not allow this proposal to pass, especially before allowing it to be fully reviewed and vetted by the CBO. It is time for all of us to reach across the aisle and work on a real healthcare solution together. We all agree that improvements can be made to Obamacare, but undoing the good it has done so far should not be part of that. We must keep insurance companies from denying or overcharging people because of pre-existing conditions, and make sure that the poor and old folks who need medical care can access it.

Approximately 10 years ago, I was freelancing at many jobs at the same time, trying to establish my career. Since none of my employers offered health insurance, I had to go in search of it on my own. I was just barely 30 years old, and had no significant health issues. I was denied insurance from every single company I applied for coverage with because I had seen doctors in the past for mild asthma. Thankfully, I was able to secure a full time job shortly thereafter, but that is not always the case for other people. Health insurance companies must be monitored and prevented from doing things like this...

Basic healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. It's time for us to start treating it that way.

Thank you for your time.

Pamela Hothorn

[REDACTED]
North Hollywood, CA [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jane Richardson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee:

It's time to stop spending your valuable resources on these repeated attempts to repeal the ACA at all cost. We need you to kill the Graham Cassidy proposal now, and focus on bi-partisan solutions to improve the ACA.

My sister's individual premiums have skyrocketed from \$425/mo three years ago (still out of my budget!) to \$889/mo this year. She has a chronic illness, and she (like everyone else) needs excellent affordable health care like you have!

Make no mistake. This is the most important thing you will do in your career.

Thank you,
Jane Richardson
Pacific Palisades, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kenny Stevenson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My name is Kenny Stevenson, and I am writing because I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In 2012, my wife got pregnant and at the time, we were both on my insurance policy through my union (The Motion Picture's Editor's Guild). Every year, I am also eligible to receive insurance through the Screen Actor's Guild, and in 2012, we declined it because we didn't know my wife was going to get pregnant. However, in 2013, because pregnancy was no longer a pre-existing condition (thanks to the ACA), my wife and I were able to add SAG insurance, and drastically cut thousands of dollars off the price of having a baby.

This bill will make pregnancy a pre-existing condition again, and if Republicans are truly interested in the life of the child, they should not support this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Kenny Stevenson

--

Check out:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alex Prentiss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story regarding affordability is that when my husband stopped working, we both lost our insurance coverage through his job and had to purchase individual insurance. It was expensive and we could only afford catastrophic care insurance with a big deductible. When the ACA became law a few years later, we were able to buy insurance with a lower deductible and save over \$200/month on our health insurance bill, which made a big difference for us.

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

Sincerely,
Alexandra Prentiss
Beaverton, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Charleen Smith
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Comments

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

COMMENTS:

I strongly encourage the Senate to consider:

- * Slow down
- * Do MANY hearings
- * Get it RIGHT
- * Get input from Hospitals, doctors, AARP, Medical Associations, patient advocates, governors, insurance companies -- ALL STAKEHOLDERS.
- * WAIT FOR CBO score!!!! --- you're playing with 1/6th of the economy.
- * Relegating \$\$ to States does not guarantee that pre-existing conditions will be covered, affordable (premium AND deductible) if I move to another.state.
- * It's not about getting a "W" -- it's about people's LIVES !!
- * Errors made under pressure are remembered LONG after the joy of meeting the deadline.
- * Do what's MORALLY right -- protect the "least, the last, the lost."

Sincerely,
Levie David Smith, III

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

If we lost our coverage, I am terrified of what will happen to my child. I am scared for how fast my conditions could deteriorate. The Graham-Cassidy bill would take away the pre-existing condition protections we both so desperately need. It would also make it possible for states to NOT require mental health care coverage and not cover medications she needs for her endometriosis and PCOS. This bill could cause both of us such irreparable harm to us. As Americans, as humans, do we not deserve to be healthy? Do we not deserve to have the medications that help us? Do we not deserve to have healthcare?

Sincerely,
Amber Hulse

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Amber Hulse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017
Amber M. Hulse
[REDACTED]
Danville, IN [REDACTED]

When I lost my job in September of 2015, the Affordable Care Act allowed me to get insurance that would not cost me \$1300 a month like COBRA.

My daughter and I both have chronic medical conditions that require frequent doctor visits and prescription medications. I have fibromyalgia, peripheral neuropathy, ADHD, PTSD, migraines, and Raynaud's Syndrome. My daughter has endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, borderline personality disorder, PTSD, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, and ADHD. We live in a state that opted for Medicaid expansion (while governor of Indiana, now Vice President Pence seemed to think this was an excellent idea). Because of this, we are covered by Indiana's HIP 2.0 insurance plan.

Because my conditions are unpredictable and severely aggravated by weather, temperature, stress, and any number of other factors, it makes it very difficult for me to work a "regular" job. I am in the process of filing for disability but that can take up to two years. In the meantime, I need to be able to see my doctors and get the medications that keep my flares somewhat under control.

This coverage not only has allowed us to see our doctors and covered our medications, it save my daughter's life. Three times

In September of 2016, it was discovered she had a 2nd paratubal cyst that would need to be removed. Someone developing 2 of these cysts is unheard of, let alone 2 in 1 year. If the cyst had not been removed, it would have ruptured, ruptured her fallopian tube, detached her ovary and allowed fluid into her bloodstream that could have caused serious infection. The cyst was discovered in time because she was able to see her gynecologist.

She was diagnosed at age 14 with bipolar disorder and anxiety. She has spent years in therapy, trying different/different combinations of medications but nothing ever worked for long. In August of 2016, with her disorders out of control, medications not working, and feeling hopeless, she attempted suicide. As a mother, I cannot even begin to tell you what that pain is like. Because of our coverage, she was able to spend a week in an inpatient mental health facility, receive a more accurate diagnosis and different medications. She was also able to see a therapist once a week and a new psychiatrist. In January of 2017, the medications were no longer working. Again, desperate to get off the roller coaster and feeling like there would be no end to the ups and downs, she attempted suicide again, almost succeeding. And again, because of our coverage, she was able to spend a week in an inpatient facility. This time, she received an accurate diagnosis, better medications, and a better course of therapy. She has now been stable with no further attempts for 8 months. But she will fight this battle her entire life. She will always need therapy and always need medications. I fear for her life if we lose our coverage and I cannot afford to pay for her therapy and medications out of pocket. I fear I will lose my child.

That's how it looks to this American: Graham-Cassidy is backwards and fiscally irresponsible, as are all the other attempts to redistribute wealth and health to the top 1% who already have plenty of both. Stop the rot. Stop this insanity. Work for the general welfare...not just your wealthy donors and ALEC.

Thanks,
Tina Brand
Arlington, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tina Brand <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham-Cassidy and all versions so far of H. R. 1628

Dear Senate Finance Committee.

I have read as much as I can find available about the Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" bill, the latest proposed version of H. R. 1628.

I oppose these attempts to repeal and (not hardly at all) replace the ACA. I and my fellow tax payers pay our representatives in self-government to work for the general welfare. We pay the health care for our US Congresspeople. In return the Republican majority scuttles every attempt to do right by the people and instead, apparently, seeks to satisfy

- 1) a stupid campaign promise when everyone knows you don't fulfill any campaign promises usually, so why this one? and
- 2) wealthy donors who gave you money to do this so there would be extra money available for further subsidies, welfare, and tax cuts for the very wealthy,
- 3) a decided bias against anyone who is not white, male, and wealthy, in other words, you care only about helping anyone who could pay out of pocket for all the health care they need... a kind of social darwinism that works in a post industrial world where a healthy labor class and middle class that is increasingly female and various shades of brown are not needed for the prosperity of a nation that has evolved into a functioning oligarchy on its way to kleptocracy.

After 30 years of working to orchestrate skewed elections which guarantee Republicans attain and stay in power, Republicans face an electorate that mostly opposes every version of H. R. 1628 so far. But the electorate has no leverage to influence the actions of its elected representatives. You do not work on behalf of the people of the nation or even your constituents. You work, by your own admission!, for your wealthy donors, and the majority of Americans know this but are helpless to change it. This is what non-functioning democracy looks like.

The reason I oppose Graham-Cassidy and every other version of H. R. 1628 is that I don't want millions of uninsured people to go to the ER for the non-emergent medical needs that they cannot get addressed by a doctor because they can't afford insurance and doctors won't see them without insurance. I will end up being one of those millions. I am in my 60s. I have pre-existing conditions. I am relatively healthy and take care of myself but I live on my modest savings after 30+ years of work. I qualify for and have been getting a subsidy to help pay my premiums through the ACA exchange I use. I actually need that subsidy. I have a dependent. I live modestly. I am a responsible person. I love America. As a country we took a step forward toward fulfilling the ideals of this country when the ACA passed. It is full of good Republican ideas that Republicans rejected just because they did not want Democrats (or a Black president? - racism runs deep the more unacknowledged and unexamined it is) to get the credit for it, to be rewarded with electoral successes. What's that again about general welfare, and what part don't you get, transfixed as you are by the siren song of your corporate and wealthy donors and partisan power?

With Graham-Cassidy I will likely become uninsured. it will make no sense for me to buy insurance. I have conditions that will be determined to be pre-existing, such as my reproductive organs, or breast cancer whose cells have been lying dormant for decades, or acid reflux, or what have you, and I won't be able to afford premiums that cover basically nothing because everything is determined to be pre-existing by the time you are my age. I will likely not get the treatment I need. My case will raise the overall mortality and morbidity rate in the US, which is just now coming down thanks to the ACA. I will be more of a drag on the health care system as a charity case, the way it used to be pre-ACA. A premature death will be a small price and the Republican Party will be rid of another middle class (slipping into poverty) American. Affordable health care is not socialism. It is the fulfillment of an ideal to create a strong and prosperous nation. Maybe there should be an amendment on Graham-Cassidy for people to go work in the fields if they are too sick and poor to join the Republican elite of healthy white males and their handmaiden womenfolk. And when the poor and sick, the workers and veterans who have given to the fabric of our nation, the children who are its future promise... when these people are used up and worn down, Graham Cassidy can add an amendment to leave them to charity and the kindness of neighbors. That's not a robust policy. This is a harsh country since the beginning but it used to be a place of some opportunity for most. Now it's just a living hell for too many, thanks to Republican policies and Democrats who sold their souls to global corporatism and a Russian oligarch or two.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sherri Kendrick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Sirs,

The Graham Cassidy bill is a horror. It should not pass.

- 1) Penalizing women for being women - all women related healthcare issues not covered
- 2) Other various pre-existing conditions not covered
- 3) Premiums will increase to such an extent no one will be able to afford
- 4) Worker covered insurance will also suffer

The main reason Republicans want this to pass is for tax cuts for the insanely rich who DO NOT NEED them. Also, passing tax reform means the Koch brothers & Mercers will give Repubs money so it's bribery. You were elected to SERVE the people, not exploit them.

The other reason is racism & sexism. Repubs can't stand that a black man did something good so this is an attempt to erase all he did. And a bonus punish women while we're at it bill.

You want the gov't to save money - cancel your work sponsored health care and buy it like the rest of us. Stop using gov't jets to get around.

This bill will KILL MILLIONS of people.

Graham Cassidy bill should be tossed in the dumpster.

Sherri Kendrick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Norris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill and any bills that make cuts to Medicaid

My name is Debbie Norris, I live in Fayetteville, NC. I have a 12 year old son with autism. I am deeply concerned about how changes to Health Care and Medicaid will effect my son. My husband and I both work, and it is one of our goals that our son will join the workforce and be able to support himself. If we can't get access to affordable therapies or to affordable general health providers to help my son, that goal of him joining the workforce will be harder to obtain.

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill and any bill that makes cuts to medicaid.

FYI: I do vote

Thank you for your time.

Debbie Norris

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Galen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham Cassidy!

I'm finally on Medicare as of this month. Before the ACA I suffered for two decades under individual health insurance. It was horrible! I won't go into details here, but it was like dealing with the mafia. I knew if I ever had a significant claim, I'd have to take the insurer to court; all they ever did was deny claims. And I was paying about 25% of my income on premiums!

Obamacare saved me. And it certainly saved my retirement account, which would have evaporated if I'd ever gotten a serious illness.

Improve the ACA!! Do not repeal and replace, unless it's replaced with single payer.

Gail Galen
Warrenton, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Valerie Bartush <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

To the finance committee -

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill and any future attempt by the GOP to limit access to affordable healthcare for millions of Americans. Enough is enough with these attempts to hurt people. I was a young adult before the ACA was passed and know what it is like to work two jobs, have a college degree, and not be able to afford health insurance. At the age of 24 I totaled my car in an accident that was not my fault, but because I could not afford health insurance and there were no protections for young people, I did not seek medical treatment. I knew I could not afford the ambulance ride to the hospital, let alone the medical bills. Thankfully I had only scratches and bruises, but what if I had been seriously injured?

The ACA isn't perfect but it made things better than they were for a lot of people - people who are most vulnerable.

Shame on any of you who vote for this. The American people are watching. The world is watching. Pull your heads out of your asses and do your jobs. Pass laws that help people, not corporations and not your own self-interests.

Sincerely,
Valerie Bartush
Centreville, VA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Matt Stone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comments on Graham-Cassidy health bill

If the Affordable Care Act (ACA)had been passed into law a couple of years earlier, my mother would still be alive. Instead, she died at the age of 57. After decades of smoking, she developed COPD/emphysema. Not long after, she lost her job as a 10+ year employee at Boeing and became a contractor with GKN. Her pre-existing condition precluded her from being able to afford helpful insurance, making her unable to pursue a lung transplant. **My mom was healthy in every other way and there was no good reason for her to die so young.** After her death, I was horrified to find hundreds of pages of completed applications for government aid or help from prescription drug companies. In addition to fighting for her health, she had to fight for every doctor's appointment and drug necessary to keep her alive. My mother Jenifer Lynn Stone died at the age of 57 on April 16, 2013.

I understand that the ACA is not perfect and I am among many (including some Democrats in the US Senate) willing to strengthen and improve the program. But the Graham-Cassidy bill would take away the protections for those with pre-existing conditions, allow insurance companies to raise rates on customers who get sick and financially punish states that have expanded Medicaid. It is the result of a rushed, partisan process that cannot produce any meaningful legislation. Since it does not care for the sick among us and would certainly cause millions to lose their health insurance and hundreds of thousands to die, I ask the Senate to oppose this bill.

My mother's death was tragic enough. There is no need for more innocent, sick people to die because they lack healthcare.

Peace & Goodness,
The Rev. Deacon Matt Stone
Bryan, TX [REDACTED]

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
*There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*
-- Leonard Cohen, folk singer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Lynge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Matters

I depend on the ACA for my healthcare. I depend on the Marketplace. I have chronic issues that if the Graham Cassidy bill passes will make insurance impossible for me to afford. I work 3 jobs (1 full time and 2 part time) and I volunteer in my community to help our most endangered children. Without the ACA, I don't know what else I could do. I can't work any more jobs to make any more money.

Please fix the ACA so that *more* people can afford healthcare. PLEASE *do not* pass the Graham Cassidy bill. It is cruel and will force so many of us back into a world of no insurance.

Stephanie Lynge
Gainesville, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Dondysh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is awful and should never be voted on, much less close to passing. It would kill millions of people and those who it doesn't kill, it aims to strip healthcare away from. Many of these people have never had full or proper healthcare in their lives. Instead of trying to kill what we have now, make it better - introduce medicare for more people into it, make it easier to register and cheaper through subsidies. People would be much happier with a reworked version of the ACA.

The only reason that this bill is even seeing the light of day is because some racist people want to destroy the legacy of the black man who made it happen. This racism, both for the person who made it happen, and the racism for those it helps, as well as the sexism against women, that stand to lose their healthcare along with the poor and the sick (seriously? pregnancy raises your insurance by \$17K, Cancer by how much???)

This is ridiculous and I think it should be buried, never to be seen again. Please continue to fight against this bill, it should be seen as unconstitutional to kill people in this sick, evil, twisted way.

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Thanks,
Sarah

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

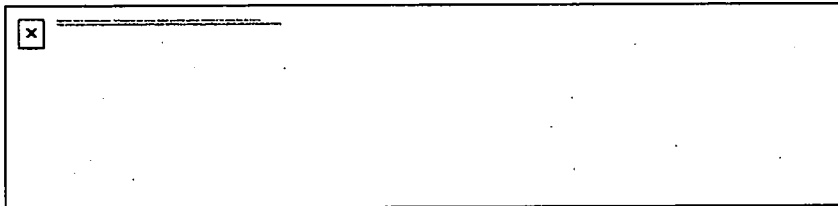
From: leanne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham Cassidy bill

The consequences of passing this bill are devastating and far reaching. With the proposed cuts to Medicaid, thousands upon thousands of children and adults with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities will lose their care and eventually their lives. We as humans are better than this, they deserve to live in their lives in their communities with their families and friends not shut away in an institution which is what this bill relegates them to.

Vote no!

Leanne M. Roth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassisdy Bill

To All Parties Involved,

As a parent of a special needs child I am asking that a Bill which would deprive individuals of quality care by making additional Medicaid cuts not be approved. Thanking you in advance for your support of quality care for all.

Deborah Jackson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michele Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health insurance

As you know there's a serious issue with addiction. I have a 40-year-old son who had a problem with addiction and he's on methadone daily. That allows him to have a pretty functional and normal life. He's on Medicaid. If he had to go back to buying drugs on the street I think he'd be a hindrance to others and himself. Thank you for fighting for all of us.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mya Greene <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Please do not repeal Obamacare and replace it with the proposed Trumpcare. Trumpcare is not a viable replacement. It is unclear at best and devastating to millions. Please wait until you have a better solution or better yet just fix our ACA.

Respectfully,
Mya Greene



Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judy Mark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Plan
Attachments: Letter from Alicia Bazzano.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Please include the attached letter as comments for your hearing on September 25 on the Graham-Cassidy Plan.

Thank you very much.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nancy kirchner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham-cassidy bill

I and my family oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it lacks security and quality.. I agree the ACA is not the be all to end all, however it has a good solid start. It can be worked with, modified, polished up. There is no reason to throw the baby out with the bath water. The only better idea is health care for all as the senators currently receive.

Sincerely,
nancy kirchner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jill Allen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill Testimony Hearing Sept 25

Jill Allen Graham Cassidy Bill testimony hearing September 25

To whom it may concern: the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill, or any other bill like it, that attempts to rejigger, or otherwise gut, the affordable care act, will effectively kill disabled people like me, who rely on federal Medicaid in order to live in the community. I need money from the federal government in order to live effectively in my community and access attendant services, as opposed to wasting away in a nursing home. Medicaid funds allow me to function in the community to the best of my ability. Endangering these funds endangers my will to live.

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[allenjillm@gmail.com](mailto:allenjillm@gmail.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Darlene Lindeman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Hearing Monday, September 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

I am in the process right now of searching for a new healthcare policy. This is necessary for me because my COBRA is about to expire.

I am working with people/private companies who help you navigate the healthcare maze to help me find coverage.

I was told after two phone calls with the agency that they did not have any policy, not one, that would provide coverage for me since I have a preexisting condition. They referred me to the Affordable Care Act marketplace to look for a policy on my own.

Senators, approximately 130 million nonelderly people have pre-existing conditions nationwide, an average of more than 300,000 per congressional district.

I would say that's about 130 million reasons for you to vote "NO" on Graham-Cassidy. The American people want you to work in a bi-partisan manner to fix the Affordable Care Act, not work to destroy it!

If you care at all if Americans, your constituents, live or die, there is no other choice whatsoever. It is immoral to play politics with the lives of millions of people! Enough already.

Please vote "NO" on Graham-Cassidy. Then get to work to fix the Affordable Care Act to cover as many people as possible at a cost people can afford.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Traci Todd Murphy [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing  
September 25, 2017  
From: Traci Todd Murphy  
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I respectfully request that you reject the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

I am a two-time breast cancer survivor, having a bi-lateral mastectomy in April of 2011 and wrapping up a 33-day course of radiation on July 20, 2017, after an April diagnosis of recurrence. Without my health insurance, I would not have been able to afford either of those treatments. If the ACA is repealed, my pre-existing condition will make it impossible for me to afford health insurance while facing at least five years of CT scans, blood draws and oncology appointments every three months. I would go bankrupt to stay healthy.

I work at a non-profit serving 205 young children who are blind or visually impaired, a majority of which have multiple disabilities. I know many of the families we serve would go bankrupt if the ACA is repealed. I hear them talk about it in the halls. I hear mention of "Lifetime Caps" almost daily. I see the posts they put on Facebook. The struggle for these families is real and scary.

I know the struggle of having a special needs child. My daughter Helen Claire was born with Trisomy 18, a condition former Senator Rick Santorum knows as his daughter, Bella, is also a T-18 child. Helen died on Dec. 25, 2005. I was fortunate that I could quit my job so she could get Medicaid and receive the medical care and services she needed. Not everyone can afford to do that but if you take away Medicaid, you take away the option.

Every day is a battle for so many special needs children and their families. Why would you want to make that battle even more difficult? They fight for their child's education. They fight for their child to be included. Now you want them to fight to keep their child's health insurance. I have no doubt they will. And that fight will be most evident when the next election rolls around.

I am sorry to say I am sure each of you knows someone who is fighting for their health, be it a cancer diagnosis, heart disease, or Alzheimer's disease. I hope you think of them as you read the statements from people whose health is in your hands.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is good for no one.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Traci Todd Murphy  
[REDACTED]

Be kinder than necessary for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Riek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I'd like to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill by telling you a bit of my own story. I'm a physician scientist - I work as an endocrinologist and diabetes researcher. But the story I tell you today does not relate to my work and my patients, though so many of them will suffer greatly under the proposed bill. I have always followed a healthy lifestyle - I am a normal weight, I don't smoke, I don't use drugs, I only drink in moderation, I exercise, and I eat right. I am 38 years old. Last year, when I was 37, and about 35 weeks pregnant with my second daughter, I found a lump in my breast and was diagnosed with one of the more aggressive forms of breast cancer. In a moment, I had become every woman's worst nightmare, and the rest of my world went on hold. I underwent chemotherapy and surgery from amazing physicians who work tirelessly to promote health and make lives better. I worked full time through the second half of chemotherapy and returned to work full time again only 4 weeks after major surgery. Blessedly, I responded very well to treatment, and my recurrence risk is fairly low, though certainly not as low as I'd like. Luckily, I have access to excellent employer-based insurance, which covered all of my treatment, and I never had to make one phone call about it. In fact, my total out of pocket costs for my cancer treatment were far less than what I paid in help for overnight child care for my newborn while I was on treatment. I cannot imagine if this had not been the case. I live every day with the fear of whether I will be able to watch my daughters, now 1 and 4, grow up, and if my life is cut short, will they even remember me. I am so grateful that I have not also feared whether I would be able to afford my health care. Yes, my husband and I are physicians, but we both chose specialties where we spend far more time talking to patients and their families and far less time on procedural medicine, skills that we do not reward financially in our current health system. Combine our specialty choices with our medical school debt, and my illness would have broken our family if not for my excellent insurance plan. I am so thankful that I have been one of the lucky ones. Now the Graham Cassidy bill threatens to undermine coverage for those of us with pre-existing conditions by allowing states to charge higher premiums and re-institute annual or lifetime caps. Graham Cassidy would also decimate Medicaid coverage with block grants and enable states to eliminate coverage of essential health benefits, meaning there is a real possibility that things like prescription drug coverage could again be capped, even under employer-based plans. If my cancer recurs, many of the medications my oncologist might use to treat it would be prohibitively expensive for us if not covered by insurance. If it comes to that, I won't bankrupt my family. As you decide how to vote, please consider the effects this bill will have on so many people who don't have any control over getting or being sick. Sometimes terrible things happen even when someone makes every effort to make good choices. I could be someone you know. I could be your daughter. 18 months ago, I had to call my dad to tell him I had cancer - it was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life. America deserves better than the cruelty of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Amy Riek, MD, MS

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Arlene Talley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I write to ask you to not to pass the latest republican healthcare bill. It should be called a death care bill. There is no CBO score but it is estimated that 32 million people will not have healthcare due to block grants to states. Medicaid will be decimated and people will die. Healthcare is a human right not something just for those who can afford it. Every medical organization and healthcare companies are asking the senate to not pass this bill. Why are republican senators the only ones who think this is a good idea?

Work on a bipartisan fix for the ACA

Do the right thing for America.

Arlene Talley

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cathy Whitehead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:11 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.

Kim Whitehead  
Wakarusa, Indiana

Sent from my iPad

home health care to directly hire, fire, supervise and otherwise manage our care within a predetermined budget has been a successful program, always provided at 10.75% less than the agency model. Good policy does not happen without an extended process that involves all of those directly affected. The American people are sick of these games. The biggest problems with the Affordable Care Act have nothing to do with Medicaid. Cassidy-Graham, BCRA, and AHCA not only failed to solve the problems that the American people have with the ACA (such as too high premiums on the individual market) but make every problem in our health care system worse, while systemically destroying the parts of our system (like Medicaid HCBS) that works well.

Making sure that Americans with disabilities and other health conditions have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should be a primary concern of all Senators regardless of party. As an American with Disabilities who votes, I ask each Senator to vote NO on this very frightening bill.

Sincerely,  
Martha Mason

particularly with regard to psychiatric institutions. However, if states fail to offer HCBS or increase psychiatric institutions without adequate outpatient mental health services will end up embroiled in expensive litigation. The Supreme Court said that people with disabilities have a right to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to our needs. While community-based services are usually less expensive than institutional care, people live so much longer in the community that a state could decide institutionalizing people is cheaper—in the long run.

The states have a no-win choice, a block grant or per capita cap—both result in draconian cuts, but do not protect people with the greatest need. To make things worse, the bill incentivizes states to increase needless bureaucracy such as increasing the frequency of redeterminations.

Senator Gardner and others have said that they want increased flexibility to the states and have concerns about the sustainability of Medicaid. This bill does nothing on either front.

**There is less, not more state flexibility under this bill than under the current system.** The current Medicaid program already offers substantial flexibility to states. States choose if they want to expand, and with a few basic exceptions choose who they want to serve. The states have to provide some basic services but otherwise states choose what services and benefits they will cover. States can get a variety of waivers to obtain even more flexibility. Colorado has a number of innovative programs, including managing care through primary care medical homes which have already shown to save millions of dollars each year. This program can continue to make our Medicaid better, but only with adequate funds for implementation, evaluation, and adjustment will we be able to continue these innovations. Moreover, bureaucracy is increased under Cassidy-Graham. While increased regulation is theoretically a choice the increased or decreased federal funds will drive beleaguered states to make decisions based on financial need, not on what is best for their states.

Making Medicaid sustainable cannot happen when it is so badly defunded that those in the greatest need will be sacrificed because the state will not be able to afford the care. People with disabilities will not immediately vanish. However, our deaths will be premature, our suffering will be severe. Some will appear in other expensive systems such as corrections. Sustainability requires a thoughtful approach, extended dialogue within the various communities and providers to figure out additional efficiencies. Sustainability protects and expands options such as the Medicaid Buy-In for Working Adults with Disabilities—a program that helps people increase self-sufficiency that is unlikely to survive the reductions in Cassidy-Graham or any program that reduces the dollar amount/match states can receive from provider fees or taxes. It certainly will kill innovation such as primary care coordination.

**Cassidy-Graham, like BCRA and AHCA do not make Medicaid more flexible, or more sustainable.**

For the past 50 years, all of the health care proposals that have been good in this country have been done in a bipartisan manner. Home and Community-Based Services allowing us to live in the community instead of an institution is a great example of a bipartisan health policy that benefits Americans. On a state level, our consumer-directed care options that allow those of us requiring

required to accept people with pre-existing conditions but can charge them more the protections are meaningless. We also support Medicaid expansion as noted above. However, this bill like other bills makes significant, drastic changes to the traditional Medicaid program. Therefore, even calling this a “repeal and replace” is very deceptive to the average voter. Most people do not understand the intricacies of Medicaid. Most voters are NOT in favor of taking away supports that are essential for life and liberty from people with significant disabilities. Most voters know someone with a disability that needs Medicaid or has needed Medicaid. Any Senator supporting this bill, or similar bills should be open with voters and say that he or she is supportive of removing life-sustaining support from people with disabilities. It would then be hypocritical for anyone that votes for a bill like Cassidy-Graham to call themselves pro-life or in favor of family values. The traditional programs are where most of the people with significant disabilities are served. This is not, and should be a partisan issue. Pro-life, fiscally conservative Republicans, such as Congressman Coffman support programs created by their predecessors, such as Ronald Reagan who started the HCBS model. Whether a state chooses a block grant, a per capita cap, or combination, the reduction in funds over time is unbearable.

Our care is the most expensive. This is true whether we are talking about our infants born with disabilities in the NICU; our disabled children that often need many therapies and have to have new equipment frequently because they are growing. This also includes adults, who need paid assistance to get through our day. People with ventilators and other very involved disabilities need a lot of this support. As people age, with or without disabilities, they also need support. Medicare does not pay for long-term services so anyone that has a need for human assistance and lives long enough, will eventually exhaust their resources and need Medicaid.

Personally, I depend on the Medicaid “Buy In” for the working disabled. I could not work without Medicaid. My company health insurance would cost my husband and I over ½ of our income, and would to cover the care I need to stay healthy enough to work.

Colorado passed by ballot initiative a “right” to assisted suicide last year. If Cassidy-Graham or a similar bill passes it will not be long before people with expensive and significant disabilities will be pressured to take this option. How long will be it before Medicaid decides they will pay for assisted suicide complete with “options” counseling and encouraged to sign aggressive DNR orders? If the state is faced with a set amount of money, no matter how well-intentioned, the result will be deadly for those who are very expensive to keep alive. This is particularly true knowing the amount is inadequate to start and will create increasing scarcity each year with no way to account for changes in the economy or health care. The slope is slippery. For example, a procedure like transplants that are life-saving miracles of modern medicine could become unavailable to Medicaid patients. Policymakers may say “for the cost of this one transplant for a disabled 50-year-old, I could provide prenatal care to 25 low-income women”. We would be at the mercy of what other people think our lives are worth.

Cassidy Graham also eliminates the Community First Choice Option—something Colorado has been working on for several years and plans to implement in the near future. While this bill makes it more difficult to support people in the community, it actually incentivizes care institutional care,

disabilities, while hidden, do not allow them to work and also do not allow them to complete the Social Security disability determination process.

Cassidy-Graham is being billed as a “repeal” of Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act. This goes way beyond the ACA and completely upends the Medicaid program including the parts of Medicaid that have been in place for decades and have nothing to do with the ACA.

Cassidy-Graham would also destroy the two programs that support adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities to have gainful employment by reducing the funding mechanism that supports these programs. It would reduce the amount of provider taxes (hospital provider fee) from 6% of the Medicaid budget to 4% of the Medicaid budget. This would make it impossible to fund all of the programs funded through this source, and the ability of the disabled to escape poverty would be sacrificed. Do these Senators really believe that people with disabilities should not be allowed to work, pay premiums and keep Medicaid? We need Medicaid to survive, so we can either have cash benefits and Medicaid for free—or we can work and pay into Medicaid. This bill does not support self-sufficiency and independence, and it will promote dependence and helplessness. This bill cuts Medicaid substantially, and not only the expansion but the traditional Medicaid program. To address these cuts, most states have two choices:

- 1) Raise taxes to make up for some or all of the gap.
- 2) Cut Medicaid in one of these ways:
  - a. Reducing rates to the providers to the point where only providers of poor quality or ill repute will participate,
  - b. Cutting the amount, duration, scope, and type of services. Colorado has few optional services but we could cut mental health care, pharmacy, dental, and HCBS.
  - c. Cutting the people on Medicaid. The only optional groups we serve are people with significant disabilities on the Buy-In programs and on the HCBS waivers.

Notwithstanding that all of the “cut” options bring a risk of legal challenges, and certain moral dilemmas, Colorado actually does not have two choices.

Colorado has a taxpayer bill of rights known as TABOR in our constitution. In addition to requiring a balanced budget (like most states), we have constitutional limits on how much revenue we collect, as well as how much we can spend. All new taxes require a vote of the people—something that is extremely expensive to organize. Medicaid clients as a group do not have the money to manage a ballot initiative. In addition to the revenue and spending limits, we also have other constitutional provisions that limit what our legislature can do. Colorado has an administratively lean Medicaid program. Fraud is very low. The most expensive clients, people with significant disabilities, go through extreme vetting before being provided services. Most of the funds that could be put to better use are spent due to federal requirements—none of which seem to be relaxed with this bill. However, even if ALL efficiencies were taken, and every penny of fraud or waste was eliminated, those dollars would not come close to the amount of cuts that would devastate Colorado should Cassidy-Graham or a similar bill pass.

I oppose the rollbacks to the Affordable Care Act. Pre-existing conditions are often precursors to significant disability. Protections must include financial protections. If insurance companies are

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tim & Martha Mason <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing  
Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017  
Martha Mason  
540 CR 103  
Hesperus, CO 81326

20% of Americans are affected by disability, many of them significantly. This includes people that rely on ventilators for breathing, feeding tubes, communication devices, and wheelchairs for daily activities. It also includes people who are working productively, paying taxes, and employing people in their businesses. Many of our members require direct paid human assistance to get through our day. We do not see disability as a tragedy, we see disability as a normal part of the human experience, an experience that anyone can have at any time during the lifespan. Disability comes from illness, injury, and sometimes from birth or old age. We believe that all life is valuable. We also believe that all adults have the responsibility to give back to society what they are able. For some that means employment, for others, it means volunteering. For some that means parenting, for others that means being a good aunt, grandparent or babysitter. For some that means being a community leader, for others, it means being a community volunteer and for others it means brightening the lives of individuals with whom they interact. However, to assure that disability does not become a tragedy and that people can be good citizens, a certain level of support is needed. In Colorado, and around the country, Medicaid is the system that finances this support.

In Colorado, Medicaid provides the majority of our long-term services in the community, not in institutions. Preference for community-based services is a bipartisan policy decision in our state. Colorado is proud of our history of pioneering the concept of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). HCBS is long-term care which is usually non-medical, day-to-day care. Health First, the Colorado Medicaid program also provides medical care to people with disabilities, as many people with disabilities have significant health-related needs. Colorado covers traditional Medicaid populations such as people who are SSI eligible, people who meet a nursing home level of care (who receive the care either through HCBS or a nursing facility) pregnant mothers and poor children. Colorado eligibility categories include a Buy-In for adults with disabilities who want to work and pay premiums. We have a Buy-In for children with disabilities whose parents are trying to escape poverty. When we expanded Medicaid, CCDC saw many people with disabilities that are not yet at the long-term care level, receive Medicaid and as a result instead of staying sick and ending up on SSI or some cash program, these individuals stabilize and keep working, return to work, and often prevent greater levels of disability. The expansion also covers caregivers of people with all sorts of disabilities. Some people with disabilities on the expansion are not employed because their

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cathy Whitehead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:10 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.

Cathy Whitehead  
Wakarusa, Indiana

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Evelyn Buchanan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments - Graham Cassidy legislation

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy proposal being considered by Senate Republicans and to any version of legislation that would weaken or repeal the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would be devastating for our country's economy and would harm millions (approximately 32 million by many estimates) of Americans. Further, the process by which the Republican Senators have used to wreak this havoc on our country has been seriously flawed. There have been no deliberations, hearings or discussions. The standard procedures that business before the Senate have been ignored. Some senators have worked to sneak this bill through. Many members of the Senate cannot adequately explain the specifics of the bill nor how this bill would improve the lives of their constituents and the economies of their states. Is that because they know it is a bill that will do a great deal of damage? Is that because they know that the majority of Americans want to keep the ACA and would like to see a bipartisan process for strengthening and enhancing ACA?

I implore you to do that right thing for our economy and for the American people, especially the elderly, the children and those who are struggling to achieve the American dream. Vote against Graham Cassidy or any other bill that would repeal ACA.

Thank you.

Evelyn Buchanan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



healthcare. What I want is to have the President be called out for sabotaging the ACA and for you all to work in a bipartisan way to make the fixes necessary to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,

Janine Murphy-Neilson

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Scott/Janine Murphy-Neilson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** What the ACA means to my family

It is very fortunate that we are at least allowed to express our comments here as the rest of this process in which there is no debate, no public forums for discussion, no feedback from health insurance companies and medical professionals is being skipped over in an attempt to get a win for political gain.

This has been very disheartening to me as an American citizen. This bill is not being put forward in good faith as we have heard from members of Congress who confess to not even knowing what is in it or admitting that there are probably "at least ten different reasons this bill should not go forward" but will go forward anyway because it is too politically costly for you not to press forward with this atrocious bill.

Let me explain why this bill is costly in many other ways to families like mine. At 36 my husband, the father of my then 6 year old daughter and three year old son was diagnosed out of the blue with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. He had not been sick a day in his life. Fortunately he had insurance through his work which covered the sudden and expensive visits to doctors and specialists. He got enrolled in a drug trial which covered the costs of his medication.

When the recession hit my husband's income was decreased by 55%. It was not even a thought that he could leave his job because of his preexisting condition. I just prayed he would keep his job and I used to sit and imagine if they had to let him go that maybe he could plead with them to keep him on in the mailroom or anywhere in the company so he could keep his insurance. Fortunately for us he kept his job and even more fortunately the great day came when the ACA passed. I cried tears of joy. Such a burden was lifted from our family. We were now not dependent on that one job to keep our family solvent. He could now get insurance at any job and we would also not have the worry of him reaching a lifetime cap. My husband's medication costs over \$8,000 a month! Luckily that is not what we pay, thanks to good insurance. But a return of lifetime caps would put us back in jeopardy.

Every time one of these terrible bills has come up this year has brought a new round of anxiety. Maybe other people don't understand but we know all too well the difference between access to care and guaranteed care for preexisting conditions. We know all too well how scary it will be to return to lifetime caps and how devastated my family would be if we would hit that cap. My husband is very fortunate to have been in remission for years and we hope he will be forever. But he has to be on his medication for the rest of his life. We are fortunate to have a HSA but when there is any talk about that being a way to help families like mine please stop kidding yourselves and imagine how quickly a family would blow through that. We have to use 4 thousand in the first month to meet the deductible to get his medication covered.

I cannot bear the thought of having to go back to the days of worrying about not having guaranteed coverage for preexisting conditions and lifetime caps. It would put families like mine in the precarious position of someone having to stay in their current job with no options of leaving and the fear of financial ruin if they get laid off.

How do you in any kind of good faith move forward on a bill that has this little support from the people, from major medical groups, from doctors and nurses and hospitals and all 50 state Medicaid directors? A bill that will kick people off of insurance and will open the door to crap insurance plans that people used to pay into only to find out when they got sick that nothing was covered? This is not freedom. This is a con. I am so thankful we had good insurance when we were younger and healthy. Because as my family found out you don't know when your health can change on a dime and the last thing you need in those moments is the worry of losing your coverage or if the costs will flatten your family. Please oppose this horrible bill and any bill going forward that does not protect the essential benefits families like mine depend on for our security. And please stop playing political games with something as critical to families and our economy as

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Petrea Burchard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy bill

Graham-Cassidy will break millions of people financially. It will break our country. Please vote no.

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

|                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Nonfiction Humor      Adventure Fiction      Anthology with my story

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carla Bronner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no

Dear Senators,

I am one of the millions of private citizens and stakeholders who ask that you vote no on the latest repeal bill, Graham/Cassidy. The most important word in health care is the word care. We need to figure out how to care for the most people in the most affordable way. The task is to improve on the ACA, not to just get rid of it or to replace it with something that does less. The data is clear that the ACA saved lives, improved outcomes, saved family finances, created jobs and added to the overall economy. These are things that reasonable people want to keep and to make even better. To rush through a bill that does not have a CBO score, that has not been open for public scrutiny on all platforms, and that will end protections, care, and affordability is wrong and, I daresay, not in line with who we say that we are as Americans. I urge you to listen to the millions who have contacted you and to feel for those in your own states whose lives will be adversely affected if this bill goes through. Vote no on G/C and yes, to a bi-partisan approach that will make a very fine law; ACA, even better for many more of our fellow citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you,

Carla Bronner  
Jacksonville, FL.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Hartzler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** This hurts the most vulnerable

A healthy and well educated populace is the backbone of a society.

I am all for every state receiving the money they need to take care of the health needs of their citizens but what makes anyone think that states which refused money to expand Medicare under the ACA would do so now.

Ann Hartzler

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amber N <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Senate Committee on Finance  
Attn. Editorial and Document Section  
Rm. SD-219  
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Re: The Full Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
Hearing Date: Monday, September 25, 2017  
Location: 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

To Whom It May Concern:

The Graham-Cassidy bill is completely and utterly unacceptable and must not be made into law. It would jeopardize the health – indeed, the lives – of thousands of Americans. On a personal level, my own family provides a good example of what will happen to families across America if the Graham-Cassidy bill is made into law. If it's made into law, my grandmother, who is dying of Alzheimer's and needs specialized care, will no longer get the help she needs. My 36-year-old sister, who has recently learned that she may have cancer, would lose her health coverage and potentially die of preventable causes at a very young age. My aunt, who has a disability, will no longer be able to afford the treatments she needs to keep her life barely tolerable. Additionally, I have a painful, life-altering pre-existing condition for which I need extensive medical treatment, and I would lose health coverage, potentially leaving me barely able to work and mired in poverty for the foreseeable future. All of these absolutely unacceptable eventualities are preventable, as long as this travesty of a bill is not made into law.

I would also like to point out that Graham-Cassidy is *not* a well-planned or designed piece of legislation. It was haphazardly slapped together without adequate review, bipartisan input, and hearings. A bill that would have such a widespread and extensive effect on all citizens and states needs far more preparation, thought, and planning. Ramming this bill through last-minute in order to meet a budgetary deadline is careless and shows very little responsibility to the American people and economy. A huge percentage of Americans will be outraged if this is made into law, and rightfully so. Legislators who support Graham-Cassidy will face the righteous anger of constituents when it comes time for re-election. Who's going to vote for a politician who took away their healthcare (which is a vital resource, *not* a luxury) with no viable means of replacement?

An estimated 32 million Americans would lose healthcare coverage over the next ten years if Graham-Cassidy were made into law. How does that represent an improvement upon the healthcare status of Americans? On top of that, it would destabilize the American healthcare markets, which represent a large sector of the economy. Insurance premiums would rise by an estimated twenty percent. Disabled people, seniors, children, low-income people and women are unfairly targeted by the bill. In the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, it's somewhat

horrifying that the bill provides no funding for natural disasters. Additionally, federal protections would end for pre-existing conditions, leading to unnecessarily untreated disease, suffering, poverty, and, in some cases, death. No American should have to die because a certain group of politicians is intent on playing politics with the health of the American people.

Thousands of Americans have health problems, many of them serious, life-altering, and expensive to treat. Health problems are an unfortunate part of life, and they affect *everyone* at some point or another. All Americans need and deserve healthcare, and no American deserves to wonder if they or their family members will be able to afford the life-saving treatment they need. Graham-Cassidy would tear the lives of countless Americans apart, not to mention wreak havoc on the healthcare markets and economy in general. It would cause utter chaos. It must not pass.

Sincerely,

Amber Elmwood

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Hudspeth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Hurt, Nikki (Markey); Pearson, Beth (Warren)  
**Subject:** opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a practicing internal medicine physician who also works in the administration of a safety-net hospital within MA, I find Graham-Cassidy a bad bill that will directly harm my patients, as well as those patients of my colleagues across the country working with Medicaid populations. The rationales for opposition have been well voiced by a range of organizations, including the AMA, so I will not reiterate them here, but just note that given the magnitude of the proposed change I would hope for considerably more discussion before it would be voted on.

Best,

James Hudspeth, MD, FACP



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Beth Little <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** my comments on the GCH healthcare bill

I am a Democrat. The ACA has some real issues. If you reach out to Democrats to fix it, we will listen. But do not kill our healthcare. My adult son is autistic. He works at a hardware store. He takes no assistance of any kind. But his boss keeps him at ¾ time (Although they do ask him to stay a couple of extra hours 3-4 days a week). But if he is not "full-time", he gets no insurance. So there is only ACA. He is super healthy. He is 28. He has never used it. But what if he needs it? Odds are, he will need to. Don't take his healthcare. Don't do it.

American Citizen,  
Beth Little

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ian Post-Green <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham hearing

Passing Cassidy-Graham is tantamount to a death sentence for a significant number of American citizens. I urge you to think long and hard before you vote Monday.

The Affordable Care Act and its Medicaid Expansion have been a literal lifesaver to those with chronic illnesses like myself. I have been living with HIV for a quarter century; over that time I have seen my community go from the worst of times to the best of times (so far!) first-hand in large part because of the ACA. More people in care means better outcomes as well as fewer new infections. The Kaiser Family Foundation concurs (<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/issue-brief/insurance-coverage-changes-for-people-with-hiv-under-the-aca/>)

I have seen people quite literally come back from the edge of death due to the access to care they received because of the ACA. Many of them are now back in the workforce and truly making America great. Please do not take this away from us.

Sincerely,  
Ian Post-Green  
Littleton, CO

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lawrence McCullough <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** STOP the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

All U.S. Senators:

Please vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill to destroy the Affordable Care Act.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a ridiculously bad piece of legislation in every aspect and will harm tens of millions of Americans.

Vote NO.

Sincerely,

Lawrence McCullough  
Woodbridge, NJ

## Cruelty, Incompetence and Lies

*by Paul Krugman, New York Times – Sept. 22, 2017*

Graham-Cassidy, the health bill the Senate may vote on next week, is stunningly cruel. It's also incompetently drafted: The bill's sponsors clearly had no idea what they were doing when they put it together. Furthermore, their efforts to sell the bill involve obvious, blatant lies.

Nonetheless, the bill could pass. And that says a lot about today's Republican Party, none of it good.

The Affordable Care Act, which has reduced the percentage of Americans without health insurance to a record low, created a three-legged stool: regulations that prevent insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions, a requirement that individuals have adequate insurance (and thus pay into the system while healthy) and subsidies to make that insurance affordable. For the lowest-income families, insurance is provided directly by Medicaid.

Graham-Cassidy saws off all three legs of that stool. Like other Republican plans, it eliminates the individual mandate. It replaces direct aid to individuals with block grants to states, under a formula that sharply reduces funding relative to current law, and especially penalizes states that have done a good job of reducing the number of uninsured. And it effectively eliminates protection for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Did Graham-Cassidy's sponsors know what they were doing when putting this bill together? Almost surely not, or they wouldn't have produced something that everyone, and I mean everyone, who knows anything about health care warns would cause chaos.

Cassidy has also circulated a spreadsheet that purports to show most states actually getting increased funding under his bill. But the spreadsheet doesn't compare funding with current law, which is the relevant question. Instead, it shows changes over time in dollar amounts.

That's actually a well-known dodge, one that Republicans have been using since Newt Gingrich tried to gut Medicare in the 1990s. As everyone in Congress — even Cassidy — surely knows, such comparisons drastically understate the real size of cuts, since under current law spending is expected to rise with inflation and population growth.

Independent analyses find that most states would, in fact, experience serious cuts in federal aid — and everyone would face huge cuts after 2027.

So we're looking at an incompetently drafted bill that would hurt millions of people, whose sponsors are trying to sell it with transparently false claims. How is it that this bill might nonetheless pass the Senate?

One answer is that Republicans are desperate to destroy President Barack Obama's legacy in any way possible, no matter how many American lives they ruin in the process.

Another answer is that most Republican legislators neither know nor care about policy substance. This is especially true on health care, where they never tried to understand why Obamacare looks the way it does, or how to devise a nonvicious alternative. Vox asked a number of G.O.P. senators to explain what Graham-Cassidy does; the answers ranged from incoherence to belligerence to belligerent incoherence.

I'd add that the evasions and lies we're seeing on this bill have been standard G.O.P. operating procedure for years. The trick of converting federal programs into block grants, then pretending that this wouldn't mean savage cuts, was central to every one of Paul Ryan's much-hyped budgets. The trick of comparing dollar numbers over time to conceal huge benefit cuts has, as I already noted, been around since the 1990s.

In other words, Graham-Cassidy isn't an aberration; it's more like the distilled essence of everything wrong with modern Republicans.

Will this awful bill become law? I have no idea. But even if the handful of Republican senators who retain some conscience block it — we're looking at you, John McCain — the underlying sickness of the G.O.P. will remain.

It's sort of a pre-existing condition, and it's poisoning America.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kevin Hoehn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Senators

Please vote "No" on this horrible Graham-Cassidy bill. I have worked in health care for over 40 years and this is not the way to design a national health program.

Please work with the full Congress in a bipartisan manner to do it right Trying to rush through something like this without a CBO score is not right Thank you!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Andrew Kozma <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The only reason I have healthcare is because of the ACA

Dear Committee/Hearing Members,

I rely on the ACA to have quality, affordable healthcare. Once my adjunct teaching was reduced from four to two courses so that the university wouldn't be required to provide my health insurance (the University of Houston did this two years ago for all adjuncts), I was left without any healthcare whatsoever. The only reason I can afford healthcare now is because of the ACA.

Please, work to provide a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve healthcare for all Americans. Do this instead of repealing it. Healthcare should be a right enjoyed by all Americans.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Kozma  
Houston, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy nightmare

The Graham- Cassidy bill is not the answer. We deserve better. Leave Medicare along. You should be working on improving and fixing any problems with the Affordable Care Act. Not trying to repeal and replace it. Trump is a liar, he does not care about the poor, the disabled or people with pre-existing conditions.

Thank you

Keith Johnson

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ben Beckley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** U.S. citizen concerned re: Obamacare repeal

I'm a native Virginian currently working in Connecticut, and I'm writing because I'm concerned about the proposed healthcare bill.

Without a CBO report, how can the bill can be fairly evaluated? Why push through a bill which will have a massive impact on 1/5 of the U.S. economy without fully understanding the consequences of what it will do?

Also, as someone with a pre-existing condition, I'm deeply concerned about the bill's failure to protect Americans like me who are most vulnerable.

Finally, the bill's drastic cuts to Medicaid could prove disastrous for millions of American citizens.

Please consider the profoundly negative impact this bill you will have on your constituents.

Ben Beckley



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kyra S. [REDACTED] on behalf of Kyra S.  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment for SFC hearing

I live in Alaska, represented by senators Murkowski and Sullivan, and I'm extremely concerned about the negative impact the Graham-Cassidy bill might have on my state and on me personally. Alaska has a large population of people who rely on Medicaid, and even the proposed exemptions won't be enough to help Alaska. For all the other states, the proposed changes would nearly destroy Medicaid as it currently exists. I have a friend in Ohio who is able to maintain a steady, productive job largely *because* Medicaid allows her to get medication she otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. For myself, I'm especially worried about the extremely flimsy protections for pre-existing conditions that Graham-Cassidy would provide. Saying that insurers can't deny coverage for pre-existing conditions is effectively meaningless if they're still allowed to raise premiums past what people with pre-existing conditions can afford. I currently have health insurance through my job, but given the current economy and my state's ongoing budget crisis, it's impossible to say how long that will last, and I have at least three different pre-existing conditions that would most likely make health insurance unaffordable for me. Medicaid directors, doctors, insurance companies, and the majority of Americans agree that this is a bad bill. Please vote no and recommit to a truly bipartisan effort to stabilize and reform the ACA.

Kyra Sherwood  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Colleen McCready <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy senate hearing

Good morning,

My name is Colleen McCready and I live in Waterbury, Connecticut. I am a pre-existing condition. I am 40 years old and I have heart disease due to a genetic mutation I have that causes FH, Familial Hypercholesterolemia. I take a drug that costs \$1200 a month, retail. This drug doesn't even get me to goal; my cholesterol levels are still very high so I need another treatment option. Without treatment I will eventually have a heart attack. I was previously on a drug for FH that cost \$200,000/yr and with lifetime caps I would quickly reach the end of health insurance coverage.

I also have osteoarthritis and migraines. I depend on my medicines to make it through my day. I work full-time as a licensed optician/optical lab manager and I am in school full-time to be a registered nurse. I am also raising two wonderful teenagers. What happens if the unthinkable occurs? No one will insure me if I ever lose my job. I am the family breadwinner and I carry our health insurance through my employer. What you do has ramifications for me, also. I really hope that you are thinking of your constituents when you are deciding on this bill. So many of us have health issues and no one should lose a home or everything that they have to pay healthcare bills. I hope that you can work together across the aisle to improve the ACA and make health insurance affordable for all of us. Thank you for reading this.

Regards,

Colleen McCready

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Tking <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Saving the ACA

Unless you're willing to allow me to buy into medicare, I will die if you take away the ACA. I survived cancer, and now battle COPD and the autoimmune disease Lupus. My insurance will drop me if you allow them to. Please dont kill me, I am only 43.

Sincerely, Jennifer Tielking from Indiana

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Low Cook <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** re: Please Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill. It leaves millions of Americans with no, scant, or unaffordable health care coverage.

Please earnestly work to craft bi-partisan legislation that provides affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans.

Sincerely,  
Robin Low

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mike Rodin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I implore you, stop the madness and pull Graham-Cassidy!

This bill is a cruel effort to take health insurance away from the most vulnerable, end protection for millions with preexisting condition, create more chaos in the individual insurance markets, and radically change Medicaid, all with virtually no public comment.

It is hard to believe that a bill affecting 1/7 of the economy can be brought to a vote without comprehensive hearings on its effects, fiscal and otherwise.

Everyone agrees that the ACA needs fixing. Why not support Senator Alexander and his attempt to do so through regular order, as so eloquently urged by Senator McCain? The Democrats have indicated a willingness to work with him. We are much more likely to end up with a better result, one that can gain 60 votes, if you drop Graham-Cassidy and work through regular order to fix the ACA.

Thank you for this limited opportunity to provide comment.

Mike Rodin

Mike Rodin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Miriam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Repeal of ACA

**Importance:** High

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I'm a woman in my late 50's. I've been on Medicaid/ACA since 2010. I've had cancer and a spinal cord injury in the past 6 years. Since 2011 I've had 6 surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy, and been seen by numerous medical and mental health specialists. One of the Drs I saw a year or so ago told me that I would have been dead if I hadn't had Medicaid/ACA coverage. I am very grateful for this medical/mental health care. I ask that you do all you can to preserve this type of excellent medical care for myself and the millions of other Americans who are also on Medicaid/ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Miriam Lange  
Portland, OR  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julie Scofield [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject Graham Cassidy and any further attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act until there is a proposal that increases access to affordable health care not undermine health care for millions of Americans.

I have employer supported health care via my partner's employer. Even with a good plan, my out of pocket expenses have been very high. I had a minor health concern that needed a few out patient tests. \$1,000 later I learn there is nothing wrong with me. At what point do I put my health at risk because I cannot afford the co-pays and deductibles.

Insurance companies are making tons of money. Big pharmaceutical companies are making tons of money. There is plenty of money in the system to make health care a right not a privilege and available to all people. I support single payer health care - Medicare for all.

Until there's an open, honest debate about health care, just say no and reject efforts to bankrupt the states and deny millions of Americans the health care access they need.

Thank you for listening.

Julie Scofield  
[REDACTED]  
Staunton, VA  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Andrea Levario <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** Jurinka, Elizabeth (Finance)  
**Cc:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Human Rights Campaign Letter Opposing Graham-Cassidy  
**Attachments:** HRC Statement - SFinance Opposing Graham Cassidy.pdf

We've revised our letter to a statement to the Committee. Please use this as our formal submission.

It will be transmitted via mail per the Committee instructions.

Thanks,

Andrea

On Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 9:31 AM, Andrea Levario <[andrea.levario@hrc.org](mailto:andrea.levario@hrc.org)> wrote:

Liz,

The Human Rights Campaign is pleased to share the attached letter expressing our views on the Graham-Cassidy proposal on behalf of our over 2 million members and supporters.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Andrea

--

**Andrea Levario**  
Senior Public Policy Advocate | Human Rights Campaign  
Office [REDACTED] | Cell [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Andrea Levario**  
Senior Public Policy Advocate | Human Rights Campaign  
Office [REDACTED] | Cell [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

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

We both have pre-existing conditions that would likely exempt us from coverage or would lead to much higher premiums without the ACA. I have also seen many friends get coverage for the first time thanks to the ACA; they are likely to lose access to any form of affordable health care if the ACA is repealed.

I look forward to a bipartisan effort that will improve the ACA for all Americans, rather than a repeal that would hurt millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Martha Brown  
Santa Cruz, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Abby Perry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I implore you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The legislation as currently written will harm the most vulnerable among us--the sick, the disabled, and the poor. While healthcare is in need of reform, this is not a satisfactory solution. Please vote no to Graham-Cassidy and commit to a bipartisan healthcare solution that will not penalize the citizens of this country for having health related needs, but serve them.

Thank you,

--  
Abby Perry  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Chloe Dyer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I will graduate college this year and no longer being my parents' dependent; I've seen six different doctors for a variety of different long-term medical problems in the last few years. I need to be able to afford my own healthcare and have access to coverage for my doctors and specialists. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Chloe Dyer

Guysville, Ohio

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Graham-Cassidy" health care repeal bill

I am against this or any health care bill that is pushed through without going through a process of hearings and amendments available to all of our Senators, not just a few Republicans. Congress should not be politicizing something as life and death as our health care! Something needs to be done but not in this partisan "pass anything to say we passed something" way. I expect more from my representatives. Trying to push through a bill that hasn't had time to be understood is not governing, it is cowardice. I have health insurance through my employer currently but would like to start my own business. The uncertainty created by congress is keeping me from doing so. Any healthy person of any age can have what would be considered a pre-existing condition. I had a non-malignant tumor removed in 1995. Although I haven't had any further problems I could be considered to be "high risk". I know that because I have a friend who had an arm removed at age 4 due to a childhood cancer. Although he didn't have any recurrence, he had to continually fight being put into a high risk pool prior to the ACA. We need an open, transparent health care discussion. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.  
Paula Graham Virginia Beach VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Albert Kaufman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill testimony

Hello Senators,

Please do something to improve healthcare for people of this country. Take more time to figure something out - this bill looks like it will do a lot more harm than good. Thank you for your public service.

Albert Kaufman

[REDACTED]

Portland, OR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** janice shaffer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

My mother and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Both of us are over 70 and each has a medical condition that is defined as a pre-existing condition. We can pay health care premiums currently but not if the premiums increase as projected under Graham-Cassidy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Janice Shaffer  
Greensboro, NC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Home [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not repeal affordable care act

I am a woman in my 50s and though I am married, I support my family of 5. I am also a cancer survivor. Although our insurance is through my company, I fear I will not be able to get insurance if the AFV is repealed, especially if there is no reasonable replacement in place. I am an independent, but if this is repealed, I know how I will vote in all future elections.

Elizabeth Lerch

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Raymond <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Healthcare

I strongly oppose the Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill for a number of reasons. I have a disabled child who would be excluded due to not guaranteeing pre-existing conditions nor essential health benefits.

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lori Bremner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy will hurt cancer patients

Dear Sirs and Madams

The Graham Cassidy bill will allow states to decide if they want to charge people higher premiums if they have a pre-existing condition, such as cancer.

This will price many Americans out of the insurance market, increasing the uninsured rate.

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Lori Bremner  
California Grassroots Director  
ACS CAN

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Proud supporter of The American Cancer Society and The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network!

*See how you can help!*

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/LBremner>

<http://action.acscan.org/goto/CADiv>

**Lori Bremner** | California Grassroots Director  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[acscan.org](http://acscan.org)

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Leah Rottke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Committee Members,

I have lived my working, adult life ruled by if, how and at what expense, I could get health insurance. My daughter has already had a much different experience, because of the ACA. I don't think the government has looked at the restraint of economic activity caused by our health care system. Most of us are stuck. The Graham Cassidy bill will make a bad situation worse.

Sincerely,  
Leah Rottke  
El Cajon, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** re: 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.*

*If Graham-Cassidy becomes law the health care system will be in chaos, millions of people will suffer, and many will die. Our economy will also suffer.*

*PLEASE oppose this bill.*

[REDACTED]  
Int [REDACTED]

*The responsible approach*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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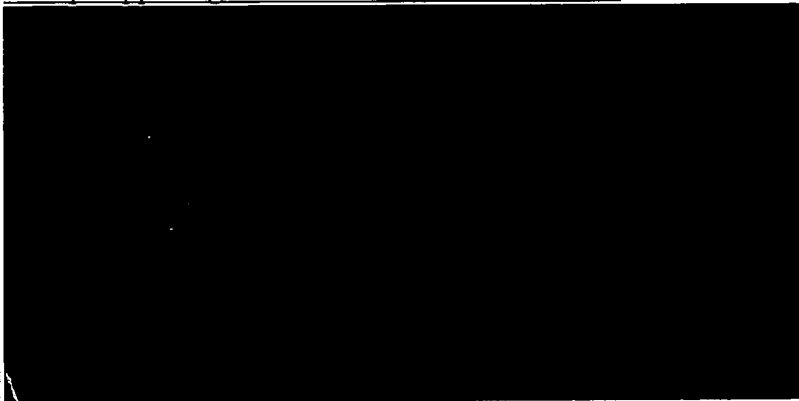
**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO

VOTE NO!

I work with people on a daily basis that have preexisting health and mental issues. If they lose their healthcare, they will die, become institutionalized, become homeless and or end up in jail. Which in turn will cost States more money. Instead of looking at the short term \$\$\$ look at what is best for the people. Fix what's broken with the ACA or go Single payer. PROTECT THE PEOPLE

Just a few of the organization that Oppose this bill. I believe they know a thing or two about healthcare and insurance.

Groups opposing the American Health Care Act



**Groups opposing the American Health Care Act**

Over 50 organizations oppose the proposed healthcare plan that will make Americans will pay more for less. The list includes nurses, doctors, hospitals, teachers, churches, and more. You can see a few here: AARP: AARP opposes this legislation, as in

THANK YOU  
Terri Koyac

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joyce Widmeyer [mailto:jwidmeyer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop GrahamCassidy

Please fix Obamacare. It's what we need and want!! We cannot allow a group of old white men to design a healthcare system for all Americans without input from ALL Americans! Stop this madness!!!

Joyce Widmeyer  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Eli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My concerns re., proposed health care bill

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in concern of what is happening in our country in an effort to make Donald Trump and many GOP congressmen fulfill a political campaign promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

It is absolutely insane to push through a bill that the President and many Republican lawmakers probably have not even read in its entirety, that has not been reviewed by the Congressional Budget Office, and has the potential to hurt millions of people in our country including but not limited to babies born with health impairments, people who have/had cancer, people with heart conditions, adults and children with diabetes, women who are pregnant, the elderly in nursing homes that have spent the remainder of their life savings and now rely on Medicaid for continued health care, people with multiple sclerosis, people with Parkinson's, and people with mental health issues, just to name a few.

It is insane that our congressmen would vote for such a poor bill because their money endowed supporters have threatened to cut off political contributions unless Congress starts passing bills.

It is insane to pass a bill that does not provide definitions of "affordable". What is affordable for President Trump to spend on a dinner for himself may be the same as what someone else deems as affordable for providing for a family of five for a month.

It is insane to pass a bill that does not define "adequate". (Secretary Price doesn't think traveling on public planes is "adequate" whereas I do.) Or if you get a deep gash on your head and your mom puts a bandage on it instead of taking you for stitches and a medical examination, the wound will eventually heal. But, you probably will end up with a big, ugly scar that everyone will stare at the rest of your life. Or, if only a bandaid is applied, a concussion may not be diagnosed and you may end up with minimal brain dysfunction. So, what is viewed as adequate by Mom, may not be viewed as adequate by those who know what can happen if a different approach to wound care is not used. Who would you rather see for a cancer diagnosis--a general practitioner or an oncologist? Where would you rather go for your breast/prostate cancer treatment--a community hospital not affiliated with a major cancer treatment facility or the Mayo Clinic? Adequate? Who would get to determine that without a bill that provides definitions and guidelines?

I could go on and on with reasons as to why passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill would be insane. But, I think you get the drift. I salute John McCain to keep to his convictions of doing what is best for Americans not what is best for a re-election campaign: I hope others follow his lead.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gasper

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protecting the health of Americans

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a physician serving patients in the Central Valley region of Northern California (Chico, Paradise, and greater Butte County), I want to tell you about the importance of health care access and affordability in my community. This area is home to a proud state university, a great brewery (Sierra Nevada), many businesses (Klean Kanteen and [Build.com](http://Build.com), to name a few), and sprawling farms and orchards growing almonds, walnuts, peaches, and rice. Enloe Medical Center is the only hospital in Chico and, according to its CEO Mike Wiltermood, on any given day approximately 75% of its patients depend upon Medicare or Medicaid for coverage of their care-related costs. Nearly all of the remaining patients seeking care in clinics and in the hospital rely upon affordable private health insurance, including policies purchased through the ACA exchange. With uncertainty in Medicaid funding, cost sharing reduction payments, individual mandates, and ACA subsidies, insurance companies are raising premiums for 2018 in anticipation of higher costs for their companies. Enloe Medical Center and the smaller critical access hospitals in the surrounding area are wondering if they will be able to keep their current employees in this uncertain environment. If hospitals and clinics close or reduce services, everyone loses.

The Affordable Care Act has provided people with assurance that their insurance will cover basic medical care and, should a major illness or injury occur, they will no longer have to worry about hitting an annual or lifetime cap on coverage and they won't be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition (or find coverage to be completely out of reach) if they should lose their job for any reason and need to find a new insurance plan. This stability allows people to focus on their recovery and not on whether they will lose their home as a result of medical bills.

I have heard the argument, "why should healthy people subsidize care for sick people?" First, this is, of course, the exact principle of insurance. Second, as a pathologist, I see first-hand the unfairness of disease. I diagnose cancer on a daily basis, in people of all ages, all ethnicities, and all income levels. In many cases, these patients did everything right in life - exercising, eating healthy foods, not smoking - but cancer comes in so many forms and it is impossible to reduce your risk to zero. And so these new cancer patients all must hope that their insurance covers the surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy that will, hopefully, save their lives and return them to a productive place in our community. I'm sure you know a cancer survivor or someone who fought their disease, but lost the battle. These are tough Americans. My job is to help determine the care that they need and, now, to lobby for their ability to afford that care.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy Bill is the worst for of Trumpcare yet! Senior citizens would have to pay over 30,000 a year for healthcare! That is just outrageous! And you do this bill right before the budget defunds CHIP and Medicare/Medicaid! Thousands of people will die? How cruel and uncaring about anyone but yourselves can you be? 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.

[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth Bo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

This bill is outrageous and must not be passed. It will hurt millions of people in this country. I work with disabled people at a Therapeutic Horseback Riding facility. Many of these families can only function without their aid from Medicare and Medicaid. These are good hardworking middle class families. This bill should not even be introduced on the floor.

Elizabeth Bohon  
Shawnee KS

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

We are the richest country in earth. If we cannot afford to take care of one another, no country can. How can the GOP call themselves Christians while kicking 30 million people off healthcare by either making it too expensive to afford or not available at all. Why does the GOP want to take us back to before when pre-existing conditions were not covered by guarantee? Under GC they may be 'covered' but if insurance companies can charge more for them then it doesn't count. Stop, GOP, just stop. Do what's right. Voters will make you pay next election. Fix the issues with ACA, make it affordable for all. Every state. And hands off employer plans!

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Down Vote on Graham-Cassidy Bill

"Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017".

I am opposed to this outrageously destructive bill.

Signed,

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

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED] du>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Keep ACA . Don't support the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a 74-year-old and recently retired professor of mathematics, I offer a partial list of my concerns about the Graham- Cassidy bill.

When my son was 12 and my mother was 86, my 89-year-old father and my 49 year old husband died within 28 days of each other. I am grateful that I was employed and had decent health insurance. However, the physical and emotional toll of caring for a young child and an aged mother was very nearly overwhelming.

It is beyond my understanding how a country as rich as the US can even consider dropping health insurance for the working poor, the aged, and the disabled or dropping Medicare for the very poor and the totally disabled. Most of those who will suffer are children, workers who retired due to age or disability, and those who lost their jobs through the effects of the rapidly changing world economy. The young, if we can keep them healthy, can grow up to contribute to our economy. The aged and those disabled by no fault of their own have already contributed for a working lifetime. Cruelty in the form of high premiums, limited coverage for care of chronic illness, lifetime limits, etc etc will not strengthen America or keep it great. Tax breaks for profitable corporations, including medical instrumentation makers, will not contribute to our greatness -- only to lobbying and campaign contributions.

Keep the ACA and fix what needs fixing. But don't just toss it out, let states cut care for their needy population, and encourage tax loopholes.

Greatness requires responsibility - it doesn't grow from cruelty.

Amy Cohen Corwin  
Professor of Mathematics, Emerita (retired after 42 years of teaching)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act saved my life.

Dear United States Senators

Unless you have been without health insurance and had serious health issues you cannot appreciate how frightening it is for someone who had health insurance up until the age of 50. Then life situations left me single and looking for employment. I became a self employed person to make a living, but health insurance isn't something a self employed person can afford. Living without health care coverage is like walking through a field of land mines. Imagine what that might feel like. The Affordable Care Act changed my life and you don't have a right to yank it away to give a tax break to the wealthy.

And to the members of the Republican Party minus a few , the casualness that you show about whipping out not just 1 but 3 different health care bills each worse then the one before that throws millions, millions, millions, and millions of Americans out of ACA coverage is cruel, vindictive and border line criminal.

Nothing sort of a bi-partisan remedy is acceptable.

Sincerely,  
Connie Morse

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Finance Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill . As a person with preexisting conditions including asthma and diabetes , this bill would open the door to unaffordable health care policies in any state which chooses to opt out of coverage for preexisting conditions or essential benefits, higher premiums for the sick and elderly . The standard of affordable and available is not defined and neither I nor any citizen of any State who have any preexisting condition should have any faith that HHS Secretary Price will turn down any State which requested a waiver under this terrible bill. Secretary Price is not following the ACA now, which he is supposed to be doing ,because he opposed the law in Congress and continues to oppose it even when it is his job to oversee it.

In addition, the complete defunding of Medicaid after 2026 will decimate the health care system of millions of Americans . Even during the period through 2026 the block grant funding amounts will be substantially reduced which leaves the States with inadequately funded Medicaid programs endangering not only patients but the healthcare institutions ( hospitals, clinics, physicians) who provide health care to all Americans.

I respectfully request that this bill be rejected for the good of America and the millions of Americans like myself with preexisting conditions. Sincerely, Thomas M. Carnrike, Syracuse, NY

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no

The Graham Cassidy bill is purely political. No proper procedure, contents are crap.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ellen Sm [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My 18 year-old-granddaughter has lived with leukemia (CML) since she was 15 months old. Unfortunately a stem cell transplant failed for her; miraculously, she survived but depends on an expensive miracle drug (Gleevec) to control the symptoms that would otherwise kill her. Without guaranteed health insurance for those with pre-existing conditions, she is condemned to bankrupt all who love her and then die when the money runs out. She has just begun her freshman year in college ...



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gayle Logan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare - Graham Cassidy Repeal  
**Attachments:** BOYD ACA story.docx

To Senate Finance Committee, Chairman Orrin Hatch

Attached is a story written by Leslie Boyd after the death of her son. He died prior to the implementation of the ACA. If the Graham-Cassidy Repeal is passed by the GOP, then we will be subject to the vagaries and lack of affordability/availability of medical insurance or medical facilities. Leslie's story is a serious reminder of those days. The Graham Repeal is cruel. Ending Medicaid is destructive as 50 MEDICAID directors across the country have taken the unusual step to tell you. Numerous GOP governors have told you that this is a very poor choice.

The pictures that accompany the article are not printing. As a result, there are blank spots throughout the article. Please do me the courtesy of reading this long article.

Sincerely,

Gayle F. Logan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** DO YOUR JOB SENATORS VOTE AGAINST IMMORAL HEALTH CARE BILL

My name is Brooke Yanez and I am 25 years old. I live in Bosque Farms, New Mexico, a state that depends on medicaid. 40% of New Mexico citizens are on Medicaid. I don't think I have to explain why the Gram-Cassidy Bill is an evil and immoral bill. Any senator that votes for this bill should resign from their position since they will be failing the american people and failing within their position to make our country a better place. How in good conscious can anyone vote for a bill that will kick more than 30 million people off of their health care. Also the bill states any unused federal funding will go towards the deficit. Why are the poor and middle class paying for Wall-street's and the Government's mistakes?

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dick Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy Bill -- bad governance.

I've followed the health care discussions since the Affordable Care Act was first proposed. I watched the give and take, hearings, ammendments that were made in various committee meetings, and the public debates that took place. None of that has happened with the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is a bad attempt at law making and, if passed, it will harm millions of Americans. There is no attempt at bi-partisanship; no opportunity for it to be debated in any open committee meeting; no scoring by the CBO -- in fact there is a rush to pass this bill before the CBO can score it.

The proponents are lying about how it will affect our citizens. It is impossible to provide more coverage will less money. It is impossible to provide the same benefits with less money. And the worst harm will fall on the most vulnerable -- children, the disabled, and the elderly poor.

It seems like the Republican goal is to take from the poor to give to the rich. And they claim to be patriots.

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Bedard Holla [REDACTED] n>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comment - no!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment about the Graham Cassidy proposal. I feel strongly that this bill will hurt the health and well-being of Americans and be devastating to state economies and Medicaid programs.

I am struck by the provisions that enable states to make modifications that will enable insurers to cease protections for pre-existing conditions. I was interviewing a young woman yesterday who had a serious blood condition as a child (she is healthy now) but she shared with me that she was unable to get insurance until the ACA. she is in her 30's, college-educated, brilliant and TERRIFIED that she will lose coverage, become ill and have few options. this issue is real, and the people are real.

In Virginia alone early reports saw that over 800,000 will lose coverage - and our very thrifty and conservative medicaid program will be gutted.

Please stop the madness. The ACA has serious issues that need to be addressed - and a bi-partisan solution that does not impact the health and wellness of Americans is the best solution.

Sincerely,

Sarah Holland  
2630 Laclede Ave  
Richmond, VA 23233

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Sarah Bedard Holland  
m. 804.241.3479

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] et  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #GrahamCassidy Opinion

Senators;

Please DO NOT step back from federal protection of Preexisting Conditions and health care for the poor. The Opening Sentence of The Constitution clearly speaks to the public's welfare. You are sworn to protect this Constitution!

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, **promote the general Welfare**

Thank You

[REDACTED] prior

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Montalvo, Jessi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy bill

As a practicing physician in the city of Chicago, I am speaking out vehemently against this bill, as are many of my colleagues. This latest attempt to repeal the ACA build on the terrible points of its predecessor and blatantly rewards insurance companies and the ultra wealthy at the expense of the most vulnerable members of society. A stable functional does not exist without broad commitment to everyone's health. Please do not repeal the ACA, work on bipartisan solutions to strengthen it.

This message and any included attachments are intended only for the addressee. The information contained in this message is confidential and may constitute proprietary or non-public information under international, federal, or state laws. Unauthorized forwarding, printing, copying, distribution, or use of such information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the addressee, please promptly delete this message and notify the sender of the delivery error by e-mail.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** storm [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Obamacare

Trying to destroy Obamacare will be damaging to too large a part of our economy. The repercussions will be like an earthquake that goes on and on for years.

Hospitals out of business. People, probably women, quitting their jobs to care for elders thrown out of nursing homes. The bankruptcies and lost wages due to untreated illnesses.

THIS is insanity. No ideological belief in the God of Unfettered Capitalism can possibly be worth this much destruction.

Storm Freeman  
Falls Church, VA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nono Burling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am grateful that for most of my adult life I've had good healthcare. Here is my story. In 1990 I was married and on my husband's medical plan which was through his work. The plan was an HMO which required us to go to one hospital and it located in Seattle. My husband was looking for a better job and had applied to several in Washington State. Relocating would mean changing insurance plans, there was no other choice. Literally on the same day that his job offer was received we also learned I was pregnant. If he took the job it would be considered a pre-existing condition. Thankfully, one insurance plan offered by the state would cover me despite that fact. We moved to Olympia and began establishing ourselves in new jobs and hunting for a home to buy. Then at 23 weeks into my pregnancy things started to go sideways as I started to bleed. After two weeks at home of strict bed rest I woke up to even more severe bleeding and was placed at a hospital 40 miles away. I had another month on bed rest in the hospital and then hemorrhaged in the middle of the night delivering an extremely premature son via an emergency C-section. Without healthcare there is no question that both my son and I would have died. But thanks to healthcare we are both contributing members of our society. I am a librarian and he is a software engineer at Microsoft. I believe that every American has the right to such healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Washington Senator Patty Murray and Lamar Alexander started working on this and it gave me hope. Please stop this repeal and replace push and let's work together to solve this problem, not for partisan reasons but for the sake of the citizens of this country.

Sincerely,

Helen Burling

Olympia, WA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Comsto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Dear Senators:

Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy health care bill. The ACA is not broken, but more could be done so that more people are insured for lower costs. Please work with Patty Murray and Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins and Bill Nelson, to make the ACA better. Repealing ACA was a way to express opposition to President Obama, not an argument on the facts.

Please work together to help and unite the American people. Thank you.

[REDACTED] 8

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** anita b [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In retirement I need quality affordable health care that includes covering pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anita Brown  
South Bend, IN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Katz Harwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Defeat Graham Cassidy

**To the Members of the Senate,**

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is a Type 1 diabetic, a serious life-long condition that means his day to day health and quality of life is dependent upon access to quality and affordable health care support. It would be devastating for our family if this was suddenly classed as a "pre-existing condition" that would prevent him from having coverage for his insulin and supplies. Please defeat the destructive Graham Cassidy bill, and engage in a fair and substantive process to address the challenges of health care access in this country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Katz Harwood

Duluth, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susannah Rehr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Repeal & Replace

Respectfully

As an independent voter who has cast my votes on both sides of the aisle. I may never vote for the GOP again after this last election. Not because I fundamentally agree with DEMS but because of the GOP's abject failure to consider that they serve the American public and not an inexperienced president of questionable mental stability.

Health care should not be masked as a tax cut for the wealthiest in our society. I recently lost a brother to lung disease and have undone my entire life to help a sister with the same malady. Worrying about whether a retired teacher who dedicated her life to educating other people's children will have the means to stay alive under this plan is inhumane.

In the past the GOP/DEMs served to balance financial and social needs of the citizenry. This group appears to be bought and paid for by the likes of Kochs & Mercers. We the people have no representation on the GOP side. It is time for a change.

It is a national embarrassment that our country does not have universal health care like every other civilized country. It is time for a bi-partisan effort to that end.

Can our representatives stop this partisan nonsense and start doing the work of the people.

Sincerely,  
Susannah

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dee Bantz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Ladies and Gentleman,

I do not approve of the mess Graham Cassidy will make of our healthcare system and fear what will happen to our retirement. We work and pay taxes all our life and do not deserve the blatant disregard for human life with this bill.

Stop hiding behind closed doors and work on FIXING the current system. In other words... Do your jobs, stand up for WE THE PEOPLE.

SINCERELY,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone 7 Plus

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Edith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

As a grandmother I depend on affordable healthcare. When I had small children, pre-ACA, our family was severely affected by pre-ACA insurance company's devastating penalties against pre-existing conditions because my husband has a heart condition but mostly because our youngest child has born with spina bifida. Twenty-five years ago our family health insurance was \$2,500/ month, much more than our net salaries. To provide health insurance for our family my husband and I were forced to sell anything of value and go into debt. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, insurance caps, and more, all stir me to plead for a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time,

Edith Fink  
Sandy Springs, GA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christopher Humme [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:58 AM  
**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.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eleanor Jor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** do not pass this bill

dear Senators: please do not pass the Graham Cassidy Health Bill. It would have a devastating effect on individuals who currently need a safety net to combat mental illness, the opioid crisis, and pre-existing conditions.

I urge you to continue working toward a bill that will cover all Americans, with the added option of carrying personal health insurance for emergencies.

thank you for your consideration

[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cari George [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good Morning,

Before the ACA was implemented, I didn't have health insurance because I worked in the restaurant industry. Coincidentally, I changed careers at the same time that the ACA went into effect, partly due to the lack of insurance (I had to take action on my own to secure insurance, which meant changing careers.) You see, I was unknowingly walking around with less than half of the blood in my body than I should have due to uterine fibroids. When I finally had insurance, I was notified of this news and acted to rectify the problem. Of course, once my blood was stabilized, I immediately scheduled surgery to remove the fibroids. Without insurance, I probably would have suffered a heart attack and who knows what else. Then, I would be in massive amounts of debt due to medical bills. I am so thankful for my newfound health insurance. Also, by the nature of my conditions (which are common in women,) **I am a pre-existing condition.** Please don't be so cruel as to deny health care to those effectively priced out or flat out denied due to pre-existing conditions. Why change something that benefits all of us and is working? Please **DO NOT** support this cruel "overhaul," the Graham-Cassidy bill. Health insurance is essential for **everyone!**

Thank you,  
Cari George

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gene Robertson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Healthcare Bill

As much or more than anything else the ACA was an attempt to fix the dynamics caused by the Reagan administration when in '86 they passed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act requiring hospitals provide care regardless of a person's ability to pay for said care. Their intent was spot on in that they recognized that healthcare was a right, not a privilege, but failed to assign the cost for their altruism. Soon thereafter people caught on and our ER's became their "no cost" family physicians. This is what the ACA's mandate attempted to fix.

So, basically the Republicans and the Democrats have individually declared healthcare to be a right, not a privilege. The only question is how best to deliver on this "right". I'm all for competition. **THE MORE THE BETTER!** But I also believe insurance companies add very little value to the process. I believe what little value they provide could be easily and more cost effectively provided by a "buyer's consortium" managed by our Medicare group.

I would like to recommend we establish an UNSUBSIDIZED "Medicare C" option for people under 65 which would compete with the private insurance plans for our business. Medicare C would be funded solely by its customers, but function much like it A/B counterpart. It would negotiate the cost of services with healthcare providers AND DRUG COMPANIES on behalf of its members (customers). Being in competition with private insurance companies should maintain efficiencies for each. And who knows, Medicare C could prove to be so successful its A/B counterpart might be able to one day assume its unsubsidized character!

Respectfully,

Gene Robertson

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Lally [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Response, IQ (Collins); Senator Angus King  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to offer my strong objection to the Graham-Cassidy bill. It would make health insurance impossible for me to afford as a disabled middle-aged woman. Because I was injured working as a police officer, I'm luckier than most in that I make too much to qualify for most programs and can afford to live a modest lifestyle. But before the ACA, health insurance premiums were completely out of reach for me, as were the bills I feared I might incur should I need medical treatment beyond the routine. Right now I am living in a state of uncertainty, unable to move forward with plans to buy a small home because I need to know whether or not I'll have health insurance. Not having it is not going to stop my body from getting older or getting sick. Not having health insurance is going to mean that I might very well end up with bills that I have no choice in incurring, but also no means of paying.

What I wish is that our elected leaders would stop playing politics with our lives and get to work on a bipartisan solution to control our insane healthcare costs and make insurance affordable for everyone.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa Wilso [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to voice my objection to the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. I am a mother of two young adults who will soon be entering the workforce. We have strived to give our children the best start in life as we can. The burden of healthcare to all Americans has become so enormous that it threatens both the physical and financial health of all of us...but especially to those who are just starting out. And god forbid they should have a pre-existing condition. The ACA is not perfect, but it is a start and this great country of ours can certainly discern where improvements can be made to ensure that all Americans have the right to quality healthcare.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I want to voice my vehement objection to the above referenced Bill. The state of Michigan cannot afford a cut of \$8 billion. This would cause disproportionate harm to Michigan's most vulnerable citizens. This bill has not been scored by the CBO, as you obviously know, and not even it's sponsors know what the effects of such a reckless endeavor will be on citizens and the economy. Do the smart thing. Stop sabotaging the ACA, and improve shortcomings in a bipartisan manner. That is what the majority of US citizens are in favor of. You are not fulfilling your mission as ELECTED representatives (look that up, if in doubt) by ignoring constituents demands.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Misty McMich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** TRUMPCARE

Please do not take healthcare away from 32 million people! It's saving people's lives, you all have healthcare why shouldn't the rest of Americans? If you take ours away you should lose yours too! STOP TRYING TO TAKE HEALTHCARE AWAY, fix what needs to be fixed but don't take it away from millions! Remember you all work for us not the big pharmaceutical companies, or any big donors for that matter! I know someone who is alive thanks to the ACA!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Virginia Stark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments Against Graham Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

The Graham Cassidy bill will hurt me. I'm a 58 year old retired woman from Ohio. I don't have health insurance through my former employer and buy my own. If passed this bill will negatively impact me in several ways. First, insurers will be able to charge me more in premiums because of my age. Second, I have a health issue that's defined as a pre-existing condition so I might not be able to get insurance with another company. I'm also concerned that insurers will be able to drop many of the standard preventive services defined in the ACA. I'm at an age when many diseases begin to crop up that can be caught early with preventive services.

I'm also very concerned that a single hearing is being held on a bill that affects every person in this country. The idea that Republican members of the Senate would try to use a single hearing to claim the bill had followed normal order is a complete sham. This isn't a political game. This is people's health and lives at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Arnold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham Cassidy

Good morning, I am requesting that you vote no on the Graham-Cassidy repeal/replace act. It would accomplish only 2 things: Fulfilling a campaign practice - and hurting millions of Americans. Don't try to LIE about it - this will hurt MILLIONS of Americans. Don't do it.

Thank you -  
Susan Arnold  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lauren and Michael [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No GC!

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a woman with sore-existing condition, I have had the experience of not being able to afford insurance due to excessively high rates and had to forgo medications due to affordability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Montgomery Village, MD

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** chris broslav [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal. These are the points that disturb me.

- Those working for small companies will not have options for affordable healthcare.
- It is risky for persons with pre-existing medical conditions by not capping what insurers can charge. Maternity care and mental health treatments would particularly be compromised.
- The bill would put people with lower-incomes in jeopardy by removing subsidies.
- Many states stand to lose funds due to redistribution of Medicaid payments.
- Most importantly, I object to the careless, politically motivated speed with which this bill was initiated, without time to consider the budget implications from the CBO.

PLEASE consider my comments.

Chris Broslavick  
Iron River, Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kate Smanik [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother is a cancer survivor, and my father as lived with lifelong vision problems that would render him blind without appropriate medical care. The medical coverage we receive is critical to good health, and long term participation in our community. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Katherine Smanik

Indianapolis IN

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Warren; senator@Markey.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly urge you to REJECT Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan fixes to the ACA and stabilization of the marketplaces. The ACA is not perfect, but so many Americans benefitted from an improvement in the affordability and quality of their healthcare. 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.

If Graham-Cassidy passes, my family will be devastated. My son has complex medical issues and relies on Medicaid for the specialists, medications, treatments, and therapies he needs to live. Through Medicaid expansion here in MA, I was finally able to get affordable health insurance after almost a decade without. As a single mom, I can only work part-time because I need to care for my son and meet his needs. I rely on the CSR subsidies to make insurance affordable. Without that coverage, I will not be able to afford my insulin/medications, and my son will suffer. Please put country over party and do what's right for America. Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!!!

Respectfully yours,

Christine Heath

Monson, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

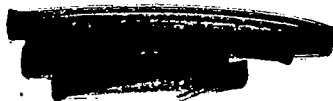
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**From:** Alyss Sippel [mailto:alys.sippel@delaware.gov] <alys.sippel@delaware.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alyss Sippel

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Steve Keithahn  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy et al bill

Greetings,

I am writing to encourage you to kill the Graham Cassidy et al healthcare reform bill.

I am a physician who works in primary care. I witness the adverse effects of being uninsured vs the benefits of having Medicaid in my patients on an almost daily basis. While not perfect, the ACA has helped many of my patients, and it has significantly lowered the number of uninsured in the US. It is not a "disaster"! I support bipartisan efforts to improve the ACA as the best future route for the health of US citizens.

The Graham Cassidy bill however, if enacted into law, would be a disaster for tens of millions of Americans who are projected to lose insurance coverage, a percentage of whom will die because of it. For the federal government to put the financing of healthcare onto the backs of the states will create significant disparities between the states. Ever notice that roads and highways are bumpier in certain states than others?

And to rush a bill through that will affect almost 20% of the economy without proper hearings and vetting is simply irresponsible governing.

Thank you,

Steve Keithahn, MD  
Columbia, MO

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jon Perelstein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Is An Insult to All Americans

The bill is an insult. Your willingness to destroy the lives of tens of thousands so you can have a "political victory" for your sponsors is disgusting.

Americans need and deserve real, affordable healthcare. The AMA opposes this abortion of a healthcare bill. The insurance industry opposes this abortion of a healthcare bill. The hospital industry opposes this abortion of a healthcare bill. The medical directors of each of the 50 states oppose this abortion of a healthcare bill.

Jimmy Kimmel is right.

Jon Perelstein  
Stamford, CT

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Thomas F. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:53 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.

Thomas Fuchs  
Ottsville, PA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dinah Yessne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

Please - we need to keep fighting for health care for ALL Americans, not risking lives by repealing and replacing the ACA. The ACA was a critical step forward, and needs to be improved by a bi-partisan group taking a close looks at the discreet problems that need to be addressed. Trump Care dooms us all! Remember who you represent!

Dinah Yessne  
Vermont

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dilley, Jam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** harris, donotreply (Harris); AACP Membership Forum; senator@feinstein.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to join the absolute CHORUS of physicians and physician groups who are united in opposition to this mean-spirited and poorly thought out last-ditch effort to railroad this so-called "health care bill" through the legislation designed only to make good on a campus promise, and in no way, to improve the healthcare in the United States. As the Chief of Service of a large program in San Francisco that primarily treats the chronically and seriously mentally ill, I can attest to the improvements that Obamacare has brought to our local health care system and especially to the positive financial impact the expansion of Medi-caid (Medi-Cal) and other insurance coverage achieved through "Covered California", California's insurance exchange. I know my two state Senators are staunch allies in this cause; I only hope that once again, by whatever margin, a select few Republican senators will once again, put policy above politics and send this last-ditch effort to it's well deserved early grave.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Liz Hollingsworth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** How Graham-Cassidy will cause my family hardship

Dear American Lawmakers,

I am a 62 year old and live in Warren County Va. My 64 year old husband and I are self employed. We have paid out of our own pockets for Anthem—Blue Cross Insurance for over 40 years — the last 20 years we have bought our insurance directly on the open market— 2 years on the ACA. Additionally when my 90 year old mother fell last year I took over her physical care. We pay our bills on time. We carry no debt. Our home is paid for. Until last December I rarely used my insurance. In December I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Cancer. My oncologist tells me that under no circumstances should I go without insurance. I will qualify for Medicare in 2.5 years.

While our full priced insurance on the ACA exchange is expensive, having insurance has given us peace of mind. We have always been able to afford insurance. We have managed to save sufficiently for our retirements and, until this threat, have expected to comfortably retire in 2 years time.

If the ACA is repealed I will lose my insurance and will not have access to treatments which could prolong or save my life. By the CBO estimates my insurance will cost me over \$142,000/ year whether I use it or not— this does not include any deductible. (Our modest home cost less than that.) If this law passes we will be faced with having to spend savings my husband and I had planned to retire on in order to pay my insurance premiums for the next 2.5 YEARS. My illness will increase my husband's hardship during his senior years forcing him to rely solely on only his Social Security for the rest of his life by wiping out our life savings. If I cannot buy insurance I will certainly die as a result of this bill.

Please do not pass this horrible bill. If you do you will be punishing people who have followed all the rules— contributing as citizens for decades and saving sufficiently for our later years. Please do not pull out the rug from underneath us. You have our fate in your hands. Please spare my life and our savings.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dan Lanigan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill

I am strongly opposed to the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill because so many Americans will lose affordable healthcare coverage, but especially because it will decimate the healthcare coverage afforded to those needy Americans covered under Medicaid.

This loss scares me personally because I have a 38-yr-old intellectually disabled daughter who is currently covered by Medicaid. Although she is relatively healthy now, and doesn't require much in the way of health services, this situation will change as she gets older. As I, myself, a 73-yr-old man, am finding out, the older one gets, the more one generally needs in the way of healthcare. I am desperately afraid that by destroying the Medicaid system, you will be taking away the medical help she will need in the future, and I will not be around to see that she is taken care of.

Therefore, I ask you, please reject this bill and, instead, focus your attention on working on a bi-partisan basis to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Respectfully,  
Dan Lanigan

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emmaskyknight7 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister relies on our insurance to manage both PCOS and Anemia, the symptoms of which are chronic fatigue, irritable bowel syndrome, and intense pain. I rely on medication to dispel depression and anxiety to keep me enjoying life. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Emily Fliegel  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynn Halst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham

I ask that this hearing be bipartisan and search for what is best for the people of this country. Not what is best for either party nor corporation. Think of the people you serve and how they will be affected.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Without the ACA my children would be bankrupt. They have a beautiful baby boy born with club feet. He'll be running like any other child thanks to corrective procedures covered under the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Karen Kogod

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pat Trossn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill  
**Attachments:** Health Care Letter.docx

To the Committee:

These are my concerns about the Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill

- It is not bipartisan.
- It does not guarantee affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions
- It could result in reinstatement of lifetime caps which will discriminate against those with disabilities and chronic disease.
- It could eliminate the coverage for some individuals who were covered under Medicaid expansion.
- If more people are uninsured the hospitals will have to foot the bill for those coming in to the emergency room. This will be harmful to the economy. Hospitals could be forced to reduce personnel. Some hospitals may close.
- Eliminating the individual mandate will discourage younger, healthier individuals from buying insurance. Thus those who *do* buy insurance will tend to be older and sicker and more frequent users of the health care system.
- There should be certain basics that all states and all insurance providers must include. This bill leaves far too much to the the discretion of the individual states.

Please add my concerns to the official hearing record.

Please abandon this bill and instead promote a bipartisan effort to promote a health care bill that we can all live with. I believe that access to affordable health care insurance is a right that all Americans are entitled to.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

I have also attached a copy of this letter as a Word document.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Graham-Cassidy

This repeal/reform removes healthcare access and service to too many Americans. Please revise the ACA instead. Stop this partisan bickering and do what is both right & what the American people want: affordable healthcare. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jett Winder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Bill Feedback

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition which would make it very difficult for me to get insurance on my own. Fortunately I have been consistently employed and able to receive health insurance through my employer. But I am concerned that if I should ever lose my job or be unable to work, I would not have access to any insurance options. Please do not pass this bill and take away the guarantee of coverage for pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jett Winders

Austin, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dany Th [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Since suddenly having an aortic aneurysm and stroke at age 48, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Therefore, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Prior to my illness I was a hard working, healthy American citizen. No one thinks they will need affordable health care, until they do. Therefore I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hilda Simmon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is mean-spirited and selfish. It caters to the need for Republicans to get something; anything done, so they can pat themselves on the back, and hand a win to their constituents. Graham-Cassidy cares nothing about pre-existing conditions, the elderly and the poor.

Considering that it took 8 years to come up with this dud of a bill, it's worth waiting until a bi-partisan (real) bill can be spawn out of Obamacare.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Simmy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Naomi Da [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not repeal the ACA

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I are both senior citizens whose healthcare depends upon Medicare. Because the ACA provisions ensure preventative health care services to Medicare recipients, we are able to enjoy independent healthy lifestyles and hope to be able to do so for a long time. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Davis  
Vancouver, WA

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Naomi

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Judith Ham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

This is wrong. You in the congress, have the best healthcare available and you want to take away from 32 million citizens what little they do have? How can you justify this? You cannot! Vote no against this horrendous bill and do not condemn so many to being without any kind of healthcare. Do the right thing and vote no!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Edward Markha [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass Graham Cassidy

This bill is horrible for people.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Barb Towne  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I strongly encourage Senate to vote NO on this repeal of the ACA! This bill is cruel and will throw millions of children and seniors off of insurance. Furthermore, it is defunding Planned Parenthood, which is short sighted! Without the education, cancer and STD testing, access to birth control, there will be an increase of pregnancy in low income women, therefore increasing the need for government assistance!

We won't go back, to the 1950's, I know what that was like, women died in back allies!!!

Barb Towne



ght, Kevin (Finance)

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From: Evan Scott Schweitzer [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:55 AM  
To: gchcomments  
Subject: Healthcare Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Hello. I am writing as a concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. As someone who has had their taxes increased due to the ACA, I want you to know that I **STILL STRONGLY SUPPORT HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS**. I am willing to pay my part to make sure that people don't die because of lack of access or overwhelming financial burdens. For me, it is part of the social contract to help those less fortunate than myself.

Furthermore, I find it reckless and irresponsible to force a vote on this bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and shared with the American people. Decisions that affect millions and one sixth of our economy should not be politically motivated. We are talking about people's lives and livelihoods. When every major medical group comes out in opposition to a bill, shouldn't we listen? We need public hearings, town halls and information campaigns, not back channel deal making.

I know people personally that are living in fear. Fear that they won't be able to afford the care that literally keeps them alive.

Now is the time for people of conscious to do the right thing. Not the politically convenient thing.

Thank you,  
Evan Schweitzer

[REDACTED]

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Best,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** cyndee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Bill

This is unbelievably cruel of the GOP. Taking away health insurance from those most in need, FOR ANY REASON, but to grant tax breaks to the rich, is unAmerican. Shame and disgust comes your way from this 65 year old American, who has never been more poorly represented.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Provenzano

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I would like to voice strong DISAPPROVAL of the Graham Cassidy bill coming up for vote on Monday, September 25, 2017. Healthcare is vitally important to everyone, and should as such, be available to everyone, not just those who are able to afford insurance without help.

Julia Holcomb  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Senators of the United States of America,

The Graham/Cassidy Bill will result in millions of uninsured people and lead to deaths of people with pre-existing conditions. Patients, hospitals and Physicians (including myself) are vehemently opposed to this bill. Healthcare legislation requires thoughtful debate and bipartisan support to be legitimate. I implore you to vote No on this bill. The American People have demonstrated over and over again we will not stand for ACA repeal or change without bipartisan support. It is your duty to represent the interests of your constituents and this bill is a clear violation of those interests. Vote **No** on Graham/Cassidy.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

America has long since been in the past when it comes to taking care of its citizens. This includes Healthcare.

My father's parents had to escape America to Taiwan to have access Quality Healthcare. This is despite the fact that they paid their taxes for 20 years. They raised their children as Americans. But still as their health turned due to the high corn syrup american diet, giving them diabetes, their Healthcare didn't get those same subsidies that the corn industry gets. They couldn't afford simple glucose strips.

They had no choice but to go back to their former country and give up their American Rights, just so that they could live. They no longer get to play with their grandchildren, because American Healthcare would kill them.

The sad thing is because they were foreigners to America they still have a chance at life. It's those that were born here that will die an early death; earlier than their parents before them because America will not care for its citizens.

Time and time again our "Representatives" represent lobbyists and crony capitalism.

Thanks to the globalization of the information, Americans are no longer as ignorant as we were. We no longer can just be told we're great or we were great and be satisfied with that. We see how good some other people in the world have it. We see that despite being the wealthiest country in the world our average citizens don't feel wealthy. They feel like consumer slaves meant to reproduce new consumers and perish, so that the few can live like kings.

We will no longer vote for Kings. We are disgusted. We will keep voting for people willing to offer us something better until we get it.

So please don't stand in the way. Stand up for us

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** maralyn tabatsk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family depends on quality, affordable healthcare (and is especially effected by the pre-existing condition provision). This bill does not guarantee either! It is being rushed through without proper research, without waiting for the CBO report. It sends money to the states without guarantee that the states will spend the money where it's most needed. It also penalizes those states that opted for Medicaid expansion under ACA. It will leave so many Americans without healthcare. It puts politics ahead of true caring for the American people.

Instead, the bipartisan Congressional effort that was begun should be continued. Improve the ACA, do no repeal it.

Thank you,

Maralyn Tabatsky  
San Francisco, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cyndi Safst [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Statement

Why I deserve good health care:

I have worked and paid taxes since the age of 14.

I volunteered in the community in high school.

I put myself through college, while working part time.

I have worked in a hospital.

I had a 20 year Biotech sales career helping medical researchers find the right supplies for their life-saving work.

I became a Big Sister and helped a fabulous 11 yr old girl go from poverty to being the hard working, tax paying college grad that she is today.

I survived being laid off at at the age of 51, and never being hired again.

I also spent 7 years with no health insurance before Obamacare.

I am not a moocher or low-life. I have contributed to this country both financially and through my deeds from an early age.

I will not be eligible for Medicare for another 3 years.

**I DESERVE HEALTH CARE!  
SO DO ALL AMERICANS!**

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because there will be a lot of deaths if 32 million people were to lose coverage. This will also include a few of my closer friends who have disabilities due to genetics, which is no fault of their own.

You cannot...in good conscience...allow this to pass.

Justin Savie

[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid and TBI

My 28 year old son, Ryan has a severe traumatic brain injury from a car accident that occurred several years ago. He is in a long term care facility and receives much needed rehabilitative services. My son is making some small steps to improvement but this is a long, arduous journey.

Without Medicaid, he will deteriorate and lose any gains he's made thus far.

What will happen to this young person without proper services and healthcare?

Is he meant to be left to die without any hope?

Putting each state in charge of such services will cause total havoc! There's not enough funding to help those in need! Please stop this Graham-Cassidy bill from going through! We need a better plan of action; getting rid of a much needed Medicaid program is not the right way to go!

Thank you,

Linda and Ryan Savage

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Comments

I am an individual who has spoken up for those with developmental disabilities and mental illness a lot over the last decade and there is a good reason why: I am a 34 year old who is an individual with autism, depression, and anxiety and is on Medicaid. I use Medicaid for transportation, for therapy from having a lot of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, trauma, and other items of abuse and other arenas for my life as well as bullying, have 10-14 hours of support workers a week, it pays for most of my brain food (medication), and it also has helped me keep a job at a grocery store for over 10 years and get involved with advocacy work. If Medicaid is cut I have confidence that I could eventually live independently but not right now as I am about 85% independent and still need work on items that I have to do to be successful in the community and keep the house at a safe and clean area as well as continue to keep my dishes and other items well taken care of. I am BUS dependent, walking or carpool dependent and do not drive so relying on transportation in a pinch is important as buses in Boise where I live can be erratic. But given that I am nearly a college graduate when I have money and learn the rules of the road I could drive. So even though I rely on Medicaid a lot it's not necessarily just about what I need. There are close to 45 million Americans who are on it, most who need it in a serious way to where it is necessary for function, or for some, survival. I don't think there is one person who doesn't know someone with a disability and it is the one minority area anyone can join at any time. For some people if they don't have round-the-clock supports they would end up in jail or worse dead. Think about what people can do with it rather than without it. I have survived 34 years on this planet 32 with some sort of developmental or emotional challenge. I am almost independent at this point but I am lucky- the majority who have been diagnosed that long don't have enough drive or enough smarts to one day be that way. Think of the millions of others who will be in a life or death situation if this passes. I do this work to make sure that others one day have the opportunities that I have had to live life to the fullest and to speak for those who can't help themselves. I hope that you all consider my words in doing the same.

Thank You So Much,  
Ian Bott

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Bedard Holland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Sarah Holland  
**Subject:** virginia oral health coalition - public comment  
**Attachments:** Graham Cassidy Public Comment.docx

September 23, 2017

**To:** Members, United States Senate Committee on Finance  
**From:** Sarah Bedard Holland, Virginia Oral Health Coalition Executive Director  
**Re:** Graham Cassidy Legislation and Public Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment regarding the Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson proposal (Graham Cassidy). The Virginia Oral Health Coalition is a nonprofit alliance of organizations and individuals striving to ensure all Virginians have access to comprehensive, affordable health care that is inclusive of oral health.

Under Graham Cassidy, 839,000 Virginians will lose health care coverage, the commonwealth's Medicaid program will face drastic reductions that place coverage of mental health, **oral health** and prescription drug services at risk for our most vulnerable citizens and states will be able to modify the current essential health benefits - eliminating protections for pre-existing conditions and putting **coverage for dental care at risk**. Additional provisions enable insurance companies to re-instate lifetime caps and charge seniors 5x more than their younger counterparts. This will harm the health of Virginians and hurt Virginia's economy.

**Dental disease is the most common chronic disease among Virginia's children; poor oral health results in lost school hours, poor nutrition and impacts readiness to learn.** Virginia's Medicaid dental program has made significant strides in reducing dental decay among children and increasing the number of children who access health and cost-saving preventive services. Pediatric dental benefits are currently an essential health benefit and protected under the ACA. Graham Cassidy **enables states to eliminate coverage for pediatric dental care**; this could reverse all the positive gains we have made, and gut our Medicaid program which provides coverage to 11% of our residents, including 1 in 4 children.

**I urge you to cease consideration of this proposal; and to vote no if it comes to the floor.**

Sincerely,



Sarah Bedard Holland  
Executive Director

[REDACTED]

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**Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign 08572**

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments.  
**Subject:** Comment

Hi: I'm a lawyer, not on Medicaid, and make too much to qualify for an ACA plan. I am writing because I am steadfastly opposed to GCH. I am writing because my grandfather relied on health care provided by the government when he was dying (Medicaid pays for over 50% of nursing home costs in this country) and other people should be able to count on the same support during their time of need. I'm writing because my mother and sister, who both have white collar jobs, shouldn't be denied insurance coverage because they have preexisting conditions (tumor/cancer). I'm writing to defend Medicaid even though I'm a 29 year old, healthy man making over \$250k/per year because one day I too will need health insurance, and hopefully I'll have a backstop like Medicaid if needed. I'm writing because this bill will cause 32m people to lose insurance, it will bankrupt rural hospitals, it will permit states to gut coverage for people with preexisting conditions, it will permit states to institute lifetime caps, and it will cause me to lose faith in the Senate as a deliberative institution worthy of this country. I understand it's a point of political pride that you repeal the ACA. Don't let millions suffer to appease that pride. It's not worth it.

Thanks,  
Tyler O'Connor

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beccaie Ja [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Healthcare that I can actually get, and no insurance company can deny me because of my pre-existing conditions. When the Affordable Care Act took effect in 2014, I was able to get health insurance for the first time in 19 years. And I was then diagnosed with diabetes and began treatment. Within 3 months, it was under control and I was no longer at (undiagnosed) high risk for complications such as heart disease, kidney disease, serious eye problems, and potential amputation. I was also able to have the surgery required to remove the painful cancer I had been dealing with for over 5 years. Healthcare is the single most important issue to me, and I vote, donate, and support candidates accordingly.

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

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Jamieson (chronic voter)  
Addison, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Mondrago [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose GC Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

People with disabilities and pre-existing conditions need healthcare. The Graham Cassidy Bill makes it impossible for regular people to afford healthcare because there is a sneaky section that allows insurers to charge increased premiums for disabilities and pre-existing conditions.

This is inhumane and opposes oaths that MDs give. Why not help people medically instead of requiring they go into debt? Of course there are issues with the current healthcare structure but not one point of the Graham Cassidy Bill would improve current healthcare situations. It is dishonest and irresponsible to the US.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Fort Collins, CO  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions--everyone in my family has some preexisting condition (rheumatoid arthritis, polymyositis, heart disease, cancer in remission). I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Nachtrieb  
Portola Valley  
California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Nours [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill

Senators,

You want to know what this healthcare bill will mean to my family. My younger son will have to work more hours to get insurance so he will have to drop out of college.

What person over 50 does not have a preexisting condition? I have a friend with bone cancer, she will be unable to get insurance & the medication that has kept her alive and vital for 6 years.

This bill is a giant step backwards. It will hurt millions of people in California alone. And the poor & middle class the will be hurt the most.

The voters will not forget who takes away their ability to get healthcare.

Anne Nourse

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gina's Comcast Email [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. Please, fix/tweak the ACA.  
Gina Knaack

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Prest [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Latest Effort to Repeal Obamacare

My entire family relies on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter and I both have preexisting conditions. My mom, whom no one in my family is able to care for, recently went on Medicaid and is able to live in a nursing home where food, activities and medical care is provided. She is in the beginning stages of dementia and had been unable to get out of her bed or adequately feed herself. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Lisa Preston

Lansing, Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathryn Freund [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** G-C health plan

Where do I begin? This bill, without a CBO score, is slated to cut 32 Million Americans out of healthcare. That's astounding. And awful.

It reinstates "pre-existing conditions", as a means to deny healthcare coverage. The average American by age 16 has pre-existing conditions. None of us will be covered under this bill.

It takes out basic coverage for maternity care, pre-natal care, and makes pregnancy a "pre-existing condition"! This bill allows costs to be higher for women.

There are no major healthcare organizations that endorse this bill. And the full CBO score won't be available by the time a vote is called.

This is a shameful way to present healthcare to the American people. The system in place, ACA may not be perfect, but why is the Graham-Cassidy bill willing to throw the baby out with the bathwater? Polls show only 24% approval of this plan. Let's do better for America.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kate Freund  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol Godwin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Current Health Care Bill

Without Medicare at our age of 72, we would have been unable to afford the operation my husband needed when he fell and broke his leg in three places and damaged his artificial hip. We currently pay \$1,000 a month to cover Medicare and our supplemental insurance. This is a lot for us, but Medicare helps out by agreeing to more reasonable prices than the health care service providers would like to charge. Without Medicare, we would be desperately in debt and would lose our home because we would not be able to pay our medical bills and keep up our mortgage payments.

We do not understand why Congress will not work together to come up with solutions. We feel it must be that people working in Congress must be paid by Big Pharma and medical industry organizations in order to keep costs high. Big Pharma can charge what they want for their drugs. They have made lots of money so they can afford to pay lobbyists at a rate of about two per congress person, run expensive television and other media campaigns, and pay great dividends. Yes we know they do research, but that is the problem. They are not looking for cures. Cures won't make them money. How can we possibly trust their research?

We are disgusted and angry that this great country is so corrupt.  
Carol and Wil Godwin

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Stephanie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to submit my testimony against the Graham-Cassidy bill. I urge you to **please vote no** on this bill. This bill will devastate so many with pre-existing conditions and disabilities. It will over time destroy Medicaid, and send state's insurance systems into chaos, not to mention the millions it is likely to leave without any coverage at all.

This bill will devastate people like my mother, a senior who relies heavily on Medicaid. She lives in Arizona, and every month—even with the aid of my brother who she lives with to share expenses, and even with the \$400 a month I send her to help with her medical expenses—she is afraid of not being able to just afford the prescriptions she needs. These aren't prescriptions that make her feel amazing. These are prescriptions that help her to barely feel human each day, and sometimes even that is questionable. She has tried to find root causes to some of her issues, like chronic migraines, but, the cost of figuring it out is simply too high and she is forced to use bandaid approaches. Now these bandaids have also become too burdensome due to the astronomical cost of care and sky-rocketing prescriptions.

I spoke with my mom last night for over an hour and she spoke candidly about her fears of just getting by each and every month, and her fears of leaving us in debt because she cannot even afford the life insurance to cover the cost of dying. Let that sink in for a moment. She cannot even afford to die—not because she's lives beyond her means, but, because her healthcare costs are simply too high. She cannot even afford to have a fairly simple procedure to her eyes that would provide her with sight. She can no longer read, she is unable to drive, or navigate a simple television / video menus for just the simplest of pleasures on the days where she is bedridden. All because her prescription costs are already too high to afford her this "luxury" of sight. If this new bill passes, I honestly do not know how she will survive, or what else we can do to help. As a family, we already are doing everything we can to help her, and if this bill goes through it will devastate us all.

As with previous ACA bills, this version is being rushed through with barely any public airing, and little to no public debate. It is being rushed through with no CBO score. Why? Because of a September 30 deadline that allows only 50 senators to agree? Shouldn't senators want more consensus for the American people? Shouldn't it be a delicious challenge to work together to find ways of making the best healthcare, not for a party, but for all Americans? Working for a deadline to make things 'easy' is not how our democracy is supposed to work.

I am afraid. I am afraid for my mom. I am writing on her behalf, and on the behalf of all seniors, and those with low to middle incomes (like myself) who aren't granted the luxury of financial choice. I want those we've put in office to say yes to compassion and I want better healthcare for all Americans.

Please Senators. **Please work together to create a better healthcare bill.** Please improve upon what we have already and make it better, rather than ripping away lifesaving care and the ability for those like my mom to merely have the care they need for the life they have left, and for others to have the care that will better us all as Americans.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane H [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Repeal attempt

Committee Members,

Your latest attempt at repealing the ACA is an atrocity to the American people. There would be few, if any, states who could or would implement the programs you say will be made available to them. My home state of Kentucky is one that can barely pay it's state retirees' pensions because of a huge deficit in that program. How on earth do you think they would be able to pay for all the proposed programs your latest repeal attempt suggests should be the responsibility of the state?

I have recently been diagnosed with a serious illness that will follow me for the rest of my life. Thankfully I have excellent healthcare at this time. Having gone through what I have I cannot imagine what someone without healthcare would do. Healthcare is a RIGHT of all Americans, not just those who live in the right state or have enough money to pay high premiums and deductibles.

If you pass this repeal you will be signing death warrants for many, many people in this country, when you should be shoring up and fixing the issues that ACA currently has. I urge you to vote NO on this repeal and join Senator McCain and the others who are working for a bipartisan solution to the problems Americans face in obtaining and keeping decent healthcare.

Sincerely,  
Jane Hills  
Scottsville KY 42164

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julia Van Valkenb [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment, RE: Graham-Cassidy Bil

I am submitting my comment for the Senate Finance Committee regarding the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am a Medicaid recipient and rely on the healthcare provided to me by the state of California. My history of complex headaches requires that I have a neurologist and access to affordable healthcare. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, California stands to lose over \$100 billion (<http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-the-new-obamacare-repeal-plan-could-1506111338-htmstory.html>). I signed up for Medi-Cal after turning 26 and completing graduate school in the same month; losing both of my immediate healthcare options at the same time. Before Medi-Cal, I had been covered by my mother's high quality health insurance my entire life. Poverty is not a crime, and I believe that I deserve coverage - as do the millions of Americans who don't have access to coverage through their employers. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Julia Van Valkenburg

Los Angeles, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lorinda Sanac [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

Hello,

I am a constituent from Pennsylvania, 17244, and I am writing on behalf of loved ones as well as 30 million fellow vulnerable Americans who will be hurt by the Graham/Cassidy bill. This bill may be a literal death sentence to members of my family, hard working people who have done nothing wrong and do not deserve this punishment. Seniors who worked their entire lives to make the world a better place, children who haven't been given a chance to live in it, please don't do this to them.

I pray that you think of them and the vulnerable loved ones you surely must have in your own family. Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Instead, return to regular order and work on improving the current law with bipartisan committees.

Thank you.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** What Health Care Means to ME

Funny title.

Health CARE is just not being sick. It is what I remember as a kid. If you threw up, you brought the coffee tin along and saw the doctor. If you broke something, you went to the clinic. My neighbor had open heart surgery as a baby ... a blue baby....

I is nothing like the war we are involved in now!

Health Care is better. Much better! It recently saved my friend's life with a BRAND NEW CURE for Hep C! I just turned 65 and Medicare has been watching over me. Healthy and looked after, the idea of avoiding being sick is pretty simple.

Problem is, nobody can pay for it, like shopping at K-Mart! It is underwritten at every turn. Without the insurance my friend had enrolled in FOR THE FIRST TIME (he believed the lie about paying the tax and skipping the insurance.....) the 85 pills were pushing \$1000 a treatment and the two nights in the hospital and subsequent tests and procedures to get him well would have bankrupted him or a hospital. And now the threat he will not be able to do the 6 month follow ups to scan for the increased possibility of cancer would be out of the question.

Simply showing up to work. To not be hospitalized from a treatable disease or ailment. To function during or after chemo... not just die....are what health care should be.

Affordable is even frightening! It cannot be purchased on an open market like cars or clothing or stocks. It HAPPENS. Why do people willingly buy the necessary insurance to drive on our highways but cannot understand that it has no reciprocal value - I pay for this and get this - it is a wager. I hope I won't need it but I buy it in case. IF it were that simple.

ACA did the best we could at the time.

We struck a bargain with the devil to let insurance handle our health care. But health care should be provided by hospitals and doctors and we need to INVEST in our health. Like we invest in our infrastructure, or highway system or regulation of electricity and clean water and air..... it should be evenly provided and not profited from.

People should work for a fair wage. Be encouraged to develop and dispense cures and treatments.... remember Jonas Salk? NOBODY should profit by another's illness.

Single payer is the best plan, but short of that, we need every single person able to produce in our society, feel safe in their beds, free from the fear of catching something from a neighbor and knowing we will wake up in the morning because we have done our best.

I have cried for nearly a decade as a self employed person, trying to find a plan I could afford. I have never been hospitalized but before the ACA, simply getting tests with negative results required borrowing money from family because of the unaffordable deductibles I needed to cover the unforeseeable. NOW I can get the tests and treatment when I may need it.

I hope with the defeat of this abominable repeal and replace fever, we can get on to taking care of our people. It is in the preamble.... we are the GENERAL WELFARE that they forged a nation to provide for!

I ramble.

But it is a daily fear I live under. With a stable and predictable health care system, I will be healthier, more productive and amazing things will be possible again!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

From everything I have read about the Graham-Cassidy bill, I must register my extreme disfavor of this bill. It will cause premiums to skyrocket, will cost more money, will create chaos in the healthcare system, and it won't fulfill any campaign promises of providing Americans with better healthcare. Like your colleague Senator McCain, you must oppose this bill until regular order is restored and both sides work together to create a healthcare system that truly works and is affordable.

Do not enact this law. Period.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Choate  
Attorney at Law  
Houston, Texas

Sent from my mobile.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Improve, don't repeal, ACA

Americans like me depend on affordable healthcare. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the latest effort to repeal ACA, like those proposed before it, would cause millions of Americans to lose coverage. It would bring about deep cuts to Medicaid, increase out-of-pocket costs for individuals, and weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions. 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,

-Allison (Royal Oak, Michigan)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tobi Davis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not take away healthcare for all

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy proposed healthcare bill. We need to maintain what has already been provided in the way of health insurance coverage to the people that need it most, typically the unemployed, under-employed or self-employed. Without the coverage they now have, these people will go uninsured, and if they get sick, or already are sick, will not be able to maintain their lifestyles. I have family members that rely on "Obamacare" because both parents are self-employed, and need it for themselves and their children. Without it, they would not be able to afford insurance.

Any bill that takes away coverage, or denies coverage for pre-existing conditions is unacceptable. We need to not take steps backward in this country when we have come so far to treat people equally and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live the lives they want.

Tobi Davis

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Newman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality affordable healthcare. I oppose The Graham Cassidy Bill. My story with a pre-existing condition is that as retirees on a fixed income, we would be devastated to have my husband's cardiac condition preclude us from affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA not repeal it.

Thanks

Jane Newman  
San Francisco, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** margaret [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Georgia's professional caregivers

As executive director of an upscale Georgia senior living community I want to make very clear that these full time workers have significant medical needs that Graham Cassidy leaves unmet and makes worse. These strong compassionate workers cannot afford basic medical care in Georgia now. They are cut out of Medicaid due to rejection of the desperately needed expansion and one trip to a doctor or dentist takes a week's pay (often more) and leaves them unable to keep the lights on or buy groceries. They simply do not get medical care. I have one working with a broken foot now because his wife and three children need support and orthopedic treatment is utterly unthinkable on his income. He can't pay for it and he can't stop working so he hobbles around working in pain. They go to emergency rooms with puss filled abscessed teeth, hypertensive crises, and worse. This Trumpcare bill is BAD for them. The attempts to spin the real effects on low and median wage workers is not credible. Vote NO. Your constituents are catching on- albeit slowly-to Trump's com man mafia ethics. This untested, unscored bill is a sham. If implemented it will hurt people- including you in the next election. Vote no. Decent working Georgians are hurting and this cruel legislation deepens their pain. Please put on your boots and do the work required to IMPROVE life for Georgia workers. We are counting on you to apply decency and empathy in your decision.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elaine Shep [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy Health Care Bill

I wish to express my strong objection to the Graham Cassidy Health Care bill.

My son was diagnosed with cancer as a teenager prior to the passage of the ACA. He was fortunate to have health insurance which paid for the hundreds of thousands of dollars of treatments which were successful. The cost for his care was supplemented by all of the healthy people who pay premiums. Otherwise, we would not have been able to afford his treatments.

Because of his treatments, he has pre-existing conditions throughout his lifetime but under the ACA he can purchase health care like any other person fortunate to not have been diagnosed with cancer. Under Graham - Cassidy, these protections would depend on what state he resides in and would likely be removed as healthy people would no longer be required to get health insurance. This would increase the costs for my son and others like him.

I am in favor of mandates for health insurance and supplementing people's ability to pay so that as broad a base is there to help people such as my son. What I see missing from the discussions, is what do you do with the people who use their "freedom" to not purchase insurance but get diagnosed with cancer like my previously normal healthy teenage son. Are they provided treatments even though they have not paid in the system? Do we just say too bad and watch them die? Neither option is good.

Please vote against this bill that is uniformly opposed by all health related groups (insurance, doctors, hospitals, etc.). The harm that it would do to children such as my son is enormous. The harm it would do to people who opt out and then develop an illness or are in an accident is also huge.

Please work with the Democrats to shore up the ACA. Also, look into cost containments on the health care industries as they do in Switzerland. This would help reduce the costs and premiums.

Elaine Shepherd  
Hartfield, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jrheu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE GRAHAM CASSIDY EXCUSE-FOR-A-HEALTH PLAN

The Graham Cassidy bill would have a devastating impact many, including people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions.W

We strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill!

Rachel and John Heuman  
Evanston, IL



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cyndy White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graam-Cassidy Bill ...

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a Virginia constituent and a registered voter in the 23456 zip code since I was 18 years old - 40 years now.

Please do not allow Graham-Cassidy to pass as it will affect many millions of American's and those needing insurance. I happen to be one of those it will affect. I am disabled from an inexperienced, 18-year old driver who hit me in my Grand Wagoneer in 1991 and flipped me upside down. I suffer neck and low back issues and pain. In July, I was diagnosed with a blood disorder, monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, which will likely lead to leukemia within the next 10-20 years. I have arthritis of the spine, hands, elbow, and foot. I have fibromyalgia, over-active nerves throughout my body. And I have osteopenia, leading into osteoporosis-thinning of the bones. To pass this horrible bill will be death sentence for me.

It's time to support bipartisan effort to stabilize the AHCA exchanges and mandate outreach in order to prevent spikes in premiums and lapses in coverage. Please show bipartisanship by working together across the aisle to stabilize the AHCA and/or fight for Medicare For All. American's deserve this.

Graham-Cassidy is a potential death sentence for many people. Please use all your might to defeat this bill. It destroys Medicaid as we know it, guts protections for people with pre-existing conditions, such as myself, and is a potential death sentence for sick and vulnerable Americans, such as myself. It is by far worse than the last bill. It's pure evil.

It is reckless and immoral to ram through such profound changes without regular changes and a full CBO score. It is wrong for America and its vulnerable Americans.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lucille White

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carrie Condour [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not let this bill pass!

This bill is awful and will result in many people losing coverage and dying. We cannot let this happen to the greatest country in the world. This bill is CRUEL and hurts the most vulnerable among us. America deserves better.

Thank you.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Please, please take the time to prepare a bi-partisan solution to our healthcare issues. The current bill needs to go down.

Cynthia Biboux

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gayle Esterly [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy

This bill is the worst possible option for our country. Major medical associations, healthcare providers, advocacy groups, insurance companies and all 50 state Medicaid directors say NO!

You must say NO to Graham-Cassidy.

Gayle Esterly  
Londonderry NH

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christopher Sorensen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** \$12.50

To the GCH Committee:

I urge you to vote no on Graham-Cassidy. My elderly mother-in-law is in nursing care, I have friends undergoing cancer treatment and I myself have a pre-existing condition.

This bill hurts a majority of the people I know and love.

Vote no. Pick up steam with a bipartisan effort. \$400 million dollars in Koch money translates to \$12.50/person. Show us that you think our health and wellbeing is worth more than \$12.50.

Thank you,

Chris Sorensen  
Sparta, NJ

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marsha Chenoweth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As a physician and community psychiatrist, I cannot help but be mystified by the repeated efforts of some in the Senate advocating to bring harm to the most vulnerable in our society - those who find themselves at the unfortunate intersection of illness and poverty. The Graham-Cassidy bill is every bit as cruel and misguided as the ACA repeal efforts before it. My patients - who are fighting for meaningful recovery in the face of severe mental illnesses such as posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and substance use disorders - would suffer disproportionately under cuts to the ACA. This includes parents struggling to maintain sobriety so that they can be reunited with their children, young people resuming their education after an episode of mania, and people seeking employment that they can manage despite treatment-resistant hallucinations. Our state has been a leader in expanding health care to all, but this bill would most certainly set us back. The flaws in our current system require careful and thoughtful bipartisan effort to expand access and improve value, not thinly-veiled measures to appease wealthy Republican donors. I urge you to join me and other physicians in support of real solutions and in opposition to Graham-Cassidy.

Marsha Chenoweth, MD  
Bellevue, WA

Sent from my iPhone, please forgive brevity and typos.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Brian Mann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Committee Members:

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare through the ACA healthcare exchange. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I was recently laid off from my 32 year career by a large corporation and have not been successful finding further employment in my field. For the first time in my life I've had to obtain health insurance outside of company employment. My family health insurance premium while employed with income was \$136 per month. The next 18 months of unemployment were on the company's COBRA health insurance at \$1,307 per month premium - without income. When COBRA expired, I shopped for health insurance on my state's health care exchange. Similar insurance premium was \$2,000 per month - without income. Because of the ACA and my state's reinsurance program, this dropped to \$808 a month - without income. I have seen Congressional Budget Office scores of the 4 previous proposed bills stating the ACA premiums would skyrocket to 5 times higher. You may consider such insurance "available", but it is not affordable, and therefore neither is it available. It is only a matter of time before I burn through my retirement savings and have to declare bankruptcy, then go on public assistance anyway. This is no way to run a government or a life. Please don't insult our intelligence by claiming such legislation is affordable.

Senator McCain is right to insist on legislative return to regular order and bipartisan work to improve the existing ACA law, not repeal it. Well-crafted legislation requires thoughtful effort over time, not hastily-written bills to score political party points. Your work is supposed to be for us - not for your party.

Sincerely,

Brian Mann  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Senators,

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,

Renee and Tristan Woodsmith  
Olympia, WA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] u>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Pearson, Beth (Warren)  
**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. There is no excuse for this radically immoral effort to "keep a promise" that should never have been made in the first place.

Sincerely yours,

Meredith Michaels  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Kill this evil bill and start working for your constituents rather than the Kochs.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cathy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement opposing new healthcare bill

Please, please don't repeal the ACA. My mother is in a nursing home paid by Medicaid and will be on the street if you do. She worked all her life and paid taxes and deserves a safe end of life. Please don't hurt her and the many others that will suffer or die due to a yes vote on this cruel bill.

Catherine Byrne

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marti Carrington [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:31 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.

Marti Carrington  
Omaha, NE

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Kramer-Golinkoff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Patient Statement Submitted to Senate Finance Committee

*Statement Submitted by Emily Kramer-Golinkoff  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
September 24, 2017*

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Emily Kramer-Golinkoff. As a 32 year old with advanced stage Cystic Fibrosis, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic, fatal genetic disease that affects 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 and that number is skewed upward by people with milder forms of the disease than mine.

On the outside, I seem just like every other 32 year old. I am the graduate of an Ivy League University, I have a master's degree in bioethics, a wonderful network of friends and families, a huge list of hobbies, and big dreams for the future. No one could look at me and guess that I require hundreds of thousands of dollars in prescription medications annually (30 of which I take daily), 3-4 hours of medical treatments each day, and a team of care specialists to manage cystic fibrosis.

Without access to care and medication—my cystic fibrosis would quickly become a death sentence. I cannot go a day without my strict regiment of medications and breathing treatments.

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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 lives like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

We can do better.

Sincerely,  
Emily Kramer-Golinkoff

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daphne Dav [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record-Affordable Care Act

I work for a small business, less than 25 employees. We just received the health insurance renewal rates for the upcoming year; there will be a 2% increase in premiums. 2%! Before the ACA, that increase might easily have been 15% or 20%. And thanks to a provision of the ACA, our employees will be getting a rebate on their 2016 premiums. The ACA may not be perfect, but it is significantly better than what was before it. From what I have seen of the healthcare bill currently under discussion, our employees would again see huge premium increases every year, making it unaffordable for many of them. So on behalf of our company and employees, I beg of you to do what is best for the American people, do not repeal the ACA.

Daphne

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Berline [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please, I'm begging you, don't allow this devastating bill to pass! The American people deserve much much better!

Sincerely,  
Linda Berliner  
Bethesda, MD



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erica Kirsne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony on Graham-Cassidy

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My family and I all depend on quality, affordable health care, including the continuation of coverage for pre-existing conditions (my AFib).

In addition, as a psychotherapist, I am acutely aware of the importance of coverage for behavioral health treatment. My suicidal patients, and those with severe eating disorders, would be negatively impacted if outpatient and inpatient treatment for psychological issues were to be curtailed. I also know that many of my patients would have difficulty paying for insurance if state block grants were decreased or disappeared.

Please rule against the Graham-Cassidy Bill, and then work on a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA.

Erica Kirsners Silk  
Brookline, MA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Koterb [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Support ACA

Please OPPOSE Graham-Cassidy. It would be a disaster for the American people.

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kat [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA!

I'm a 56-yr-old public-school teacher, a home-owner, and a single parent of two children aged 18 and 24. My thyroid was removed when I was 8 and I will have to take thyroid replacement hormone for the rest of my life. Additionally, I've been diagnosed with asthma and, after wrecking 8 cars in a 30-year period, with ADD. My 24-yr-old son, adopted from foster care, has been diagnosed with reactive attachment disorder, ADHD, a learning disability, asthma, and, very recently, HIV. He was covered by Medicaid until he turned 21, went without insurance for several years, and now works full-time at a relatively low-paying job through which he receives health insurance; his co-pays, however, remain relatively high, so that he frequently resists seeking the care he needs. My daughter lives with me and is covered by my health insurance. She works part-time and attends community college, on a full scholarship, part-time. & nbsp;

We are better off financially than many families in our community, yet our situation with regard to health care is extremely precarious. I worry particularly about my son, whose copayment debt for medication for and treatment of his HIV is rapidly mounting. Were he to become sick and lose his job, and the insurance coverage it allows him to access, I have no idea what we'd do; my son struggles financially now, and my daughter and I live on an extremely tight budget, have almost no savings, and come up short most months. Indeed, if any of us were to require intensive treatment for ANYthing, we'd find ourselves almost immediately in dire financial straits.

As you undoubtedly understand, the AHCA isn't about improving health care or making it more affordable or more accessible, none of which it would do; it's about funding the massive tax cuts Trump has promised to his wealthy and corporate supporters at the expense of those who can least afford to pay. Please don't sacrifice our lives and the lives of those less fortunate than we to enrich those who already have more than they need. Do the *right* thing. Stand up! Speak out! Oppose this cruel, short-sighted travesty NOW.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; Knox, Jason (Portman); Brown, Alea (Brown)  
**Subject:** Harvey Hits Houston, Healthcare Hits Home

Heavy winds, extraordinary rainfall, storm-surge and flooding dominated the news for days. It is a horrific spectacle for people at home watching and for storm victims and people coming to their rescue, a life-changing experience. This event is among many, past and future, that will be a drag on the nation's economy as funds are diverted from everyday consumption to offering disaster relief to those directly affected by Harvey and more storms since.

Another storm that we have been fighting for over fifty years in the United States is less visible but waves of healthcare injustice are cresting more recently in the form of record mortality of addicts by drug overdose. It is still as devastating, maybe more-so, as Hurricane Harvey. Our healthcare (non)system is a national, man-made disaster killing tens of thousands of Americans annually who have not had access to health insurance until the ACA was passed. Why do you think the GOP and President Trump have been unable to repeal the ACA? Because people are all too familiar with the improvements the ACA has made in their lives. They cried foul long and loud. Congress heard them.

Our healthcare "storm" is the result of political corruption, greed, neglect, money in politics and a lack of empathy and compassion which would put health over profit. People of color have been more adversely affected than whites, poor more affected than the wealthy. The difference in life expectancy between poor and wealthy patients has never been wider. The U.S., paying more than twice for our care per capita than the average of other industrialized nations, lacks universal coverage and gets poorer outcomes. We should be demanding our money's worth for healthcare to allow us to compete in the global economy and bring more jobs back from the many places they reside now.

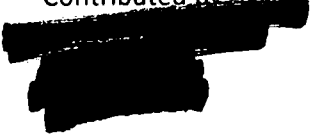
We know from experience that we can minimize storm damage by not building homes in low lying areas or fire damage by clearing brush out to a perimeter around a house. Home and auto insurers reduce risk of loss by giving us incentives to install smoke alarms and security systems and to use seat belts, auto theft deterrent devices and driver education for new drivers.

Unfortunately, health insurance just doesn't work the same. People are born into this world with conditions that cannot be avoided by diet and exercise. No couple asks to have a child with a birth defect that could result in a lifetime of sometimes expensive specialized care. Chronic disease management improves quality of life and ability to function for family and employer. It requires diet considerations, drug therapy, etc. Unfortunately, these things are not free, but cost should not prevent a person from living as productive and rewarding a life as possible. Cost should not put a person or family in poverty or prevent them from getting out, but that is the reality today. Drug companies put profit before patients without concern for those having to decide between their medication or a next meal. Industry executives get rich at the expense of patients and taxpayers. It's a drag on family and employer budgets and our economy as a whole. Medical debt is responsible for over 60% of the personal bankruptcies in the U.S. Of those, 75% of the filings were for people who had health insurance. So, does forcing a choice of insurance on us sound like the answer? No, universal coverage with choice of providers is the answer, not a short list of providers selected by an insurance company. Other countries have no such problems with medical bills; everyone is covered for most medical care. Everyone in the US should also be covered for any medically necessary care including dental, optical, hearing and mental health issues. Addiction should be treated as a disease, not a crime. That would reduce stress everywhere and improve our health and productivity. The GOP could keep their promise of repealing the ACA and the president could keep his promise to better, cheaper, care for all. But it will take looking at a plan that has been ignored for decades, HR 676. Passing it would save money AND cover everyone. Why shouldn't we want to do that?

I believe anyone who doesn't support a system that would cover everyone in our country for all necessary care just doesn't have the facts. They've listened to the negative talking points fabricated by opponents and members of Congress bought off with campaign contributions to maintain the status quo. Anyone making less than \$250,000 annually would save money. Additional taxes for universal coverage would amount to less than the sum of current insurance premiums, copays and deductibles. We would have more money in our pockets and be healthier knowing we could see a doctor anytime we need to without worrying about paying a bill for the visit or having cash or credit to get

past the receptionist. It works for every other developed nation. Single payer Medicare has worked in the U.S. for over 50 years minimizing poverty among those 65 years and over, the disabled and more with kidney disease. Improved Medicare for All would add additional coverage and expand it to all for less than we now pay. Isn't it time we stopped the disastrous, annually increasing flood of money from our pockets to the insurance and drug companies and lived longer healthier lives? You can check the facts unfound in the corporate media by visiting PNHP.org, healthcare-NOW.org, SPANOhio.org, HealthOverProfit.org, CampaignForGuaranteedHealthcare.org and others. All have contacts who can answer your questions or provide a speaker for meetings. It's all about money for the industry, not your health. Until you learn the truth, then support and demand the correction to national policy, the killing storm will rage on, taking people too soon from their families.

Contributed by

  
Mr. Davis has been an advocate with Single Payer Action Network – Ohio and a member of Physicians for a National Health Program since 2008. As a certified computing professional, HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All impressed him as being logical.

Bill Davis

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

This Legislation is Toxic. Every Professional Health Organization OPPOSES IT! It will Deprive the Most Vulnerable in our Country of Healthcare Coverage & Put MILLIONS at Risk. Rural Hospital Viability is Put at Risk as well. Anyone who has Suffered from a Medical Emergency knows how DEVASTATING it can be & without Insurance it can Harm the Entire Family for Generations while Wrecking their Lives.

It makes the MILLIONS in our Country with Pre Existing Conditions Second Class Citizens putting them in a Position where Basic Coverage for services Vital to Good Health are Denied & the Possibility of Having to Pay HIGHER RATES for less coverage. The AFFORDABLE CARE ACT is the key here, AFFORDABILITY is what People NEED & is REQUIRED. Access to Health Care means NOTHING if you can't Afford it. AFFORDABILITY is NOT what is Guaranteed here!

This Legislation is BAD for the Country & Should NOT be Enacted.

Thank You

Thomas A. Thomas  
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repeal of the ACA

To the Senate Finance Committee,

As a citizen and a healthcare professional with 30 years of experience, I ask you to reject the Cassidy/Graham bill to repeal and replace the ACA. After 8 years of obstruction and threats to repeal the ACA, the GOP has yet to put forth any serious fix to the flaws of the ACA, instead trying to pass tax cuts for the wealthy that will throw millions off of health insurance rolls, and leave the most vulnerable among us with the impossible task of trying to get healthcare without bankrupting themselves. The current bill is as hastily throw-together and dangerously unwise as the others before it. Drop this nonsense and work together across the aisle to fix the current ACA without removing its basic protections and provisions of care.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kate Kidder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:22 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

My favorite cousin is battling drug addiction. She was pressured by much older, predatory men to smoke crack for the first time when she was 12. Now in her 30s, she's getting the treatment and mental health care she needs through Medicaid.

My sister-in-law is battling breast cancer. As a young, otherwise healthy woman with no family history, her diagnosis in May came as a complete shock. She was able to maintain her coverage and her pre-cancer rates because of the ACA's pre-existing conditions protections.

My husband's struggle (shared with his sister and mother) is depression. He requires daily medication and regular therapy sessions to maintain his mental health. We are so grateful that current law ensures his treatment is covered.

For these very personal reasons and many more, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Katherine P. Kidder

Swarthmore, PA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marge Rosenthal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill Morally Reprehensible

Those who advocate for the systemic marginalization of any US Citizen to cut them off from affordable healthcare will be. certainly remembered the next time they run for re-election. The majority of organizations that represent doctors, healthcare workers and the majority of Americans (many who are GOP affiliated) are against Graham Cassidy Bill. Enough already with your overt hate and extreme measures to erase anything with Obama's name on it. Think of your constituents and of ALL American citizens.

I am a proud American patriot and I will do everything in my means to make sure those who vote for the bill will not win another election.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Claudia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The ACA

To the members of The Senate,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions, affordability, are a couple of important reasons why I have serious reservations.

Along with many Governors, all 50 State Medicaid directors, and too many medical groups to list, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!!

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

Claudia A Davis  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Secundra Beasley [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My healthcare story

My name is Secundra Beasley. I am a 53 year old mental health consumer from East Cleveland Ohio. Before the Affordable Health Care Act, I held down a government job in Washington, D.C. When my mother was struck with Alz disease, I moved back to my hometown of Cleveland Ohio. I ran out of mental health medication and did not know where to turn. My mother suggested I go to the Cleveland Free Clinic. They provided me with mental health services as well as physical health treatments. Since the AHCA has been passed, the Clinic now called Circle Health Services along with with a redirection on how money should be allocated by Gov. John Kasich, I am able to tap into a wider range of health services such as pulmonary rehabilitation (for my asthma) and pay under \$5.00 for all of my medications. Loosing AHCA will put me in the position I was in when I left my job in 2003. The stress of not knowing how to refill a prescription or have a mental health professional to talk to is scary. I would not wish it on anybody. If tweaks need to be made in AHCA, I am for reviewing and correcting. I am not in favor of dismantling a whole health care system because it will streamline services and or save money. Please keep AHCHA in tact.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this.  
Secundra Beasley

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

The cruelty of the Graham-Cassidy Bill (GCB) will be a death knell for an untold number of Americans. I find it disconcerting that the Republicans are more interested in passing anything that gets rid of "Obama" care rather than take the time to present a plan that will help all Americans. Also, their motivation to pass GCB is not based on concern for people, but by the love and greed for the Koch brothers money. Passing this horrendous bill will be a highway to hell for the USA.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alex Keller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The ACA saves lives - say NO to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My father has cancer. He has fought multiple myeloma for five years, through numerous rounds of chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, to death's door and back to health.

He has excellent insurance through his employer. But what if he lost his job and had to find private insurance? It's not all that outlandish a possibility - in 2008, he was lucky to keep his job as colleagues left and right were laid off. As a cancer patient, without the ACA (or under the Graham-Cassidy bill) he would almost certainly be uninsurable. His total treatment costs thus far have been well over half a million dollars. Even as a comfortably upper-middle class family, my parents could very well go bankrupt trying to afford his ongoing treatment. But thanks to the ACA, my family knows that he will always be able to find coverage. It's important to note that provisions of the ACA also affect private insurance: even on his employer-sponsored plan, my father still benefits from its protection.

We can't throw that away. Cancer aside, my family is quite fortunate. It's ridiculous that people in our position have legitimate worries about affording healthcare without the ACA to regulate the insurance market. How many millions of American families have fewer resources, are even more at risk of medical bankruptcy if they can't find good, affordable coverage?

This is a defining moral question of our generation, but it's also a financial one. A healthy population is more productive socially and economically. These protections keep workers like my father healthy so they can continue to work at their jobs, support our economy, support their families, and keep our country moving forward. Allowing insurance companies to take advantage of the system by only insuring healthy people makes the entire system worthless. It will make Americans less healthy, lead to untimely deaths, and rip apart the social and economic fabric of our country. The Graham-Cassidy bill would take us a huge step back. It would risk Making America Sick Again.

Please protect the ACA, for the sake of American families, for the sake of our economy, for the sake of our communities, for the sake of cancer patients like my father - and say NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,  
Alex Keller  
Charlottesville, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deb Sebesta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask you not to repeal the A.C.A. for something that could devastate my family. My daughter has a heart condition that she developed when she was pregnant with her two children. It's called S.V.T., or Supraventricular Tachycardia. Her heart rate has gone up as high as 250 beats per minute, just sitting with her kids, watching a relaxing movie on TV. She's had three ablations, the last one at Johns Hopkins University Hospital took over 8 hours. Nothing has fixed her condition, and she can't get another ablation because of the scar tissue that is in her heart now. Because of this, she needs to continue to see specialists and take medications. She is a full time special education teacher who specializes in Autism. If she lost her health insurance because of her pre-existing condition, she could die. That means we, her family, her children, and the kids she helps everyday as a special education teacher, would lose her.

I can't imagine people who would want to work for the betterment of the American people would throw my daughter, an American citizen who does so much good, away. Why would you allow this bill to even be on the table? I can't understand how people who claim to love America would hate Americans so much. I can't understand how it has gotten so much approval, except that you will make more money, throwing my daughter's life away. I hear from so many republicans that America is a nation built on Christian principles. Taking healthcare away from the sick and infirm is not, what I have read, Jesus told us to do. Please reconsider. Please, vote this down!  
Fix the A.C.A, don't repeal it!

Sincerely,  
Deborah Sebesta

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandi Everlove [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the Affordable Care Act!

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a breast cancer survivor and the wife of a family practice doctor. The Graham-Cassidy bill is unacceptable, unconscionable, and frankly un-American. Listen to virtually every health care organization and stop trying to repeal or replace the ACA; act like leaders and strengthen it!

Sincerely,  
Sandra Everlove

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** lynn dugga [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I urge the Senate to reject this hasty, punishing bill before you in favor of a bipartisan, sincere effort to make changes to existing legislation. Improve what is already benefiting millions of Americans; what has grown in popularity as those using it have first-hand knowledge of the ACA. Lives are being saved - you know that. Lives will be lost under Graham-Cassidy. You know that, too. Put the American people above partisan posturing.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Fowles, Heather [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy / Trumpcare

I'd like to register my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill that would drastically reduce funding for Medicare and allow states to opt out of the essential health benefits and protections for people with preexisting conditions found in the ACA.

This bill is clearly not a bill to improve the healthcare of Americans. Such a bill would expand coverage to those in Republican states that did not implement the ACA's Medicaid expansion. Such a bill would allow the government to negotiate for prescription drugs and lower their costs. Such a bill would contain provisions to stabilize the ACA's health insurance markets, and guarantee access, such as a public option. Graham Cassidy will not help fix problems with the ACA; instead, its funding cuts will deprive millions of access to care in order to fund tax cuts for millionaires.

Graham Cassidy is a shameful betrayal of Republican Senators' duty to serve their constituents.

Regards,  
Heather Fowles  
Arlington MA

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heather Friedman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I work in a pediatric cardiac ICU. Every single day I work to help newborns born with heart defects through no fault of their own or their parents. How can you allow states to determine whether their care will be covered? You would really deny a newborn the chance at a lifesaving surgery, and then again years later, when they need more care?

I would like very much to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not a blanket repeal for your own egos.

Thank you,

Heather Friedman  
Royal Oak, Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bill Blum [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 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 agree that the ACA has many flaws, but this is not the way to address them.

William Blum  
Springfield, Ohio

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margit Sage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have asthma, migraines, and fibromyalgia, and my husband left me last year. I have ACA coverage with subsidies for low income. Under this new bill, I would not be able to afford health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Margit Sage

Boise, ID

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mel Rohall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare is essential for life and work in this country

Dear Finance Committee Members,

In recent years I have had several emergency eye infections. With delayed or no treatment, these likely would have resulted in loss of vision. I was fortunate to have insurance and well trained physicians who treated me promptly and provided me with medications which resolved the infections. Without health care coverage and medication coverage, those infections would have taken my vision. I am most grateful for the care I was able to receive.

Without my vision, I would require significant training and assistance for living and work. In addition to healthcare being important for life, it is economically advantageous. Those appointments and eye drops were much less expensive than dealing with sudden vision loss and the cost of adapting for my job.

We are a stronger and more productive society with healthcare for everyone. Having coverage over the essentials, medications, and medicaid, is not just fair, it is wise for our productivity. The Graham-Cassidy bill puts those aspects into jeopardy and is not a bill that is in the best interest of the country.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Rohall

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joanne Silvagni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony- Graham-Cassidy Hearing

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

I, Joanne Silvagni, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... that I have had Breast Cancer and also require medication that is non narcotic that assists with controlling the pain in my spine that is from bulging disc and fibromyalgia. I do not want to lose my ability to pay for my Doctors or my meds. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** shawn ackerman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

Good Morning- if you vote for this, it is clear that you've forgotten your responsibility to the people who elected you. If the President's bullying has you nervous you should be. A person in his position should not behave that way towards you or the people. Send him a message that his hatred of President Obama will not force you to behave in a manner unbecoming of someone in your position. We were once a respected country because of the strength in our leadership and commitment to our ideals and our people. Now, in seven short months our President has made our country one to be watched but not to be admired.

Vote no. Someday the life of someone you love may depend on it.

Respectfully,

Shawn Ackerman  
Minnesota

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I want bipartisan legislation that will give all Americans affordable health insurance and keep the positive aspects of the ACA such as preventative care and coverage of pre-existing conditions. A single payer system would eliminate about 30 percent of costs now spent on administrative fees. Early retirees should have access to affordable health insurance.

Cathy McGrath



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:**

**Sent:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:04 AM

Email from Joshua F. Edmond: Home

Hello Dear,

I am Joshua F. Edmond, a financial consultant and friend to a foreigner who died in Dec 26, 2011 that shared same surname with you. I am contacting you to assist retrieve his huge amount that he reserved in bank prior to his death. Would you be interested to partake in the deal? I will be pleased to advise more on the next step to take upon your willingness to assist.

Kind regards

Joshua F. Edmond

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:34 AM  
**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]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Genevieve [REDACTED] n>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** 9/25 Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill, which would put coverage for mental health at risk.

In my home state of Connecticut, it is already difficult for people who have private health insurance to access mental healthcare, given a shortage of providers in general and especially of those who accept insurance. Treatment of mental illness and addiction can be a huge financial burden. Losing coverage could be catastrophic for many of society's most vulnerable members.

Any healthcare reform bill needs to ensure that mental health coverage cannot be denied.

Sincerely,  
Genevieve Eason

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Donna Schmidt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I am urging, actually no, demanding you vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill. This bill is cruel and will cause 32 million people to lose their health insurance, and force millions more to face financial ruin. I urge you instead pass a bipartisan bill such as the one the HELP committee was working on. People with pre-existing conditions, the elderly, the disabled, and children will be devastated by this bill. Again, you must not pass this cruel and immoral bill. Our lives depend on it.

Thank-you,  
Donna Schmidt  
Jackson, NJ

[REDACTED]  
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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Graham Cassidy save ACA

Do the right thing! Save the ACA!  
Defeat Graham /Cassidy!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that my partner is a cancer survivor. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Laura

Wilmington, DE

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:30 AM  
**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.

Ms. Amber Klein  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** oppose GC bill

I support all efforts to provide healthcare for all in the US, preferably through a single payer model like those in other industrialized nations around the world. Health care is a right that should not even be up for debate. A country as wealthy and as great as ours should be able to provide healthcare to all of its people.

Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Kind regards,  
Karen Ercolino  
Macungie, PA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Medicaid

Please conserve Medicaid, especially for those with disabilities.

The purpose of government in a humane society is to care for its people, to allow them to live as fully as they can, not to divert more wealth to the already wealthy.

Thank you,  
Julie Wiatt, Takoma Park, MD

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Autumn Beardsley <autumnbeardsley@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health bill

To whom it may concern:

I have my doubts that my actual lone voice will be read and heard for this vote, but here goes.

I am on ssdi, but before that, they put me on SSI so I didn't have to wait for months for approval. I was 450lbs, diabetic, had high cholesterol, and I was untreated bipolar. Oh, and I am a single mom of two autistic kids.

The Medicaid that came with SSI literally saved my life. I had weight loss surgery, lost 170lbs, went off diabetic medications and cholesterol medications. My mood had been stabilized and I was in a good place for the first time in nearly a decade. Medicaid did that for me.

But, Medicaid also helps my children.

As I said, I have two autistic children. One of my children is more profound. He is non verbal and still wears diapers to this day despite being 6'4" and 260.

It took awhile with Medicaid, but he was approved for a aac device, or speech device, to help him communicate for the first time. When he finally received his device, the first thing he said is that his throat hurts. We looked, and for the first time I saw he had huge tonsils. The surgeon didn't want to work on him at first due to his high risk, but she eventually did and his behavior, once deemed to be behavioral and needing medication, calmed down dramatically.

I STRONGLY ASK THAT YOU VOTE NO FOR THIS BILL! Having block grants will force Medicaid to deny children like Cole the ability to communicate if devices are not a priority. Also my WLS would be also cut which would further endanger my life and die a much earlier death, leaving my kids to the state which would cost well more than my surgery as well as having meds and access to a psychiatrist to help with my bipolar disorder.

Thank you very much,

Autumn Beardsley  
Jacksonville,  
FL

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:22 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Hello,

Please keep the affordable care at and expand it.

My husband is the breadwinner and an amazing contributor to society. He also has pre-existing conditions. Serve our country based on love. I know it is hard to have empathy unless you are in the shoes of someone else. I don't wish that on you, but you need to evolve.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] VA

[REDACTED] Harris

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Skin Cancer

It could have been a whole lot worse. The skin cancer on my nose was not that obvious. Had I not had ACA, I would not have been able to afford a dermatologist visit. I would have put it off for a long time. Then the procedure would have taken more tissue, it may have spread.

I could have ended up going bankrupt to pay my bills, like I have seen a family member die because of hospital bills. Like so many, I've worked hard, all my life, to help support myself and my family. Illness should not destroy a family's entire financial world.

But my premium of \$131.61 a month thru Anthem in Virginia is totally reasonable. Please get to work in a bipartisan way to make the changes necessary to ACA. It's not perfect; any new large program is going to have problems and nobody should have expected otherwise. But to use peoples health and very lives to shove through another disastrous Trumpcare plan for political purposes is shameful.

Thank you for your time.--Jill Wickham Roanoke, Va

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED], September 24, 2017 6:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

It's time for a Medicare for all Single Payer system.

Karen Evans

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

September 25, 2017

[REDACTED] e  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Building  
[REDACTED], DC 205110  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ms, Inc.  
[REDACTED] Avenue  
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block containing several lines of blacked-out text and the letters H, G, and P.]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; Rose Barg  
**Subject:** RE: ACA / Obamacare

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

From: Rose Barg

Federal Way, WA 98023

I strongly oppose repealing the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would steal away health care from more than 20 million Americans and put it into the hands of special interests. Repealing the Affordable Care Act would also balloon the deficit and drive up health care costs for working families and taxpayers.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, more than 750,000 Washingtonians are newly insured; 50,000 young adults can stay on their parents' plans; Washington's uninsured rate has been slashed by 60 percent; and uncompensated care costs in hospitals have been cut in half. Nationally, the uninsured rate for adults and children is at its lowest level in history. Before the Affordable Care Act, people who bought health insurance directly from insurance companies could be denied a policy or charged more if they had a pre-existing condition such as cancer, diabetes, or depression. Now, those individuals are guaranteed a set of essential benefits, face no lifetime coverage caps, and can get preventive care like flu shots and contraception without cost-sharing.

We need to make the health care delivery system work better for the American people, deliver better outcomes, and lower costs. The Affordable Care Act's reforms, have begun to do just that. Through innovations like medical homes, "rebalancing" programs, and accountable care organizations, the Affordable Care Act is encouraging doctors and hospitals to help patients stay healthy and manage chronic illness, designing the health care system around the patient – not the other way around. Since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, national health care cost growth has slowed, and Medicare and the American taxpayer have saved billions of dollars as a result. In fact, repealing the Affordable Care Act would increase the deficit by \$350 billion over the next decade, according to multiple independent studies.

Despite our progress, health care remains out of reach and unaffordable for too many, particularly for the seven percent of Americans who buy health insurance on the individual market.

It is very important to me that we do not repeal the Affordable Care Act, especially without any idea with how to replace it.

#KillThe Bill - Graham/Cassidy

Sincerely,

Rose Barg



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Truly, this bill is an insult to all Americans! As drafted, it will hurt, rather than help, millions of people. How low have republicans in congress sunk, to think this is okay?

Listen to the majority of people and fix the ACA or give us universal healthcare.

Stop placing big money donors ahead of your constituents.

Susan Ramie  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please keep ACA and work to improve it!

>  
> I am opposed to Graham-Cassidy because it hasn't been cost indexed and looks as though it will cost millions of Americans their health coverage. Please keep the ACA instead, and work to improve it. Thank you!  
>  
> - Ela McAdams  
>  
> From Ela's iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@q.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Personal testimony for Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill hearing

To the Senate Finance Committee, greetings!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill. My husband is a type 2 diabetic. The current provision of the Affordable Care Act which stipulates that nationwide, a person with a preexisting condition cannot be charged more for insurance is essential to his ongoing treatment and quality of life. My brother, who is a carpenter working for a three-person company and thus has no employer-provided health insurance, has a preexisting condition where he needs knee replacement surgery. He relies on the Affordable Care Act and buys insurance on a state exchange. People who need ongoing medical care are not wrong or evil. Neither of the people I testify about is obese, sedentary, a smoker, or has in a lifestyle that exacerbates their health challenges. My brother works every day to support his family. I want a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Melinda Jodry

Seattle, WA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gail Hermosillo [mailto:gailhermosillo@congress.gov]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Lou & Gail Cesa  
**Subject:** My concerns re., proposed health care bill

>  
> To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:  
>  
> I am writing in concern of what is happening in our country in an effort to make Donald Trump and many GOP congressmen fulfill a political campaign promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.  
>  
> It is absolutely insane to push through a bill that the President and  
> many Republican lawmakers probably have not even read in its entirety,  
> that has not been reviewed by the Congressional Budget Office, and has the potential to hurt millions of people in our country including but not limited to babies born with health impairments, people who have/had cancer, people with heart conditions, adults and children with diabetes, women who are pregnant, the elderly in nursing homes that have spent the remainder of their life savings and now rely on Medicaid for continued health care, people with multiple sclerosis, people with Parkinson's, and people with mental health issues, just to name a few.  
>  
> It is insane that our congressmen would vote for such a poor bill because their money endowed supporters have threatened to cut off political contributions unless Congress starts passing bills.  
>  
> It is insane to pass a bill that does not provide definitions of "affordable". What is affordable for President Trump to spend on a dinner for himself may be the same as what someone else deems as affordable for providing for a family of five for a month.  
>  
> It is insane to pass a bill that does not define  
> "adequate". (Secretary Price doesn't think traveling on public planes is "adequate" whereas I do.) Or if you get a deep gash on your head and your mom puts a bandage on it instead of taking you for stitches and a medical examination, the wound will eventually heal. But, you probably will end up with a big, ugly scar that everyone will stare at the rest of your life. Or, if only a bandaid is applied, a concussion may not be diagnosed and you may end up with minimal brain dysfunction. So, what is viewed as adequate by Mom, may not be viewed as adequate by those who know what can happen if a different approach to wound care is not used. Who would you rather see for a cancer diagnosis--a general practitioner or an oncologist? Where would you rather go for your breast/prostate cancer treatment--a community hospital not affiliated with a major cancer treatment facility or the Mayo Clinic? Adequate? Who would get to determine that without a bill that provides definitions and guidelines?  
>  
> I could go on and on with reasons as to why passage of the Graham-Cassidy bill would be insane. But, I think you get the drift. I salute John McCain to keep to his convictions of doing what is best for Americans not what is best for a re-election campaign. I hope others follow his lead.

> Sincerely,  
>  
>  
>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 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.

Kelly Crosby  
Edwardsville, Illinois

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**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.

cc Senator Warren (E [REDACTED] and Senator Ma [REDACTED])

I am the parent of an adult diagnosed with autism. He works 2 days per week processing shoes at Marshall's and attends the ARC other days. He has money he spends, which helps the economy. He also has a seizure disorder, and his monthly medications are over \$2000. He had one drop seizure, at the Commuter Rail Station, with a head wound and ambulance ride. I am currently working, but paying for his medication would be a huge problem. When I retire in 2 years, it would be impossible.

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy. Many children and adults with disabilities depend on Medicaid to pay their medical expenses. And as a special education teacher of young children, I also know that many families depend on Medicaid to help pay for their children's educational service outside of school: ABA, speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Medicaid is essential to people's lives. Stop Graham Cassidy!

Anita Labrecque, parent and Early Childhood Special Needs teacher

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposing Graham/Cassidy/Heller bill

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, like my husband who has MS. He's on Medicaid, but if he loses that, we couldn't afford his medications, the ones that keep him from being bedridden or even dying.

Sincerely,  
Rachel McGonagill  
Corvallis, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Just say NO

Stop the nonsense. Respectfully, stop creating repealing, defunding attempting at the ACA.

Just say NO to the Graham Cassidy bill.

David H Ford

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:10 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.

Andrea Gallo  
Drexel Hill, PA

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Members of my family depend on Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion for medical care and drug/mental health treatment. Without access to this medical care, they are not likely to survive. The lack of concern shown for those with medical problems by Republicans is simply shocking. You may be sure I will remember who votes for Graham-Cassidy bill on Election Day!

Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act unless and until you are ready to put in place a single-payer medical insurance system.

Patricia Taylor  
[REDACTED]

Patricia Taylor  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. I am a teacher, and my husband is a nurse. We are fortunate to have insurance through my school. We live in Oregon. Many of our friends purchased insurance through the ACA. If Graham-Cassidy passes, Oregon will lose millions of dollars in funding because of all the people on the plan.

We need a fair, bipartisan, healthcare plan for ALL Americans. The United States is a First World nation, yet our citizens don't have proper healthcare. We rely on you to represent the needs of ALL Americans, instead of the 1%.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Berry  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal

To Whom It May Concern:

Please stop this bill from reaching the floor for a vote.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not scored the bill.

Lisa Murkowski is being bribed for a "yes" vote. I read other senators are being bribed as well for a "yes" vote.

Doesn't bribing violate ethic clauses? Shouldn't the Parliament strike out any bribe deals as unconstitutional, since it rewards some senators' state while hurting others.

The Graham Bill hurts people with disabilities and Veterans as well.

Please stop this bill that hurts many innocent people.

Sincerely,

Eric Nelson

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** affordable healthcare

I am an American citizen living abroad in Denmark. We have single payer /state healthcare here. Guess what? It works, and it works beautifully. When I was pregnant with my daughter all of my prenatal care was covered. She was born by Caesarian because she was turned the wrong way. That was paid for too. All of her health check ups as a baby were covered, and as a child. She is now a teenager, and guess what, she is still covered. So am I.

The only thing I have to worry about is that my elderly parents back in the States will not be covered under this latest bill. Nor would I be if I moved back to the States because I have two preexisting conditions. 1) I am a woman and 2) I have allergies /asthma.

Sure I have to pay higher taxes here, but at the end of the day when I compare how much disposable income I have with how much my brother in the States who earns the same as I do has I come out ahead.

Sincerely,

Robin Lorsch Wildfang

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

Gloria Gettys

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't DELETE Obamacare

This bill is the cruelest you could possibly put forth, I do not understand your refusal to work across the aisle and spend TIME IMPROVING upon the ACA.

This is not about a health bill that will be an improvement for everyone. It is about supporting the ego of a fragile man who hates all that President Obama accomplished. This bill, like most of the legislation or Executive Orders our new president has "accomplished" is only going against most of the people who supported him. It is clear that Donald J Trump has not read this Health Bill Proposal. He SAYS he is a Christian. I will take the tack of the Ambassador from China who resigned... a " real Christian" who actually cares about others and our world. WHERE are all of you ???

I am 72 years old, retired with multiple pre-existing issues. I came from the Airline Industry. A great number of people who spent decades in the air, now have, or have had cancers of the filtering systems and more. Not only my profession, but most Americans who have spent a lifetime working for the wonderful improvements we all have seen in our health benefits. I find it increasingly appalling that Senators and Congresspeople openly are concerned about being RE-elected, vs what is the honorable approach to governing.

I am asking all of you to do the RIGHT thing, start over, work with all members of the Senate and House of Representatives to form a bill that works for everyone. I have many suggestions, if you need help !

Thank You

Kay L. Christianson  
Lakewood, Colorado

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator, noreply (Merkley); Congressman Peter DeFazio  
**Subject:** Public comment: Graham-Cassidy bill

My daughter has had Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis since she was 10 in 1986. She is now 41 and many of her joints have fused.

Both knees became bone on bone and had to be replaced. Due to an internal bacterial attack on her right knee replacement, she had to have the ball removed and do six weeks of antibiotics through a PIC line, twice a day, that I had to administer. Thanks to a caring & supportive employer in 2010, I was able to work from home during the morning treatments. Then, at the 3 month mark, the old knee replacement was chipped out, a larger hole bored for a larger replacement.

In 2014, I had to quit work 3 years before my planned retirement, in order to care for my daughter nearly full-time. I had no Social Security yet. I had savings to last a while & a 401K which was for much later. Fortunately, in Oregon, the Department of Human Services pays relatives to care for patients. The hours were part-time, but at least it kept my head above water.

Two weeks ago, her right hip was replaced. It was bone on bone and the pain, over & above her chronic pain, could not be tolerated. I am caring for her 24/7, still being paid part-time, but with a few more hours, and with home-health help. PT, OT, a nurse and help with getting my daughter up & down from bed have been a godsend. I am grateful.

Her immunosuppressant caused severe psoriasis. That is just one of many other challenges.

Her primary care doctor is in Eugene, OR (local), but because of her unique needs, her surgeon, her rheumatologist and her psoriatic dermatologist are all at OHSU in Portland, OR, which currently requires using transport because she can't get in & out of a car.

I tell you all this because she has Medicaid (and I am paid as a caregiver by the state as well). This healthcare bill will reduce or eliminate my hours. The block grant money from this bill won't put a dent in what it costs to care for my daughter.

I think that sometimes people at the Capitol forget how the middle class lives. I always contributed to my 401K, saved frugally & had good jobs. My plan was to retire at 67. My plans needed to change.

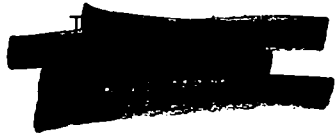
My daughter could no longer work when she was in her mid-20's. She never had a chance to build up a retirement savings or live a "normal" life. She moved back home with me. Her plans changed.

We are average Americans, trying to live responsibly. I don't go out to eat more than once a month. We don't go to the movies. My car is a 2003 Toyota Corolla.

Those of you in Congress who take money from lobbyists or for speeches, and make more on the side than your salary, do not live in the real world. You are not representing your constituents; you are representing your donors. Live a day in your constituents' shoes.



Do not turn your backs on Americans in need. It is time to fix the bugs in the ACA or look at healthcare for all. It works for all other first world countries.



Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Christopher L. Patrick  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:58 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.

Christopher L. Patrick  
Stockton, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:01 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 Soule  
Mount Airy, NC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:08 AM  
**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] Rd  
[REDACTED]  
5

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record re: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am deeply troubled by and opposed to the proposed Graham-Cassidy "healthcare" bill. Legislation that impacts such a large portion of our nation's economy -- and millions of people's lives -- should not be put to a vote in such an extremely rushed manner. We need a CBO score, we need to listen to our leading health organizations, we need a debate on the Senate floor, we need expert testimony, we need input from the public.

The partisan manner in which business is being conducted in the Senate is embarrassing and immoral. I ask that the Senate please return to regular order and that Senators from both sides of the aisle work together to improve upon the Affordable Care Act. Although not perfect, the ACA has been of help to me and a lifeline to a lot of folks I know. Please stop obstructing the ACA and, instead, work together to improve it. And, stop trying to "hide" the ACA open enrollment period. If you won't publicize it, we the people will.

Ultimately, I am for Medicare For All. We can afford it. You know we can. If you don't support it, look yourself in the mirror when you are home alone at night and ask yourself what is really going on in your troubled soul. .

Sincerely,

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Ohio healthcare

Dear sir,

As an Ohio when who is currently on Worker's Compensation, I truly hope you vote against this bill today. Even when I was able to regularly work, I work as a chef and could not bring home more than \$1500 a month, and that didn't include trying to pay for the one party healthcare system we have in Ohio. I am LGBTQ, and don't have children, or plan on it, so the current state system we have Does me more harm than good.

Please consider people like me, and my elderly parents who are trying to deal with cancer and diabetes on a fixed income, along with their extremely heavy medical bills.

We can give you a handshake and a hug for repayment of you vote "no", but that's all we can offer at the moment, as we're all strapped due to medical bills.

Thank you for taking time to read this.

Regards, and best of luck.

Ashleigh Caine

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:18 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.

Amanda Villalba  
Whittier, California

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

If Congress enacts the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill, 32 million people will lose their health coverage. Moreover, you will destroy Medicaid – thereby doing grievous harm to seniors and people with disabilities.

ALL professional organizations in the healthcare field (including the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Hospital Association, American Heart Association, and dozens more), as well as the vast majority of Americans, are opposed to this legislation. Whose interests do you represent – those of the ordinary Americans who have no choice other than to rely on you, or those of your wealthy financial backers like the Kochs and the Mercers? I expect we'll have a conclusive answer to that question in a matter of days.

I urge you to **reject** Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill being developed by the Senate HELP Committee.

Linda L. Whitener  
Charlotte, NC



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill should be rejected

Graham Cassidy bill should be rejected!!!

Justin dibella  
Indianapolis Indiana

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Hi there,

My family relies the high quality and affordable healthcare that we're able to get now. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill that would prevent widespread access to good care without limitations. Please do not let this bill pass.

Thank you,  
Simon Beins  
Haleiwa, HI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:**

[REDACTED]

**Sent:**

Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:24 AM

**To:**

gchcomments

**Subject:**

JUST STOP

The majority of citizens of the USA are sick to death of your pandering for money. We are sick to death of you only focusing on your own ambitions rather than the needs of the people!!! I would invite you to take just a moment to ask yourself, "who is my master?" If you are truthful, you should resign in shame.

Jeanie

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comments on Graham - Cassidy bill

Greetings

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

We have a history of mental illness which may be an issue.

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

I would also like to see the esteemed public servants who have such cush health benefits by serving in the Senate forgo these lush benefits and be more like everyman.

Thank you

C. Theriot  
Ann Arbor, MI

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** fixing health insurance

I found myself on the front lines of the health insurance mess many years ago when I worked as a phone rep for Blue Cross Blue Shield, right down Constitution Avenue from the Capitol. My job was to tell people who called with problems why their claims were denied, and often it was for pre-existing condition exclusions.

This was not not easy or fun. Most folks had a hard time processing that the insurance they had been dutifully paying on for years would not cover their ailment because of this provision that was clearly included to limit the payments that BCBS would have to make.

In their moment of need, they were let down. I felt terrible having to break this news to them. Growing up as a military dependent, I was used to a form of "socialized medicine" where all medical conditions were addressed with no distinction like this pre-existing concept, which was clearly a creation of the insurance industry. I struggled with the hypocrisy of the insurer as a health care partner, when I saw its refusal to help again and again, couched in a bureaucratic convenience.

Forgive my rambling, but my message is that we must try to make our healthcare system help those who are ill rather than allowing it to operate in the hypocritical business style that has evolved in the US.

Please make sure that this coverage goal remains integral to all efforts to modify the ACA or its implementation.

Thank you.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing September 25, 2017

I was diagnosed with SLE (Lupus) almost 25 years ago and was unable to get health insurance after that except for the few times I worked for an agency. My health worsened because I couldn't take care of myself as needed and had to retire early because I was too sick to work. There was to be no travel or enjoyment of retirement as I has planned. Even with Medicare, I cannot get extra coverage because of pre-existing conditions. So all of my spending money goes to co-pays for doctors and hospitals instead of enjoying life. No one can know how devastating not being able to get insurance can be unless you've lived through it. It causes problems that carry throughout a person's life. Even someone who is young and healthy can be suddenly diagnosed with a pre-existing condition that can destroy quality of life. Please don't allow the selfish people who wrote and support this bill to destroy lives. Thank you for your consideration. [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Graham-Cassidy

Healthcare is a human right.

The public is acutely aware that your whole skeezy effort to deny proper healthcare is about campaign money and bribery.

Stop this evil practice and govern properly, or we will find people better suited for the job.

Sincerely,

Køri Elling

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

NO. Just please vote NO! Consider carefully the impacts of this bill before voting. Please use your weekend time to actually read it and see the deleterious effects of this gut wrenching bill!

We so need unity right now, and we especially need a health program that will HELP us NOT hurt millions of Americans.

You want us healthy enough to pay your salaries, don't you??

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 4:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Rhonda Allums  
**Subject:** NO TO GRAHAM CASSIDY

I am a senior citizen. Right now I have healthcare and I'm not yet poor, but that could easily change. Like anyone my age, I have pre-existing conditions. My fear is that, because I am on fixed, limited income, I will find myself in an unfavorable position because of Graham Cassidy.

BUT, I currently DO know people, have family and friends that are very vulnerable. They are poor. They are on Medicare. They can't afford health coverage. They have pre-existing conditions. RIGHT NOW!

Do NOT screw our most vulnerable, helpless Americans! Our government is supposed to take care of its people. DO NOT take away the health benefits that many Americans already have. DO NOT complicate these benefits that work! DO NOT cause the cost of healthcare, that is already working, to sky rocket! Already, with Obama Care, so many people can't afford the outrageous premiums, deductibles and cost of service. THAT is what needs to be fixed.

There are elements of Obama care that must be kept and maintained. NO penalties for pre-existing conditions. Keep covered annual physicals. Keep coverage for college students on their parent's policies. Although I believe there are those that take advantage of Medicare, it must be supported and maintained.

DO NOT SCREW AMERICANS! Slow down the rush to repeal. You have to fix what's broken. Don't break the system completely and don't put crazy, unachievable mandates on the states.

You people don't have to worry about being poor or without healthcare coverage. Your job is FOR THE PEOPLE! Don't forget who put you there! Trump ALSO needs to remember WHO put him there. NOW, DO NOT VOTE FOR GRAHAM CASSIDY! FIX our healthcare system. Trump has 3 1/2 years to make it work.

Concerned American,  
Rhonda

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** no on Graham Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Connor

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fordalumni.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why I say NO on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Please vote NO on the new Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. It is a travesty and will hurt America's babies, children, elderly and frankly, everyone in between, especially those with pre-existing conditions. It guts healthcare from them – and that means me.

I have fibroids.

Did you know that the NIH reports that **between 80% and 90% of African American women and 70% of white women will develop fibroids by age 50? Well, I have them, and they counted as a pre-existing condition for me even though they never flared up and I'm fine.** But they count as a pre-existing condition, and made it hard for me to get health care coverage when I was between jobs, until Obamacare was enacted and I got it.

Graham Cassidy basically ends Medicaid.

It eliminates ACA health coverage funding.

There have been no hearings

Basically it is a disaster and I hope you will vote NO on the new Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill.

Besides, all these groups oppose Graham-Cassidy:

Besides all the Medicaid directors, every major health group opposes it too. Here's a list:

American Medical Association

American Academy of Pediatrics

AARP

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Planned Parenthood

Kaiser Permanente

America's Health Insurance Plans

American Heart Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

HIV Medicine Association

The Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement

American Cancer Society

and 16 other patient and provider groups.

Sincerely,

Peggy Lee Scott

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no

I would like to live in a country of people who go to the doctor when they need to. If you are smart, so do you. Please vote no on this bill or any other one that hinders that goal.

We all interact with many people every day. Do you want your waiter or the person who runs a cash register for a living to be unable to go to the doctor when sick? Do you want your children to go to school with children who can't go to the doctor when sick? Of course not. Only an idiot would want that. So please quit trying to make that happen. Vote no.

Bonnie Lyle

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Repeal and Replace" will kill me and many like m,e

Finance Committee,

There are many Americans, more than 100,000 who are dependent on daily or nearly-daily medical care to stay alive. We have been almost completely ignored in any discussions about health insurance reform. ACA "Repeal and Replace" places our lives in immediate danger.

Many of these people are children with cancer and/or rare and complex diseases. I miss those days when it was considered "bad form" to throw kids with cancer under the bus, so that some obscenely rich people can become slightly more obscenely rich. I am one of the adults in this position. If any of us were to lose coverage, even for a short time, or if there is confusion and we lose access to our medical care even temporarily, many of us would not live more than a few days or weeks.

The treatments that we receive are usually far too expensive for almost all families to pay OOP, including frequent and long hospital stays, surgeries, and medicines and treatments that often cost \$5K to \$25K per month are some of the issues.

Many of us require various forms of life support, such as mechanical ventilation, tube-feeding, or IV nutrition called TPN. I am completely TPN dependent and cannot eat at all so would not live long without this treatment.

So here is what I ask- clearly appealing to the compassion of people in power to not place us in dangerous and life-threatening positions doesn't work. If this bill passes, the least that you can do is add an amendment that allows for Death with Dignity so that we don't have to suffer needlessly when we die from lack of care. This is not hyperbole. These will not be easy deaths- we will die in pain and fear, especially the kids, so please, if you can't find it in your hearts to value our lives, please at least let us die in peace.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sari Stein <info@actforamerica.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** WE MUST Protect our healthcare. Nuke Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

IT IS BEYOND DEPLORABLE THIS SHAM OF A SO-CALLED TRUMPCARE THAT CARES FOR PROFITEERING CORPORATIONS - NOT ITS CITIZENRY AND OUR DEMOCRACY. IT WOULD BE A DESPICABLE TRAVESTY FOR AMERICANS. THIS HEINOUS ATTEMPT TO IRREVOCABLY HARM THE HEALTH OF OUR NATION MUST BE STOPPED ONCE AND FOR ALL.

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.

Sari Stein

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!!!

Dear Senate Finance Committee -

My family and friends rely on dependable, affordable, quality healthcare!!! Please don't let us down...don't ignore us! I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and would hope to see bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it!!! Do what is truly in the best interest of all Americans; just checking off a campaign promise that is going to hurt the majority of people is completely WRONG!!!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy

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.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] @THE-CON  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:19 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.

Bev Vincent  
The Woodlands, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne-Louise Marquis  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Every citizen should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill because it will erode what little access many people have, and has implications for all coverage, not just for coverage provided through Medicaid or the ACA. A brother and a good friend of mine both rely on the ACA to purchase health insurance. Each has a pre-existing condition. They are both college educated adults who have worked their entire lives and pay taxes, but work in industries (retail and film production) where such work can be intermittent, and employer coverage is not available. Graham-Cassidy will destabilize the markets through which they obtain coverage, and may create changes in the coverage that will mean they no longer qualify.

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

Sincerely,  
Anne-Louise Marquis  
Arlington, Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA support

As an occupational therapist my clients rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. After a stroke or brain injury my clients often can not return to work on a full time basis. The ACA allows these citizens to continue to receive quality affordable healthcare they would not otherwise afford without the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Zera, OTR/L

Chicago, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy

Do NOT pass Graham-Cassidy out of committee, or in the Senate. A NO vote is essential for the well-being of my son and millions of others. My son is on an ACA plan, since his job does not provide healthcare benefits. This insurance is very affordable for him. Without the ACA subsidies, he will not be able to afford insurance. His pre-existing condition would be untreatable, even if our state does not eliminate that benefit.

My son is not alone in this predicament. Even otherwise healthy young people can and do get involved in accidents or acquire disease. Affordable health insurance is essential. This bill does not provide it. Vote NO.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:21 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.

Haskell Weinberger  
Denver, Colorado

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please keep the ACA

I have two sons and a daughter in law who are MD's . As a recently retired nurse I know how important the affordable healthcare act is. My sons and daughter in law who are all physicians and I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And we all vote. Sincerely, Beverly J Plowgian  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:22 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. As a pediatric nurse, I fear for the children I care for who would have hit their lifetime caps at birth and who will have pre-existing conditions all their lives. As the mother of a brain cancer survivor, I am terrified of what would happen to my daughter if she lost the services she receives through Medicaid.

Carri Featheringill  
Louisville, KY

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Repeal! Just Fix ACA!

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. But not only us- all Americans have finally started receiving healthcare for themselves and their families under ACA. ACA is not perfect. I would like to see a BIPARTISAN Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Laura Templeton

Abilene Texas

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

I find it unconscionable that you would consider supporting Graham-Cassidy-Heller, a bill which would so viciously erode the health care of our most vulnerable. I am neither senior nor disabled, but nevertheless benefit from the security of knowing Medicaid is there for my loved ones in time of need.

Healthcare is not a luxury or an "entitlement," but an earned benefit and a human right. Instead of cutting coverage, you should be looking to expand it to everyone with Medicare for All.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Totally-irresponsible bill

Graham-Cassidy, if signed into law will have myself, my disabled wife and my college-aged daughter, all homeless within a year, all incapable of making any contribution to society. With my conditions, I've still been able to work, thanks to the federal government "interfering" with the monetization of healthcare. For a party that rejects a lot of science, these days, this is some serious Social Darwinism on the table!



[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 AM  
**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. While I have quality healthcare plan through my job, this bill will dramatically affect it. I am currently pregnant, and if the Graham-Cassidy bill were to be introduced, the cost of pregnancy could go up so much I would not be able to afford to bring this child from my body. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There are issues with the ACA. But if we could work together to fix those issues, we could all have access to quality, affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,

Jenn Jarvis

Tarrytown, NY

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Submission of comment on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Graham-Cassidy Hearing Members,

When my daughter first returned home to Minnesota two years ago from working for AmeriCorps in Seattle, she initially had no job. It was Medicaid that provided for her until she found work. Despite two jobs making the equivalent of full-time work, neither provided health care benefits. But, at least she could then afford ACA. Without the option of both Medicaid and then the ACA, health care would have been only a dream. There were options accessible, but not affordable.

Currently, my daughter is a graduate student who continues to rely on the ACA in Minnesota for her health care. She will soon be a valuable contributing member of the teaching profession. But right now, she has a need for an **affordable** healthcare option. Thus, for her and people in similar situations, I **oppose** the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Is the ACA perfect? Definitely not! But to change it as outlined in this bill would make it effectively useless. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to ***improve the ACA, not repeal it.***

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save Obamacare

**Dear Sirs:**

**Members of my family were saved from bankruptcy by Obamacare. They would not get the same protection from this horrible Republican effort to repeal that law. SAVE OBAMACARE**

**Jim Keyser**

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** input on Graham-Cassidy

Senators- I urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill. Healthcare is too important an issue and deserves, demands even, a thoughtful, bipartisan process. There is so much more that can be should be done and in the process we need to know how much it will cost, how it will (affect) insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it. Providing good healthcare to many is vital to our wellbeing as a country. I work with so many people who have been helped by ACA. Please take time to work together and come up with a well-thoughtout plan.

Ellen Adams  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Save Affordable Health Care

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have preexisting conditions and need to be able to maintain affordable healthcare for myself and my family.

I help others on a daily basis, but can only continue if my own health is maintained. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Jan Baird-Adams

Mount Rainier, MD

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health

of our citizens is a most valuable asset. I strongly believe we will best be served by defeat of Republican plans to repeal health care. Profit by drug companies, medical practice groups, hospitals, clinics and insurance companies cannot continue to be the motivating factor in legislation. Single payor system with health of citizens as motivation protects our future.

Paula Becker

Sent from my iPad



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Corinne Kunkel <kunkelc@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:51 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.

Corinne Kunkel  
Lorton, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am a healthy & employed 60 year old single woman. This bill would financially penalize & discriminate against me due to my age & limit my ability to afford healthcare. An accident or illness could result in losing my home.

Currently, I have coverage under the ACA (not Medicaid) which, while protecting me from financial hardship, also allows me to be part of a larger pool, reducing my premiums.

Yes, the ACA needs work--so do it! Make a true bipartisan effort to fix it. Leave Politics out of the Healthcare debate. This is the mandate of a large majority of Americans & it is your responsibility to respond accordingly.

Respectfully,  
Brenna Souza

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

*Members of the Senate Finance Committee,*

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

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

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

*Sincerely,  
Steven E. Gelda M.D.*

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Health Care - Graham Cassidy

I truly hope Graham Cassidy is not approved. I believe it would be devastating for millions and for our country as a whole. My son and his family rely on the ACA for healthcare. As young professionals it is the only way they can afford good healthcare. I urge you not to repeal the ACA but rather make the effort to improve it. This is what would be best for our country and it's what we want.

Thank you.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab A

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandra Cook  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Please keep the ACA and scrap the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It would be devastating to our country and our citizens. The House and Senate should have the same healthcare as the rest of the country. Be fair to everyone! Save lives of children, seniors, veterans and all citizens. Make America the shining example of freedom, caring and honor that it used to be.

Sincerely,  
Sandra J Cook

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will not cover most Americans with much needed universal healthcare. This bill has not been properly vetted and has no CBO score. How can you allow a bill to move forward when it has not been reviewed in committee nor debated openly.

My husband just lost his job and my hours have been recently reduced. It was not the possibility of losing income to pay our mortgage or other expenses that have kept me up at night, but losing our healthcare benefits that worry me the most. We have to active children who need to be covered at every moment. As a parent, as a taxpayer and as a citizen, I shouldn't have to worry about taking care of our health in the event of job loss. There's enough to worry about as it is.

Healthcare should be universal, should not be tied to employment and should be financially accessible for all. Other countries have done it and proven a few things right as well as wrong. Don't reinvent the wheel. Just do your job and protect your constituents!

Lisa Oster

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

**All American Families rely on quality affordable healthcare. To undermine the ability for ALL families to access quality affordable healthcare undermines the security of our country. Lack of access creates undo financial pressure on families most in need, which frays at the social fabric in our communities, and creates a scenario where crime, addiction, and domestic violence is more likely. While I am lucky to have health care coverage through my husband's employer, and I have experienced good health in general, it do not subscribe to the axis that "if my family is okay, who gives a damn about yours". I see and hear about too much suffering from people, specifically children, that do not have adequate healthcare.**

**The Repeal and Replace mantra was a campaign soundbite. US citizens, because of propaganda and 'fake news' did not even understand the ACA until only recently. The acceptance and regard for the ACA has improved significantly the longer that people and doctors and hospitals work with it. While premiums have increased as insurance companies learn to measure the risk of the policies they sell, the instability of the program because of the constant attempts to dismantle the program and replace with some unknown thing has roiled the insurance markets and caused the premiums to go up even more. STOP! Let's use the knowledge of what we have learned so far about the program and fix and tweak it to provide better healthcare solutions for our citizens. Work together in Congress and quit marching along party lines.**

**Carol Nikov**

**Jupiter Florida**

**Script: I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.**

**Sincerely, [name]**

**[town, state]**

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 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, including my family and myself, to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities.

Aaryn Belfer

San Diego, CA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

As your fellow citizens, my wife and I urge you to reject this latest ACA repeal attempt. People shouldn't lose their health coverage, and repealing the Affordable Care Act threatens the health care of millions, including women, elderly people, children, and people with disabilities. Don't put politics above people's health. Since ACA my wife has healthcare for the first time in decades because she was considered "uninsurable" due to a diagnosis of borderline bi-polar in the seventies. Please stop being the party of taking from the working class to give to the rich.

Mark and Suzanne Eastburn

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** An American with a unique perspective on health care

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to share my unique perspective on the issue of health care.

In 2011, I moved to Rome, Italy, to finish my Bachelor's degree. I have since remained in the country with my Italian partner. Over the past six years, I've had the opportunity to experience what it's like to live in a country that considers health care to be a fundamental right to all its citizens and legal residents. Thanks to Italy's National Health Care System, visits to my general practitioner and the emergency room cost nothing, trips to the pharmacy don't require insurance coverage and never empty my wallet or bank account, and going to specialists and getting lab tests are either free or cost a small fraction of what they do in the US.

But my gratitude goes far beyond these standard health care services. In fact, I owe my life to socialized medicine. In 2012, I was diagnosed with HIV. Living with this disease has been a struggle and has undoubtedly changed my life, but never at any point have I had to worry about how to pay for expensive antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. My life-saving medication and periodic check-ups at the hospital are guaranteed to me as a human right! Being a full-time student at the time of diagnosis, I don't know what I would have done if this had happened to me while living in the United States. Perhaps I would have been obliged to abandon my studies and find a job to pay for treatment. One of my greatest hesitations about moving back to the United States is my fear of not being able to afford ARV treatment or the periodic blood analyses I receive here in Italy.

Common arguments against public health care systems like that of Italy are that they increase taxes unnecessarily or that the quality of such health care is poor, but I can tell you from first-hand experience that this is not true. Yes, there are issues, such as long waiting periods for specialists or occasional frustrations with bureaucracy, but the benefits far outweigh these costs. What's more, I can always opt for a private hospital or doctor if I so choose.

It's time the United States joined the majority of high-income countries in the world by providing truly universal health care through a single-payer system. I urge your committee to scrap the Graham-Cassidy disaster bill and move on to a serious consideration of the Medicare For All Act spearheaded by Senator Sanders of Vermont.

Sincerely yours,  
Neal Huddon-Cossar  
Rome, Italy  
(registered to vote in California)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

It is beyond my comprehension that the people who are elected to represent the human rights of their country's citizens would propose legislation to deny and make unaffordable the basic need of life... health.

I ask you to pray and follow your heart and conscience in considering your decision that would affect so many of your fellow human beings.

Life matters.

Jane Finnegan

--

Peace,  
Ms. Jane

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Every American relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Healthcare security is as necessary as Homeland security. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Even though my family is fortunate enough to have an employer provided plan, and we have actually had to pay more for our plan since the ACA, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Veninger

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:58 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.

Dana Tenczar  
Gloucester MA

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Graham Cassidy

Until regular order is restored, our healthcare will continue to lack stability. Dumping inadequate healthcare funding back on the states will be a disaster that will be on the backs of GOP. You need to fix this with input from both sides. Koch Brothers are NOT the American people.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Planned Parenthood - If they had not been there to provide the healthcare I needed as a young woman, I would not have been able to go to college. I would not be the woman I am today. I'm healthy today because affordable healthcare was there when I couldn't afford it. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Susan

Susan Priem "When you design for cars and traffic, you get more cars and traffic. When you design for places and people, you get places and people."



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon VonBlohn  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

.....  
  
Sharon VonBlohn



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mitchell [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good Morning,

Ahead of your hearings/votes, I needed to make my position known. I am an American and I vote - in every election. I can appreciate that a number of your constituents, probably quite a few, don't like the idea of the government subsidizing health care. They have worked very hard in their life and feel that there should be no free handouts. I can appreciate that position, but the reality is that this isn't about free handouts....it's about life. It's about being realistic about the fact that people get sick and need adequate treatment - even hard-working Americans can find themselves in the position of being bankrupt from medical bills. How does this bill help with that?

I would ask you and your colleagues to yet again reconsider truly doing the hard work to find a beneficial solution. Not something that was hastily pulled together...not something that penalizes people with additional costs for potentially genetically driven diseases....for having a child.

Healthcare is about staying healthy and saving lives - it is not a financial transaction.

Thank you,  
M. Fulton

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy opposition

Please don't pass something that will hurt so many people. There's a reason this bill is opposed by virtually every medical association, by a bipartisan group of governors, by insurance companies like Blue Cross, and by most of the American people.

Who likes it? The wealthy few who finance your campaigns.

For me, if I were to lose my job and need to get new health insurance, as a healthy senior who nevertheless has a pre-existing condition, I have no doubt the cost to me would be prohibitive. I could easily go from being a financially stable, contributing member of society, to someone living on the edge of bankruptcy. We saw this happen countless times prior to the ACA.

Please support the bipartisan efforts that have been underway to stabilize the insurance markets. You'll be the heroes and our votes will reflect that.

Chris Werner

(Sent from my iPhone)

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] n>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:06 AM  
**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, Lauren Hamel

St. Clair Shores, MI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahmCassity Healthcare Bill

Many States have balanced budget laws that require them to insure they cannot over spend and run deficits from year to year. This requires them to cut spending on public education and other important agencies at times so that the books are balanced. When they have to cut spending on healthcare people's health will be endangered. The GCH Bill would allow the above to happen!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Phoebe Schenker <phoebeschenker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern, I, like many of my friends and family, rely on the ACA to provide affordable health care while I am transitioning from working at a firm to starting my own business. Please work to increase the coverage and benefits provided by the ACA rather than gutting the existing provisions!!

Thank you.

Phoebe Schenker

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Congress,

I write to express my extreme disappointment in those of you who would vote to approve the Graham-Cassidy bill. You all know the political arguments against passing the bill: the process has been rushed, not enough hearings, no bipartisan approach, no 'score' or accounting from the CBO. You all know that many groups, representing millions of Americans, have come out against the bill, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the AMA, AARP, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the American Hospital Association. You know that without federal protections to our most vulnerable citizens, individual states may do what is financially expedient in the short term, rather than investing in the long-term health of its citizens and more importantly, doing what is morally correct. You know all this.

So I write to ask you to attempt something I see little evidence of in Congress: I ask you to try some empathy. Put yourself in the shoes of a 9 year old boy who can't figure out why he's thirsty all the time, and losing weight. Put yourself in his shoes as he finds out he has Type 1 diabetes, an auto-immune disorder for which there is no cure and which will require life-long medication and equipment, and the support of a team of physicians, to keep him healthy. Healthy, so that he's a productive member of society and adding to our economy, not drawing disability because his parents couldn't afford to support his treatment and by the time he's an adult, diabetes takes his limbs, organs, eyesight. Put yourself in the shoes of this boy's parents, helping their son struggle to manage this slippery, challenging condition - even with the best of resources at their disposal. That boy is my son.

Consider your own children. Our dreams for them are as big as the sky. We want for them whatever they want for themselves. My son's options were automatically limited the day we got the diagnosis. No military for him, no commercial piloting. I get that. But what if he wants to work for a small business one day? What if he wants to be that small business owner? Would he even be able to afford that kind of job, given how much he would have to pay in health insurance as a person with a pre-existing condition? Heck, even a job at a large and wealthy company could still offer health insurance that is exorbitantly priced compared to that of his co-workers. What happens if a lifetime cap kicks in? His condition is not going away. He can't just stop taking insulin, or testing his blood sugar. He will always, for the rest of his life, require insulin, test strips, blood glucose meters, syringes - at the very least. For optimum management, he will need insulin pumps and blood glucose monitors. Expensive, expensive stuff. And he's worth every penny of it. All Americans are.

From a financial standpoint, it's incredibly short-sighted to limit access to affordable health care to anyone in our country. We all pay the price, in actual and large numbers of dollars, when significant chunks of society rely on emergency room care to manage conditions that should be cared for, or prevented, in the doctor's office. People who get and stay sick don't contribute to the economy, and then the double whammy of drawing disability makes them even more expensive to care for. So it's a triple whammy, actually.

But from a moral standpoint, the question is even more important: what kind of society do we want to be? I hope, and believe, we can be a society that sees the humanity in each of its citizens. The potential for each

person to be their best, healthiest self. A society that doesn't leave vulnerable people to their own inadequate resources when it comes to managing chronic conditions, catastrophic illness, major accidents....or just the normal but often lengthy decline of old age.

So I challenge you, Congress: get out there and meet people who are coping with these issues right now. Beyond dealing with diabetes, I personally know people struggling with conditions such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, disability post-stroke, depression, bi-polar disorder, and heart disease. Listen, really listen, to what it takes to manage these conditions. Listen to what they need from you. And by the way, I'm not talking about your golfing buddy you went to law school with, who's pulling a six-figure retirement package. We both know he'll get the best care whatever way you vote tomorrow. Meet people who don't have your resources and never will. Learn what they are up against, and how important your vote is to them. Dust off your empathy and use it tomorrow when you vote.

Most sincerely,  
Lucinda Mimms  
Annapolis, MD



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

You need to work together to fix the healthcare system. These one-sided solutions are about winning politics, not about helping the American people.

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.

Michael Gurley

New York City, New York

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy/Graham Bill

Hello -

I am writing as the legal guardian and brother of a man who, since the age of 8, has lived in private and government run institutions due to mental illness. My brother Joe is now 67 and fortunately has wonderful care in an independent living facility where he has 24 hour care by a staff of dedicated professionals. I fear that if the Cassidy/Graham passes, my brother's Medicaid funding would be drastically cut. If this were to happen, what would happen to Joe and millions of others in his situation? I'm asking all Senators to please vote "NO" to the Cassidy/Graham bill.

Thank you, John Gerend

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 AM  
**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.

Sheila Ryan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 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.

Sue Elam  
San Diego, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** George Alexander  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

Don't deprive millions of people of coverage! The Graham-Cassidy bill is a bad, bad idea.

-- George Alexander, Media, PA

George Alexander

[Redacted signature]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Heath care

Hello,

I want to add my voice to the healthcare debate. Please don't repel this. My children and husband's life depend on having mental health coverage to be productive members of society.

My children are young adult women, they need birth control right now and hopefully eventually we will have a pregnancy. I would be delighted! However, if coverage would be cut they would also loose that coverage plus newborn care. We can't have our young adults starting out life with so much debt.

How will they live? We are middle class with no college funds. They have student loans, please don't make them also have medical loans.

Be on the right side of history.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Action: submitting public testimony for Mondays Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Senators,

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

I am a special education teacher (14years in low socio-economic areas). I sustained a head injury at work. I now have a tramatic brain injury and rely on Maine Care to cover my health care needs. My pre-existing conditions would prevent me from receiving adequate affordable coverage under this new plan.

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

**To whom this may concern;**

**MY** family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I think it is quite wrong to deny medical insurance based on pre-existing conditions. My husband and daughter sought out counseling for depression and anxiety. This would reflect poorly on both of them if the pre-existing condition clause were reinstated in applying for medical insurance. It is despicable in my view to deny someone affordable health insurance based on passed history.

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

Sincerely,

Suellen Roberts  
Akron, Ohio

Sent from my iPad



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am a voter in Sarasota Florida: 34243.

I stand opposed to this bill. At the very least it needs proper non-partisan review to assess its likely impact and complete and transparent discussion.

Best Regards,

Lawrence T. Levine

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy public comments

To the finance committee

I am a 59 year old woman with a rare neuroendocrine cancer that is incurable and slowly progressing. I was diagnosed in 2010, and have been living with this pre-existing condition for seven years. I depend on quality, affordable healthcare to stay alive. To track and treat this disease in order to slow its progression requires multiple MRI's annually,; treatment protocols such as out-patient monthly injections of Octreotide (at \$10,000/a dose) that has proven in some cases to retard tumor growth; and intermittently, an in-hospital surgical procedure to reduce the bulk of tumors in my liver (costing approximately \$70K). My husband and I also need support from mental health professionals to keep from falling into depression. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My pre-existing conditions would make me ineligible for affordable health care, should the Graham-Cassidy bill pass.

I do not understand why the majority of republican senators insist on throwing US citizens into stressful and frightening situations, by threatening to put their health and lives at risk. Taking up public service (which is the role of officials elected to represent their constituents) means helping, not hurting people.

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

Sincerely, [name]

[town, state]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** don't kill the ACA

Until the ACA, I had gone for nearly 10 years without insurance. Luckily there were no emergencies and I paid for a physical each year and my medication.

Finally with the ACA, I could afford health insurance, and in NJ — the coverage is affordable and fair. Amerihealth keeps a tight circle of doctors and services and can keep costs down. Why can't this model be replicated? Instead of bombing the ACA, why not fix it by seeing what has worked? It's like having a car break down next to an auto repair shop and crying 'woe is me, there is nothing I can do.'

Seriously, without the individual mandate, this whole thing will fall apart. You need the healthy with the sick or there can be no pre existing condition coverage. Better yet, offer medicare to those who want it. Republicans always scream about choice but then limit them if they are not the choices THEY want you to have.

When I tore my ACL I got the tests and treatment I needed and could get back to work. without it it would have been a real burden and I would have nothing to spend and put back into the economy.

All people should be able to live knowing that if they get sick, they will be cared for without losing everything. We are the only civilized country that doesn't do that for their citizens. What does that say about us? Certainly not that we are the greatest country in the world. More that we are becoming an oligarchy where citizens are just meant to be used and discarded when no longer needed.

Do the right thing. Keep the ACA.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** How Graham Cassidy would affect me

Senators,

How do I count the ways:

Reduced women's health coverage for my daughters, loss of mental health coverage, loss of preexisting condition coverage, loss of Medicaid coverage in case my husband's or my coverage for nursing home care goes south as we enter our dotage. The horrible monstrosity that keeps taking. Sorry to hear your patriotism and basic humanity is tied to campaign contributions. Vote no on Graham Cassidy. And, to Senator Lindsey Graham, you talked about how painful it was to see your friend, VP Biden and his family, go through the agony of watching Beau get sick and knew that VP Biden almost lost his house to help pay for the medical bills. What, in 'your' Christian God's name led you to deny people a basic human right because providing for the common good is guaranteed in the Constitution, which you swore to uphold as a Senator and as an Officer in the military. Health care is part of the common good, just as much as defense, infrastructure, education, and a sound financial system.

Sabra Kurth  
Havre de Grace, MD

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Jeanne A Ayivorh  
**Subject:** GCH bill - vote no

Dear Senator Warner and Fellow Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am writing because of my support for the existing ACA legislation and my opposition to the current "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill.

Personally, I find it incredibly alarming that a majority legislative body would consider placing a "win" on its scorecard more important than the lives of Americans they serve.

Thankfully, not all members of the Senate feel this way. Senator McCain spoke eloquently about his reasoning for a "no" vote last week so I will not repeat it here. I will simply encourage all members of the Finance Committee to stand with him and vote "no". It is the right thing to do.

For me, the story of preserving, or improving ACA through bi-partisan support, is about looking at a loved one's face and knowing that with accident or illness, they are not denied healthcare access due to their age or circumstances. My daughter is a young mother and without the extended age protection through ACA, she was at tremendous risk. In turn, it meant her child was at risk of losing her mother if something happened to her and she had no coverage. It doesn't take much imagination to realize that deferring a doctor's visit can turn deadly. Suppose she had ignored a cough that later turned into pneumonia?

My daughter works but did not have healthcare benefits at first without ACA. Others are impacted by deferring work while in college. Others are impacted by pre-existing conditions, like my sister's stepson with MS.

The point is - lives are impacted and ACA is there for them, for us.

It is a falsehood to think that this bill will reduce expenses for America. Shifting costs, or providing grants, to the state level is not a solution but another game of kick-the-can, only a harmful version of it. Without changing the healthcare model itself, we are in a lose-lose situation with partisan efforts to repeal ACA.

We lose because individual Americans may die due to lack of healthcare access.

We lose because this repeal bill's cost isn't fully quantified yet.

We lose because preventative, or wellness care, goes down which means health care expenses go up.

Either way, by money expended in the long term on healthcare, or by lives lost today and in the future, America loses.

Senators of the Finance Committee, let me say in summary - we simply cannot afford to say "yes" to the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mark Eastbur [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My Republican representatives in Washington are not done trying to kill, restrict or unfund the ACA. The President has already threatened to kick the legs out from under the insurance subsidies. They have their sights on Medicare and Social Security as well. If you are considering once again supporting the ill advised attempts on these legally authorized, long fought for, programs for the public welfare, please keep in mind that over eighty percent of the nation already resents what you tried to do. Imagine what will happen in 2018 if you actually accomplish your goals.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Shropsh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fw: Graham-Cassidy bill

My comments attached.

Randall Talton

On Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:07 PM, James Shropsh [REDACTED]

My name is Randall Talton . I am a 54 year old male . I make \$38,000 per year . My employer does not offer health insurance . I have several preexisting conditions and am scheduled for open heart surgery the week of October 2. I depend on the ACA to get my insurance.

Needless to say ,I am petrified of the captioned bill .The bill has no protections for people with preexisting conditions or essential health benefits and will take away the subsidy which I depend on to afford my health insurance no matter what the sponsors of the bill have publically stated. The bill will cut billions of dollars in healthcare funding from my state(NC). The bill has not even been CBO scored and there has and will be no meaningful debate.The bill is opposed by virtually all medical and patient groups and has been even opposed by the insurance industry.

GOP Senators have stated they really don't like the bill but they are attempting to ram it through the Senate in an attempt to satisfy the wealthy angry donors who are not affected in any way by the ACA. This is greed and avarice at its worse.

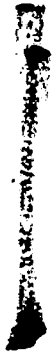
I do not understand the cruelty of the bill sponsors or any Senator or Congressman who would vote for this bill which is estimated to take away health insurance from 32 MILLION AMERICANS!!!

I do not believe that any person can defend this as being morally acceptable.

As Hero John McCain has said in opposing this and other bills please go back to regular Senate order and attempt to reach bipartisan compromise .Improve Healthcare which is right for every American **UNLIKE THIS BILL WHICH DESTROYS HEALTHCARE.**

Thank you for your anticipated compassionate "NO" vote.

Randall Talton  
Raleigh,NC





**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I am writing to urge ALL senators to vote against the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I have read numerous reports and analyses of this bill, and I can clearly see that it is NOT in the interest of the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and particularly those with pre-existing conditions. In fact, it is not in the best interest of anyone. We all stand to lose. BIG. Block grants to states may work in those states that have a good track record of taking care of the neediest of their citizens. My state does not, nor do many other states. And even in those states that have a better track record of responding to the needs of their residents, block grants cannot begin to match the health care protections that the federal government can and should provide.

Every major hospital, physician, and health organization has come out against this bill. Once again, I urge all senators to find it in your hearts and your consciences to do the moral and the compassionate thing and vote against Graham-Cassidy.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony Against Graham-Cassidy bill

I am a self-employed director of a fine art gallery in Brooklyn, NY which I founded 17 years ago.

I am also a survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma and more recently triple bypass surgery.

In 2018, I will be forced to find a new health insurance carrier. I absolutely oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill specifically for the millions of Americans like myself with pre-existing conditions who rely on affordable healthcare. My surgery was two years ago and I am still making monthly payments against hospital bills and I was fortunate to have had decent health coverage.

It is infuriating to witness house and senators who refuse to work in a bipartisan congressional effort to improve upon the ACA, a sound, foundational plan that can be improved upon.

Oppose this ridiculous Graham-Cassidy bill. Improve the ACA with bipartisan support.

Randall Harris  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop this bill now

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with I am a student who get healthcare from the healthcare exchange and I rely on mandatory coverage for preexisting conditions and essential health care services like preventative health. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I am extremely upset by this bill. This is an attack on the American people, it will kill Americans and significantly worsen our country.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Marubayashi

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Helen Fe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Committee:

I am absolutely opposed to this newest attempt to take basic health care away from millions of people, make it more difficult for people with pre-existing conditions to get and/or maintain their insurance, and leave it up to them as to how they will cover insurance and health care for people who cannot afford it. We have seen what good can come of a nationwide health care system, through the Affordable Care Act. The Republican bill is callous in its method of allotment, taking from states with urban pockets of poverty and giving much to states that may need the money but chose not to opt in to Medicaid subsidies when offered by the ACA.

AGAINST THIS BILL!!!!

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Steph [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday Sept. 25 at 2 pm ET  
Comments from Stephen Huth, 813 south Saint Louis Ave, Loveland, Co 80537

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal. My grandchildren, Colorado residents, face loss of coverage and skyrocketing costs due to preexisting conditions provisions in this bill. Please do not impose these dreadful consequences on our future generations.

As I understand it, this bill will do the following

- Eliminate the financial assistance that helps more than 100,000 Coloradans purchase health care coverage;
- End expanded Medicaid coverage that 450,000 Coloradans rely on;
- Gut Medicaid through deep, permanent cuts that would grow over time and threaten care for hundreds of thousands 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 do away with essential health benefits that provide robust coverage;
- Resurrect - *and worsen* - the devastating cuts in coverage and benefits that the American public and the majority of Congress have already rejected.

The Colorado Health Access Survey showed that the Affordable Care Act has helped to reduce Colorado's uninsured rate to a low of 6.5%. Graham-Cassidy threatens the health and financial security of hundreds of thousands of Colorado seniors, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. Undermines years of work that this state has undertaken to advance access to affordable coverage for our residents. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 600,000 Coloradans losing coverage by 2027. Please do what is right and moral--do not destroy our health care system, fix it.

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Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Bilton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the GC healthcare bill

Hello,

I'm writing to let you know I oppose the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. It is an awful, inhumane bill, that, if passed will lead to the death of unknown number of Americans by ruining or kicking them off of their healthcare plans. It's horrible!!

Government is supposed to help the individuals of this country! We need universal health care, Medicare for All!

You simply must vote against GC Healthcare and vote to bring Medicare for All to this country!

Thanks,  
Karen Bilton  
Highland Park, NJ

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Vicki Blaauw [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassiday

Stop this bill in its tracks! It is the wrong direction for America. Hear our voices! Listen to us! You are caught up in a whirlwind of partisanship that is damaging lives!!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Trisha Barker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:35 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.

Latricia Barker  
Hilliard Ohio

Sent from my iPad



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Sapienza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Senators:

I strongly oppose this latest health care bill. Nearly 23 years ago, my daughter was born with complex heart defects and had to be flown to an out-of-state hospital for open heart surgery when she was less than a week old. Today, she is remarkably healthy, but the ONLY reason she has health insurance today is because of the Affordable Care Act. Work with the entire Senate to improve the ACA. Repealing it is not the answer. We need to make health care more affordable for everyone in this country. The Graham-Cassidy bill does not do this, and millions of lives are at stake. Stand up, do the right thing, and vote NO on this bill!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joe Blackburn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:43 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.

Joe Blackburn  
Fishers, IN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Shropshire [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fw: Graham - Cassidy Bill

My comments attached

On Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:39 PM, James Shropshire [REDACTED]

My name is James Shropshire [REDACTED] and I have the opportunity to comment on this bill.

I have a preexisting condition which requires me to take a prescription that costs the obscene amount of \$2500 per month . Without that prescription I will die. I depend on the protections of the ACA to obtain and afford insurance .

The above proposed bill was secretly written ,without any hearings ,testimony or input from interested groups .The sponsors of the DRACONIAN BILL are attempting to force the bill which will affect 1/6 of the US economy on the American people without any meaningful hearings or any CBO score. The bill has been opposed by virtually all patient advocacy and medical groups and is even opposed by the insurance industry.Despite the LIES being told by its proponents, the bill guts medicaid, has no protections for preexisting conditions or essential health benefits, will take away health insurance from TENS OF MILLIONS of Americans and will KILL tens of thousands of Americans.

MOST IMPORTANTLY GOP SENATORS WHO WILL LIKELY VOTE FOR THIS BILL HAVE ADMITTED THAT THE BILL IS BAD AND WAS WRITTEN DUE TO PRESSURE FROM THEIR WEALTHY DONORS . ( Senators Chuck Grassley and Cory Gardner) I AM APPALLED AT THE ABROGATION OF DUTIES OF ANY SENATOR WHO WOULD FAVOR THE INTEREST OF WEALTHY DONORS OVER THE INTEREST OF CONSTITUENTS AND THE CITIZENS OF AMERICA .THIS "LET THEM EAT CAKE" ATTITUDE IS NEVER MORE APPARENT THAT THE \$300,000 FOR PRIVATE FLIGHTS THAT TOM PRICE ,THE HHS SECRETARY WHO IS OVER THIS AREA,HAS WASTED OF TAXPAYER MONEY!!!!THIS IS PARTISAN POLITICS AT ITS WORSE. SHAME ON THEM!!!

Thank God there are heros like John McCain who has courageously come out in opposition of this MEAN,CRUEL AND IMMORAL BILL and has tried to remind us that Congress will never accomplish anything unless Congress ,particularly the Senate , goes back regular order and once again attempts to work across party lines.

PLEASE DEFEAT THIS TERRIBLE BILL .PLEASE CONTINUE THE BIPARTISAN EFFORTS STARTED BY SENATORS ALEXANDER AND MURRAY TO FIX HEALTHCARE.

I STILL HAVE A FADING HOPE THAT WE CAN WORK ACROSS PARTY LINES TO FIX HEALTHCARE NOT AS BY THIS BILL DESTROY HEALTHCARE.

Thank you for allowing me to comment

James Shropshire  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Ann Blank [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I oppose Graham-Cassidy.  
Millions will lose coverage. Most concern is for veterans, the elderly and those with disabilities.  
No one in the medical community approves this bill.  
Please stop the fear we are all living under.  
Thank you  
Mary Ann Blank

Sent using the free mail.com iPhone App

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** william cabell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My comments

Good morning,

I am writing today to strongly urge you to not rush into changing our healthcare system so fast. It affects so many people that it should be done with care and consideration and should certainly never be a partisan issue.

I own a business in Chesapeake Virginia with more than 60 full-time employees. The Affordable Care Act has been great for them as I have been able to insure more employees at a better rate. This plan is not all the doom and gloom that some people say it is. Certainly we can fix what we have instead of being so anxious to throw out something that just has problems.

Thank you for taking my input into consideration. Bill Cabell

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nathan Ferguson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:06 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.

Nathan Ferguson  
Columbia, MO

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Idmaurer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I am writing to ask that Congress do away with the current proposed Graham Cassidy bill. My husband and I buy our health insurance through the military system as he was active duty for 25 years. We buy tricare standard and also purchase a supplemental insurance plan. It works!

The latest version of "wealthcare" accomplishes nothing beyond giving disabled and poor people a death sentence. I really do not understand how our Congress believes this is good for the nation as a whole. In fact, I believe Congress fully understands how damaging this bill is not just by taking away the healthcare of millions of people, but also by undermining and breaking the long held American value that we take care of each other. That we take care of our defenseless and vulnerable citizens. That we can all contribute to the well being of our nation, by taking care of each other so that even disabled and chronically ill individuals can contribute to our nation.

During my husband's 25 years of active duty service we mostly lived apart. If you added up all the time that he was gone on a mission, including months at a time in the Middle East and one year on the DMZ, you would find that we actually lived together less than half of his 25 years of active duty service. For us, the question has become, "What was it all for?"

Let me be clear, we did not serve all of those 25 years to make the rich, richer. Dennis served for the good of the nation, in other words, for the people of this nation. And, most certainly, not for the Trumps, Kochs, or any of wealthiest Americans who seem to believe that only their lifestyle and wealth matters at the expense of poor, vulnerable, and middle class American lives.

Instead of killing Americans, kill the bill. Let's keep what we have and work to improve it.

Lucy Maurer

cc: Senator Tim Kaine  
Senator Mark Warner

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Priscilla Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is a BAD bill

I oppose all the cruel, half-witted, irresponsible efforts by the Republican Party to replace the ACA. Graham-Cassidy is the worst proposal so far. Attempts to force Graham-Cassidy down our throats will come back to bite the Republican Party during the 2018 and 2020 elections. You are public servants. Serve the public. Do something meaningful to protect all American Citizens from corporate banditry. It's time to stand up to Radical Right Wing Wing-Nuts. Take their money, if your conscience allows it, but wipe Graham-Cassidy off the table.

Sincerely,  
Priscilla H. Taylor  
Brookline, MA



## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** aj.adamczak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy vote

My name is Anthony Adamczak. My disabled son is Ryan Adamczak who has been receiving therapy and care for years which has helped him make tremendous advance and work toward a goal of being a productive member of society. He attends a progressive program at OCA in Winter Park. OCA stands for Opportunity, Community and Ability and it offers behavior therapy, recreation programs, adult vocational training, summer and holiday camps as well as after-school programs for individuals with special needs. Its programs are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I have worked so hard to support my child so that he can be part of our community and do not want to see that go away or be forced to make a decision about an institutional setting!! This funding is critical to his future development.

We respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of my son Ryan.

Sincerely,

**Anthony Adamczak**  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Andrea Traviglia [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:32 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.

Andrea Traviglia  
Somerville, MA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maureen Ragan <maureen@maureenragan.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care in VA

I live in rural Virginia. I have so many friends who are scraping to pay their health care premiums. They work really hard, but they don't work for a big company that provides health care. That politician who said that people who need health care should just go get a job is too rich to get it. He should work half as hard as these people.

I wish politicians would stop thinking about winning the next election and start thinking of the people, the regular people, not the rich people like themselves, not the big companies, but the regular people. If they had, Virginia would have accepted all that federal money to help them extend healthcare to hard-working people who are living hand-to-mouth instead of trying to make ObamaCare fail just so they could have a good line for an ad in their next campaign.

Transferring the responsibility to the States is a horrible idea. You need to create a non-political entity that can make decisions for the health of regular people without an eye towards re-election. - like you did for the federal reserve. Politicians can't make these tough decisions because they're too worried about re-election.

Health care shouldn't be for profit. A market place can't work in situations where you can't shop and compare and rate how good a job someone did. And the market place doesn't work when you have cancer and aren't rich. It's not like buying a new phone. But you people are too rich to get it. Health care doesn't work when companies make a profit over treating sick people. They have no incentive to cure them, just to prolong treatment. It's such an awful vision to decent people - making tons of money off sick people. Why is it so acceptable to Congress?

You've got a start with ObamaCare. Why don't you try to make it work before you throw it out?

Please go back to working in a bi-partisan way. Follow your rules instead of changing them so you can win. You won't even hold hearings and talk about these things. You hold secret meetings and try to rush things through before anyone can figure out what's going on. The Senate is losing all its integrity. The Senate used to be on a higher plane, ready to rise above the political fray. You look like a bunch of greedy 5 year olds.

Thank you,

Maureen Ragan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ellen Donohue-Saltman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

For many of the young people I know the ACA has allowed them to purchase health insurance. For at least one of these individuals the ACA literally allows him to stay alive. He is a Type 1 diabetic, so he needs daily medications and continual monitoring by health care providers. This illness was a misfortune that he could have done nothing to prevent. Without the ACA he would not be able to afford insurance and his medications. He is a hard worker, putting together a variety of jobs to support himself. Does he deserve to die because he can't afford health insurance?

Our nation needs affordable, reliable health care for all if we are to succeed as a nation. We are the only developed country to not have universal health care. We need health care reform that will move us closer to this goal, not further from it. The Graham-Cassidy-Bill will diminish the health of our nation, not improve it. I urge the Congress to go back to the drawing board to put together a plan that will move our nation to better health care for Americans in the 21st century., not worse.

Sincerely,

Ellen Donohue-Saltman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kent Fothergill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

To Whom It May Concern,

I moved recently. Having cancer, I had to find a Dr. for treatment fairly quickly - it only took six months. I was surprised how many doctors would not accept my Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance. Of course, I would not find this out until after spending time asking questions about treatment facilities and treatment philosophies. Trying to control costs is impossible because the bills usually do not even say what they are for, asking a doctor or nurse how much something is going to cost is usually answered with: "I do not know". Cancer could be a pre-existing condition (if I am lucky) if I need to change jobs again (remember, in the current economy changing jobs is not always volitional), I do relish the prospect of paying even more health care costs on my shrinking wages.

Growing up in Canada, I found their healthcare system easy to understand and use. When will the United States realize that our current system needs to be replaced with a single payer system? If for no other reason than health care cost control? Insurance companies do not provide health care. They are for profit entities that are not only adding another layer of profit to our health care costs, but making health care decisions that no reasonable person would leave to such entities. Shouldn't we have a basic health care system that provides equally for all Americans?

Thanks

Kent Fothergill

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Maureen Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill

Yet another attempt to repeal/replace ACA, really? I am appalled by the GOP's lack of empathy for the American public. There are many well respected organizations who, flat out, say this bill is BAD.

At minimum, our government must guarantee that every American will have decent, quality health care as a fundamental right and not just a privilege.

I find it appalling that each one of the bills that has been introduced over several months have more reductions in benefits and increases in costs to individuals and families. They have also, in my opinion, targeted women by cutting funding to Planned Parenthood.

Member of Congress and our Senators are covered by quality benefits, it's about time their constituents benefited equally.

Maureen F Smith  
Palmyra VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Maureen Grace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:03 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. Maureen Grace

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane McDonou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please do not endorse the Graham Cassidy Bill. It does nothing to insure that citizens have good adequate health care. Three fourths of all citizens have a pre-existing condition. This bill would put anyone with a pre-existing condition in jeopardy. This bill would cut care for women and people on medicaid. A health care bill should actually be a bill that promotes good health not a bill that strips care from people.

Please oppose this bill!

Jane McDonough



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy proposal to repeal ACA

The husband of my first cousin, Luba Tkatchov, who lived and died in Flagstaff, Arizona, had his own CPA firm through which his family was insured. Six months after they had switched to a new insurance company, my cousin was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Because she had been treated for ulcers earlier in her life, the insurance company refused to cover her treatment, declaring the ulcer to be a pre-existing condition. The family spent over \$250,000.00 of their savings for her treatment, but even so, she died in less than two years after the diagnosis, leaving two minor children without a mother and a mountain of bills to be paid. This happened before the Affordable Care Act became the law of the land and stopped such egregious practices.

This is the kind of situation that has bankrupted millions of Americans, a situation that the ACA was able to stop. The Graham-Cassidy bill will do away with one of the most crucial elements of the ACA, which no longer allowed the insurance companies to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions. It also did away with the other venal practice of instilling lifetime caps on coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy bill will only serve to make Americans be once again at the mercy of insurance companies and it will do nothing to improve the health of our people. It will not save money for either the states or the federal government, but it will instead cost untold lives and increase suffering.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH - a disaster for my family

My family relies on affordable, quality healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter has a serious, life threatening mental illness that she will have for the rest of her life. While 95% of the time she is a normal young adult, working part time and going to school, the other 5% of the time she is in a psychiatric hospital. No middle class American family can take on the costs of a multiple week stay in such a facility without good quality affordable healthcare. If pre-existing condition exclusions make their way back into the American healthcare system, my family will be forced to choose between bankruptcy or seeing our mentally ill daughter wander unprotected on the streets during an episode. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jenny Graf

Seattle, WA

Jenny

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debra Krahn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This latest attempt at rendering healthcare virtually useless to the average person is, yet again, unacceptable. What is there about truly sick human beings, women and the elderly that those in favor of this bill find unimportant. If real thought were given to the subject of women's health care, it would be obvious that the healthier and more health maintained the female population is, the less expensive it would be for everyone, small business and large corporations alike.

The elderly should be cared for without comment, we will ALL be there eventually. Wealth should NOT be a factor in access to health care. Wealth should also NOT determine whether or not a person survives cancer, we are the strongest and most capable nation in the world. We MUST find this more worthy of true thought, time and consideration.

I resent the behavior of those who are complicit in this I have helped elect some of you.

I know how to fix that.

Very Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Enrique Ilundain [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Aca repeat and renew!

Me and my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have sleep apnea and a lower back chronic pain and am concerned when i leave the military and will be responsible for health care coverage myself. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I dont trust what republicans choosing which republican states get federal funds. I served my country and pay taxes now its time for my country to serve me and its tax payers.

Sincerely,

Enrique Ilundain  
Groton, CT

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bianca Pasternack [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Like millions of others, I rely on the ACA to keep health care affordable, and repealing it puts me and my family at risk. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Bianca Pasternack  
New York, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carol Harder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:16 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy bill

Citizens of the US should have quality, affordable healthcare.

I have a friend who after being on oxygen for 11 years for pulmonary hypertension ( a disease without any known cause ) who was able to get a double lung transplant and is able to live without accessory oxygen. We live in Wisconsin who would certainly impose limitations on pre existing condition coverage and put a limit on lifetime costs. My friends medications cost thousands a month that she could not afford and would probably not take if it was up to her to pay.

Please, please fix the ACA , not repeal it. This has become a political issue and endangers the lives of many people.

Carol Harder  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Conrad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill NO NO NO!!!

Dear Senator,

I'm writing to you about my son who is 29 years old, he has an Intellectual disability (ID) along with that diagnosis he also has bipolar disorder. Wow that's a lot for a family to take in! We've worked very hard to make sure he's had as much of a normal life that we could give him.

We searched high and low for a placement in the community so that he could have a "normal" life. You know, be able to leave home like his other siblings have, have friends, a workshop to go to to help him learn some skills that may one day help him get a real job. He also has made many friends there. He loves to come home every other weekend and holidays, but he also looks forward to going back to his home. Without a **medicaid waiver** that we've received none of this would be possible for him. He would be stuck at home with his dad and I and not be able to have any type of independence. When we found this placement my heart found peace that we have him set up somewhere where he could live the rest of his life. I worried about what would happen to him when we pass. He has two loving sisters who will watch after him and make sure his needs are being met, but placing him with one of them would be asking a lot of them and their families. Again, without this **medicaid waiver** this would not be possible.

We also depend on **medicaid to pay for his medications**. He is on at least 3 to keep his bipolar under control. I know what he is like when his medication is a little "off" and I can't imagine if he loses his medicaid and not be able to get his medication what would happen. He has no means of getting other insurance to pay for this. He gets \$50.00 from SS a month for his "pleasure" (movie, any activities, McDonald's) which by the way has to pay for his clothing, shoes, etc. That \$50.00 wouldn't be a drop in the bucket for the medications he is on or help him buy insurance to cover his medication.

I hope you will take to heart what I am trying to get across in this letter. Believe me there are a lot more parents out there in the same situation. The cuts you are about to make or thinking about making will be devastating to my family and all the families out there with a special needs child.

PLEASE, PLEASE **vote NO** to the Graham-Cassidy bill!!!!

Thank you!

Sharon Conrad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynn Schwe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy No!

I'd much rather see this bill reworked- no block grants because this won't work. Many states have not expanded Medicaid therefore many people don't get the funding they need. Block grants won't be enough for those with catastrophic illnesses. Children and seniors with debilitating illnesses will die if they can't afford their treatments and medications. We need to see more negotiations with drug companies. Rushing to vote on this bill as it is a mistake.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Katherine Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony, Graham-Cassidy hearing

As a healthcare provider, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My patients who have access to quality medical care are healthier in the long run, while those who do not have quality services arrive to me sicker, with more issues, requiring more of my time to care for them. I don't always have the ability to "fix" the multiple issues and must prioritize the most essential problem at hand. If the issues are addressed sooner, more thoroughly or in a preventative frame, the outcome would be better.

I have met numerous hard working Americans who are happy to have access to health services thanks to the ACA. I have been privileged to treat them and make their lives better.

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

Sincerely,  
Katherine Jackson  
Evanston, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy bill is a bad idea being rushed through the Senate without proper consideration. Capping spending, cutting Medicaid, exorbitant drug costs, makes survival particularly difficult for the poor and middle classes. If this bill had such merit, our Administration would be clamoring to adopt it for themselves...that's not happening. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amelia Brand [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care comment

I rely in quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because of the ACA, I am able to be a freelance contractor and have all kinds of exciting professional opportunities, plus more time to volunteer in my community.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The cost increases each year (I live in Minnesota) are ridiculous.

Thanks,  
Amelia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sam Grundman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCHcomments

Do not take away health insurance from millions of Americans!

Do not repeal Obamacare!

—Sam Grundman  
Charlotte, NC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Caecilia & Chris Holt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a small business owner, I pay for my own health insurance, and need it to be affordable so I can keep my kids, my spouse, and myself healthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Caecilia Holt

Kutztown, PA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Vicki Engel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill comment

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

My family and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I urge you to vote against the current Graham-Cassidy proposal to repeal of the ACA and cut of Medicaid spending. This will threaten health care for many citizens including my family.

On a personal note and a very real case in point I had a friend who, rather than become a burden to his family with impending medical bills associated with a serious illness, instead elected to take his own life. This was prior to the institution of the ACA, and he had no access to affordable health care.

Another friend of mine's life was saved due to the Healthy San Francisco program. He underwent 16 hours of surgery and cancer treatment that would have been completely unaffordable to him without this program. After treatment and recovery, he is healthy and back at work.

Please think of my two friends and the majority of Americans who, unlike Donald Trump, were not born into wealth with everything provided for them.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Vicki Engel  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nanci Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** We need your support to save Medicaid for our Special Needs Community!

My name is Nanci Johnson. I am the Program Manager for a progressive program at OCA in Winter Park. OCA stands for Opportunity, Community and Ability and it offers behavior therapy, recreation programs, adult vocational training, summer and holiday camps as well as after-school programs for individuals with special needs such as autism, down syndrome, retts syndrome, and other cognitive and physical disabilities.

These programs are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The founders of this organization, parents and staff have worked so hard to support these individuals so that they can be a successful part of our community and I do not want to see that go away. I DO NOT want to see parents forced to make a decision about an institutional setting for a population that contributes to our society and economy. Taking away this funding will not only cut services and impact people with special needs, but it will financially impact unemployment numbers due to cutting jobs of dedicated workers such as my staff, as well as parents now having to quit work to care for their child.

I respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of myself, my staff, my parents and most of all the Special Needs Community.

Sincerely,

Nanci Johnson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** roberta.gallant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Attention - My Testimony

Dear US Senate Finance Committee members:

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Roberta Gallant and I live in Concord, New Hampshire. I belong to People First of New Hampshire, the Capitol City Self-Advocacy Group, the Self-Advocacy Leadership Team, North East Advocates Together, ABLE New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities. These organizations offer people with developmental disabilities an opportunity to speak up and advocate for themselves.

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill and do not want any of you to pass it. If you pass this legislation, it will impact other people and me with developmental disabilities in such negative ways. That means we could end up losing our Medicaid and Medicare programs. We need to keep all of our governmental medical and health-care benefits. I am completely



against the Graham Cassidy bill! This bill may put us in jeopardy. Please remember that now.

Thank you for letting me address my concerns about the possible passage of the Graham Cassidy bill before you electronically.

Respectfully,

Roberta Gallant

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barb Horstmeier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

What actions your committee and the senate take on the American healthcare system will not affect me directly. Indirectly the current bill, Graham/Cassidy will have huge effects on many friends and my state. None of those will be positive. Just one example:

A friend diagnosed with cancer at age 19

She is now 55

17 years ago her monthly healthcare insurance was \$800 a month, she had to drop insurance, just could not afford the premium.

With the passing of the ACA she could once again afford coverage. So far she has been lucky in that cancer has not returned. Prior to the ACA her "preexisting" condition priced insurance out of her ability to pay. That \$800 represents \$2,518.20 today.

Everyone knows the ACA is not perfect. President Obama invited improvements. Now is the time to get serious about improvements that move healthcare in the United States of America forward into the 21st century not return it to the 20th.

Thank you,



Barb Horstmeier  
Fort Valley, Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Hunt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing from Sarah Hunt, Saint Paul, MN

Dear Senators,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. So do my friends and neighbors. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I want to share a quick story not about me but about my neighbors across the street, Jerry and Peggy. Jerry worked for the railroad all his career and is a Korean War vet. Peggy worked for Northwest Airlines. They are now retired. Both have ongoing health issues, Peggy in particular. The last time we caught up, Peggy expressed worry about the ACA being repealed and the effect this would have on their coverage and costs. Jerry and Peggy rely on quality, affordable healthcare. As a country, we can and should keep pushing to improve access to and quality and affordability of healthcare for everyone living in our country. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your service and leadership,

Sarah Hunt  
Saint Paul, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Johanne Dyerly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am begging you to drop the political gamesmanship and take the time to develop a well considered, bipartisan healthcare legislation that will be good for all people in our nation.. Do it by committee, hearings, etc. Stop trying to gain a political victory at the expense of the American people.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

MY family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is my oldest son has many health issues and relies on the system continuously. My husband and I currently have no insurance as it is too costly and I can not understand the system well enough to figure it out. I also have a drop in center for homeless and since the Obama care, they actually have insurance to get treatment. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, [name]

[town, state]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Janet Holsinger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why health care matters to me

I am devastated to learn that after months of congressional representatives campaigning and reassuring Americans that people with pre-existing conditions will be protected under any new health care law, that is not the case. You can do everything "right" and still become ill or injured, due to genetics or just bad luck. Illness and accidents do not discriminate. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2017, there will be an estimated 1.6 million new cancer cases of all types diagnosed in American men and women. 1.6 million. If that is just for new cases this year, imagine how many more people are cancer survivors or currently fighting it – all with preexisting conditions. Tens of millions more will be diagnosed or continue to live with other pre-existing conditions: rheumatoid arthritis, thyroid problems, diabetes, hepatitis, depression, asthma, allergies, obesity.

In 2001, I was on a cheap antibiotic used to treat acne. When I switched to my husband's insurance plan, I had to fight for coverage because this minor, non-threatening thing was considered a pre-existing condition, and therefore the insurance company did not want to cover me. The Graham-Cassidy bill would put Americans right back there. Many states do not have the funding to cover basic programs. How can we trust that there will be enough in block grants to provide insurance that is truly affordable for everyone, or that states will use this money wisely? When asked how states would guarantee that people with pre-existing conditions would be covered, Vice President Pence was not able to actually answer that question, because there is no guarantee. During the election, we heard over and over that protecting people with pre-existing conditions was a priority. It is clear now that those were just empty words. Giving states the right to opt out of requiring insurance companies to provide affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, or waiving coverage for essential medical benefits that provide screening that can help prevent or allow for early detection of life-altering disease is unconscionable. We hear how the goal is to lower insurance premiums. This bill may or may not do that – but if it does, it will only be for the very healthiest among us. The rest of us will be lucky if we receive even basic health insurance coverage.

Why does this matter to me? My husband and I have always had health insurance since our 20s. In 2013, my husband, then 40 years old, was diagnosed with "an old man's" cancer. No family history, "just bad luck." It came back again 2 years ago, and he continues to battle it. We have two young children. Without comprehensive health insurance coverage, we would lose everything. One round of chemotherapy drugs alone costs over \$6,000. My husband has had 19 rounds. When the hospital processed an insurance claim incorrectly, we received a bill for \$94,000 for one day of life-saving emergency surgery. That is almost as much as our combined annual income. We could not have paid that bill, let alone all of the others. With everything my family has gone through, we have at least been able to sleep at night for the last 5 years, knowing that my husband will always be able to obtain the health care he needs.

Last week, 3 days before my 43rd birthday, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I have no family history of it. I have no health problems. I run marathons and eat organic foods, for Pete's sake. This came out of nowhere. Yet here we are. We are a dual-income family, and now a dual-cancer, dual-preexisting condition family as well. Where does that leave us if we are denied health insurance coverage, priced out of it, or if lifetime caps are placed on our benefits? If we can't get health insurance or can't afford it, THERE ARE NO PROTECTIONS. We will have to decide which, if either of us, can be treated for cancer, and which one of us will have to die, as we will certainly not have the money to pay for both of us. Our sweet 8- and 11-year old boys will have to endure the consequences.

We are not just statistics. Along with so many others, we are hard-working, contributing members of society who are fighting for our lives. Yet we can't do so without affordable insurance that allows us to get vital medical treatment.

While the Affordable Care Act has many problems, we need to find a solution that will give millions of Americans confidence that they will be able to not only have "access" but be able to actually afford and receive treatment. This bill does not do that. We can do better. We have to do better. It is time to set aside partisan differences and finger-pointing, and work toward a solution that will benefit, rather than harm, all Americans.

Sincerely,

Janet Holsinger  
Senior Historian

History Associates Incorporated  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 24  
[REDACTED]

Privileged/Confidential/Proprietary information may be contained in this message. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of this message to such person), you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone. In such case, you should destroy this message, and notify me immediately. If you or your employer does not consent to internet e-mail messages of this kind, please advise me immediately.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eva Armour [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill opposition

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, Eva Armour

Milwaukee, WI



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill Sudak-Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Do Not Take Away Healthcare from 32 Million Americans

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I both have pre-existing conditions and with the passage of this heartless bill you will bankrupt our family. Is this your goal? Are you so out of touch that you have no idea what it is like to work decent paying jobs but have to manage spending as we pay for our mortgage, our cars to get to work, for our children's college? My husband and I have worked full-time plus I've always had a second or third job to pay for 1/2 of my oldest son's college, you say we are lazy. I say you are out of touch.  
I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Stop creating laws and voting for things that will harm 1/5th of the population. Quit taking money from big donors who oppose doing what is right. Vote this bill down.

Sincerely,

Jill Sudak-Allison

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Billy Hector [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], NJ [REDACTED]

September 22, 2017

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill being rushed through Congress. I am a melanoma cancer survivor. I have a pre-existing condition. It is one of the most aggressive forms of cancer if not treated. I have had a tumor and lymph node removed in the past. I have to make frequent trips to the dermatologist to have suspicious moles removed before they threaten my life becoming melanomas. This bill would threaten my access to the healthcare I need by allowing insurance companies to discriminate against me because I have cancer. That threatens my life. We need to improve the Affordable Healthcare Act, not destroy it. This bill and the suffering it will deliver to so many families across the nation is un-American. The rush to pass it without bipartisan debate or input is wrong. And it is shameful.

Also, this bill vindictively cuts funding for our state to reward states that did not expand Medicaid. Please don't steal from the citizens.

Sincerely,  
William Hector

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mike Lehn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am against this bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is not supported by any major health care organization and is nothing more than a weak attempt to strip away health care protections for the most vulnerable. I am against this bill.

Michael J. Lehn, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cora Kuyvenhoven [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:37 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.

Cora kuyvenhoven  
Columbus Ohio

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Barbara Butler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Health Care Bill

DO NOT PASS THIS HORRIBLE BILL! Health care should not be about major donors! It should be about taking care of Americans, ALL Americans. The young, the healthy (whose lives could change at any moment), the sick, the elderly, the disable, the rich, the poor, the conservatives and the liberals. It's about doing the right thing. DO THE RIGHT THING!

--  
Barbara Butler  
North Calais, VT  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Porter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Health Care Plan

For me, personally, the enactment of the Graham Cassidy Health Plan would mean losing my brother and sister, as well as putting my own life in severe jeopardy. We, like many Americans, live with genetic predispositions to very serious medical situations. My brother had a series of heart attacks when he was 34, though he was only 10 pounds over ideal weight. My father had a heart attack at 31, which he survived, then died of his second at 49. My sister had 2 aneurysms in her brain burst when she was 62, and deals with having seizures fairly constantly. She had been a world class triathlete when she was in her 40s and stayed in top condition though she worked full time as an elementary school teacher and principal. Speaking for myself, I have never smoked and have never consumed alcohol, nor abused pharmaceuticals. I have asthma and COPD, Lupus and Moyamoya Disease. The most serious of these is the Moyamoya Disease, an extremely rare disease which causes the closing and hardening of the arteries which lead to the brain and kidneys. It also causes the creation of blood clots in the arteries leading to the brain. At this time, my carotid arteries are so tiny that they might be considered no more than capillaries. By God's grace, my basal artery has tripled in size to handle the flow of blood to the brain. If my basal artery becomes involved in the disease, I will die. This is such a rare disease that it is difficult to discover what the root of the disease may be, though it is understood to be a genetically based issue. Although I am of Scots-French-German descent, my body also deals with Systemic Lupus, a genetically based disease most common in women of color (75% of people with Lupus are women of color). I work full-time as a computer programmer and editor. I understand that because we are not wealthy, we are not worthy of the fruits of the health care system in the eyes of the Republican Party, but our families love us and want us to continue living and loving them. Please understand that in God's eyes, we are ALL beloved.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cindy Solomon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not vote to send this bill forward. It is a terrible bill that will take healthcare completely away from many people.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pat Gunn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repeal and Replace

Acknowledging the inadequacies in the Graham-Cassidy and voting 'no' will make you a hero. With lives in the balance it would be a travesty to allow health care to cease for those most in need; children, the critically ill and those with life-long illnesses and conditions.

Should you act in the best interests of those profiting from health care piracy you will be securing yourself a lot of free time after you up for reelection because we, your constituents, will be electing someone who will act in our best interests regarding health care and quality of life.

Pat Gunn  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maria AlvarezRyan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham Cassidy

I have personally benefited from our health care system. My family and I have always had employer-provided insurance and I pay my part for the most flexible insurance program that is available to me.

I want everyone in the USA to have the benefit that I enjoy, regardless of their income, health, age, disability or employment status. The Graham Cassidy bill is totally contrary to what I think is best for our country. It is destructive of families and individuals. It's passage is not freedom (as Pence claims) it's the tyranny of not being able to take care of oneself and others.

We want a healthy and strong society. Affordable health care for all is key to this goal. This bill will cost more in the long term. The burden cannot be shifted to the states and it will come back to us all twice as hard. My heart breaks for those who will not be able to take care of their families and for the increase in bankruptcy filings as a result of health care insurance not being available.

Maria Alvarez-Ryan  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Woessner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** statement for hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy"

My name is Sarah Woessner. I am a citizen from Virginia. I am a doctor who cares for many patients who went for years without health insurance who recently got an ACA plan and are so grateful to have the opportunity to take care of their health finally. I am so ashamed that some in Congress are working so hard to take this away. I do not see any improvement in this proposed bill or any of the ones that came before it over the last several months. It seems to me a way to reduce taxes at the expense of our fellow citizen's health. I do not agree with the argument that states would do a better job with block grants. I want the same excellent health care no matter what state I am in. Humans have the same needs no matter what state we live in and I don't see the efficiency in 50 states re-inventing the wheel. Our country seems so far behind many other countries in the field of health outcomes and this proposed bill would be a huge setback.

Sarah Woessner, MD  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Voelker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:41 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. As a KS pediatrician I care for some of these vulnerable Americans every day. Without Medicaid many will lose access to needed services like vaccines, therapies and medicine. Our Children's Mercy hospital will struggle to continue to provide the amazing services currently available across several states. Please reject this terrible bill.

Amy Voelker, MD  
Olathe, KS

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol Robart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy "healthcare" bill

My husband and I are in our early 60's and retired. My husband's career was with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mine was spent as a public school teacher. We have devoted our lives to the idea that we are caretakers of the future.

We pay for our own health insurance ourselves. I am a breast cancer survivor. My husband was once diagnosed with diabetes although he has reversed it through diet. Because of these pre-existing conditions we would either be denied coverage or pay an exorbitant premium, which we would not be able to afford, if insurance companies were allowed to do so. Earlier this year, I developed septic shock and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. I spent five days there, two of which were in intensive care. The bills would have been more than our pensions could cover if it weren't for insurance.

We cannot afford to be without insurance. If this bill passes, we will not be able to afford insurance.

Please consider the well-being of the vast majority of Americans and vote no.

Thank you,

Carol Robart

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** j.buck784 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** in opposition to Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal on health insurance

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal on health insurance. While ACA needs improvement, this bill does not accomplish that goal. The misrepresentations about the real impact of the bill are frustrating. The country deserves improved health insurance along with better and more honest debate about this particular piece of legislation. Reject this bill and begin a bipartisan process to get us to real improvement in our health insurance.

James Buckley  
Bronx, NY [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecca Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Please protect our more vulnerable citizens and vote against the latest version of a bill to take away their health care coverage.

Rebecca Jackson MD

[REDACTED]  
Orange , MA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** andi gladstone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comments on Graham/Cassidy

As the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] (and as a breast cancer survivor myself), we believe this bill would be a disaster for all women diagnosed with or concerned about breast cancer. The reasons are obvious – cuts to Medicaid, cuts to New York, removal of guaranteed coverage for pre-existing conditions, removal of guaranteed basic benefits (including breast cancer screening), and much more. It would be a mistake to move this bill forward, a mistake that will affect millions of women. We urge you to pursue a solution that supports the individual markets of the ACA and broadens benefits for more Americans.

The NYS Breast Cancer Network is a coalition of breast cancer organizations located in communities throughout New York and reaches over 125,000 New Yorkers with breast cancer information and support services each year. We know what life was like for women facing breast cancer before the ACA and know we cannot go back to that dark time.

Thank you.

Andi Gladstone

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hannah Hall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our family is devoted to our family and caring for one another, which means that we won't always be able to work one full time job and get insurance through it. Affordable, quality health care is important for families who work less than full time OR who work multiple part-time jobs without benefits! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Hannah Hall

Harrisonburg, VA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Floyd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** please.

Dear Senators,

I personally know two people who will go bankrupt or die under the new proposed healthcare law (Graham-Cassidy) because they have pre-existing conditions. Please don't kill your constituents. Leave it alone. Tell your donors you're sorry but they can not have that tax cut.

Laura Floyd  
Athens, GA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** jkriebel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I myself enjoy the benefits of Medicare so I will not be personally impacted by this bill. However, since I have had cancer, were I not to be covered by Medicare, there is a good chance that I would have difficulty in getting insurance coverage should this condition recur. That is wrong.

The point of insurance is to spread the risk over a large pool. Therefore, getting rid of the individual mandate makes no sense. I live in Colorado, where I am required by law to have auto insurance. I have been driving for 54 years and not had an accident. I guess I could argue that I shouldn't have had insurance. Why is it OK to mandate auto coverage but not health coverage?

Putting the merits of the bill aside, as Senator McCain has said, this bill was crafted in a way that is not consistent with how the Senate is supposed to do business. Your one day of hearings is a cynical ploy to claim this is business as usual. It is not.

I implore you not to report the bill favorably out of committee. Then get back to business and come up with a bipartisan bill to fix the many problems with the ACA.

James Kriebel  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Ciok [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good morning,

Apparently it's that time again. After thinking healthcare was safe and that we finally had a chance to breathe, the Graham-Cassidy Bill came along. This bill would be devastating to everyone. I know that my senators are against this bill, as are many others and the majority of the American people, but it is important for my voice to be heard. I'm not sure what the Senate Republicans are trying to do or how they think this will help Americans to be "great again" but this awful bill needs to be stopped and regular order must reign again. Our democracy is at stake here.

Please don't let this devastating bill pass. Please don't let healthcare be taken away from millions and for the nation to be sent into chaos with no forethought.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ciok

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[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura McAlister [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save healthcare

It is absolutely necessary to keep the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and many the children that I work with rely upon health insurance made possible by the ACA. Their MediCal through Insurance covered pays for many of their therapies needed to assist with their development disability.

Health Insurance is a human right, not a privilege. The individual I assist and their families would be negatively impacted if they lost access to the therapy they need in order to decrease maladaptive behaviors and increase developmentally appropriate behavior.

Please do what is right. Vote to keep Affordable Care Act.

Thanks,  
Laura McAlister, M.Ed. BCBA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** kerry.sipe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My health care

I implore you to refrain from dismantling the ACA, which has been the difference between life and death for so many of us. Have the courage to do what is right rather than what is politically expedient. Defend Americans' access to affordable health care. Do not turn it over to states who have demonstrated their incompetence so often before.

Kerry W. Sipe  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GHC

*What is wrong with you senators? Really? What the eff is wrong with you? Why don't you want Americans to have healthcare? Good, affordable healthcare? Have you lost your minds and your souls?*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Gail Laker-Phelps [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Americans NEED you to protect us from Graham-Cassidy

Finance Committee,

This atrocious bill is no better than all the rest put forward by desperate Republican senators. The hidden \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

Will you be remembered for protecting American citizens, or for allowing this sham healthcare bill destroy millions of American lives?

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.

Gail Laker-Phelps  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kit Keller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare concerns

I am a registered voter in Lincoln, Nebraska, and I am concerned about the proposed "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. This threatens the current healthcare coverage of many Nebraskans, and many Americans. My children who live in other states rely on the coverage available through the Affordable Care Act. ALL four of my children have some type of pre-existing condition, ranging from asthma to having had a Caesarean section delivery.

Please DO NOT support this proposal. It is a step backward in health coverage for Americans.

Kit Keller  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nina Sharma [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My Public Testimony

Hello,

I believe every human being is entitled to quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The times I have been with and without healthcare have shaped the peaks and pits of my life, respectively. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely, Nina Sharma

New York, NY

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[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kimberly Cartier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender )  
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. Kimberly Cartier  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Stacy Levitan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I live in Pennsylvania which historically cannot get its representatives to agree on revenue issues in any way that helps those in most need. Graham Cassidy will put our Commonwealth's healthcare at the mercy of people who still have not agreed on the revenue side of our budget from July 1. We need a framework from the federal government to protect our citizens on the vital issue of healthcare. The major insurance companies in our state are against this bill, as is every healthcare provider.

In addition, I am executive director of a nonprofit that provides support services for adults with disabilities so they can live and work in the community. There is *\*no doubt\** that funds for these services will be cut drastically under this bill. Our state has a waitlist of services for people with disabilities of 14,000. We already cannot support those who need our help. We cannot sustain one penny less than we already receive. And because Medicaid as a statute requires funding of institutionally based care at the expense of efficient and effective community based services, as soon as states cannot afford their Medicaid services, states will have to cut services like ours that help our clients live in the community, and most importantly, work in real, paid jobs that allow them to be contributing taxpayers to our economy. This bill and approach to dealing with escalating Medicaid costs is so short-sighted that it will surely accomplish the opposite of what is intended.

Finally, my fear as an individual with a chronic condition and the mother of two who have chronic conditions, that we, an upper middle class family, may not be able to obtain, let alone afford, health insurance under this scheme, is almost overwhelming. Putting in language requiring "adequate and affordable" coverage will only prompt years of litigation while those of us who need insurance will be left in the cold.

You all know that this process to "replace" ACA is not what anyone would think their representatives would undertake to make decisions that could result in ripping healthcare from millions. Please stop this rushed, shameful process and work together with all of the Senate to fix the issues facing us.

Stacy Jarett Levitan  
[REDACTED]

Stacy Levitan  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elisa Veguilla [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 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.

Elisa Veguilla  
New Britain, CT

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Fells Books [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Surviving cancer

I am a cancer survivor who had great healthcare and great docs. I want that for all who have the bad luck to contract this disease. Supporters of GC Act makes clear that is not at all on their agenda. This cannot become law. Vote no.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joe Rife [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 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.

Joseph Rife  
Greentown, IN

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nola Ernest [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comments

As a community pediatrician in Alabama, and one of the nearly 67,000 members of the AAP, I urge Congress to #PutKids1st. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill is harmful to kids and, therefore, I can not support it. Essential health benefits, removal of lifetime caps, and protections for pre-existing conditions are among the current provisions that protect children. Keeping these provisions in place helps ensure that children will grow to meet their full potential. Economically, this translates to a future of more productive citizens.

Investing in kids is not only the right thing to do, it is also economically sound.

(Has anyone ever thought about taking children out of the equation altogether and providing universal health coverage for kids?)

Nola Jean Ernest MD, PhD, FAAP

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joanne Cohn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** financial impact of Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

As an American I respectfully request that you take into consideration the financial effects of the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill, which will revamp a significant fraction of the medical care in this country. I do not think it is fiscally responsible, or otherwise responsible, to have a vote on a bill with such impact before getting a clear analysis of its fiscal impact on Americans, the people the bill is designed to serve. Before the current national healthcare was in place, medical expenses were a major contributor to bankruptcies (it is estimated that the number of bankruptcies has halved since it took effect, see e.g. <https://www.consumerreports.org/personal-bankruptcy/how-the-aca-drove-down-personal-bankruptcy/>), and that doesn't include the fact that many people got healthcare that could not get it otherwise, saving their lives in many instances.

We definitely need to improve our national healthcare. I would like an American healthcare plan where you take the best ideas from all of your colleagues, based upon whether they are good ideas, not based on their party--we the people deserve the best! And your promise to your voters--beyond all it is a promise to do what is best for them and the country!

Thank you for your consideration and service,  
Joanne Cohn  
Berkeley, CA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tom Handequand [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GhramCassidy Bill

DO NOT APPROVE THIS BILL THIS IS UN-AMERICAN

REJECT. STAND UP FOR ALL AMERICANS NOT JUST WEALTHY OR YOUR BASE.

YOU REPRESENT ALL AMERICANS INCLUDING MIDDLE CLASS & POOR PRIVATE INSURANCE IS ASTRONOMICAL WE PAY \$1600 A MONTH FOR 2 PARENTS & 1 CHILD WITHOUT ANY HEALTH QUESTIONS EVER ASKED IN AN EMPLOYER GROUP PLAN BEFORE THAT WE PAID \$1,300 A MONTH THROUGH OBAMACARE BUT \$6,000 DEDUCTIBLE WHICH MEANS NO CARE UNLESS CATASTROPHIC OR MAJOR SICKNESS OR DISEASE

PRIVATE MARKET DOES NOT WORK. ITS BEEN BROKEN FOR YEARS AS ONLY A FEW MAJOR COMPANIES RUN HEALTHCARE IN MOST OF COUNTRY & STATES & THEY PRICE GOUGE WHILE THEY PSY HUGH CEO SALARIES & ADMINISTRATION.  
THATS WHY OBAMACARE WAS PASSED

YOU NEED TO STEP IN AND WORK ON HORRIFIC DRUG PRICES & NOT ALLOW COMPANIES TO SELL DRUGS TO OTHER COUNTRIES CHEAPER THAN THEY SELL TO US CITIZENS

YOU CANT TAKE AWAY MATERNITY CARE OR YOU WILL HAVE MANY MORE BIRTH INJURIES, TRAUMAS THST WILL RESULT IN COSTLY HEALTHCARE FOR THE CHILD FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. THAT BEING PENNY WISE & DOLLAR FOOLISH WITH OUR TAX DOLLARS

YOU CSNT DENY ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AS IT IS A DISEASE & IS A CRITICAL NEED AT THIS TIME FOR OUR COUNTRY TO HELP & DEAL WITH THIS SERIOUS LIFE-THREATENING PROBLEM. IF NOT TREATED YOU WILL HAVE MORE AND MORE LOSS OF LIVES THROUGH OVERDOSES, CRIME & MURDERS AS ROBBERIES WRONG AND CRIME WILL ESCALATE ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ORDER FOR THOSE ADDICTED TO SURVIVE

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda May Holmes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** info@kamalaharris.com; Senator Dianne Feinstein  
**Subject:** Metastatic Cancer Survivor concerned about Graham-Cassidy

Please don't let this bill go through as is! I am a Stage IV cancer survivor who would see my premiums skyrocket. My cancer, uterine leiomyosarcoma, is a rare one, necessitating out of town travel to consult with the sarcoma specialist who oversees my care. It's an expensive cancer to treat. Higher premiums would break me financially and leave me unable to afford my care. Plus, I am between the ages of 50-65, which I understand would increase my premiums even further. I had to retire early after 27 full time years in the workforce, and my retirement savings plus disability (SSDI) payments are the only means I have to pay for my care. Please don't let this bill get out of committee! It is truly a life or death situation for me, and that is no exaggeration.

Sincerely Yours,  
Linda May Holmes  
San Diego, CA

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amanda C. Peterson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:06 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.

Amanda C. Peterson  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ellen Chapman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Although I have private health insurance, my mother relies on Medicare and my nephew's child, who was born prematurely, receives all of his care through MediCal which was acquired through the MediCal expansion. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Chapman  
Sacramento, CA  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anne Chapman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Say NO to the GH Bill

To whom it may concern,

The Affordable Health Care Act is not something I rely on to live each day in a healthy manner. I live a middle-class life in a Midwestern city and thankfully do not rely on much support from outside sources. Despite this, I am a strong advocate for the ACA and other similar support systems.. I have family and friends who rely on the ACA to live each day in a happy and healthy way. The Graham-Cassidy bill will destroy so many peoples lives and prohibit them from living in a happy and healthy manner that all humans deserve. The leaders and law makers in our country claim that we are the "greatest country in the world". I would love for this statement to be one day true but with bills like the GH bill, we are never going to make this a reality.

Sincerely,  
Anne Chapman  
St. Louis, MO

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jenifer Twiford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,

Jenifer Twiford

San Francisco, California

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rick Callahan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save Medicaid

My name is Rick Callahan and I am the Executive Director of Compass, an agency that support 180 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Medicaid is not an entitlement for people with I/DD, but a life enriching funding source that has allowed individuals with I/DD to move from institutions to living in their chosen community and finding jobs.

In Maryland over 5,000 people are seeking services and each year close to 700 individuals are transitioning from high school to the adult world. They are finding love, relationships, jobs and finally making strives to be full participants in their communities. If Medicaid goes to block grants, then all of the progress that has been made for people with I/DD will eventually be lost. You cannot cut Medicaid by 25% without it significantly affecting them. Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy Bill and lets have a discussion where the people mostly affected by these changes are at the table to discuss solutions.

Thank you

Rick Callahan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diana Rodgers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy.

Dear Finance Senate Committee:

Please resist Graham Cassidy Bill. This secret, behind closed doors attempt to repeal Obamacare without both sides of the aisle is outrageous and unAmerican.

We, the people, actually want Medicare for ALL, like the rest of Europe, Canada and every other civilized country.

Stop trying to turn the USA into a Third World Country for your own personal and corporate gain. We are tapped out, awake and ANGRY!

Sincerely,

Diana Rodgers

Sent from my iPhone so please excuse typos \*\*\*



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Kate Allison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Do not pass this bill. It would be disastrous. It would contribute to the already crippling medical bills millions of Americans face, and take away coverage for dozens of "pre-existing conditions" including pregnancy of all things. Katharine Allison, registered voter in zip code [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Denise [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:00 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.

Enough of this crap. No more bad ACA repeals. Just let the law work.

Jennifer Diskin  
Washington

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alyssa Goss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:13 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 Goss  
Henniker, New Hampshire

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer Beran <sjberan@windstream.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 AM  
**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. Jennifer Beran  


**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

Senators,

You are our voice. Please, speak for us! We are your people ----- sick, suffering, old, infirm. Please do NOT betray us!

Vote AGAINST the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

YOU have Government Sponsored Health Care. Considerer the rest of us.

REPAIR the ACA! Don't repeal it!

Sincerely ,

Katherine P. Suto

Warrenton, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Fergus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Franklin Fergus

This is my son Franklin. Franklin is 8 years old and would have hit his lifetime cap 7 years ago, but thanks to the protections of the ACA we don't have to worry about that. We vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. We strongly urge you to consider bipartisan proposals to solve our healthcare problems. Block grants are especially harmful to medically fragile children just like Franklin. Thanks to great healthcare, Franklin is thriving today, he is doing more now than even the doctors thought possible.



Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill & Affordable Care Act

To Whom It May Concern:

Where is the concern of the GOP for we the American people, rather than for the Republican Party? Where is our democracy that you would pass a bill without debate, hearings, bipartisanship and a CBO score? Laws should not be passed just for the sake of passing them because a party said they would do it. Especially when the passing of that bill would harm millions of Americans. Yes, there are flaws in the Affordable Care Act but Republicans and Democrats should work together to fix the problems rather than the Republicans trying to spite the Democrats by throwing out the baby with the bath water. And why is the President now making sure that the ACA will fail by cutting funding for advertising by 90% and cutting the budget of the negotiators by 40%? Is this how you represent the American people? Is this what you call democracy? Because from where I am sitting, it looks, acts and smells like dictatorship! Fix the ACA rather than killing hundreds of thousands of people by passing this farcical Graham-Cassidy proposal. This proposal is not healthcare but, rather, deathcare to everyday Americans and tax relief to the rich and pompous.

Beth Harris

A concerned citizen who deserves to be heard.

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Individuals with disabilities and their families need your help

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am the parent of a 21-year-old son with autism. Evan is basically nonverbal and sometimes exhibit very challenging behavior. Evan is also a whiz at Googling things on his computer that he is interested in, and he has a gleam in his eye and a smile that will light up a room.

Because Evan receives SSI, he has TennCare, which is Tennessee's version of Medicaid, as his secondary insurance. Having TennCare has been very helpful for our family, particularly when, in 2015, Evan spent two weeks in the psychiatric unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Because Evan has some challenging behavior, he was accepted into our state's Medicaid waiver program in October 2015, after 11 years on the waiting list. The state Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities agreed that Evan needed another place to live with 24-hour-a-day support. But because our state doesn't pay for housing, and there's basically no affordable housing where we live (Williamson County, TN), Evan is still living in our home. And because Tennessee pays such low rates to support workers, we have not been able to find a caregiver to stay with him when he gets home from school each day. So my husband and I are trading coming home early from our jobs in order to stay with him.

The good news is we've finally found an provider agency that says it can help pay for housing, and it will be able to hire staff soon to support him in a home of his own.

Given the challenges that we have faced thus far with our Medicaid program, the idea that the Graham-Cassidy bill would force deep reductions in funding for the Medicaid system is terrifying to our family. The planned cuts would be devastating to Evan and to people like him who rely on Medicaid waivers for daily supports and services.

We thought after years of being on the waiting list that Evan would FINALLY get the supports and services he needed and will need for the rest of his life, and we could FINALLY breathe a sigh of relief. But this bill threatens to undo all that we've waited for, and that Evan needs so very much!

Please consider the needs of people with significant disabilities as you all review this proposal, and reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you.

Janet Shouse  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Melissa Balzer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

I am urging you to opposed this new and worse healthcare bill. There has to be a more bipartisan way to fix what we have instead of just abolishing it. States are not going to put the people first. Saying that they will have the flexibility to chose how to allocate funds is not a guarantee that they will protect people. My husband and I tried for years to get pregnant and finally were able to try IVF. Infertility is considered a preexisting condition. God forbid we lose coverage, our premiums would hike. Now that in pregnant, I'm fearful that there could be anything wrong with my child before they are born, since that would also be a preexisting condition.

Please, put people like us first. There are millions who will lose coverage and either go bankrupt or die. Do the right thing. Be the real Christians so many of you claim to be.

Melissa Balzer  
Houston, TX

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Melissa Garcia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care is a social right, not a consumer product.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid and affordability is of utmost importance to me. Without Medicaid, my siblings and I would not have received any healthcare growing up in a low income household. I cannot imagine this right to be taken away from people. ***Healthcare is not a consumer product, it is a social right.*** I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Melissa Garcia

Dallas, Texas [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Colleen McGhee-French [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opinion on impact to health care

My comments about health care boil down to this:

This is not a matter that should be rushed.

This is a financial decision affecting a large portion of our economy, that the Congressional Budget Office has not scored.

The Graham-Cassidy bill courts only 1 party, because they fear it cannot pass muster with people representing both the left (48%) and the right (52%).

There have been no debates on this issue, and the one with Bernie Sanders on television doesn't truly count! I mean real debates.

Most Americans do NOT want this.

Though "compromise" is clearly seen as a dirty word, there were bipartisan talks making SOME progress, that were scuttled to ram through this unpopular bill.

GOP senators seem largely to operate under threats from their donors.

GOP senators can't defend the bill except to say that signing on is better than staying in the car with Thelma and Louise, or that there are ten reasons not to vote for it but they have to keep their promise, and similar nonsense.

This is all without BEGINNING to underline the hypocrisy surrounding the ACA (which is something I think requires some significant changes) and the fact that our fearless leader is doing his best to undermine ACA.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colleen McGhee-French

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** KATHY JONES [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 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.

Kathy Jones  
Dallas, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joshua Bloch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I 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 entire medical establishment is united against this bill, because it is bad for America. Finally, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill would affect me and my family.

Again, I urge you to reject this horrible bill.

Dr. Joshua J. Bloch  
San Jose, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** cathartt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please keep ACA

Please keep the ACA. Please try to work together as Republicans and Democrats who are Americans before parties.

I am so exhausted hoping the Senate will be the voice of reason. Honor and ethics still exist in our country. Please tell me they do.

I am just now on Medicare...thank God. But until recently, I was in that 7% paying higher premiums. And if you guys would support and try to fix the ACA, that cost could come down. But I didn't mind paying a little more knowing that so many could have coverage for the first time. I didn't mind knowing there was no cap if I got really sick. My insurance company encouraged me to get an annual checkup...for they knew that getting regular care kept their bills down and my health better.

I beg you to stop listening to your heartless donors...and listen to your hearts. At the end of your days, you will be judged by a higher power than me. What shall you give as your excuse knowing lives will be lost if you pass this cruel bill.

Just be a Senate and craft a bipartisan fix for the ACA. Let history and God judge you.

Cathryn Hartt  
Dallas, TX

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Roy-martha Luttrull [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on new healthcare bill

I just want to plead to anyone possible to vote NO on this new healthcare bill. This bill would cause so many people to lose their medical. We are senior citizens and desperately need our medical to stay as it is. Also our daughter is disabled and would not be able to have a way to live if this bill passes. She would never be able to get her medications. So many would wind up living in misery and dying excruciating deaths.  
Please I beg of you. Think of your constituents. Life is hard enough these days without our government making it worse.

Thank You,  
Sincerely,

Martha R Luttrull  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda P [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposed to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a breast cancer survivor, age 51 who has purchased her own health insurance for 17 years as an independent contractor.

Please stop Graham-Cassidy and get back to bi-partisan discussions of what will be best for Americans.

Seniors, people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions (like me) are in serious danger with this horrible bill.

Do the right thing for Americans and stop this bill.

Sincerely,

Linda P Davis  
Goodlettsville, TN [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ali Khan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I have family members who are beneficiaries of Medicaid services and will be negatively affected by Graham-Cassidy. I urge you to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy and to please work on a bi-partisan solution to reform health care.

Thank you,  
Ali I Khan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Brand [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:47 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 millions of people to lose their health coverage while gutting Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities: seniors and people with disabilities.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Brand  
Bethesda, MD

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Raymond A. Peterson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Sirs/Madams:

I'm writing to voice grave concern over the proposed Graham Cassidy healthcare legislation.

It will de-stabilize the American economy, allow insurers to fleece citizens with preexisting conditions, and decimate Medicaid, which is the most successful and cost-effective part of the ACA.

It will leave tens of millions of Americans without coverage and cause chaos, perhaps turn the US into a third world country within a few years.

I hope that enough Republican senators will understand the significant and irreparable dangers of this bill and vote no this week,

Sincerely yours,

Raymond A. Peterson  
Staten Island, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emma Humphries [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:48 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.

Emma Humphries  
San José, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Cyle Ferguson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

It's imperative that you reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would strip millions of people of their health coverage. Eliminating Medicaid will devastate the elderly and disabled. The most vulnerable Americans need to be protected, not abandoned.

Cyle  
Orlando, Florida

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rahul Risam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:49 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.

Rahulsingh Risam  
Glendale, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daryl Grove [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH, state flexibility, bipartisan solutions

Dear senators,

I'm emailing to ask that you please end the pursuit to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I know many of you have long opposed the ACA. But please consider my situation: I'm a 37-year-old self-employed man in Virginia with Type 1 diabetes.

Before the ACA, I could not afford health insurance on the individual market. As soon as the ACA passed I was able to buy a generous, affordable plan and start my own business. The past few years have been the healthiest and happiest of my life. If federal protections for pre-existing conditions are removed, then my insurance is at risk again.

I'm in favor of flexibility for states, but I believe that flexibility should be within the parameters of federal protections that make health insurance worthwhile — no discrimination against pre-existing conditions, no lifetime limits, realistic out-of-pocket maximums.

The ACA is ultimately a market-driven solution with federal safeguards for consumers. This should be a framework that Republican senators can work within to pass sensible legislation that helps and not harms people like me, and expands coverage to more people until we reach universal insurance.

I also know that you'll find Democrats willing to work with you on this issue with you. Please end the pursuit of "repeal and replace" and do as John McCain has suggested: work with your Democratic colleagues to pass bipartisan solutions.

Thank you,

Daryl Grove  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Reena Geevarghese [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:50 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.

You all have it in your power to offer flexibility and reduced costs to the American public, but with this bill it is clear you choose not to. Having friends that live in Denmark and Sweden I truly feel they live freer lives than we do because they are not beholden to employers for their health care. That flexibility allows for a happier electorate which are policy choices made by our elected leaders.

Please serve the interests of people not lobbyists and your big money donors who have a financial interest in keeping America backwards.

Reena Geevarghese  
Jackson Heights, NY



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deidre Sandvick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I find it unconscionable that the Senate, the "world's most deliberative body;" would consider passing a bill without doing the due diligence required to know how it will affect the American people. This bill could reform 1/6 of the American economy--how could any of you consider voting on it without substantial hearings, a clear understanding of the concerns of the many organizations involved with the healthcare industry, much less the concerns of all, and I mean all, of your constituents.

There is not one aspect of this bill that improves the healthcare outcomes for a single person. Although there has been no true analysis of the bill, everything that we do know about the bill makes everything worse for everyone. If there were any benefits of the bill, Republicans would be out in force advocating for them. Instead we get secrecy, obfuscation, and a complete abdication of regular order.

I vehemently oppose the method by which this bill came into being and demand that every senator vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Deidre Sandvick  
Eugene, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michelle Schuitema [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. It would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid. All of the medical community is against this terrible Bill. Please don't take away protections for preexisting conditions.

Michelle Schuitema  
Whitmore Lake, MI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daniel Rodriguez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:52 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.

Daniel Rodriguez  
El Paso, Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Reed Pomeroy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Effect on Healthcare Comments

It is my considered opinion that this legislation, as proposed would have a tragic effect on the current state of US healthcare.

#1 It would leave many uninsured with no assurance of healthcare in the foreseeable future.

#2 It would impose the same inequitable "age tax" penalties which this congress has voted down in previous bills.

#3 There have been no organizations, associations, of any kind in healthcare willing to approve of this legislation.

There are a number of other reasons I am opposed to this legislation, including the fact that the proponents have been opposed to the Affordable Care Act for at least 8 yrs, but have not been able to put a comprehensive replacement plan for consideration.

This only leads me to conclude that they either have no interest in such a plan, or no ability to craft such a plan.

Sincerely  
Reed Pomeroy

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Tammy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller which 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.

Tammy Evans  
Center Valley PA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** William Barnes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:55 AM  
**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. William Barnes  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** H Robertson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham/Cassidy

Members of the Committee,

I am saddened that our great country is threatened by the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I believe that coverage would be at risk for tens of millions of Americans under Graham-Cassidy. I hope that, for the sake of all Americans, senators will work in a bipartisan manner to address the challenges facing our health care system.

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.

The 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 Americans and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes as they age and threaten coverage for individuals in nursing homes.

Graham-Cassidy would put the health and lives of persons living with HIV, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and other serious conditions, at risk. In short, this legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health.

For these reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy plan.

Respectfully,

Hunter Robertson of Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pamela Hale [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

The ACA has saved so many lives. My little cousin was born early and had to spend almost a month in the hospital. The cost would have bankrupted his parents (and their parents and me). Plus, he has now already reached what would be his lifetime maximum, at a little more than six weeks old. Thankfully, he is developing perfectly and there are no obvious problems from his early arrival at this point. But, you never know when illness or accidents can happen.

Please don't take away the ACA. Fix it, by all means, make it better. But don't take away the protections it provides.

Sincerely,  
Pamela T. Hale



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michelle Archer Waterman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject/Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I insist that you 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 simultaneously destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Additionally, the removal of preexisting conditions protection would send this country back into the swirling black hole of medical debt we were quickly careening toward before the ACA was in place.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller is irresponsible, inhumane, and unAmerican.

Michelle Archer Waterman

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shore, Matthew [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Support Graham-Cassidy-Heller: End ObamaCare

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to support Graham-Cassidy-Heller. We desperately need relief from the Affordable Care Act. Loosening restrictions on insurance companies should give us all cheaper healthcare and help economic growth. I hope you will find a way to save the American public from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Thank you,

Matthew Shore  
Deerfield, Illinois

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Iris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy

I'm extremely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill and other Republican plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act and make it easier for states to waive coverage for Americans with preexisting conditions, cut coverage for mental health treatment, strip healthcare rights and access from women and children, and enable the White House to not pay out reimbursements. I urge Congress to improve the Affordable Care Act, NOT dismantle it. Thank you.

V. Tallmadge  
Austin TX  
Proud constituent of Rep. Lloyd Doggett

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jeffry Steele <music@jeffrysteele.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** graham-cassidy

Those who vote for this bill are turning their backs on their constituents and should expect to be voted out of office as a result.

Jeffry Steele

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** The Ferrett [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:45 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 millions of people (including me) to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming many.

Ferrett Steinmetz  
Rocky River, Ohio

Sent from my iPhone - please excuse any terseness or misspellings!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Antonia Clifford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I address you tonight to 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 pray that you deeply consider leaving these hyper-partisan ACA "repeal" bills in the past and work together to bring Medicaid to all.

Best, antonia clifford  
Chicago, IL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Robert Toop [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect the ACA. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off 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 lucrative medical device industry, with \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore, on which it has paid no U.S. tax.

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 Americans' healthcare. It's also time for 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.

Robert Toop  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Simon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT pass Graham-Cassidy

Esteemed Senators,

I urge you not to pass the Graham Cassidy bill. My wife, who had ovarian cancer, would never have qualified for insurance under the terms of this bill. I am appalled to think that the Congress would endanger the lives of people like her. I would like to see the ACA improved, NOT repealed.

Thank you,

Kathy Simon  
Oakland, California



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Harry Arnold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller  
**Attachments:** anti health bill.jpg; what you need to know.jpg

Senate Finance Committee,

Your decision to vote for Graham-Cassidy-Heller should be based Campaign promises or on opinions of wealthy political donors. If based on healthcare experts your only choice is to vote NO. Your job is to promote the common good. Voting yes would devastate millions of Americans across all party lines. Put politics aside and vote No because it's the right thing to do.

[Harry Arnold  
[REDACTED]

Vote NO

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Paul Cantrell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham/Cassidy

Any health care reform bill must increase health care coverage, decrease medical bankruptcy, and decrease instances of people not receiving the care they need because they cannot afford it.

If a health bill does not meet these criteria, you should not pass it.

If you do not yet have sufficient information to determine whether a bill meets these criteria — a full CBO score at a bare minimum! — then you should not pass it.

If a bill is uniformly opposed by doctors, hospitals, insurers, medical advocacy organizations, and patients, you should not pass it.

Graham/Cassidy miserably fails every one of these tests. To pass it despite this would be dangerous and irresponsible. If the word “conservative” still means anything at all, it means that you should kill this bill.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** T Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy is not good for Americans

As my Congressman Tom Reed said, the effort to pass Graham Cassidy is pure politics. It has nothing to do with what's good for Americans. Instead there should be a bipartisan solution. I believe that there are good Senators on both sides who can get it done.

Terry Brown

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** abigail johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Dear Senators,

Please find it in yourselves for the good of our country to protect our care and find a way to come a bipartisan agreement to save and improve the ACA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Johnson  
A Constituent  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Foote [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't cut off my twin daughters' healthcare

Hello,

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

My twin daughters were born at 29 weeks gestation and spent the first two months of life (and most of what would be considered their lifetime maximum) in the hospital. Today they are vivacious happy three year olds. For me to look at them and see how they have survived and thrived despite their traumatic start, knowing that their future coverage could be jeopardized by this careless bill written by Politicians instead of healthcare policy experts is frightening and infuriating. No family should have to choose the life of their children at the cost of bankruptcy.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica foote

Portland, OR

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brenda Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** donotreply, Perdue (Perdue); United States Senate  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Brenda Roberts  
Atlanta, GA

I write to voice my opposition to the pending healthcare bill currently heading to the senate floor.

This bill is a shameful attempt to disenfranchise the already disenfranchised poor and elderly. Most of our political leaders are seriously out of touch with the challenges facing the decreasing middle class. This country is supposed to be a leader and an example in the world for other countries. President Trump said the Kim Jong Lee killed his own people but passing this bill will certainly be no different for the US. Before you say we are not like N. Korea, it's easy to say when you won't look at your positions honestly. You often find ways to justify your position. I remind you that slavery lasted in this country for hundreds of years, followed by Jim Crow laws, lack of civil rights for all citizens, the destruction of Native American lives and lively hood and the list goes on and on, when leaders refused to see the errors of their ways. For some reason there is some idea that people will just figure it out and get their healthcare but you can't get blood from a turnip and if people don't purchase affordable insurance, they will wait until they are critical and go to the ER. That is not sustainable. The hospital's ER departments will treat a particular symptom or illness but who pays? Taxpayers.

I ask my state senators to get out of the bed with big pharma and insurance companies. You are supposed to be working for the good of their state. It not at the expense of the greater US. We do not and cannot stand alone; this is the United States and the divisive partisanship behavior of our government is disgusting.

I traveled to Canada in August and heard routinely how the respect for the US is waning. I traveled to several countries in Europe in September and heard the same thing. Frankly, it was embarrassing.

The citizens in this country want our government to work together with both sides, as a team, to govern this country. Your personal agendas should not be your focus. Get off the couch and listen to your constituents and I mean all of your constituents. At the end of the day you represent us all and you have a duty to do so honorably.

I hope you will consider my comments.  
Brenda

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Thomas Dorfivo [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Giving authority to the states after approval from HHS will destroy healthcare. What we need is a non-partisan bill to fix PPACA (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act - don't forget the PP). Note that I'm on Medicare and these changes won't affect me or my family. I just happen to love my country. Do you?

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Chelsea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect small business & my husband by protecting the ACA!

Senators,

My husband works for a small business in rural Clackamas County with less than a dozen employees. They cannot afford to provide health insurance to their employees, but as a young family, we cannot risk (or afford) to be without it. The ACA allows my husband to contribute to the rural economy without risking his health or our financial stability. We shouldn't have to leave the farmland of our state to chase city health insurance.

Please, look at the big picture: the well-being of all Americans must take precedence over a flashy campaign promise. Be on the right side of history. Be on the right side of everyday Americans. Keep the ACA and use your power and intelligence to improve it! It was only a first step, after all.

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Lowrie



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beatle Bangs [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender  
**Attachments:** Delivery report; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED] (Mail Delivery System)  
**Date:** September 24, 2017 at 9:53:52 AM CDT  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender

This is the mail system at host [omr-a020e.mx.aol.com](mailto:omr-a020e.mx.aol.com).

I'm sorry to have to inform you that your message could not be delivered to one or more recipients. It's attached below.

For further assistance, please send mail to postmaster.

If you do so, please include this problem report. You can delete your own text from the attached returned message.

The mail system

<[gchcomments@finance.senate.gov](mailto:gchcomments@finance.senate.gov)>: host [a-ess-ppmx2.senate.gov](mailto:a-ess-ppmx2.senate.gov)[156.33.195.97]  
said: 550 5.1.1 User Unknown (in reply to RCPT TO command)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Bipartisanship

My family and I relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that we should not just think of ourselves but of society as a whole and I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Do the right thing!

Sincerely, Sharon McKendry

Crystal, Minnesota

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pat Heising [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,  
Patricia Heising  
Sanford, FL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cindy Cutler [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA - DO NOT REPEAL

PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL ACA.

Here are some of the major provisions of the ACA and why they're important.

**Coverage for people with pre-existing conditions:** Everyone knows about this one, and this alone should be a reason to keep the law in place. As a diabetic who was, until just about this time last year, self-employed for 20 years and forced to buy health insurance on the private market, I can tell you this is A BIG DEAL.

**Coverage for dependents until the age of 26:** Everyone knows about this one, too. Before the ACA, plans could kick your kids off at the age of 18.

**Essential health services:** Every health insurance plan is now required to cover a set of 10 categories of health services. These include inpatient and outpatient hospital care, emergency services, hospitalization, prescription drug coverage, pregnancy and childbirth, mental health and substance abuse disorders, rehabilitation services and devices, lab services, preventive and wellness services, and pediatric oral and vision care. Plans may cover more if they wish, but they MUST include at least these basic services. Co-pays and deductibles may still be involved, except for preventive and wellness services.

Before the ACA, plans didn't have to cover all of these services, and most did not. Try finding a plan that had mental health or pregnancy coverage, for example. And many plans were known as "junk plans," which were very low cost plans but for a good reason: they didn't actually cover anything. They might cover a doctor's visit – with a \$75 co-pay – but if you actually got sick or needed a blood test or an x-ray, forget it. It was 100% out of pocket.

**Ban on rescission:** Before the ACA, insurance companies would, pretty routinely, cancel policies when people got sick.

Under the ACA, insurance companies can no longer cut off your policy when you need it except in cases of non-payment or demonstrable, intentional fraud (i.e., not just forgetting to mention you had treatment for acne 4 years ago). Some states had already banned rescission prior to the implementation of the ACA, but not all. Now, it's illegal across the country.

**No more lifetime limits on coverage:** Prior to the ACA, many insurance companies would put caps on how much they would pay for your healthcare costs for your entire life. The cap was often around \$1 million. Which, okay, sounds like a lot, but it's not a hard figure to reach if you're talking about cancer or a life-long condition like hemophilia or any number of other conditions that are very costly and/or take a long time to treat. Not to mention, kids might hit that cap when they're 8 years old, and then what? And remember, you now have a pre-existing condition, which without the ACA in place means you are going to have a hard time finding another plan to cover you.

The ACA banned lifetime coverage limits for kids in 2010 and for adults in 2014. This is something that affects all of us, whether we have private insurance or employer-provided insurance.

**The 80/20 rule:** This is an ACA mandate that requires insurance companies to spend at least 80% of the money they take in on premiums on your health care and on quality improvement activities instead of overhead and marketing. Insurance companies selling to large groups (50+ employees) must spend at least

85% of premium dollars on healthcare and QI. If your insurance company doesn't meet these requirements, you get a rebate on your premiums.

Again, this impacts all of us, regardless of the source of your insurance.

### **Women can't be charged higher rates than men just because we are women**

**Contraceptive coverage:** This one has been controversial, I know. A few high-profile SCOTUS cases have watered it down a bit, but I just want to say this: This has never been about "free" birth control. It is, and always has been, about the plans that women PAY for providing them with a legal prescription drug.

This also affects all of us, whether we are women using birth control or not. Think about the impact of pregnancy (wanted or otherwise) on the woman, her family, and society as a whole, and you can see why.

**Closing the Medicare "donut hole":** Medicare currently has a coverage gap called the "donut hole." What this means is seniors get coverage for their prescription drugs up to a certain limit every year. In 2016, it was \$3,310. Once they reached \$3,310, they had to pay out of pocket for ALL of their prescriptions until they reached \$4,850, and then Medicare starts picking up their costs again. In 2012, the donut hole started at \$2,930 and ended at \$4,700. That means between 2012 and 2016, the hole closed by \$230. The gap is supposed to continue closing through 2020 under the ACA. There are also provisions in the ACA for seniors to get discounts on both generic and branded drugs, and these discounts will continue to get larger until 2020, as well.

**Routine preventive care is free:** It goes without saying this is also important to all of us.

### **INSURANCE COMPANIES DON'T EXIST TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY. THEY EXIST TO MAKE A PROFIT.**

This is why so many of us are screaming about the importance of a single payer system. Healthcare is a basic human right, but insurance companies look for any and all ways to charge US as much as they possibly can while providing the fewest services they possibly can.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Regina Alonzo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am a reasonable person - a moderate, a college-educated farmer's wife, a community volunteer, a parent. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal is a cop-out, financially devastating to your voting constituents. Show your real leadership ability and care for those who put you in DC - please vote down this terrible bill and be on the right side of history! Regina Alonzo

Regina Alonzo

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill is a Death Sentence

- >
- >
- >
- > To Whom it May Concern:
- >
- > The Graham Cassidy bill is a death knell to many. It will reduce options in choice of doctors; reduce insurance options and be prohibitively expensive for many. We the tax payers have to pay taxes on the insurance we have or in some cases don't have. Since Trump doesn't pay taxes, he is trying to undo any effort made by the Obama administration.
- >
- > Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, I was able to have needed surgery. My plan for 2016 which sadly is no longer available covered my entire surgery; hospital stay; post op medications; physical therapy and the nurse. The ACA has saved lives. The Graham Cassidy bill is impractical and will mean the difference between life and death for many.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Caren Beilin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill - testimony

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

As a woman with an autoimmune condition, the Graham-Cassidy Bill would greatly reduce my ability to thrive in this country. And, as women experience autoimmune disease (a leading source of pre-existing conditions) so much more frequently than men, I see this bill as being quite harmful to my gender. Without federal protection, I will find it unviable to get the treatment and medications I currently need to keep working (and yes, I work full time at a variety of part-time jobs-- which is incredibly common in this economy). I am a very happy recipient of insurance bought on the ACA marketplace-- it has worked wonderfully for me, and I would only support legislation that helps the ACA help even more people.

Thank you,

Caren Beilin  
Philadelphia, PA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Toni Gates [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy hearing

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. I have lymphedema which puts me in the preexisting category. I don't want to be excluded from healthcare because of that or, as I get older, because of my age. I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege for the wealthy. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal or replace.

Sincerely, Toni Gates  
Puyallup, WA

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alyssa Carlson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My friends, colleagues, neighbors and I rely on quality affordable healthcare. Your bill does not provide that for Americans--enough so that even major insurance companies are against it. The ACA needs improvement, and I support a bipartisan effort to do so. I oppose this bill.

Alyssa Carlson  
Minneapolis, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments

Dear Senate Committee,

I have been a physician in practice for 35 years. I have seen untold number of people whose health and well-being suffered for lack of adequate health insurance. I am concerned about most all of the proposed changes to the ACA being put forward in the Graham bill, however I wish to comment particularly on the opening given to states to re-instate the issue of pre-existing conditions with the probability of higher insurance premiums. In addition to patients, I've had one friend whose death I could attribute to insurance denial and unaffordability due to a pre-existing condition. If higher premiums are charged for pre-existing conditions, the sickest and poorest among us will suffer and many will die prematurely as a result.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Brooks, MD  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Natalie Danford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

Like everyone with a body, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a freelancer for all but one year of my adult working life (almost 30 years), I have always purchased my own insurance. Under the ACA, the system still isn't perfect, but it is far better than it has ever been before. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Natalie Danford  
Brooklyn NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jenny Evans [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband had prostate cancer 15 years ago and received prostatectomy surgery. Five years ago the cancer came back and he received radiation treatment. He is cancer free today but would be in trouble if preexisting condition protection was taken away. Instead of repeal and replace with this substandard bill, please work with Democrats to improve the ACA.

Jenny Evans  
Santa Cruz, CA

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Susan Orley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Stop Graham-Cassidy bill

Follow the bi partisan and sensible lead started by Alexander and Murray to protect the health of all Americans

S Orley  
Springfield, PA  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marvin Packer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham-Cassidy bill

As a physician, I write in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. Massachusetts has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of those gains.

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.

Congresses approach should be bipartisan and aim to fix the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you.

Marvin Packer, M.D.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tanja Meding <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** strengthen and support the ACA - a NO for the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with is as follows: 7 years ago I was diagnosed with uterine and ovarian cancer - I had surgery followed by Chemotherapy. Therefore I am now a patient with a preexisting condition.

Thankfully during those trying times, we had very comprehensive health care insurance provided through my husband's job at a university.

Shortly after my treatment ended, my husband's job was terminated - if the ACA had not been in place at that time, including the pre-existing condition mandate, it might have been very hard if not impossible for us to find an insurance to accept me.

I have seen the bills that came in after my surgery and during my chemo therapy - if we had had to cover these expenses out of pocket, we would have been bankrupted.

Taking health care away from millions of of people if you repeal and replace the ACA - is just not acceptable. I urge you NOT to repeal, or actively work on dismantling the ACA - but continue and work in a bipartisan way to improve and strengthen the existing ACA for the good of all of us. As you know, a group of Republicans have been advocating this position for some time and have started taking steps in the right direction. Please support their efforts and do not pass a piece of legislation that the majority of the American public as well as all health care institutions and insurance carriers.

I salute Senator McCain as well as Senators Collins and Murkowski who repeatedly have been calling for a bipartisan approach - and for holding hearings, getting a proper CBO score and allowing for amendments before moving any piece of legislation to the floor.

This rushed effort we witness over the past days is not the way to make decisions and rush a bill that effect millions of people and their lives.

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

Thank you for your attention to this most important issue.

Respectfully,

Tanja Meding

Tanja Meding  
NY, NY 10044



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin Fiaschetti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

I am writing in opposition to Graham-Cassidy.

Today, I am fortunate enough that I and my immediate family are relatively healthy, but I know that that can change in an instant. I can remember what insurance was like before the ACA, both through my own experiences and hearing my parents' struggles with medical bills and premiums. As a child, I had my tonsils removed on New Year's Eve because we had met the deductible that year. My parents weren't sure if or when we would meet it the next year. I ended up having to stay overnight, and I can remember watching the ball drop at midnight as I lay in my hospital bed.

In my mid-twenties, while in the midst of returning to school for a graduate degree after working for a couple years, I experienced the stress of being briefly uninsured. Even then, feeling as young and invincible as I did, I was acutely aware that I was at some level working without a safety net.

Back then, we took it for granted that insurance might be out of reach for some or might not really protect us the way it was supposed to. Now the American people know better.

Frankly, this should be the easiest "no" vote you ever cast. There is unprecedented consensus against Graham-Cassidy among doctors, nurses, hospitals, insurers, and patient advocacy groups. Public opinion reflects that. The fact that it has a chance at passing just shows that many members of Congress no longer consider it their main duty to act in their constituents' best interests. Even if it fails, this bill has already caused real harm. Families of vulnerable children, those facing chronic illness, and others who depend most on our healthcare system are put in a position of extreme stress every time one of these bills is promoted in an effort to score political points. The disregard this process has shown for those families is irresponsible.

If the members of Congress really want a win on healthcare, they should return to the bipartisan effort to stabilize insurance markets and improve the ACA.

Erin Fiaschetti  
Baltimore, MD

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margaret Squires [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Need for affordable health care

My family and friends rely on affordable, quality healthcare.

My daughter, like many in her generation, is struggling to find a foothold in an economy that doesn't offer jobs the way it used to. Her situation is complicated by the fact that she is striving to break into a creative field. So she currently holds a "day job" that does not offer health insurance. Meanwhile, my husband retired some years ago, and I hope to retire some day. So it was a great relief to us when insurance became available to our daughter through the Affordable Care Act.

Furthermore, I have at least one friend who is dependent upon the ACA for her survival. She has several pre-existing conditions, including diabetes, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Without the ACA, she believes that she would already be dead.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would do great evil to people I care about.

I would much rather see an orderly bi-partisan effort to improve the ACA.

Thank you for your attention.

Margaret Squires  
Bloomington, Indiana

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carolyn Catapano Wheeler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

There are many reasons why I oppose Graham-Cassidy, but I will focus on two: its failure to protect those with pre-existing conditions and the per capita caps.

I know that Sen. Cassidy claims the bill protects people with pre-existing conditions, but the fact is it passes the responsibility to do so to the states and sets no standards or accountability to assure that the insurance offered to those with pre-existing conditions is actually affordable. Health insurance is expensive, no matter where you buy it and what your history is, but if the cost is so high you can't buy it, you really don't have access.

A cap on insurance payments may be attractive to insurers, but it makes no sense to those of us who need insurance to deal with medical emergencies. Many years ago, after an uneventful, even blissful, pregnancy, I went to the hospital in labor. I did not return home until a month later, after my newborn had spent 10 days in NICU, and I had spent a week in ICU and the remainder of the month in a medical unit. I had chest x-rays several times a week. I had blood transfusions, IV antibiotics, heparin, and more. My care continued for more than three months after my release from hospital: drugs, x-rays, testing. I try to imagine what I would have done if, in the midst of that, my insurance company told me I had reached a cap and they would no longer pay the bills. I wasn't working, and I had already been close to death. What choice would I have made?

I don't want anyone else to face those decisions. The ACA has flaws, but, if the administration were not working so hard to undermine it, Obama Care would provide people the care they need. And it can be improved, if Congress would remember what bipartisanship is. The Graham-Cassidy bill is not in any way a replacement for the ACA. It is cruel, ill-conceived, untested, and disastrous. Passing it would be unethical and dangerous.

Please do not allow Graham-Cassidy to become law.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** F Timothy Dugan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with healthcare is I have a pre-existing conditions. For most of my life I have not been able to get insurance unless I was able to get insurance from my employer. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal

Sincerely

Tim Dugan  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susannah Darling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Submission for Finance Committee Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy  
**Attachments:** Submission for Finance Committee.pdf

Dear Finance Committee of the United States of America,

Thank you for taking the time to look over these submissions. I would like the chance to tell my story, an unusual story I hope will give you cause to think.

I was born in Arlington VA to two middle class parents, who had been born and grew up in Virginia. Our small family of four did not make a lot of money but we managed well enough. At the time my father worked a cashier's job to make rent for our tiny apartment, and mom stayed home with the kids. We eventually moved to Fredericksburg VA. When I was 3 years old, things changed. I was thirsty all the time, irritable even for a 3 year old, and complained of stomach aches. One day she was describing my symptoms to a family friend, and they told her to take me to the hospital right away.

I ended up staying in that hospital for two weeks. At this point, I was only a few weeks away from my 4th birthday, and I was diagnosed at the MCV Hospital in Richmond with Type 1 Diabetes. Type 1 Diabetes is an auto-immune disorder different from its more well known cousin Type 2 Diabetes. There is no cure, and no way to prevent it. Not through diet, exercise or prayer can this change for me. There is only one treatment, insulin therapy, for the rest of my slightly shortened life. I began getting injections for insulin, and having my blood sugar checked every four hours. I remember crying because I thought I had done something wrong. But there was no amount of sugar or food that caused this to me. It was just a blip in my genetics.

My family now was faced with financial crisis - my life or their money. I was a hostage to healthcare.

That was 21 years ago. My family has had many hardships since, not including the diabetes diagnosis, because diabetes does not stop for anything. In those 21 years I have never stopped being diabetic, I have never had a break, and I have known even at 4 years old that I was a financial burden to my family. I have always understood that insulin is not cheap. The price without insurance today is approximately \$600USD for a bottle that lasts me one week. That's not including test strips to check my blood sugar, which can cost anywhere from \$1USD to \$5USD, and blood sugar is recommended to be checked 4 to 5 times daily, with some diabetics doing more than that.

If I did not have insurance, the monthly cost to keep me alive with my current treatment would be \$2,400 for insulin, \$350 for supplies for my insulin pump, \$600 dollars for checking my blood sugar, to a total of \$3,350 a month, or \$40,200 before taxes every year. I have friends tell me not to be scared, that things will work out okay, but if I lost my insurance I would need to find a job that is willing to pay over \$40,000 simply to stay alive. That does not include rent, student loans, or any other health costs that could appear in the future.

I am a productive member of society. Thanks to Obamacare, I did not need to get a job right out of high school to get insurance. I didn't even need to go on Obamacare - I was able to stay on my father's insurance, who still works as a cashier to keep my family functioning. Thanks to Obamacare stating that I cannot be denied insurance due to my pre-existing condition, I was free to get my degree in Applied Physics, with a minor in Psychology at Christopher Newport University. I volunteer for my local community, I've taught children how

to code and I make funny videos for the internet. And up until last year, I was planning on applying to Virginia Tech to get my masters. However, I am now unsure of my future and more scared than ever. I hear politicians on the tv tell me that Obamacare must die. I hear them tell me, that despite my intelligence, my ability, and life that my pre-existing condition makes me no better than a "burnt down house".

Finance Committee, I am not a burnt down house. I stand tall as a proud, free American. As costly as my disease is, and as much as I have struggled with my worth in this world, I will tell you now I have more to offer to the world than my disease. I am worth every penny. I am a human being, and I deserve a chance to show the world all I have to offer. All I ask is the chance to live life. Had I not been protected by the regulations set by Obamacare, I would not have that chance. I probably would not be here today to write to you, to beg you to look over this bill and think about how it will affect people like me. Think about how I am still a hostage to my disease, to my insurance company, to the rules and regulations that will be set forth and changed that actively affect my life and the lives of people like me.

I ask you to think not only of the financial cost of this bill, but also of the cost of life. Of the lives that might not get to live if we do not have protections for them.

And I ask you to think of that scared little girl at 4 years old in a hospital, and what you would tell her today. Think of your daughters. Can you tell that scared little girl that she will be safe? Can you tell her that she will get to live to be 25? That she will learn how to launch satellites into space, that she will find passion and happiness?

Or will you tell her that her life is too expensive for the United States?

Thank you for your time. I hope you have a good Monday.

Susannah Darling

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christie King <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

Dear Finance Committee,

My name is Christina King. I am 31 years old and I was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. Due to these conditions, I have had to take several medications to control bowel and bladder complications and the ability to focus. I also can not walk without leg braces.

I currently work part time and therefore my employer provides no health insurance. I would like to eventually be able to work full time. In the meantime, I am on SSI and receive Medicaid.

I have been living on my own for almost two years. If Medicaid services are cut, it would make it very difficult for me to afford to go to the doctor, buy my medications, and afford the medical devices and supplies I must use daily. It would also make it difficult for me to have someone outside my family come over several days a week to help me with daily living tasks such as grocery shopping, going to Dr. appointments and completing other household tasks.

I oppose this bill because it would limit my ability to live independently and have access to healthcare through Medicaid. If you remove the mandate to accept pre-existing conditions I may be in a position where I can never afford insurance or become independent of Medicaid.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Thank you,

Christina King.

**Christi  
na  
King**  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Wendy Jameson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 AM  
**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. My story with Medicaid is that my 59 year-old brother would be very sick, poor and possibly disabled without it. Three years ago, my brother was earning a living as a trumpet player. Then he developed Bells Palsey, which numbed half of his face. This disease made it impossible to play the trumpet and earn a living. With no income, he lost his Kaiser Permanente health coverage. Thanks to the ACA, my brother got in Medicaid and sought health care at a local community health center. There, he received care for the Bells Palsey and discovered he had high blood pressure. Today, he's back to playing trumpet and earning income, and is managing his hypertension with medication. We are grateful that the ACA extended Medicaid coverage to low-income adults without children. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jameson

Albany, California



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michele Ditto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 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.

Michele Ditto  
Philadelphia, PA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elena Cangelosi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO for Graham-Cassidy

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

Although I am a hard-working, extremely motivated young professional, I have used both the ACA and the Medicaid expansion plan to have access to quality, affordable healthcare. Last year, while working part time and taking university classes, I was able to afford my monthly quality, ACA-driven healthcare payments of only \$124. Working part-time while trying to improve my education, I need coverage! We want better educated Americans, and the ACA allowed me to go to school while not having to worry about working full time to afford health care. Additionally, I am currently on the Medicaid expansion plan while I am searching for a job - and the coverage is incredible! It is completely wrong to say that quality Medicaid disincentivizes people from seeking jobs, because I am an obvious average case. I left one job to search for another, and during that time my income dipped below the allowable ACA income, so Medicaid picked me up. I am working very minimally, while I put a lot of effort into self development and more classes, so that I can very soon in the future work in urban and regional planning in Michigan to work daily to improve our communities. If the current system were not in place, this self improvement and in turn productivity would be impossible because I would be a slave to whatever employer is willing to give me mediocre health care. Honestly, that might make me move country, because what future do I have working a job I might hate for the rest of my life? Not doing it.

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

Sincerely,  
Elena Cangelosi  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Scott Kallstrom [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Please vote no on the new health care bill. As a senior citizen I am appalled the you are even considering it. Work with the Democrats to pass a bipartisan bill that will improve the current system. Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jonathan Perloe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my outrage that Congressional Republicans are trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with measures that are wholly inadequate to protecting the healthcare of Americans, especially those least able to afford quality healthcare.

I urge all members of the Senate Finance Committee to kill Graham-Cassidy before it kills Americans. That's not hyperbole. Studies have established a link between healthcare insurance and mortality. Virtually all healthcare policy experts agree that the bill will lead to millions losing insurance coverage; the Brookings Institute estimates at least 21 million more people will be without coverage by 2026.

The New England Journal of Medicine concluded, just last month, "that coverage expansions significantly increase patients' access to care." Increased use of medical care made available by the ACA has likely produced "significant" benefits to health. And those benefits, it reports, "will ultimately help tens of thousands of people live longer lives."

The level of deception perpetrated by the bill's authors is astounding. Senators Cassidy and Graham have claimed that the bill will protect Americans with pre-existing conditions. Even comedians know this claim is patently false, because the bill allows insurers to charge more for customers with pre-existing conditions. Unaffordable healthcare insurance is no insurance at all.

Graham-Cassidy should not become law because of the exceptional harm it will do to Americans' health security. But as Senator McCain (and the entire Democratic Senate caucus) noted, the process by which the GOP is trying to overturn the ACA demonstrates an unprecedented level of irresponsibility.

Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration are trying to pass legislation that affects trillions of dollars of economic activity and the lives of millions of Americans without waiting for the Congressional Budget Office to assess the implications on coverage and premium costs, with virtually no input from citizens and policy experts, and no attempt to get input from Democrats. Republicans' actions reveal their true objective: to repeal Obamacare at all cost, regardless of how it impacts the well-being of our citizens.

Please stop what the CEO of the American Medical Association says will result in "millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care."

Jonathan Perloe  
Cos Cob, CT

cc: Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, Representative Jim Himes

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Foley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill -OPPOSE

I have several pre-existing medical conditions, including arthritis and thyroid problems. I rely on affordable healthcare that can be used to treat these conditions.

I **oppose** the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to encourage the bipartisan dialogue started by Senators Alexander and Murray.

Patricia Foley  
Forest Park, IL

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Woestman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the effects it would have on all Americans. If we think the health care system is expensive and chaotic now, what will it be like when we have 50 of them? This is an unfunded mandate that will strip more people of health care than any proposal so far. You need to listen to all the health and finance experts who are telling you how disastrous this bill will be for the people. Had you started a bipartisan discussion in January, there might be a viable plan by now. We want affordable health care for ALL.

Mary Woestman

Mary Woestman

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin.(Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Wenzel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham-Cassidy

I am a resident on New York City [REDACTED] I am strongly urging you not to support Graham-Cassidy. This is a cruel And inhuman attempt to repeal and replace.

Ann Wenzel  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** GAYLE EARLEY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill will hurt Americans. Please vote NO.....



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Louis Watanabe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy--Heller

Dear members of the Senate committee,

I oppose the proposed healthcare changes in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. I've had great medical care under ACA with 2 bouts of cancer. I am currently cancer free! The bill would worsen the healthcare system. I am a member of AARP and urge you to scrap the bill!

Sincerely,  
Louis Watanabe

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Caroline Alderman, [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill because it is being rushed through the Senate...no CBO score...one brief hearing (not nearly enough for a bill affecting 1/6th of the American economy)...drastic Medicaid cuts generating opposition from ALL 50 state Medicaid directors...and opposition from nearly EVERY healthcare related group! It's a bad bill. There needs to be a bi-partisan solution. The healthcare of Americans is too important to dissolve into partisan politics.

Caroline Alderman  
Hilton Head Island, SC

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** LESLIE L HUGHES [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 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 millions of 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.

Leslie Hughes  
Grove City, Ohio

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** JTB Personal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed healthcare reform bill by Senators Graham and Cassidy. Please vote against this cruel and destructive change to our healthcare system.

The majority of Americans that you represent and nearly every insurance, medical association and the healthcare community oppose the changes proposed.

The ACA is not perfect but there are bi-partisan opportunities to make forward improvements for all not political gouging of it that would put so many Americans, especially in the middle and those in most need at such health and financial peril.

Our country is better than this, let's make the most of our great assets and resources to benefit all not just the few for political and financial gains.

Respectfully,

Jeffry T. Burr  
East Sandwich, MA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christina Lorz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:04 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't pass Graham-Cassidy

Please don't pass Graham-Cassidy. As small business owners, we rely on the Affordable Care Act for ourselves and our children. Unless you are going to switch to a public option of another sort, or a Medicare for all system, please leave the affordable care act as is.

Thank you,  
Christina Lorz

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alaina Turnbull [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am urging all parties concerned to vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy budget reconciliation act. This bill will strip basic healthcare and the access to healthcare from those who need it the most: the poor, the vulnerable, the very young, and the very old. It is clear from the speed that this was put together, and the lack of CBO score determining how many people will be thrown off of their individual insurance, plus the complete defunding of Medicaid, that those who wrote this did so only with the thought of the very rich in mind. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!

Alaina Turnbull  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** gch

The GCH bill is morally and fiscally irresponsible. You already have enough data to know that. Those who vote "yes" on this awful, destructive bill will be remembered in the next election and history books as anti-American. The medical profession is against it as are the majority of the voting citizens in the great country.

Kim Lang

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care comments

**Dear Committee**

**I wish to recommend AGAINST the proposed Graham Cassidy bill.**

**If passed, it would jeopardize health insurance for many Americans in need. The cost would go up and there is no assurance that Preexisting conditions would be waived.**

**Thank you**

**Gerard Houser**  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Figtree Bud [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not support Graham-Cassidy repeal bill

Dear Senators,

This is an appeal to you to please NOT support the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill.

I appeal to your consciences, and moral values, most specially if you claim to be a Christian.

I am fully employed and have health care insurance thru my employer. I am also a cancer survivor, and have had 3 surgeries in a span of 6 years, in addition to radiation therapy and multiple medical tests. My current prescription costs can go as high as \$200 a month if I don't use the co-pay option provided by 2 of the 4 drug manufacturers, which brings down my cost to about \$150 - still a lot of money to pay for a single income single person who is also paying mortgages. If I didn't have health insurance, I will be in hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt by now, or maybe dead, because I couldn't have afforded my treatment.

I do not understand how GOP lawmakers are willing to be bullied by their President into proposing and signing a law that could put millions of Americans w/o access to health care, and putting their lives at risk, all for political points, and most especially, that the GOP claims to support Christian values.

I am a Christian, and yet everyday, I read in disbelief the systematic dismantling of protections not only for Americans, but those that affect the world as well - I will not list them here as I am hopeful you know them too, if you are not just turning a blind eye.

I appeal to your humanity and foundational decency. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE GRAHAM CASSIDY HEALTHCARE REPEAL.

Thank you.

A Virginia Resident  
Independent

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lindsey Doyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

Dear Madam or Sir,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. One of my cousins was born with only two of the normal four chambers of his heart, and, as a result, has had ensuing health complications all his life. He is now 12 years old. Without Medicaid/Medicare, he would either not be alive today or would be suffering much more because his family would not have been able to afford care on their own.

If you are truly pro-life, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, so that children like my cousin have a fighting chance at a life worth living.

Thank you for your consideration and service to the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Doyle

Sierra Madre, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bullard, Clark W [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Please, return to regular order. This will simply compound the problems with America's image in the eyes of the rest of the world, and is making me feel ashamed to be an American. Be human, be humane, vote against this heartless bill.

Clark Bullard  
[REDACTED]

Urbana IL 61801  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Laws change; people die; the land remains. A. Lincoln (SOTU 1862)*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Dawn Luttrell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I wish you people who have been elected to serve "the public" would remember that is what you're supposed to do. You are not there to serve the wealthy benefactors and lobbyists whose only motivation is greed.

This is a horrendous bill and you all know it. It will hurt the most vulnerable in society. All you Republicans are especially guilty of not giving a damn about people unless they can line your pockets. It's appalling. The only reason you have all tried so hard to pass "Trumpcare" of any kind, and the reason you tried for years before that to repeal the ACA is because it has Obama's name attached to it. You all seem intent on wiping out anything he did, and any legacy he left that he was ever in office. I've been voting since Reagan was President, and I have never seen such blatant racism and partisan temper tantrums in my life. Every one of you should be ashamed of yourselves, but I know you're not. You're laughing all the way to the bank while the rest of us suffer.

Until you can all agree, finally, that Universal Healthcare is the way to go, just shut the hell up about the ACA and leave it alone. Certainly, it could stand a few tweaks, but for the first time in almost 30 years, I've got health insurance. It's good insurance, despite my state not expanding Medicaid and giving us very few options on policies. My premium is low and so are my co-pays. I'm in my mid-fifties now, finally needing insurance for things that go along with getting older (and I'm sure most of you have dealt with similar issues). I recently had a colonoscopy and had 6 polyps removed, had my gallbladder removed in March, and I am now dealing with degenerative disk disease and severe scoliosis. Without insurance, I'd be bankrupt by now.

Stop trying to push through these horrible bills simply to get rid of anything that might invoke the name of Obama. Let it go and do something useful with your time, like environmental protection and infrastructure repair, and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Dawn Luttrell  
Smyrna, TN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare is net another unwarranted attempt to remove access to health care insurance to 32 million people This would be devastating to low and middle class working families, as well as those who are unable to secure meaningful employment that includes access to affordable health insurance. It would undo the progress that America has made in protecting it's citizenry. 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. That the Senate would consider voting on this bill with the benefit of only ONE hearing is an outrage. Measures that involve such large sums of money and that impact such a large number of our country residents must be given careful consideration and planning.

I strongly urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject this Graham-Cassidy bill. You have been elected to protect the needs, including healthcare, of millions of Americans. When wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for all who are in need.

Carol Allen  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hartsdale, New York 10530

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Carroll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

Affordable decent health care including preventative care is vital to every human being, and it would demean this nation of our should this cynical atrocious bill come to pass. We all know the ACA needs reform, it was a "jumping off" point, to help those so badly in need get health care. Additionally, we must allow the group of Congress who are working towards a bi-partisan solution that benefits most and more importantly, benefits the nation. A great multitude of not all health care groups, associations, patient advocacy groups have all spoken out against Graham-Cassidy Bill. None are for it. None. How can Congress not listen to those who are in direct contact with their patients, fellow Americans? Why would anyone listen to those who seek to punish the neediest, the seniors among us in order to take monies to give to tax cuts?

We are a better nation than this, I know we are - we must now act like it.

Thank you

*Kathleen Carroll*

[REDACTED]  
NYNY 10470  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** MARTHA LICHTBLAU [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care ;

To any one who will listen:

Every day hundreds of people get diagnosed with life threatening illnesses. This bill would result in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage, destabilize health insurance markets, and decrease access to affordable coverage and care.

You are supposed to represent the American people. You were elected to serve all of your constituents. This bill is yet another attempt to rush a non thought out bill to meet your greedy pleasure.

Please do your jobs. Serve the public. Understand that the ACA is saving lives. Ask yourselves if this coverage would be good enough for you and your family. And if the answer is no, then you have to vote no.

Sincerely,

Martha Lichtblau

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Allyson Kramer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Graham/Cassidy bill

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

**From:** Allyson Kramer [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sep 23, 2017 8:28 PM  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill  
**To:** GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov  
**Cc:**

Hi,  
MY family and I relies on quality and affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that I know people with pre-existing conditions and believe that they have a right to health insurance. I personally would be were I am right know physically if it were not for my health insurance. I have suffered with injuries these past few years. I was able to go to the doctor, get referrals and attend physical therapy for my injuries. Having health insurance made that possible and affordable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Allyson Kramer  
  
Needham, MA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tim Kleeger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't Repeal Obamacare Please!

Please-

Don't repeal Obamacare. It has been a huge help to my family & we'd be in dire straits without it. Now's your chance to IMPROVE IT!!!!

Thank you,  
Tim Kleeger

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I live in Texas and have family members enrolled in ACA who have preexisting conditions. My 1 year old precious great niece was born with an anomaly in her spine. I need to be assured that Texas will not be able to allow insurance companies to charge more for this baby's insurance. I also have a nephew who has MS. He is currently on disability. What will happen to him? Do we not care about our fellow Americans and their well-being. A healthy and safe life should be available to everyone at a price they can actually afford.

Martha Huebel  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marsha Levell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it would deny citizens with limited financial resources access to quality preventive healthcare.

[REDACTED]  
Marsha Levell  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michael K. McLaughlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill  
**Attachments:** Graham-Cassidy Opposition.pdf

I wasn't sure I submitted my statement of opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill in the correct format. So please find it attached as a PDF, hopefully with all the proper information.

Thank you,  
Jackie & Mike McLaughlin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fran Koehler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Legislation

It is with great concern that I write to urge the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill. The cuts to Medicaid will eliminate coverage for millions, harming not only the patients themselves but their families and their communities. Local hospitals are at risk of closing their doors if this bill passes, since they must provide emergency care to those who come to their doors. The mentally ill will be especially hard-hit, as many of them rely on Medicaid not through any fault of their own but as a result of the illness that caused them to become disabled in early adulthood. If this bill passes, we will become a nation which only provides healthcare to those with good-paying jobs. Others will do without, putting them more at risk for chronic illnesses and disability, leaving the American Dream unattainable due to lack of a basic safety net that so many have used to work their way back to productivity. Our economy cannot thrive under those conditions. Please reject Graham-Cassidy, and work toward genuine healthcare reform that provides healthcare for all.

Fran Koehler  
Seattle WA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin P [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Honestly, at this point I don't even know what to say. I know that my friends (well-educated, middle class professionals) who have children with chronic conditions are unable to go about their normal lives because of these bills. Why should a parent -- who has to do all the regular stuff like pay bills and go to work but also deal with extended hospital stays in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and fighting with their insurance companies about the intricacies of medical billing -- be forced to deal with this. If you want a bipartisan fix, you have the political capital to do it. Please stop putting people through this garbage just so you can get that sweet sweet Koch money. These are people's lives, the lives of (WHITE!) children, which seems to me the very essence of what you're supposed to be in favor of. Why bankrupt these people who want to keep their kids alive? How can this even be something you consider dignified or worthwhile for one solitary second? Sit down with any parent of a kid with a chronic condition and tell them that their child's life isn't worth your campaign dollars.

Cowards.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carmen Freilich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Act

Please vote vs the Graham/Cassidy Act ! It will hurt too many Americans.

Thank you,  
Carmen Freilich

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I'm writing you today about my healthcare. Its very, very important to me. Obama care saved my life after they discovered blood clots in my lungs. I am required to stay on blood thinners for the rest of my life due to a high risk of clots. I also need knee replacement surgery, but may never be able to have it due to again a high risk of blood clots. I have many medical issues, but the most critical is that I am bipolar. I require a cocktail of 5 different medications on a daily basis to help me live as normal a life as possible. I could not afford the medications without insurance. I would not be able afford my therapy or psychiatrist appts. Affordable medical insurance is a must. Prior to the ACA I was paying over \$800/month for health insurance just for myself. After the ACA it went down to \$370/month. We need a bipartisan effort to make Obama care better. If it needs to be repealed, we need something similar.

Please don't cast me aside, or throw me away by passing a health insurance I would no longer be able to afford, that would no longer cover pre existing conditions, that would no longer cover mental health. I struggle everyday, just to get through the day. Please, PLEASE, listen to the majority of the American people. Everyone deserves good health insurance. Everyone deserves affordable health insurance. We also need affordable drugs. Big Pharma rules, it shouldn't cost people their lives, because people can't afford their meds. Please design, construct, craft, an affordable healthcare act. I'm counting on you. Thank you.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine H. McNair

*Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone*