

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Madigan Kent [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:28 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal Affordable Care please

As a psychotherapist I have many clients who have relied on Affordable Health Care to manage their mental illnesses. I have watched one or two stop their medications when they lost medical coverage because of the costs. They then turned to alcohol to and in one case wound up in the hospital. People in the population I treat try to self-manage their mental health in an effort to make their other financial responsibilities. Often medical care and mental health become "optional" monthly expenses and as a society we lose when they get very sick or miss work. Please don't repeal the Affordable Care Act. We will still have to foot the bill as a society when affordable healthcare becomes inaccessible by everyday people without steady full-time jobs.

Madigan Kent, LCSW

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Boris Kerzner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies family on quality, affordable healthcare, which my employer provides. It is good insurance, and I know I am lucky. Many people have worse insurance, and many have none. Health insurance in this country is broken. How can we be great if this is not dealt with in a mature, adult way? 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, Boris Kerzner

Jersey City, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Flesher [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In our family we have a history of multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, and cancer. We lived through previous eras when preexisting conditions kept us from having insurance or limited our ability to consider new jobs. We have insurance through the ACA and it works well. Why go back in time? Why limit women's access to insurance? Why force poor people to go back to the days when they were unable to afford insurance? Please do not take away these fundamental rights. At the very least no vote should occur without a CBO score and additional debate time after that.

I would however like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. But please do not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Gail Flesher

Edwards, CO 81632

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Do not vote for this bill. If changes are needed, there should be a bipartisan committee working on improvement, not repealing it without recommended changes from this committee brought before Congress. Junetta McKewan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Impact

Death for many, including all three in my family:

Husband, 65: Diabetes, high blood pressure, and prostate

Son, 18: Autism, ADHD, bipolar, obsessive compulsive, severe anxiety

Me, 69: Lupus, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, Lupus, Stage 3 Chronic Kidney Disease

Two families close to us have children with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy. One already has little muscle and can do nothing for himself except push the button to move his electric wheelchair. His care would cost upward of \$300,000 a year without insurance. His mother is in her 50s, works fulltime, and had thyroid cancer. His dad walked out years ago because he didn't want a "defective" son. The other family's son still walks part time, but rapidly is losing muscle. Current medical costs: \$100,000, and that will increase when he can no longer walk. Both families desperately need insurance at affordable rates.

Everywhere we look, someone has health problems. One friend has multiple sclerosis. In another friend's family, three out of seven have parkinson's -- and two of those are not yet 30 years old.

No way could any of us have treatment without affordable insurance. Graham Cassidy will kill all three in our family. Soon. Please urge all to vote NO to that disaster of a bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ed [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GC healthcare act

This bill is a disgrace. Please stop voting for your part and donors and help the American People!!
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Kay Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Everyone I know has family or friends who rely on Covered California. My sister who had congestive heart failure, many friends, would have no coverage if the ACA was repealed. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water! Here the availability of quality affordable health care has become a reality through ACA, although undoubtedly it can be improved. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you—sincerely,

Mary Kay Martin
Santa Monica, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine Luce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy amendment comments

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy amendment to reshape the Affordable Care Act. It has been rushed through without full scrutiny or debate, and the only effect we can be sure it will have is to destabilize health insurance markets. This uncertainty could affect all Americans, even those not covered under the ACA. The amendment gambles with Americans' lives, and I strongly oppose it.

All the best,

Katherine Luce
Albany, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elissa Greene <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a family nurse practitioner living in Savannah, Ga. I have worked with poor and uninsured patients for the past 25 years. It is atrocious that the wealthiest country in the world refuses to provide health care to all of its citizens. Graham-Cassidy will leave another 32 million people without help. Please do not support this bill.

Kind regards,
Elissa Greene, FNP-BC

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adriana Yugovich [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare for all

To whom it may concern,

We are a world leader, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Why will we not take care of all of our people? None of the healthcare legislation has helped to solve the problem of poverty. And it can. I ask that you take the money you would spend on building just a handful of nuclear bombs and build a permanent program of universal healthcare for all. You know we can afford it. Break this harmful historic class system and prioritize the people over corporations.

Sincerely,
Adriana Yugovich
Public High School Teacher

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: jo kontzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA repeal

This latest Republican effort to destroy the Affordable Care Act and leave millions of Americans without any health care is unconscionable and also impractical. It will cost us many more millions than the current medical insurance scheme and you know it. Therefore it is up to you to put the kibosh on this latest attempt to ruin our country.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jean Ives [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I urge you to not pass this bill. As the parent of a child who has benefited greatly from the ACA, the only reasonable path to healthcare is to work in a bipartisan manner with full open hearings to improve the ACA.
Jean Ives, Richmond, KY

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Hilleary <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO on this cruel, disastrous, ill-thought-out GOP bill.

Sincerely,
Teresa Hilleary

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Bill

Health care is for all of our citizens. That means everyone from live birth through Hospice Care who holds citizenship. No one should be evaluated above another unless they personally pay for additional premium care. Non-citizens should be allowed to purchase health coverage.

Every person born in the country should be entitled to basic coverage at no personal cost.

I would include all government officials, Congress, the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, Governors, with equal coverage in all 50 states and territories.

A committee made of medical professionals, leaders of hospitals, representatives from political parties, and other stakeholders should write the rules for coverage, the appeals process, and whatever else is required to give voice to all people. Local meetings should be required for input from the public.

A review of who is a citizen must be included in the preamble. We should not allow pregnant mothers from abroad to come to the U.S. to simply give birth for future benefits to their unborn children as is the case now.

Sent from my iPhone
Patrice Lieb

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bev Ransom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comments for Graham-Cassidy hearing

I strongly believe that all of our citizens deserve affordable access to quality healthcare, regardless of pre-existing conditions. It is clear that we need a bipartisan Congressional effort to support and improve the health insurance markets in all areas. We need to work together to improve the ACA, not repeal it. For this reason, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Bev Ransom
Davis, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: malcolm metzler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't dismantle ACA

Finance Committee,

We need to move forward and stop this silly idea of dismantling ACA. Any changes which increase the number of uninsured will be a step backwards.

Our country needs to catch up with the rest of the developed world, when it comes to healthcare.

malcolm metzler
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cindy Brock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:26 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

Please vote NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham-Cassidy

Dear Finance Committee members:

My family and friends depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My neighbor started freelancing so she could spend more time with her kids and do work she's better suited to than in her old job; she could do this because of then-affordable ACA premiums. The premiums keep rising, but she's still glad her work options aren't limited by the need to find an employer who offers health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,
Laura Atwood
Silver Spring, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tonya James [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

This bill is horrible and doesn't not expand affordable coverage. The medical community - the experts - are aligned and clearly say this is a bad bill. I don't care how much money the Koch brothers will give the GOP; this is about people, not politics, and this bill hurts people. Leave our healthcare alone.

Tonya James

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Charity Volman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy Bill

Please support this bill. Our current system is failing. This is an opportunity to reset and begin to move in the right direction. It's not perfect, but it is progress. Shame on you if you allow Obamacare to continue.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathleen Bates [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:27 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

It is by accident of birth that we have been born in the United States. The important word in our country's name is UNITED. No person, by accident of birth in a particular STATE, should find him or herself in a position where health care is or is not available or affordable. Removing the requirement of covering essential services, for instance, is particularly harmful to our citizens. And many of the particulars of repealing the ACA are especially harmful to women. The ACA is certainly not perfect, but the proposed replacement does nothing to correct its flaws.

Kathleen Bates
[REDACTED]

"All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions."

The Two Treatises of Civil Government

John Locke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: kelly reed daulton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely, Kelly Reed Daulton

Templeton, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Portia Vogt, EA [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name: Portia Vogt
- Address:
• [REDACTED]
• PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372

Dear Committee Members:

I am in support of repeal of the entire ACA act. Absent of repeal – then I would support full coverage for all Legal US Citizens regardless of age, income, creed etc. No ACA or full coverage for all legal citizens. The current ACA resulted in some people qualifying and others not qualifying. Some people now pay little to no premium, and many people have worse coverage at higher premiums. Additionally, the ACA has created lost time with increasing bureaucracy & paperwork burdens, and hit small business owners hard. In my tax practice, I don't have clients with significant advantages at a lower cost but instead higher costs and less coverage for most taxpayers.

Below I share a few real-life examples which occur in my tax practice. I have a few high-income clients – they aren't happy. But the most dramatic harm is to most my tax clients who are small business and middle income clients. The real-life results over several years has lead me to believe ACA is harming our citizens financially and harming our economy. ACA has resulting in taxpayers and the government '*investing*' millions of dollars resulting in entirely new set of problems.

Of about 200 tax clients, there are three I can think of which 'benefit' from ACA because before they were not covered. In all three instances, were it not for my pointing out to them as a tax pro that they could get on the

exchange, they lacked the ability to figure it out themselves! That leaves 197 tax clients which don't benefit from ACA. Additionally, all three which benefit from ACA are self-employed and each year they all watch their earnings to make sure not to make too much money.

I am a federally licensed Enrolled Agent. I run a tax firm and in addition to tax preparation and advice, I represent clients before the IRS who have tax compliance issues to address. I would far prefer to encourage people to grow their businesses and income. Instead since the ACA I spend significant hours watching people's AGI and making sure they are compliant with ACA. My explaining the rules and showing the public income charts results in citizens being motivated to stop earning because FEAR of losing their insurance is one of the most powerful things I've ever witnessed. This FEAR of losing their ACA is irrational at times, and second only to their FEAR of the IRS auditing them.

As an American I cannot support a system that results in my clients feeling so much frustration, fear, and which encourages my small business owners to avoid growing their AGI.

I'm a perfect example of a small business person negatively impacted by the ACA. I can't afford the same coverage I could before the ACA.

Prior to the ACA I could afford and I always maintained Health Savings Account Medical Coverage for my entire family. I was a single mother with three children, self-employed, had a large deductible plan, and never had any issue with cost of coverage and available coverage options in Minnesota where I've resided. I also was able to build up a Health Savings Account and had ACA not come into law, I would have tens of thousands in my Health Savings Account. Instead, the ACA came into law.

After the ACA:

- My premiums immediately went up and my coverage options went down the first year.
- I bought outside the 'exchange' so although I would have qualified, I did not get a premium tax credit because the implementation here in MN was so poor and I finally had to just buy coverage because the

workers in the government had no idea how to process small business income applications! Plus, MN computer system interface was so poorly done even a federally licensed tax pro couldn't navigate it.

- The 2nd year I bought on the exchange, but only after I got Al Franken's office involved. It took weeks and me calling and pestering Al Franken's staff just to get into the exchange because of my self-employment not fitting the boxes in the computer system! That year my premiums in a Health Savings Account Plan were a bit higher than I paid before the ACA but at least I got into the system.
- In the third year of the program, my AGI was low because I finally figured out that the 2nd year's deductible insurance as self-employed and my retirement plan contributions could lower my AGI so I qualified for MNSURE income level and not have premiums to pay the 3rd year. So instead of thinking like a capitalist as I had from 1984 to 2014, I began thinking as a socialist and keeping my AGI low so I wouldn't lose my coverage and net less for my family. How did I do it? Learn the tax laws and apply them so my AGI would be low includes;
 - Control how much my kids work part time so they don't make us lose coverage by bumping up our AGI for the ACA Household calculation,
 - Increase contributions to a Self-Employed 401K plan so our AGI would be low enough to get coverage,
 - Each year in the last quarter of the year I look at how much we have made and where our AGI will land. If I am close to losing my coverage my family will either;
 - Work less so we don't lose our coverage because going off the income chart or out of the exchange means we actually would have less money this is because private pay is more than double what I spent for great coverage prior to the ACA,
 - During the last quarter if our business earnings will kick us off, I find legitimate business expenditures rather than building business reserves. I look at taking extra continuing education, buying new business equipment or software to run my company better etc. Again, with an eye to assure my AGI doesn't result in reduction or loss of the MNSURE coverage.

- Finally, I also have deferred selling any assets which might have a capital gain even if they are poorly performing and I could get a better return on a different investment.

Bottom line – socialism is highly fear oriented. It just is too scary to risk falling above the ACA income chart and the uncertainty of how high the premiums will go or if I will have a three-year nightmare of paperwork again to get back onto ACA if I get booted off.

Most of my small business owners are doing similar things. Each year when I see them I get to listen to their frustration, fear, and or politics rather than simply do the job of being a tax preparer.

Anyone who thinks that there still aren't lots of uncovered people are wrong. Those in the middle income and who are self-employed sometimes can't afford insurance and they can't get their AGI below the chart – so they go without. I have had many of my small business owners continue to go without coverage and simply get hit by the 'penalty' as the 'penalty' is still less than premiums.

These small business owners choose between their companies success or the ACA. They must choose between coverage for themselves or;

- Not meeting payroll obligations to employees
- Not being able to meet their own basic needs
- Not contributing to retirement plans
- I even have one business owner who is considering getting married mostly to qualify for coverage under a girlfriend's employer's plan!

I see an increasing number of my small business owners implementing similar strategies as I have;

- Towards the end of the year if they will make too much they simply stop working and taking new projects. Better to take some time off rather than risk losing their coverage. This makes for a slow 4th quarter.
- Business owners deplete/do not build up reserves for their business because they will make business expenditures to avoid reduction or loss of coverage by the exchange.

- Small businesses can't compete with the over 50 employee firms and afford coverage for their employees. So, they are attracting the less marketable employees and this increases their risks and decreases their potential for profits. The wages they can pay are lower and those employees migrate to the ACA as well then.

Regulation chills business growth often. Certainly, safety and the well-being of our citizens is often paramount to earning income, as it should be. However, ACA fails to offer more than it takes away for citizens. ACA is poor legislation.

By the way, my first husband died of cancer. The old system was reasonable and only needed a bit of tweaking, not an ACA overhaul! My husband was 40 when he died. The Million Dollar cap his policy had made sense to us. We knew he might exceed it. But we never felt we had a 'right' to unlimited coverage. *That was absurd to us.* No one citizen should have an unlimited budget for health care!

If I were queen (and I'm not) I'd provide each citizen the same thing regardless of income. A very basic health care program for legal citizens. One physical, up to \$5,000 a year, and if they don't use it – it accumulates. This expenditure coverage a year also could include incentives for healthy lifestyles. A basic amount of coverage each citizen uses for illness, infections, broken bones, etc. A simple across the board coverage. Then citizens beyond that can choose or not choose to purchase policies for catastrophic events and long-term illness coverage. If they don't they private pay. If they run out of money they have bankruptcy. Also, during the old system often hospitals had special programs for low income and many groups assisted out of generosity so low income were not turned away. Yes, some people will not always get service, that exists now under ACA, some people will die. However, it is my experience that it's not sustainable to have an unlimited health care system.

In closing, thank you for considering my comments. I hope they illustrate in a basic way that the ACA is about more than if someone has coverage or doesn't. It is a huge economic and tax issue. It is about how people don't

have opportunity or incentives. It is a way to control the citizens and takes us away from freedom and independence.

Portia Vogt [REDACTED]
US Citizen
Former Capitalist due to the ACA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Suzanne van der Valk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment: Graham-Cassidy

Like most Americans my family relies on quality, affordable health care, so I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will not improve quality, affordability or coverage. We need improvements in the ACA, not repeal. This will require time and serious bipartisan effort in Congress. I will appreciate efforts in this direction.

Suzanne van der Valk
Ames, Iowa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Dewan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Personal comment on Graham-Cassidy - I Oppose

As a child, my family relied on low-cost government insurance. This allowed my mother to get an education while my sister and I were very young. I would like to see Congress work in a bipartisan way to repair the ACA, not cast millions of Americans into economic and health uncertainty. ***I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.***

Sincerely,

Juanita Dewan
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tara Alan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:00 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

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

Sincerely,

Tara Alan

Arlington, Vermont

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patty Gilbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare for my family

My family relies on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre existing condition. I have also had to leave my job to care for my 94 year old mother in the past, while taking care of my child. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gilbert
Pacifica, CA 94044

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathy Sheehan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Improve, not repeal the ACA

My family relies on **quality, affordable healthcare**. Because of this, I **oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. I am a retired police officer and am fortunate to get my healthcare through my pension, but I am worried about how I will be affected by changes in the healthcare system overall. Also, my fiancée who is 77 years old relies on Medicare and his supplemental insurance. He remembers only too well what life was like when he was young and his family was too poor to have any healthcare insurance at all. I don't want to see anyone in this country suffer or die because our elected officials did not step up to protect them. The ACA was not and is not perfect, but it helped a lot of people.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Sheehan

Orangevale, CA 95662

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Fribance [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 6:01 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.

Ms. Caroline Fribance

[REDACTED]
Monona, WI 53716
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emma spertus [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oublic testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I are a young couple that struggles to make ends meet in the expensive world of the Bay Area in California. We simply can't afford to have our medical bills or insurance premiums skyrocket, as they would do under a repeal of ACA. I have a father with a degenerative disease whose is on medicade, he depends on the affordable and comprehensive coverage he receives through the ACA. Aside from my own family, I am deeply concerned about the impact a repeal would have on those with less fortunate circumstances than our own who rely on ACA coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Emma Spertus

Berkeley, CA

--
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Janice Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

There are many people in my community who tell on the ACA for medical insurance. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am fortunate enough to have insurance through my employer. Many are not.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice Nelson

Redwood City, CA 94061

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Rosenkranz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not overturn the ACA -- many of us rely on it for our healthcare!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Many of my friends and their children depend on quality, affordable healthcare obtained via the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

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

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

Sincerely,
Susan L. Rosenkranz
Somerville, Massachusetts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jessica Arnold [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Like most Americans, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. As a mom, it is very important to me that when my children are sick we can visit the doctor, that we can get preventative care, and when emergencies happen, we can get the care we need. As an American, it is important to me that all parents have this peace of mind, that when their families experience run of the mill illness and medical crisis, we aren't also worried about whether we can actually get and afford medical care.

It is for this reason I opposed the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely,
Jessica Arnold
Berkeley, California.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Malin Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:56 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hi,

My best friend relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. She didn't have a job, and couldn't get accepted by any of the private health care and was depending on the special enrollment that she got with obamacare. Please please please, this is so personal and important to all of us.

Best,
Malin Walker
94114, San Francisco, CA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Plotkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello

My extended 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,

Tom Plotkin

Calabasas, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Longo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Plan

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mrs. Barbara Longo
[REDACTED]

Merrick, NY 11566
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Requielle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 5:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Brunet, Thomas (Wyden)
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal
Attachments: Graham-Cassidy Letter 09222017.pdf

Regarding the hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 2:00 PM - please find attached my letter. I am sending you a scanned .pdf because of the time sensitivity of this issue. A paper copy will follow in the mail, per your instructions.

Thank you,

Arlene J. Crawford
Madison, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elise Bloustein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vehemently Opposes to Graham-Cassidy Legislation

To Whom It May Concern:

The healthcare legislation currently being considered is atrocious, as evidenced by opposition by the vast majority of American voters, by all 50 Medicaid directors nationwide, by medical groups all over the country, etc.

To throw tens of millions of Americans off healthcare, to end Medicaid, to abolish federal protection for pre-existing conditions, to permit premiums to go up so high that millions of people will not be able to afford to be insured is simply reprehensible. To know that in voting for the legislation you are voting for millions or personal bankruptcies and preventable deaths is horrendous and the height of hypocrisy.

I frankly cannot imagine how any person with an ounce of compassion for other human beings could vote for this cruel and heartless legislation.

I admire the Senators who have announced that they will not vote for it, even though it means joining colleagues across the aisle as reasonable people used to do in the public interest.

That there are Senators who are considering voting for it just because they told their constituents (many of whom apparently hate Obamacare and love Affordable Care) that they would vote to repeal Obamacare is the irresponsible and dishonest. This is not what it means to be a public servant. Legislators are meant to serve the public good and protect people, not pander to prejudices and ignorance. Fie!

Thank you for considering my views. I believe passionately that healthcare is something that all Americans, rich and poor, black, white and brown, young and old, sick and well, should be entitled to and that this is one of the essential costs of living in a civil society.

Elise A. Bloustein

Elise A. Bloustein
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maggie Van Dyke [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill ...

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill because I believe all Americans deserve to have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare. The bill cuts federal Medicaid funding, and I live in a state that is basically bankrupt. That means that my sister-in-law, who is on Medicaid, will likely either have to pay higher premiums for Medicaid or lose services. She barely scrapes by as it is on her full-time retail job.

Just as important, I oppose the bill because it makes it easier for states to allow insurers to raise premiums for people with preexisting conditions. Both my husband and I have preexisting conditions. Right now, we get insurance through my husband's job. I freelance. If my husband ever got too sick to work, then I may need to seek insurance on the individual marketplace. Under the Graham Cassidy bill, we would likely face very high out-of-pocket costs and may not be able to cover our other expenses, such as food and mortgage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Margaret M. Van Dyke

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pete Keen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 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.

Peter Keen
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Bledsoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 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.

Kara R Bledsoe
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cecilia Wian [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Impact of the ACA

Hello,

Because I am finally on ACA in Oregon I can get the medicines I need to control my diabetes. I can see a Doctor.

I've been paying in to the System since I was 15 years old. I'm 61 now and this is the first time I've used the benefits of our System. We all share the load and this is such an important part of the way we treat each other.

You have to keep the ACA for all of us.

Thank you,

Cecilia Wian

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: KELLY HEDMAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:24 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

To whom ever reads this,

I am a 54 yr old single woman who makes enough to get by. I have never had help from the government nor have I asked. The ACA is the one and only time that I have had help. You see I am a single woman with out children. Thus I do not count when it comes to needing help.

The ACA has helped but I need it to be fixed not torn apart and left out in the cold. You see I have 2 preexisting conditions and I turn 55 in a 1 1/2 mns. That is 2 strikes against me. I am one of the lucky ones, in that I still have my parents who have able to help me pay the premium so I have something that covers me and I can afford to see the Dr when I have to. What is being proposed will take away my insurance as there is no way I will be able to afford it with out help. I work for a small company who does not help.

My question to you is why would you make it impossible for me to get insurance....why??? I don't understand why these people hate the people that are sitting on the cusp or sick people or little innocent kids or older Americans. I do not live beyond my means. I live paycheck to paycheck with a small saving account for emergencies to fix my 13 yr old vehicle. I can not afford a new one as my insurance is taking any additional money I have. The only luxury I have are my 2 dogs that I do Search and Rescue with. Even then I do not go to the expensive training. I keep it simple and do what I can.

I implore you to stop this thing that some want to punish us with. Please talk to everyone and fix what is wrong with the ACA. If you must, just change the name and fix whats wrong with it. Or better yet, go medicare for all.

Please, please stop and look at the real Americans out here who are just trying to live our American dreams. We make just enough to not qualify for some and not enough to pay for most.

Thank you for reading this. I am not eloquent as most but I am speaking from my heart.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mimi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on affordable healthcare. Myself on Medicare, my son is self-employed and has to shop for healthcare. My husband has a genetic blood disorder that has been passed on to our son. If there are no guarantees!!!! to protect us from excluding us or raising our premiums to the unaffordable level we will all suffer. Is this disease life threatening? Yes, if it is left untreated but easy to live with if treated properly. Health care is mandatory for us. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA not a repeal.. We were promised GREAT health not just a repeal.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vicki Rubio [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:23 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Affordable access to mental healthcare has been vital to my well-being. It has helped me create coping skills that have allowed me to be successful. Access to birth control has also been very important for me planning my career. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Vicki

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lucas Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:22 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Best,
Lucas Wagner
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabriel Cohen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Affordable Care Act saved my life

To Whom It May Concern,

The Affordable Care Act literally saved my life. A couple of years ago I was diagnosed with Stage Three Non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a type of cancer. In order to get diagnosed, I had to go through a year of blood tests, biopsies, scans, and extremely expensive out-patient surgeries. Because I had insurance coverage for the first time in my adult life through the ACA, I was able to get that diagnosis--and I was able to afford the chemotherapy that sent my cancer into full remission. Without that health insurance, I would likely be dying right now. Or dead.

I think it is profoundly shameful that many of the elected officials in Congress right now have made it a major mission to deprive people like me of the chance to get badly needed health care. To these people, I can only say: WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? Is this the job of a representative of the United States people: to deprive tens of millions of citizens of health care???

That this is considered a political issue is baffling to me. If there is one thing I can say with certainty about cancer, it is this: cancer has no idea whether you are a Republican or a Democrat.

Whether this latest attempt to repeal the ACA succeeds or not, these elected officials have already succeeded in one horrible way: they have caused deep worry and anguish for people like me who keep having to fear losing health insurance due to a pre-existing condition, or because their attempts keep jeopardizing our whole health insurance system in the U.S.

This madness has to stop.

The job of elected U.S. officials is to protect U.S. citizens--not strip them of health care and cause incredible anxiety and suffering.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Cohen
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: David D. Levine [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO on Graham-Cassidy

I am a self-employed small business owner who can't get health insurance from an employer. Before the ACA my wife was essentially uninsurable because of preexisting conditions (depression and sleep apnea). She had terrible coverage and it cost a lot. Then ACA passed and we were both able to get excellent coverage for less than what we had been paying before. Shortly thereafter she was diagnosed with brain cancer. She struggled with it for two years before it took her life. During that time the out-of-pocket max on our policy meant that she could afford the care she needed. If we had not had the ACA for her illness I would be bankrupt now as well as bereft. The Graham-Cassidy act would almost certainly cost me a lot more -- ruinously more if I got seriously sick. Please don't take away the ACA and the lifesaving protection it offers.

--
David D. Levine | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] now in hardback.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: John Speno [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:20 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.

P.s. I am not a crackpot.

John Speno
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kathryn Catlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am currently a PhD student, and my health care is provided by my university. However, the current academic job market is such that I will most likely not be able to immediately get job with health benefits included when I graduate in 2019. At that point, I will need to arrange my own health insurance, and the ACA will be my only option considering my pre-existing conditions, which include a serious spinal injury. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Catlin
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gabor Miskolczy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy

Please vote NO on this bill which punishes the states which tried to give their citizens the best health care possible by extending medicaid. It's a political scam and has nothing do with improving health care, especially for the economically disadvantaged.

Thank you, Sincerely, Bonnie Miskolczy, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Fran Feigert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: HEALTH BILL

My daughter in law is 43. She had a cancerous polyp removed from her colon 2 years ago. She is not healthy but has colonoscopy regularly. This test is what can keep her alive. This is expensive and she would not be able to afford the continued testing without the Federal Health care. She has a pre-existing condition and the Senate bill does not have protections for her.

Thank You

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gail Zlatnik [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

My husband and I are among the fortunate ones--we have always had good insurance. His 35-year practice in OB-gyn, beginning in the Air Force in Germany, was interrupted many years ago by a near-fatal illness--but after excellent care he returned to many more years of practice and teaching. We pay big premiums now in his retirement, and hope that we are underwriting similar care for people without our resources--but with equal potential for productive lives. Any healthcare plan that limits coverage assures the loss of American vitality and productivity. May I hope that that gives you pause?

Gail Zlatnik
Iowa City
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Albert McMurry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:18 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.

Twice now, the American people have, through their representatives, demanded fair, these cruel repeals of basic healthcare. This alone should be enough.

Albert McMurry
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Albert

--
On the road.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marianne Petru [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Stop Graham-Cassidy bill

Senate Finance Committee Members,

It is time for all members of Congress to seriously consider the needs of their constituents, of all Americans, instead of worrying about their own electability. The Graham-Cassidy bill is NOT the answer to our healthcare dilemma. Leaving the decision about healthcare to individual states is irresponsible and simply passes the buck to states. If one is unfortunate enough to live in a state that spends more time worrying about things like gun laws than the health of its citizenry, this bill will be disastrous. I live in Missouri, a state where cuts have already been made for home health care, a state where Medicaid was never expanded, though many have worked tirelessly to achieve that expansion. Where will that leave me and many other individuals who must rely on the conscience of legislators (who have heretofore shown little understanding of or compassion for the needs of its citizens)?

This bill must NOT be passed. It is time for Democrats and Republicans to *work together* to fix the healthcare system this nation. Stop using people's health care, their very lives, as a political football. Do your jobs; do what you were elected to do. It is time for you to come up with some real solutions to our very real problems. No one cares about who made what promise to what people - we care about the issues that affect our safety and well being.

Sincerely hoping you will do the right thing,

Marianne Petru
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kris Dodson [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because it will put this quality, affordable healthcare in jeopardy. I would like to see bipartisan Congressional efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kris Dodson
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aaron Francis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:18 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.

Aaron Francis
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: andrea ludwig [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't Repeal ACA

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

Sincerely,
Andrea Ludwig
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose GCH please!

Hi,

I'm writing to urge you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill. The bill is rushed and not thoroughly researched. A yes vote on such a bill is extremely irresponsible.

I am opposed to any bill that puts Medicaid expansion states at risk. Thanks to Medicaid, I'm able to have health insurance. Thanks to Medicaid, my dear friend is able to receive the chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation that she needs to fight for her life against the breast cancer tumors that have grown in her body.

I know you are a finance committee so maybe you are mostly thinking in numbers but I urge you to think of the human faces behind those numbers. There are so many hardworking Americans who simply cannot afford the expense of health care without some assistance. Please keep that in mind when making your decision.

Sincerely,
Erin Eagen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jake Tonkel [REDACTED] <>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

To start, the focus to repeal the ACA has been the biggest blunder and waste of time in the last 30 years of Congress and I'm only 26. Simply based off the incompetence of the Senate GOP alone around health care will mean I will never have respect for anyone of the people that voted for any ACA repeal.

But I digress, the ACA while not perfect, has brought more families into the healthcare market and lowered costs for many more. The provisions set forth in the Graham Cassidy bill are appalling! They leave American families vulnerable to the outrageous costs of our medical system and leave them to fend for themselves.

You have the obligation to do your job and protect American families. Do not repeal the ACA. If you do, your chances of re-election will not be very good, no matter where you live because all families, Red and Blue will feel what you did to them eventually.

Please support Sander's Bill for Medicare for all! Financially, it is the most viable option for America. Any finance decision needs to not only include the US government spending but that of US families. The repeal of the ACA will cost us more and Medicare for All will cost us less.

Jake Tonkel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Emily Greenspan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 6:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose 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,

Emily Greenspan, M.D.

Emily Greenspan [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Spencer Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing

To whom it may concern,

I am vehemently opposed to the passage of this most recent bill which repeals and replaces the ACA. What Americans of all stripes want is for the two parties to come together for a thoughtful discussion and debate about how the ACA can be improved. The insurance coverage gains and protections for preexisting conditions afforded under 'Obamacare' must not be rolled back.

Americans in companies all across the country work with their colleagues that hold differing viewpoints, and are able to have productive interactions and conversations to benefit the greater good. For the good of our country, our Senate should follow the lead of everyday Americans and work together.

Sincerely,
Spencer Clark - [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Shine [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care and insurance for Americans

Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy bill to move forward. It would deprive too many of much-needed health care. It is a matter of life and death for so many Americans, including myself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Shine
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Weight [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid is that my daughter-in-law's sister almost died from a virus. She was in the isolation ward for weeks in a coma. Fortunately, she survived. But, without Medicaid, she would have devastating financial bills. California expanded Medicaid to help people. Now, this bill wants to take money from California to spend on states that did not support ACA. That is not how our country should work! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sharon Weight
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Sharon Weight

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Crystal Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

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

Every healthcare agency rejects this bill, so should you.

No hearings, no CBO score, no thanks.

Crystal Smith
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hope Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am asking you to consider the harm this Graham/Cassidy bill will cause if you allow it to pass. Millions of Americans lose coverage, seniors and working poor are left struggling if states dictate Medicaid terms. The most egregious portion of this bill practically guarantees pre-existing conditions will not be covered. Every single citizen in this country is one incident away from a pre-existing condition IF they currently don't have one. Have you considered children who have these conditions? What are they to do? Our country is only as strong as the weakest one of us. Passing this bill will guarantee a fragile citizenry. Is this your mission?

Please defeat this bill in Committee.

Thank you.

Hope Jackson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Conner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Hello,

I am writing to state my strong disapproval of the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. My husband has a lung condition that will necessitate medication & an oxygen machine for the rest of his life. Affordable health care is essential for our family as his medical costs could very likely consume everything we've worked for decades to establish toward a self sufficient retirement.

Beyond the personal impact, I have seen too many real estate clients over the years who are either in danger of losing their homes due to the crushing burden of medical care they can't afford or prospective buyers who cannot qualify for a mortgage loan because unaffordable medical bills ravaged their credit.

I don't think a country as great as ours should revert to pre ACA times when unexpected medical bills (which can happen to ANYONE) can spiral an individual into bankruptcy & financial ruin.

Please work together across party lines to improve the ACA & reject any "healthcare" bill that only throws people's lives into chaos & despair. I trust that you have the common good as your guiding principle.....not a blind devotion to party lines.

Thank you.

Nancy Conner
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Patricia Valentyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care

Members of the Committee: Passage of the Graham/Cassidy bill would be extremely harmful to a majority of Americans. My husband and I currently benefit from Medicare. Our children and grandchildren have various circumstances with regard to health care. I am most worried about two grandchildren with special needs who receive Medicare help. This bill would place them in a category of high risk if their funding is decreased or ended. This is not acceptable in the wealthiest country in the world. I urge you to fix the flaws in ACA and continue debate about how best to solve problems in health care.

Thank you
Patricia Valentyn
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Felicia Collazo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:47 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL

Why are Republicans so desperately trying to take healthcare away from tens of millions of Americans? You were elected to help not hurt us. PEOPLE WILL DIE. What is wrong with you? STOP YOUR LYING AND REPUGNANT BEHAVIOR AND STOP IGNORING THE BLATANT CORRUPTION IN THE WH.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachel Kaplan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Indeed, what we have now does not go far enough but it is better by far than it was before the Affordable Care Act. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill which has nothing to do with making sure Americans have the healthcare they need and deserve, but has everything to do with a misguided idea on the part of some Republican legislators to do everything they can to undo everything Obama did. Stop playing politics with our lives. You people have quality healthcare for life and could give a shit about how we live.

Every human being has a "pre-existing condition" - whether it is childhood asthma, or broken arms or legs, or developing illnesses and injuries as we age. We need support to be able to take care of our bodies and our families. For this reason, in truth, the only moral and ethical thing to do would be to dismantle the private health insurance companies in favor of Medicare for All.

Additionally I work in the field of mental health. The ACA makes mental health care a right, not a privilege. Especially given the impacts of our mentally deranged predator-in-chief, people need mental health care more than ever. And clearly so do some members of the legislature. I encourage you to consult with some professionals before you lose all aspects of your humanity forever.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Kaplan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Siman Abdi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Siman Nurali
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheri Stakely [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill because of the changes that would inevitably happen in many states under the block grant proposal.

My thirteen year-old daughter has a rare genetic disorder called Prader-Willi Syndrome. Because of the ACA, she is able to get access to medical care, therapies, and medications that allow us to properly manage the disorder. Her medications alone cost \$50,000-60,000 per year. However, she is able to receive the medications she needs at an affordable price for us. In addition, there are no lifetime caps on her coverage.

Under the Graham-Cassidy bill, states are allowed to use block grant money as they choose and change regulations of what health insurance companies must cover. Individuals with pre-existing conditions would fare better in some states but not in others. This would lead to an inequitable health insurance coverage across the nation.

Healthcare is too important to use for political gain. Please improve the ACA and kill the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Cheri Stakely
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ulrike Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I oppose this bill. This cannot be called a healthcare bill. Taking away coverage from 32 millions certainly does not qualify as such. It would be an absolute disaster for women and families who rely on affordable healthcare to thrive in society. In my opinion giving states the opportunity to opt-out of certain insurance regulations is going to harm people (coverage of pre-existing conditions, maternity care, wellness programs that save lives). The proposal to cut Medicaid will hurt children, seniors, the disabled who rely on Medicaid for health care and nursing home care. Cutting Planned Parenthood would be devastating for women that rely on the care they receive from them incl. wellness programs like mammograms, pap smears. This is unacceptable. This bill is unacceptable. It is just shameful. Stop this madness.

Ulrike Meyer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paige Kimble [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 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.

Paige Kimble
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Michal Powers [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

This bill is dangerous for our country and will leave many people without coverage. Pre-existing conditions must be covered. Affordable, quality health care should be a right for all not just the privileged wealthy. This bill should not be passed.

Michal Powers
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nancy Leonard [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

My family will be devastated financially and physically if this bill passes. I have pre-existing conditions (diabetes diagnosed at 9 years old; scoliosis at 11; spinal cord injury resulting in paraplegia at 16; and pulmonary hypertension resulting in heart failure last year at 49). Under the bill we can be charged an unlimited amount in premiums, yet we cannot afford the medications I need to live without insurance coverage. Elimination of annual and lifetime caps will leave me with no coverage at all.

I'm a lawyer. I've read the bill and I understand how devastating it is. I know it does not protect people with pre-existing conditions.

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering, not just for my family but for the 32 million people who will lose their health coverage and some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities, who will be harmed by the destruction of Medicaid.

Nancy M. Leonard
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ann Rider [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill will kill people

The National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA) works to ensure that individuals with psychiatric disabilities have choice regarding services, that individualized services and supports are available to them, and that their rights are protected when they choose to seek or refuse services. The Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" Bill will harm individuals with psychiatric disabilities--and many thousands of other individuals who have been able to access health insurance and especially Medicaid.

When some states chose Medicaid expansion, many people came into the publicly funded mental health system. For many of these individuals, they were able to access services and supports that had previously been out of reach for them. Medicaid expansion meant access to case managers, medications, therapists, and peer support, as well as many other cutting edge services including non-medical, non-drug interventions. The Graham-Cassidy bill would do away with Medicaid expansion by cutting the amount of funding to Medicaid substantially. The first cuts would probably be to non-medical programs, which are the supports most likely to lead to recovery. States would be required to choose who gets coverage: people with mental health needs? Pregnant women? Poor children? Elders who have not yet reached Medicare age? No state should have to choose, and no country that claims to care about its citizens forces states to make such terrible choices. Bluntly put, passage of Graham-Cassidy will result in many premature deaths and a great deal of suffering, including children, elders, people with disabilities, and people who work low-wage jobs. NARPA strongly opposes this bill and any other bill that would strip healthcare from our citizens.

--

Ann Rider, MSW, CPC, CPRP
[REDACTED]

"

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bruce Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham bill

I strongly oppose the Cassidy-gram Bill has another effort to take away healthcare from the poorest and most needy in the United States. What is the CBO score?we do not yet have one because there has not been enough time. But is the healthcare available for the people of the United States an important issue that warrant having enough time to legitimately analyze and discuss it?

I think this issue requires thought and study and good faith efforts to improve healthcare in America, not a knee-jerk effort to repeal the existing plan because it was promoted by Democratic legislators.

Please reject the Cassidy-Graham Bill.

Bruce Bailey

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Connie Fritsche [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: regarding Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The limited protections of the Affordable Care Act are worth saving! I am deeply concerned about what Graham-Cassidy will mean for these national protections for a host of reasons. Here are some personal ones.

My dad was retired from the Air Force. As such, my family received health care at no cost to us, which was amazing because my brother and I are life-long asthmatics. My mom had to deal with loads of sickness and many ER visits while we were growing up, but she never worried about how she was going to pay doctor and hospital bills. I was fortunate to benefit from that system until I was an adult.

After graduating from college, I got my first a full-time job, 300 miles from “home” but with health insurance. I was paying for health insurance (with my employer kicking in a good portion), but because of my asthma, my policy came with a preexisting condition rider. No benefits would be paid for asthma treatment of any kind—no emergency care and no preventative care (which is ESSENTIAL to avoiding emergency care).

In a similar situation at that time, many young adults would have been able to rely on prescriptions from their childhood doctor back home. (And as you know, with the ACA, young adults now are covered under their parent’s policy until age 26.) My childhood doctor was a changing cast of military docs—whoever happened to be working the rotation on the day of an appointment or ER visit. Without a regular doctor to turn to during my first year in Chicago, stressed by the big changes in my life, and suffering from regular attacks as a result of that stress, I got by on Primatene Mist (something a doctor later told me was “idiotic and dangerous”). I was making entry-level pay. There was no way I could afford medical care on my own, and I was too proud to ask family for help. By luck or the grace of God, I didn’t end up in the hospital.

After taking a job at a private university, that all changed. Under my new employer’s plan, preexisting conditions were covered. Things were good! For a while.

Our son was born in the fall of 2009. Thankfully, I had great insurance, so 80% of costs for prenatal visits, childbirth, and immediate postnatal care was covered, which was helpful since my husband was not working regularly as a result of the housing crash. Between my pay and his unemployment insurance, we were keeping up with the bills, but just barely. Most months, we were dipping into our quickly shrinking savings account, so when the bill came for my son’s first regular postnatal visit—the one that starts the vaccination schedule—I sat on the floor and cried.

As it turns out, ESSENTIAL vaccinations were considered “well baby care,” and as such, the vaccinations and visits were not covered by my insurance at all. The bill for that first visit was over \$800. And if you’re a parent, you know there were a long string of those visits in front of us.

We couldn’t afford it, and we were too proud to ask family for help. The solution was to take our son to the Cook County Health Department for his immunizations. As a solidly middle-class person, I felt a mix of humility (and, yes, shame) that we needed help, and embarrassment at explaining that, despite my great insurance and good job, we were relying on the State of Illinois for our child’s medical care. (It is telling that the woman next to us at one of those appointments was also a university employee—at a different school—who was in the exact same situation with her child.)

So what is my point? The ACA is not perfect. It needs improvements. But the two situations above would not have happened under the preexisting condition and essential health benefit protections of the ACA.

In the grand scheme of health care, my examples are miniscule, but they are personal. If the ACA is overturned, chances are my family will be fine for the foreseeable future. My husband and I both have good jobs, good insurance, and financial reserves, though I am acutely aware of how quickly those things can be taken away.

If Graham-Cassidy passes, and these protections are undermined by state waivers, other families will not have it as easy. They will go without needed health care. They will go bankrupt. Some will live in unnecessary pain and misery. And, yes, some will die from a lack of life-saving medication or preventative care, from missing a checkup with the doctor, from absence of mental health services.

This is not a political fight; it is a personal one. Essential health benefits and preexisting conditions should continue to be protected under the nation's health care policy. Health insurance *should* cover things like disease management and preventive, maternity, pediatric, and mental health care, regardless of when a person needs those services. Otherwise, what is it good for? Please protect our health care.

Sincerely,

Connie Fritsche



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Beth Miotto [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller and move to bipartisan solutions

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a pediatrician working with a variety of underserved communities, in FQHCs and Job Corps among others. The impact I make everyday reaffirms my decision to go into medicine almost 30 years ago. It's not been easy as I've battled my own chronic disease but I have been generally fortunate to have health coverage. Nonetheless there hasn't been a day where I didn't wonder about a new health problem or my ability to pay for care due to my own preexisting condition.

These days I'm the doc the other docs call for the really sick kids with multiple medical problems. Even families with strong salaries and benefits often end up on Medicaid because the bills and parental sacrifice required to care for these kids.

That's why you MUST put an end to bills such as Graham Cassidy. Primary care physicians see the need for access in the community. My husband is one of the only general surgeons around who takes ALL payers and even uninsured. We are not in it for the money. People have relied on the ACA to keep well and go to work or school everyday. Repeal the ACA and you hit sick kids, entrepreneurs, adults who are one bill away from medical bankruptcy.

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.

Mary Beth Miotto MD FAAP
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Keith Gautreaux [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I am a primary care physician in the state of Washington. I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of a bipartisan bill to improve the ACA. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keith Gautreaux
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Joe M [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony on Graham-Cassidy bill

Several of my family and friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Some of the closest people in my life have disabilities and/or pre-existing conditions. This is not an exaggeration: the Graham-Cassidy bill would destroy their lives. It is needlessly cruel and damaging.

With virtually the entirety of the medical community standing against this bill as well, I have to wonder who it's supposed to help. It's certainly not going to create more affordable or better healthcare for U.S. citizens.

I know the ACA is not perfect, but it has done an immense amount of good. Instead of shoving through the harmful Graham-Cassidy bill, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Joseph Marvilli
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Geiermann, Steven P. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham- Cassidy

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 is not in the best interest of the American people. Please vote it down and re-start a bipartisan effort to improve the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Steve Geiermann

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Daphne Raz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am a home health nurse and I see every day how our health care system fails to deliver to the people who need it most.

I truly believe that our country is only as strong as the weakest of us, and Graham Cassidy will not make healthcare accessible to the sick and the poor.

Also, home health delivers a great bang for the buck by going in to people's homes and being the eyes and the ears of the doctors. DO NOT cut home health funding.

Sincerely,
Daphne Raz, RN
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Raine Forrest [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

My family and friends rely on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this, I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill!
I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA NOT repeal it!!

Sincerely,

Laurie Forrest
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sharon Hamersley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:43 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.

Sharon Hamersley
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jennifer Lagier Fellguth [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Graham-Cassidy bill hearing

Dear Senators,

My sister is a two-time cancer survivor. She relies on insurance coverage from the existing ACA which prevents insurance companies from denying her coverage due to her pre-existing condition. Because she works in a small shop with only three other part-time employees, she is unable to obtain health care coverage through her employer. Because of how it would negatively impact my family, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a serious, bipartisan legislative effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:48 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.

Rebecca Brown
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ernest Isenstadt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Senators:

Please vote against the Graham Cassidy bill at your hearing. The bill will, in practical effect, erode and eventually eliminate the prohibition against pre-existing condition discrimination contained in the ACA. In the absence of a mandate for everyone to buy health insurance and share the risk, and with reduced funding for those unable to afford such insurance, states of all political bents will be forced to allow insurers to charge more to (and effectively price out) customers based on medical conditions that are often unavoidable. No other developed country in the world allows this.

I personally do not depend on the ACA for health insurance, but I have relatives and friends who do. They, like millions of others, will be harmed if Graham Cassidy becomes law. Undoubtedly the ACA can be improved through the bipartisan efforts of Senators Alexander and Murray and others. Americans will applaud you if you allow these efforts to resume and reach fruition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ernie Isenstadt
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my concern about the Graham Cassidy bill. I am troubled that it will cause many Americans to lose their health coverage and will cause premium increases for still more. This is simply unacceptable. I am very fortunate that through a combination of luck and hard work I have never been without coverage. I have also never experienced a personal health crisis. However, this issue took on new meaning for me last month when my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Luckily she has good insurance and due to routine screening was able to catch the cancer early. Her prognosis is good. That said, I know how wrenching this experience has been for her and our whole family. I cannot even imagine the added strain of having to pay for her treatment out of pocket. It would have broken us financially. Please help Americans like my mom to rest easy by working to secure and expand health coverage to more Americans. Say no to this terrible bill--it's the humane thing to do.

Sincerely,

Abigail Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hildegard Renn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GOPCARE

At this point in the healthcare journey, it has become patently obvious that this fight never had anything to do with healthcare at all. This fight was always about racism--how dare a black man put through legislation to help millions of the same people he was sworn to protect.

The GOP had literally YEARS to get this right and improve on what our President Obama started. But instead, they convinced vulnerable people that the ACA was bad. Which stuck like glue until those same people realized what was about to be taken away. Until they finally understood what they had, they believed the GOP.

But that wasn't enough for the GOP, they could never step back and say, oh the tide has turned, our constituents really want improved healthcare. Because it was never about The People, it was about the money of the top 1% and the fact that our President Obama was black. Anything with his name on it, has become a target of the racist GOP. Nothing is more obvious.

There is no fooling anyone anymore, we see the truth by their actions and their words.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lisa Dixon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: INFORMATION

I want to communicate my strong opposition to the GCH bill for numerous reasons. The cuts in Medicaid will dramatically limit health insurance to individuals who desperately need it. Individuals with mental illness and their families will suffer as will community safety. The protections for those with pre-existing conditions will no longer be assured.

This bill is dangerous to the health of the nation.

Lisa Dixon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Rueckert; [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson

To whom it may concern:

I would like to make my voice heard. **I am against the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill.**

Block granting to states would cut deeply into federal funding, resulting in millions losing health coverage. It would also impact the Medicaid expansion, potentially resulting in coverage losses for those who were previously covered in expansion states. I am also against the elimination of premium and cost-sharing reduction subsidies, and am against the fact that block grants would provide \$239 billion less than what is currently being provided by existing Medicaid expansion and subsidies.

The AMA, The American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of Medicaid Directors, Blue Cross Blue Shield, American Cancer Society, American Heart Assoc, American Lung Assoc, American Diabetes Assoc, AARP, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and so many other organizations - **basically the entire American health care system - is against this bill.**

I am an American citizen, but I currently live in Germany, where I am covered by universal health care. I gladly pay more in taxes knowing that my tax money supports family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and strangers to give them a basic human right--health care, and also the knowledge that they will not go bankrupt keeping themselves and their families as healthy as they can be.

I can only hope that my home country, the US will also some day care enough for its people to do the same.

Some of my friends back home are terrified that they will lose coverage, and therefore lose their jobs because without medication, they cannot work. **Please do whatever you can to make sure this bill does not go ahead.** Despite the disbanding of the HELP committee's efforts, I still want a bipartisan solution for market stabilization.

Sincerely,
Laura Rueckert

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

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: lucy marton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

This bill could leave me on the street in the near future as my partner just had a liver transplant and could have surpassed his lifetime limit, therefore needing to use up all our investment savings.

It could also lead to the death of my best friend who has stage 4 sarcoma.

We WANT TO LIVE! Please do not take away our medical care or make it impossible/unaffordable for those with pre-existing conditions to get the care they need.

Sincerely,

Lucy Marton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marybeth Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

Have you guys lost your minds? You work for us, not your donors. Vote no on Graham/Cassidy Bill. Put it to rest fellas. You are not governing for the American People! You have an agenda plain and simple.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: I mend [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: graham cassidy

this attempt to overturn the ACA is abhorrent. the fact that there is no CBO score is completely unacceptable. quit allowing the koch brothers funding to rule what you do. DO YOUR JOBS! WE ARE TIRED OF TELLING YOU TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF AMERICANS! AGAIN, YOU REPRESENT AMERICANS, NOT corporations and NOT the koch brothers!

so tired of the antics of ridiculous republicans. step up. say no to this horrid bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Trumpcare- or rather, Trump don't care.

Dear folks- please, get your act together and work for the American people! Your constant "repeal and replace" isn't working, and won't- not for the good of the populace. You know it. You KNOW it. And yet you seek to pass a bill that would hurt millions, and kill thousands.

The health care repeal is a horror, and it's replacement a travesty.

Single payer is the way to co- or Medicare for all. Failing that, FIX the parts of the ACA that are not working, and keep the good parts.

Work for the people who voted you into office to represent THEM. Not the corporations who pay you to work in their interests against the common good.

Do you know how history works? How do you think you will be seen in the clarity of history's lens?

I fear not well at this juncture. Not well at all.

Most sincerely, Dayle Severns

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:21 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller will damage our health care system, and hurt millions of vulnerable Americans. Only a minority of Americans supports this bill. It is much better to work in a bipartisan fashion, which can produce a solution that would be more broadly supported.

Thank you.

Pamela J Hayes
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Bob Krebs [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is simply shameful. There are so many things wrong with this that I don't know where to start. And what is worse is that the sponsors and supporters ALSO know this. To knowingly work to harm people, especially the most vulnerable and needy, simply to build a cushion for future tax breaks for the already wealthy, is reprehensible, and should be criminal. PLEASE listen to your conscience and reject this terrible bill. Thank you.
Bob Krebs

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katherine <[REDACTED]@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I support the ACA

I have friends and family who rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Let us continue to be one of the first-world countries who provide health care to our citizens. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Katherine Witbeck
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: DebbieRhoden57 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

I'm a senior who worked all my life and planned for my elder years. I'm also a senior who relies on the access to my doctor that my Healthcare plan provides to combat the normal health challenges that come with age. Graham Cassidy will radically increase my premiums and I will no longer be able to afford the coverage I need to live a productive life.

I took care of myself. I ate healthy. I exercised. I did, and still do, all those things. The health challenges I face today are mostly hereditary. I minimized my risk but I couldn't entirely erase it. My health issues are daunting but my doctor & my Healthcare plan help me live my best life.

I'm a senior who planned financially and who is able to manage an independent life. But how could I, or anyone else for that matter, plan for the huge premium spike Graham Cassidy will bring to seniors?

Pass this bill and seniors will suffer. I personally believe many of us are already suffering unnecessarily because Republicans keep trying to eradicate the ACA, a well thought out plan that has been working well for many. The stress of living under the repeated threat of losing my insurance has been difficult and has negatively affected my health. I'm not alone. Stress takes its toll on all of us. But this stress is different because it is being imposed by people who are supposed to have my best interests in mind.

I realize the ACA has flaws and that it can be improved upon. So roll up your sleeves Congress and do the hard work. Fix the ACA. And don't think I'm letting Democrats off the hook either. They need to step up and reach across the aisle to develop a bipartisan solution. They need to keep reaching no matter how many attempts it takes.

Fix the ACA. The American people, and specifically seniors, are counting on you Congress.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®4

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gaby Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to oppose the Graham Cassidy bill that is on the floor at this time. The several hasty and haphazard attempts to address our healthcare these past few months are reprehensible. Healthcare is an essential human right that should be of utmost priority. The current focus of repealing the ACA, the suggestion of enacting an inadequate amount of funding for healthcare will hurt millions of Americans.

To witness politicians using their power to take away healthcare for their own political advancement is tragic and devoid of ethics.

We need comprehensive healthcare that is fully available to all of our citizens not only the wealthy. We need prenatal care, mental healthcare, and other crucial services specified in the ACA.

I urge you to work with one another to find solutions to the healthcare epidemic that is going to address the needs of all citizens.

Gaby Donnell LCSW

--
Gaby Donnell
[REDACTED]

"Engrave this upon your heart: There isn't anyone you couldn't love once you heard their story"
Mary Lou Kownacki

Email is not a confidential form of communication. Please limit communication to general, non-clinical exchange only. If a client initiates or requests email contact with the provider, it implies and is assumed that the client gives permission and release for the clinician to use email for clinical contact with that client. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately by return message and delete all copies of this message and any attachments.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Teresa Kendrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please don't repeal ACA.

My daughter, Amanda, suffered a traumatic brain injury 26 years ago when she was two. I had to leave my job to care for her but I carried the health insurance. At that time, a health insurance policy wouldn't cover someone with a pre-existing condition for one year. My husband had to find another job with health insurance. Thus, we had to pay for Cobra under my former health insurance policy and cover her under his new policy. And we had large medical bills. So, we lost one salary, doubled our health care cost and had to nurse our daughter back to health. It nearly destroyed us. But it didn't. She now receives Medicaid services. If you cut those services, you will devastate our family. Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. PLEASE.

Teresa H Kendrick

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Peter Dezendorf [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject the Graham-Cassidy bill

The ACA needs adjustment — such as expanding Medicaid coverage to the maximum — which can not be denied. Creating a patch-quilt scheme across the country with each state having different degrees and types of coverage in response makes no sense.

Peter Dezendorf, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laurie Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT Repeal ACA

To whom it may concern,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I are both self-employed, so we do not get insurance through an employer. Without the affordability made possible by our plan, we would not be able to take our two boys, ages 7 and 11, to checkups, let alone deal with an actual health condition. Plus, as we get older, I do not want to live in fear that a pre-existing condition could wipe out our ability to get healthcare coverage. It is so sad to me that members of Congress would repeal the progress that has resulted from ACA. The system is still broken, but only an objective bipartisan effort to improve ACA is the option to ensure healthcare is for all, not for the insurance companies and politicians.

With deepest sincerity,

Laurie Wells
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cynthia Nolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

Dear Sir/Madam

I am outraged at the idea that this bill that has had no public hearings, no CBO score, and almost no public discussion is being brought to the floor for a vote. Not one defender of this bill has answered any questions about the bill. Each question has been answered by trashing The ACA. You don't have to be a genius to figure out that even Graham and Cassidy think this bill stinks.

The senators voting for this bill seemed to be unclear for whom they work. You would not need to be errand boys/girls for your donors by cutting out the middle man if you simple did what is best for the American people. Then they, not the donors, would reelect you.

You may laugh at my naivety, but if you tried it my way, you would at least have your dignity while not taking it away from millions of Americans.

Stand up and for what is right don't even bring this bill to a vote. I vote no and so should all of you.

Cynthia Nolan.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nina menkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pls vote NO 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]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maggie Graham [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I hope you will oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. Our most vulnerable citizens will be left without vital care if this bill passes. My own family will be at risk, particularly without the protection around pre-existing conditions. I understand the desire to improve upon the ACA, and I urge you to craft a solution that continues to uphold the basic human decency for our most vulnerable citizens, including those with disabilities and those needing nursing home care. Thank you for your consideration,

Margaret Graham
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrea Merlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Testimony Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My sister depends on Medicaid. She has Schizophrenia. There is no family left to care for her that does not have a mental disorder. This ACA replacement would take away her medical care. Already she has to travel 20 miles on public transportation alone in order to get her meds. In the winter when it's below zero. If your goal is to kill disabled people, this Graham-Cassidy bill will do it. The pen becomes a knife. Oppose it.

Andrea M. Merlin
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Gailie Daye [mailto:GailieDaye@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I live in Oregon and am on Medicaid. I have had cancer 5 times in the last 15 years. I have the BRCA II genetic mutation that causes breast cancer. If the ACA is repealed the reductions to Medicaid in my state could result in me losing my healthcare. I have screenings every 3 months at this point since my last treatment. I could not get those screenings if I lose healthcare due to this bill the GOP is proposing. Please don't pass this legislation I implore you.

Thank you!
Gail Daye

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Salisbury [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal; instead: bipartisan congressional effort to improve the ACA

To: Senate Committee on Finance

I desire a bipartisan congressional effort to improve and expand the PP & ACA in America. I rely on quality, affordable healthcare and the patient protections provided by the PP & ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

I am an American who is fighting a pre-existing condition medical diagnosis for which I am actively receiving treatment through my PP & ACA protected medical coverage. I have many family and friends who have diagnosed pre-existing conditions, as well. My mother is breast cancer survivor, as are several family friends including a childhood friend who had to face a double mastectomy in her very early 40's for an aggressive cancer strain.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal would strip millions of hardworking people across America of their access to life-saving health care. The PP & ACA Affordable made

it illegal for insurance companies to deny coverage to people who have pre-existing health conditions such as cancer, or charge pre-existing condition patients higher rates. However, the proposed plan would allow for state waivers that would **give states new flexibility to erode protections for pre-existing conditions.**

Additionally, the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal includes that defunding of Planned Parenthood, which would cut off low income women from necessary medical care, including low cost female cancer screenings.

The non-profit **National Organization of Rare Disorders (NORD)**, warns that "passage of the [Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson] bill in its current form would very likely result in **millions of individuals with rare diseases losing healthcare coverage**, access to orphan therapies and specialists, and protections against discriminatory insurance practices" (<https://rarediseases.org/nord-issues-statement-opposing-graham-cassidy-aca-replacement-plan/>).

Even the insurance industry has expressed grave concerns about the Graham-Cassidy bill. The **Blue Cross Blue Shield Association** has issued the statement, "We share the **significant concerns** of many health-care organizations about the proposed [Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson] bill. The bill contains provisions that would **allow states to waive key consumer protections**, as well as **undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions**" (<https://www.bcbs.com/news/press-releases/blue-cross-blue-shield-association-statement-graham-cassidy-health-care-reform>).

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

Sincerely,
Laura Salisbury

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Some of the Insurance providers, hospital/physician organizations, disease organizations and others against the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal out of **concern for costs/financial loss** for states, as well as **loss of patient protections**:

- AARP
- Adult Congenital Heart Association
- Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association
- ALS Association
- Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
- **America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)**
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association for Addition Medicine
- American Cancer Society
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College fo Preventive Medicine
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Diabetes Association
- American Diabetes Association
- American Foundation or the Blind
- American Health Care Association
- American Heart Association
- American Hospital Association
- American Liver Foundation
- American Lung Association
- **American Medical Association**
- American Nurses Association
- American Occupation Therapy Association
- American Osteopathic Association

- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- American Thoracic Society
- American's Essential Hospitals
- Amputee Coalition
- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Arthritis Foundation
- Association for Community Affiliated Plans
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Autism Society
- Autism Speaks
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Big Cities Health Coalition
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Association**
- California Hospital Association (CHA)
- Catholic Health Association
- Center for Medicare Advocacy
- Children's Hospital Association
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Coalition Stop Opioid Overdose
- Colorado Hospital Association
- COPD Foundation
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Family Voices
- Federation of American Hospitals
- Health System Alliance of Arizona
- Hemophilia Federation of America
- HIV Medicine Association
- Infectious Diseases society of America
- JDRF
- **Kaiser Permanente**
- Lutheran Services in America
- Maine Hospital Association
- March of Dimes
- Medicare Rights Center
- Nation Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
- National Association of Medicaid Directors
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of School Nurses
- National Down Syndrome Congress
- National Education Association
- National Health Council

- National Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
- National Rural Health Association
- New Jersey Hospital Association
- Planned Parenthood
- Public Health Institute
- Pulmonary Hypertension Association
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Susan G. Komen
- The Arc
- Trust for America's Health
- Volunteers of America
- WomenHeart

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: don crozier [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy should not be passed because it would have devastating effects on our citizens. Under this proposal, up to 32 million people could lose coverage by 2027, states will be saddled with massive costs, and key consumer protections will be rolled back.

Block Grants and Per Capita Caps will cut the number pf insured and reduce their benefits and harm too many people.

Thank you

Don Crozier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
<http://www.doncrozier.com>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy Bill

My brother has Parkinson's. He exercises and stays fit and active. He also needs affordable healthcare that does not penalize him for his genetic condition. The Graham Cassidy Bill will rob millions of their coverage including needy children, the disabled and my brother. The American people want Obamacare fixed not attacked by wealthy Republicans.

Kay Miller

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy, Support Bipartisan Reform

Dear Senators:

Any bill that removes essential healthcare benefits and that allows annual or lifetime limits must be rejected. For this and many other reasons, Graham-Cassidy must be rejected. Instead, Congress must adopt a responsible bipartisan approach to legislation that affects one-sixth of the economy and the lives of all Americans.

Life is a pre-existing condition. We are all, each and every one of us, a single heartbeat, a single diagnosis, a single accident away from being The One It Happens To.

Today, at this moment, It Has Not Yet Happened To Me. I am lucky, and, I stand among the privileged Americans who will not immediately be put at risk by the Republican healthcare plan. So today I speak for others.

Today I speak for the millions of Americans whose fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are threatened by this bill, and who will live in fear from day to day because of it.

I speak for them, because if I don't, who will speak for me tomorrow when Medicare is threatened? If I don't speak for them, who will speak for me tomorrow when coverage limits are reimposed? If I don't speak for them, who will speak for me on that future tomorrow when I am old and alone and in a nursing home, in need of help from Medicaid?

Today I speak for my friend who suffers from a rare and particularly virulent cancer. My friend's story is not mine to tell, but without the protections of the Affordable Care Act, my friend will not be able to afford the drug that is keeping my friend alive. Without the protections of the Affordable Care Act, my friend is going to die.

Today I speak for the thousands of Hoosier families affected by the epidemic of opioid addiction. Today I speak for my fellow Hoosier Cyndi Johnson, whose story made international news in the London *Guardian* of June 25, 2017: <<quote begins>> Nine years ago, Cyndi Johnson, of Bloomington, Indiana, was standing at the mailbox with her 11-month-old daughter cradled in her arms and tears streaming down her face. A bill for her daughter's heart surgery had arrived. It was for \$64,000 – more than her husband made in a year – and she realized that was only the first. There would be many more. Her daughter was born with Down syndrome and several other conditions. Though her family had private insurance through her husband's insurer, there were many expenses that the insurance didn't cover, including specialty medical equipment, high-tier medications and out-of-network specialists. Costs began to spiral and the family took on debt to pay for their daughter's care. They were nearing the lifetime cap on medical expenses under the family insurance plan. Her daughter had not yet turned five. Johnson grew up in generational poverty, and worked hard so she could provide a different life for her family. She felt that lifestyle slipping away. "I would have sold my house, my car, everything I owned to help my daughter be well," Johnson said. She didn't have to. In 2010, the ACA prohibited insurers from imposing lifetime bans, giving the Johnson family peace of mind. They didn't have to worry about maxing out their health insurance. In 2015, Cyndi's daughter became eligible for a Medicaid waiver in Indiana. ... "The ACA saved us," Cyndi said. "It literally saved us." <<quote ends>

Today I speak for them, recalling the words of the poet John Donne:

<<quote begins>> No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main...
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.<<quote ends>>

Sincerely,
India Cooper

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Vanessa Volpe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:31 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 do not believe it is fair and equitable in providing individuals the care they need. Please do not push this bill through the Senate or approve it!!!

Vanessa Volpe

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Johanna Kovitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject Graham-Cassidy - Protect healthcare gains

Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill would take away healthcare from 32 million, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made. 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. It received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's single 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 high time that wealthy corporations paid their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for all Americans.

Johanna Kovitz

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine S. Walby <catherine.walby@lawrence.edu>
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill public comment

To Whom it May Concern,

Close family and friends of mine rely on affordable and accessible healthcare. I oppose the current Graham-Cassidy bill that would take away this access for so many people around the country. Instead, please look into ways to improve the ACA that balance the needs of those who need the care with other financial considerations. Allow for open discussion from the many constituents (individual receiving insurance, insurance companies, doctors, nurses, hospital/clinic accountants, etc) who have a voice and perspective on the topic. We need a healthcare system we can rely on, rather than one that changes with the whims of current politics.

Thank you for your time.

Catherine Walby
Neenah, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Events By Wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare for Americans

Dear Congress & Senators:

It is shameful that you all feel you have to take away Healthcare for the people who voted for you. We trusted you with our vote to do the right thing for all Americans. Unfortunately, you are only listening to the rich who don't need paid Healthcare - they can afford it.

I am 70 years old and have never seen such a selfish bunch of people in our government as the Republicans are and have been for the last 8 years. You only want to get rid of the ACA because former President Obama supported it. You never had a plan of your own for 8 years. How shameful you all are.

I hope you can stand yourself if this passes. I didn't believe in the SWAMP before - but I sure do now.

Bonny Wallace

Events by Wallace
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Bay Area News Group Readers' Choice Award for Best Wedding Planner

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jeremy Lively [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy Bill

The bill is a blatant attack on the neediest Americans and the GOP should be ashamed.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sue Rorke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Please DO NOT pass this abominable bill that will leave millions without healthcare and not cover preexisting conditions, and will strip funding for opiate addiction.

Please - we need health care for all. NOT just rich people.

/Sue Rorke
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Zelinda Zingaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

It is quite simply a NO. It really should not even go to a vote.

The CORRECT way to go about health care for the American people is to have a bi-partisan representative committee work on possible options - I believe this is already in place, so why undercut that effort?

Also, the CORRECT and FAIR way forward is to develop a system that takes the power away from the insurance companies. The insurance companies can have a place in providing health care but they should not in any way hold the power for what health care system our country uses.

It's always best to have healthy people with fewer health issues because ultimately it costs less.

Than you for this opportunity.

Zelinda Zingaro
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dale Nelson Liz Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Heller

Hello,

I am an average citizen, with average comprehension. I cannot believe the GOP is so hell-bent on shoving this through that they have not done their homework beyond what kind of donations they will get for passing this horrible example of legislation.

If it is so great, then go through the regular process. That process is supposed to be how government works.

This is more like a drive-thru burger.

thank you for your time in reading my opinion.

Elizabeth Simpson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rebecca Rowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health insurance

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that a year ago I had to have surgery to remove colon polyps that could not be removed during a routine colonoscopy. One of the polyps turned out to be in situ cancerous, which now puts me at high risk of developing colon cancer in the future. I am also 60 years old, and the combination of my age and the cancer risk would make affordable health insurance under this bill almost impossible for me to afford...and my husband and I have an income that disqualifies me from any sort of subsidy...which means I have private health insurance. We are also self employed, so insurance for just myself under the Graham-Cassidy bill would create a large enough financial burden that a big chunk of our retirement savings would be eaten up by it.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, as well as a reform of the outrageous way pharmaceutical companies have been allowed to charge citizens for needed medicines...such as the epi-pen. Those of you in the Senate and Congress were elected to represent all of us. Please start doing so. My life matters too.

Sincerely, Rebecca Rowe

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: micki hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

States are laboratories for change? Remember Massachusetts under Republican Romney? There's your laboratory for the ACA! Why not tweak the ACA? Pride goeth before a fall...just sayin'!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Maureen Oscadal [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without affordable, high-quality healthcare I would not have been able to access important health screenings and treatments for acute medical concerns. Furthermore, as a Registered Nurse, I know that accessible, high-quality healthcare saves lives every day. A person's access to healthcare should never depend on their zipcode; all Americans, regardless of their address, deserve affordable, accessible healthcare - including medical, dental and mental health care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.
Sincerely, Maureen Oscadal

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Pre-existing conditions

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter was born with Common Variable Immune Deficiency. She requires an IV every 3 weeks at home from a visiting nurse. This costs thousands of dollars each year even with the good insurance I have from my employer. Soon my daughter will be graduating from college and will be getting health care insurance of her own. CVID would be a preexisting condition which would make her unable to afford health care insurance under the Graham-Cassidy bill. Without the IVs she would get extremely sick and die. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Cathy Turkus

[REDACTED]

from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Paula Walton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Corrupt Cassidy and Graham crime

It is very, very difficult for me not to swear, and swear and swear at all of you.
I'm a frightened to almost death American. I'm so frightened at what you are doing to us.
How can you do this just because you hate the best President in the entire history of the United States.
Only Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt are in the same greatness.
You, with no conscience whatsoever are killing us. Choosing to kill us. Kill us, do you understand????
Kill us.
I abhor all of you. Will pray with all my spirit you all all voted out of office.
Here in Colorado we have the godless Gardner. He's a goner. He is a chicken and runs from his constituents.
These abhorrent people have been trying to ruin the country.
The only one that matters is themselves and money.
We all know it.
So, before you kill us, please think about us and how disgustingly irresponsible you are behaving.
I loathe every single one of you refluckicans.

paula walton
bayleesmom6@hotmail.com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Claudia Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT repeal ACA - you've tried more than 60 times and each time is worse!!!!

To whom it may concern:

I understand that the Finance Committee will be holding a hearing on the Graham Cassidy bill on Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 at 2 pm EDT. So, I must voice my opinion, since you didn't seem to hear it the first 60+times you tried to ruin healthcare for the marginally employed by degutting ACA.

The lame Graham Cassidy bill is yet another in a series of travesties! The authors of the repeal legislation should be ashamed. Nowhere in any of the so-called cost-cutting measures did you actually look at the big picture: COST OF MEDICAL CARE. Nowhere in the submission were there ANY ideas about efficiencies through integrated healthcare computer systems,...or through reduction of REACTIVE versus PROACTIVE/PREVENTIVE healthcare. Likewise, there was nothing to address illnesses brought on by big, polluting industries: coal miners with black lung, flint lead water, etc. There is nothing of actual value in your bill -- it is a whack-a-mole-inspired attempt to secretly push some of the burden off one group of people (those able to pay) and onto others (those not able to pay, given the new rich-favoring paradigm, since those more poor will be losing their coverage and the entire country will still be paying more).

Please watch Lewis Black's take on the lack of understanding by GOP for HOW INSURANCE WORKS, which was aired on The Daily Show. Namely, insurance is NOT Paul Ryan's divisive "one group paying for another," it's NOT healthy people paying for the sick people (as though the ill "get what they deserve for their poor health habits"); rather, it's the healthy people paying to slow down *their own* inevitable demise. Giving a lousy "choice" for something this important is like saying, "We don't need to pay for the fire department (or FEMA) because our house is never going to catch on fire (or a disaster like a tornado or hurricane is never going to require you need help).

Stop the secrets, the closed session vanilla-group-think, followed by rushed, poorly-thought-out bills. You only prove you have lost the ability to govern.

Thank you for your consideration and dismissal of your own bad ideas. Fail fast and get back to collaborating with others who support ACA and Obamacare's objectives. It's your only hope.

Claudia L. Gibson, B.Sc.
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Harry Groot [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

I want to express my extreme disapproval of this bill. While not perfect, the ACA has served us well and if the two parties would work together to make changes to it, it's a better way to achieve affordable, wide-coverage health care legislation. It was too bad the Democrats were the only supporters of the ACA, but the Republicans have largely been the cause of many of the problems cited (self-servingly) as why it needs to be repealed.

If there were stability in the marketplace there would be more stability with providers. If all the states would work on making sure everyone possible is covered, health costs would decrease over time as the population's general health improves with consistent healthcare. Rather than worrying about the profitability of the insurance companies with all the conditions and cut-outs offered in the G-C bill, you need to be focused on the nation's citizens health and the system which delivers it.

The idea of promoting states rights with block grants is certainly popular with certain political segments of the population, but that's shirking your responsibility as the body responsible for the entire country's welfare. Republican members, please quit playing to the insurance industry and pay attention to the common working people who are the foundation of our economy. Democrats, please stop the monolithic obstructionism and engage in honest compromise. Both parties, quit with the hypocritical behavior and the slick word games trying to demonize the others.

With regards, with hope for defeat of this bill, and with a plea for a truly bipartisan bill,

Harry Groot
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: h <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family opposes this bill. We appreciate Medicare and the many ways it has helped the people in our community to face devastating health issues. We would like to see the Senate open this subject to full and transparent discussion and allow plenty of time to hear constituents' input.

Respectfully,
Rayna Holtz,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cheryle Wharton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Not in favor of repealing the ACA

I am self employed and hence cannot get insurance through my employer. I pay my taxes every year I have been in business and before when I was married. I am willing to pay a reasonable premium in order to get my health insurance and a more reasonable deductible.

Before the ACA my premium was \$300.00 and my deductible was \$10,000.00. How would I get that amount? I have been blessed with good health, thus far but if something major happened, how will I pay for my medical expenses.

And HSAs are out of the question because I do not have the extra to put in for a rainy day.

Cheryle Wharton

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sean Stubblefield [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: RE: Graham-Cassidy

A big, fat **NO!**

This does not represent or provide actual health care. It is designed to deny and prevent health care.

That we even have to tell our government to vote against this jack-assery is ridiculous.

If anyone thinks this bill is a good idea, they are being stupid, cruel and irresponsible.

NO, Graham-Cassidy, NO!

Is that so hard to understand? Get the message: we don't want your idiot "health care" bill.

-Sean Stubblefield

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cecile Kuenzli [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: proposed health care bill to replace" Obamacare"

The Republicans' Graham-Cassidy bill does NOTHING for the nations' HEALTH and only proves once again that Republicans DON'T CARE.

Just because someone made a stupid election promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act doesn't mean that anyone should keep that stupid promise, thereby effectively removing healthcare from millions of Americans. One stupid promise is no reason to make a stupid vote. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Why don't the political parties work together to fix the obvious shortcomings of the ACA rather than just dump it ???

Sincerely,
Cecile Kuenzli
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kat Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

Hello:

I would urge a return to regular order with hearings and testimony—and bipartisanship—to improve the ACA rather than this continuing attempt, and absurd need, to dismantle everything Obama.

The Graham/Cassidy bill is horrendous. Most importantly, cutting the mandate for purchasing health insurance will immediately trigger a rise in premiums. How can it not? The healthy must be forced to buy insurance so that those who are ill can be covered. And no one knows when he or she will be the one who is suddenly fighting an illness. This isn't US vs THEM. This is we. We Americans must support *affordable* health insurance for all.

And, caps?! What do you say to my niece who is in her late 20s and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease when she was 14 years old. This disease has no cure and treatment varies and changes over the years. She must always have a job that has good health benefits because she cannot be without health insurance. Even with treatment, her life is affected by this disease; it's not an easy road. What happens if she reaches her lifetime insurance cap before her lifetime is over?

A health care bill should not become law simply to fulfill a promise made, especially when it's not a well thought out bill.

Sincerely,

Kat Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Becky [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: For Graham-Cassidy hearing on September 25, 2017

To: Senate Finance Committee
Re: Graham-Cassidy hearing on September 25, 2017
From: Becky Muñoz

Dear Committee Members:

Earlier this year, I lost my father to early-onset Alzheimer's. It was a devastating loss, after almost ten years of watching that disease slowly take him away from us in other equally devastating ways. He lost his memories, his ability to work, and eventually his life. The pain that he, and those who loved him, endured would have been so much worse in the last few years if we had not been able to rely on Medicaid to provide in-home care to help him stay in his own home.

I have no doubt that being able to live in the home in which he spent decades with his family, gave us more time with him. Although he forgot our names, there was a soul-deep recognition of his home and the people in it, our presence and caring. This meant that leaving that haven for even a day often made him become agitated, confused, and depressed. If that isn't enough to convince you of the importance of Medicaid in providing humane care that will give patients control and dignity in their last stage of life, consider this:

The in-home care that Medicaid provided was more than just a respite for my sister (his primary caregiver in the last few years). It meant that she was not caring for my dad 24/7 and putting her own health at further risk, as caregivers often do. It also meant that she could continue working full-time. My sister was not able to do what I did when I was our father's caregiver – which was to stop working as his Alzheimer's progressed, and rely solely on my spouse's income.

Medicaid protects families. And all families deserve a safety net. Including families like ours who are responsible, and try to be prepared for the future, and then get blindsided by a catastrophic health diagnosis. We could not have given my father the care he needed without the support of government programs like Medicaid.

No cuts to Medicaid. Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,
Becky Muñoz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wanda Liebermann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators

I hope you will take into account the testimony of people all over the country who vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Medicaid block grants will cause harm and that allowing insurance companies to charge higher premiums because of pre-existing conditions effectively excludes people with disabilities from getting individual coverage. This will affect millions of people, including many friends of mine.

Instead, I strongly urge the Senators to work diligently and in bi-partisan fashion to improve the the ACA, so more, not fewer people will get affordable health care.

Sincerely,
Wanda

--
Wanda Katja Liebermann

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adrienne Rosenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

As a graduate student studying psychology, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare to allow me to stay healthy at an affordable cost while I work to provide therapy to vulnerable populations. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am an athlete and recently had two major hip surgeries to allow me to continue participating in the sports I love for many more years. Without affordable healthcare I would be facing an adult life full of chronic pain and absent of the many activities that make life exciting and worthwhile to me. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED] Candidate
Oakland, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Leslie Braunstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchc@comments
Subject: GRAHAM CASSIDY WILL KILL AMERICANS

GRAHAM CASSIDY WILL HURT AND/OR KILL MILLIONS OF AMERICANS – FOLKS WITH DISABILITIES, FRAIL ELDERLY IN NURSING HOMES, THE WORKING POOR – BY GUTTING MEDICAID UNDER THE GUISE OF “STATES RIGHTS”-TYPE BLOCK GRANTS. ALL SO THAT REPUBLICANS CAN GET MORE MONEY – LIKE \$400 MILLION FROM KOCH BROTHERS - INTO THEIR CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNTS. THIS IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION. YOU KNOW THE DRILL. KILL THIS BILL.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Rachael Pinsley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment Graham-Cassidy Bill Disaster

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am extremely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will harm millions of Americans! Many people can't afford healthcare and this bill will do nothing to help them. In fact, it will decrease the help they currently have by cutting supports from Medicaid.

They are trying to sell this bill by telling us that it would give more power to the states to determine how best to serve its people. This is not exactly true. The states may have more power to decide, but they will have less money to help their citizens. They will be forced to choose between helping the elderly, the poor, the sufferers of addiction, etc.... Also, this doesn't mean that everyone can be certain that their state will continue the practice of forcing insurance companies to insure those with pre-existing conditions. Many of us have something that the insurance companies consider a preexisting condition.

Many countries around the world offer their citizens universal healthcare. This brings down the cost of healthcare for everyone and also increases productivity of the workforce because everyone can see a doctor when they need to. At the moment, the Senate is set to take a vote on this bill without having had any hearings. How would anyone know the exact impact this would have on the healthcare system or American citizens? How would you know that there is a better model for healthcare that would help both main street and wall street? Hearings are an important part of our democratic process.

The current process of trying to ram bills through Congress as well as the content of those bills is already causing premiums to skyrocket.

Please stop playing games with our healthcare. We are real people with real illnesses and real life and death situations. Fix our broken healthcare system by going through the process of holding hearings and creating something that will benefit us all!

Rachael Pinsley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Debra Herman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT gut Obamacare

Improve it but do not repeal it. The lives of millions are in your hands.

Debra Herman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Judi Zalles [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO - Graham-Cassidy Bill

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. It will also leave millions of people without care ... period. AND YOU KNOW IT!!!

Do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Judi Zalles

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Pam Swing [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:32 PM
To: gchcomments; senator@markey.senate.gov; Elizabeth Warren
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal: Individual Statement
Attachments: Pamela Swing PhD letter.pdf

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Hearing: Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Submitted by:

Pamela Swing, PhD

[REDACTED]
Street

[REDACTED]
01740

PDF of letter attached

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to take action to prevent the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill from ever coming to the Senate floor for a vote. It is a last-minute attempt by Republicans to take advantage of the special budget reconciliation status, requiring only 50 votes to pass, which expires on September 30. It is a rushed effort on an issue that will affect every single American, but especially those who are most vulnerable: children, elderly, disabled, mentally ill, chronically ill, low-income women, and those with pre-existing conditions.

I am speaking out in particular for my brother, who has endured years of progressive renal failure and renal cancer. He was fortunate to be given a new lease on life by a friend who donated a kidney a few years ago. Should he lose his job, the cost of his complex and medically challenging care would skyrocket as a pre-existing condition. His care could easily balloon beyond his means to pay for it, which could lead to hard choices that impact how long he lives.

Healthcare deserves a thoughtful bi-partisan approach and a thorough review, including the CBO score. I can see no reason to support this latest attempt to replace the Affordable Care Act. The AMA and all other major physician groups, more than 500 patient advocacy groups, eight hospital associations, and two consumer groups have all come out in opposition to this bill.

Among the many ways this bill systematically dismantles the right of Americans to have affordable and comprehensive health care are:

--at least 32 million people would lose coverage by 2027 by zeroing out the block grants for Marketplace tax credits and Medicaid expansion and additional cuts to Medicaid

-- Medicaid expansion would be eliminated; redistributing state's funds to other states would punish states that expanded Medicaid.

-- traditional Medicaid would be turned into into a per capita cap, meaning those 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.

-- there is no explicit funding to combat substance use disorder. This is a growing nation-wide epidemic that must be addressed.

-- raise costs for people with pre-existing conditions. Graham-Cassidy would allow states to let insurance companies once again charge more for people with pre-existing conditions, for example, it would be \$142,650 more for patients with metastatic cancer.

--allow states to opt out of Essential Health Benefits, which would have a cascading series of coverage limitations, including insurance companies could once again put lifetime and annual limits on the amount of care you receive, even impacting people with coverage from their employer.

-- allow states to let insurers charge people over 50 high premiums without limits, resulting in an age tax for older Americans who would see their health care costs

increase by \$10,000 or more under this bill.

-- millions of women could face higher costs or lose access to care by ending Medicaid expansion, which has allowed 3.9 million women to gain access to care. The bill would also end provisions that helped lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for 9 million women. In addition, Graham-Cassidy slashes Medicaid, on which one in five women of reproductive age rely. The bill would defund Planned Parenthood and would allow states to let insurers forgo maternity coverage.

--states would be allowed to waive Essential Health Benefits, so insurers would most likely stop comprehensive coverage, and instead sell separate policies for benefits not covered in their core plan offerings. These supplemental policies would be subject to adverse selection, leading to extremely high premiums and enrollment almost exclusively by those with pre-existing conditions.

As an American, I believe that it is our responsibility to provide affordable and comprehensive health care to each citizen. From a financial point of view, when Americans are healthier, they are more productive. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but it represents a huge step forward. Please do not let the Graham-Cassidy bill dismantle the Affordable Care Act, which has made an enormous difference to the wellbeing of this country.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela Swing, PhD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Vahldie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

To All Members of The Senate Finance Committee:

I'm writing you in order to express my alarm and dismay that the Honorable Senators of these United States would seriously consider a health care bill such as Graham Cassidy. As a physically disabled individual who has worked and struggled to live independently in my community, I can tell you from my own research into the scope and specific provisions of the Graham Cassidy Bill, that this proposed legislation is wholly inadequate in terms of providing for the health care needs of people with physical disabilities.

If your ultimate objective is genuine, i.e., to provide quality health care for American citizens with physical disabilities, then this bill is wholly inadequate to the purpose of providing for those needs. This is true not only of persons with physical disabilities, but also their care givers as well, who make less than a living wage and virtually no significant benefits either.

I am disappointed, anxious and, deeply concerned about the indifference of the majority of members of Congress as to the plight of their fellow citizens without means. You know very well that health care costs in these United States are extraordinary and cannot be borne by individuals who subsist on middle, much less lower level incomes.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Andrew Vahldieck

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kat Devlon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Please vote NO!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karyn Ward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy bill

This bill should not be passed. Millions of people will lose their health care and without requirements for states with regard to minimal coverage and pre-existing conditions millions more will see their costs rise. Polls show that the majority of the country does not want this bill passed and all the healthcare providers and medical associations do not believe this bill should pass either. Please work together on the bill that Senators Alexander and Murray have written, working within the format that all other bills go through.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: C LANGE [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Poole, Todd; Vargo, Alex
Subject: ***SAY NO TO GRAHAM - CASSIDY BILL ON HEALTH CARE***
Attachments: Frilly dress.jpg; Me in a scarf.jpg

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as an extremely concerned citizen about the new Graham Cassidy bill on health care. Every analysis I have seen has said it will bring large, deep cuts to Medicaid. I am also concerned about it weakening coverage for those of us with pre-existing conditions. If states are allowed to opt out of coverage for those of us with pre-existing conditions, our country will be left with a patchwork mess of those who have and those who have no coverage.

As a health care provider myself, a pharmacist, I see daily the struggle people endure with untreated or under treated health conditions. They may be able to afford one medication but not another. They may not be able to afford a visit to the physician or an expensive procedure for which there is a large co payment or co insurance. It is heartbreaking and not at all in line with other industrialized nations who provide health care as a basic right of being a citizen. It is embarrassing to me that we are in this situation, as the richest nation in the world.

My experience with pre-existing conditions is manifold and spans decades. As stated above, I am a health care provider and see my patients suffer. I also have two pre-existing, autoimmune conditions myself, one of which not even physician visits (at one time) were covered. One of my conditions requires 4 different medications to regulate my blood levels. If I did not have these medications, I would perish, as the organ that formerly provided me with natural thyroid hormone has been removed. My case is very fragile - I see the endocrinologist every three months and have blood work done about once monthly at this time. I am totally dependent on medications to live. It is hard to fathom what I would do without health insurance. I do have health insurance. I am lucky. There still are numerous co payments, co insurance, and other out of pocket expenses I incur because of my two conditions. There are also the time and emotional burden to consider when dealing with such complicated diseases chronic diseases. Missing work for doctor visits can be an issue and this aspect of emotional health can be ignored only at one's peril. I have seen that first hand with my patients.

The other condition I have besides thyroid disease is alopecia areata, also an autoimmune disease. The attached pictures show me with my natural hair (though not all of it as it had started falling out) and me in a scarf when almost all of it had fallen out. The disease has since progressed and I now have no hair and no eyebrows. I do not have a picture of my bald head because I can't bear to have any pictures taken of me any longer. To add insult to injury, my wigs and headscarves are not covered by insurance. The medical, financial, and emotional tolls these two diseases have taken on me have are untold.

Another concern I have is my job and the jobs of others. As someone who works in a small business in a mostly rural county, the cuts to Medicaid would devastate not only my small pharmacy but also small rural hospitals. Cuts to Medicaid on the scale proposed in Graham Cassidy would wipe us out.

We would go out of business. If indeed small businesses are the backbone of the American economy - as the rhetoric goes - then passing this bill would sound our death knell.


In closing, this bill feels rushed, hyper partisan, and frantic. The American people deserve your deep circumspection, thoughtful analysis, and continued BI-PARTISAN negotiations before a bill of this import is shoved out the legislature. It has been made very clear in my mind that this bill is absolutely not about health care for the American people but about getting a bill passed - any bill - seemingly any cost. Indeed, at worst, it may cost lives and jobs.

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy. The American people deserve better.

Sincerely,

Claudia Lange

[REDACTED]

Get your own  email signature

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

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 and stabilize the insurance markets, not repeal it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stevie K [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello, we are a family of three who live in New Mexico. My parents are in their 80's and rely on Medicaid coverage to handle their expenses. We don't have a lot of income so we also rely on this help to keep our family healthy and productive. We urgently send a plea asking that support for the Graham Cassidy Bill be denied. We want to make it clear that there are so many people that rely on this coverage and any restrictions or freezes would cause undue hardship and suffering. Thanks for your time. Steve Kuenzler.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:31 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill, and you should too.

To whom it may concern:

The Graham Cassidy Bill would drastically reduce Medicaid funding over the next decade, thus depriving millions of people across this country of government assistance upon which they depend. A bill that limits funding for the health care of vulnerable people does not at all make a healthier, happier citizenry. Instead, it pushes people who are already struggling with poverty and/or disability deeper into trouble. Ultimately, this bill cuts lifelines to people and kills them -- people like my sister, who, as a person with cerebral palsy, depends on her Medicaid services to continue to live. I oppose ruthless legislation such as the Graham Cassidy Bill because it's basically state sanctioned murder. This cannot pass; it's morally bankrupt and unconscionable. If you have to kill anything, kill this bill.

Signed,
Someone who wants to keep her sister and everyone else in a similar position alive,
Elizabeth A. Allen
Burlington, VT

--
Elizabeth A. Allen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elise Milstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments

How can you ignore this? Health care organizations --one sixth of the economy--are united in their opposition to the bill, and their analysis that this bill will harm the health of the nation, not fix it. (Below.)

A nation is not strong by having bombs and bullets. A nation is strong if its citizens are healthy, educated, and committed to working for the collective good of the United States. Yet you are abdicating any responsibility for safeguarding the nation's health, which is necessary for the other two.

Health care--a healthy citizenry--is a public good. It is not something that will be adequately provided for by the private invisible hand market. Because it will not be profitable. But it will be the moral thing to do. And a wise long-term investment. Commit to your people and they will commit to you. They will create for you. Innovate for you. Work for you. Make America Great for you. For "you" --that is, the notion of the states united as a nation--the United States. But by leaving people's healthcare up to luck of location and fate, you are telling them they do't matter. That the Union and government doesn't care about their lives. Because health is the foundation and prerequisite for everything else. And health care is not affordable in the United States without help.

For many people, that help is their employer, paying half or more of the actual premiums. But many others have no employer serving that role. They are self-employed. Or they work gigs. Or they work for small companies not required (or able) to offer health plans. For these people (including me), the ACA subsidies have made insurance possible, and even made health care affordable (which is an entirely different thing than having insurance, a catastrophic policy you can't actually use because you have a \$5,000 deductible before it kicks in). If I get sick I cease to work, so I stop paying taxes, and I stop consuming all the goods that make this economy go around.

Imagine that on a scale of millions. Tens of millions. Because that is what you'll be creating. A tier of the lucky, who are secure with health and insurance that makes healthcare (and preventative care) affordable. And then the rest.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Colleen Bowman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments

My 13 year old daughter was diagnosed with melanoma at age 7. The day she was diagnosed her oncologist has no other children with melanoma. She has to have 5 surgeries and five years of scans, ultra sounds, X-rays, bloodwork, ect. She will have to be monitored for the rest of her life. She will be at risk for the rest of her life. She is protected from pre-existing conditions discrimination by the ACA. She is protected from lifetime caps by the ACA. I realize we keep being told that will continue under Graham-Cassidy but I have read it, she is not protected. I will repeat, she was 7 with melanoma. Under Graham Cassidy she is an insurance liability and insurance would be virtually unaffordable.

On top of that, my son has a neurological condition that he has had since birth. He can have symptoms as simple as eye rolls to as terrifying as collapsing lifeless lay to the floor. He has medical records that are 12 inches thick. He would not be protected.

The people on the other side of this vote are Moms, dads, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, grandparent, and friends. We need you to be honest in what it would mean to us. We are not numbers we are American lives.

Protect us. Stop Graham Cassidy.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comment

Dear Committee Members: I write in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy legislation on both procedural and substantive grounds. Your hearing is the sole hearing scheduled on this legislation, which will remake a massive segment of the U.S. economy, roll back the Medicaid expansion, all but eliminate coverage protections for pre-existing conditions and effectively strip coverage from millions of Americans.

Voters will understand the reasons Republican members of Congress want to rush this bill to a vote. You have run on the hollow promise of 'repeal and replace' for seven years without investing time, energy and effort to develop a comprehensive policy or even a cogent philosophy about the federal government's role in health care. Meanwhile, millions of Americans have benefited from the Affordable Care Act. It is more popular than ever, thanks to Republican efforts to repeal it.

Follow the example of Senator John McCain and the handful of others with the political courage to reject this mess. Work on a bipartisan basis to shore up the ACA exchanges and improve coverage for everyone. That's what the American people want. It's the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Karen Torry
Forest Grove, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cecilia Sager [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing.

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

My brother is a hard-working US citizen who teaches at a community college and was paying more than \$600/month for health insurance before the ACA. While still expensive, at \$254/month he is now paying has greatly improved his quality of life and prospects for financial sustainability.

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

Sincerely,

Cecilia Sager
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Catherine Boyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

I am writing to state my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal in the strongest possible terms. I have two adult children, both with a genetic disorder. My daughter is able to work 25 hours a week, but only because she has her medication covered through the Medicaid expansion. Without her medication, she would be unable to work, and would need to apply for SSDI. My son has severe autism, in addition (or as a result of) his genetic disorder. He takes the same medication as his sister, as well as a broad range of psychotropic medication -- all covered by Medicaid. He lives in a group home, half the cost of which is covered by a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waiver. Much of the cost of his day habilitation program is also covered by Medicaid. My husband and I both receive our insurance through the ACA exchange, as he is a self-employed consultant and I am the president of a small non-profit organization.

In my professional capacity, I work with individuals with autism and their families trying to find or create affordable, sustainable, supported housing for the over 80% of Massachusetts residents with autism who are neither able to live independently, nor eligible for housing through the Mass. Dept. of Developmental Services. Medicaid State Plan Services are the primary resource for supportive services for half of these individuals.

This bill would be a perfect storm. It is disingenuous to think that the Mass. state legislature would be able to replace the funding gap created by block granting of Medicaid, and the gradual elimination of the Medicaid expansion. Currently, MassHealth represents 40% of the state budget, about half of which comes from federal Medicaid. Block granting Medicaid would result in an ugly competition for resources among the elderly who rely on Medicaid for nursing home care, group home residents with severe disabilities, and others with disabilities who are at grave risk of homelessness without long term services and supports that are currently entitlements but would almost definitely become discretionary under block granting. Elimination of the Medicaid expansion would result in people like my daughter losing their ability to work altogether.

I ask you to defeat this bill, and return to regular order.

Sincerely,
Catherine Boyle
Winchester, Mass.

--

www.autismhousingpathways.org
building roads to home
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Elizabeth Wait [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to GCH

Insurers and individuals shouldn't be able to opt out of covering certain conditions as essential for the same reason I can't opt out of paying for roads or the military with my taxes - we all have to chip in together to help everyone. If we get to pick and choose, millions will be hurt or die simply because someone else doesn't think they personally benefit. Guess what? Everyone does benefit when people have insurance and aren't dying! And even if there was no universal benefit, we should still help others because it's the right thing to do.

-Elizabeth Wait
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Linda Jewett [REDACTED] on behalf of Linda Jewett
<bikefarm@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

A member of my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our story with pre-existing conditions and affordability is that my daughter is a grad student with a pre-existing condition and would otherwise not be able to obtain affordable healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Linda and Robert Jewett

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Katie Carl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Kill the Bill

The ACA saved my daughter's life. Fix it, don't pitch it.

Kathleen Carl
[REDACTED]

Registered voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Erin Woods [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Christian, Kyle (Moran); Britton, Brennen (Moran); Ruder, William (Moran).
Subject: My Healthcare Story - Vote No on Graham Cassidy

Below is my healthcare story. It explains how the ACA provides certainty and comfort in knowing that you can receive necessary medical care at a reasonable cost despite having a pre-existing condition. And it explains how the uncertainty and fear of these repeal efforts has a real impact on people who have been labeled with a pre-existing condition. I had always been extremely healthy until one minor medical incident after my child was born. And since that four month period ended, I have again been a healthy person for the last 16 years. Yet, I have been labeled with a pre-existing condition that prior to the ACA (and if Graham-Cassidy is passed), allows insurers to charge me more and possibly take away essential health benefits. Graham-Cassidy is a bad bill that is opposed by health advocacy groups, physicians, and insurers themselves. It is unconscionable to let this bill come to pass. The bi-partisan effort to fix the ACA needs to continue so we can have lasting effective reform.

Hopeful in [REDACTED]
Erin Woods

Living with a pre-existing condition in a time of uncertainty

JULY 25, 2017

I never envisioned that a minor, short-lived medical incident would impact my access to health care for the rest of my life.

In 2005, my husband and I decided that it would be best for our family if I were to stay home with our kids. We talked to an insurance agent and determined there were affordable family plans available on the market, as we previously received insurance through my work. However, after completing the application process, we were shocked to learn that I (a healthy, non-smoking individual who rarely drank and exercised regularly) was branded as having a pre-existing condition due to a minor, short-lived medical event that occurred in 2001 after my first pregnancy.

The insurance company I applied with refused to cover me under the family plan. In fact, they would not cover me under an individual plan. I was simply denied coverage. Feeling

uneasy, I filled out another 10-page application with a different insurance agency. I was denied again. In both applications, I appealed to these companies with a letter from my doctor, explaining that there was zero expectation of the medical event reoccurring and that I was very healthy. But the words of a medical expert meant nothing.

I felt helpless learning that I was uninsurable. It made me feel as if there was something wrong with me. And it was frustrating to realize that insurance companies and health care costs could be the determining factors in whether I could actually make decisions that were in the best interest of myself and my family.

Finally, with my doctor's letter in hand, I went to one more insurance company. Thankfully, I was able to get coverage, but my premiums were very expensive. In fact, my individual premiums were higher than the family plan that covered three people. My coverage was also subpar. For instance, while the family plan covered things like immunizations, prescriptions, and preventative care, mine did not.

Even though I was now insured, I found that I was reluctant to go to the doctor for preventative care, as I had to pay the full cost out of pocket. I was also hesitant due to the possibility of a routine exam revealing another pre-existing condition, potentially resulting in increased premiums or dropped coverage. The bottom line is that I often found myself apprehensive about seeing a doctor. I don't think this is a healthy way to go through life. I believe preventative care is important and the old insurance system often discouraged people from seeing a doctor at the onset of a problem, often resulting in more expensive emergency treatment.

That's why I was so thankful when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed. I finally had affordable coverage that included preventative care and prescriptions. My individual premiums were also significantly less than our family plan, which is how it should be. Also, just as my doctors indicated to the insurance companies, I have never needed medical care related to that 2001 medical event—not once in 16 years.

Over the course of eight years under the pre-ACA insurance, I paid \$44,000 in premiums and basic preventative care costs, while the insurance company didn't pay a dime. All that time, I could have been covered under our basic family plan, but the insurance companies had the freedom to decide that I had a pre-existing condition. I wish we could have that

\$44,000 back to help pay for college for my two children.

The uncertainty surrounding the possible repeal of the ACA and its potential replacements is awful. I don't want to go back to subpar coverage and super expensive premiums. And I find myself again worrying about going to the doctor or getting a mammogram. What if I encounter a new pre-existing condition? What if this time I can't find an insurer that will cover me? Just the other day I found myself hesitant to give a new doctor my full medical history. I was concerned about having that 16 year old medical diagnosis highlighted in my most recent medical records. There is absolutely no reason someone should ever be concerned about providing their medical history to a doctor, but that was my experience.



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Verandah Porche [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My adult daughter lives with several chronic disorders. Her very survival relies on Medicaid and Medicare, as well as SSI.

Her epilepsy is barely controlled by medication. Her sensitivity is such that she cannot tolerate generic. In addition, she is being treated for rheumatoid arthritis, requiring injections and other meds. I can continue with the litany. Suffice it to say, a cap on benefits would result in her death. Is this bill the best a rich, compassionate country can provide?

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

Sincerely,
Verandah Porche

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Karen Pettit [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Commentary

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of my family and all families like mine. We are hard working citizens who are fortunate to have access to quality health care through my employer sponsored plan. Given all the economic changes that have occurred over the past 9 years my older daughter has been alive I always have a level of anxiety about the what if situation that I lose my job or decide I need to make tough choices between family needs and employment. At the top of my mind is healthcare and my need for healthcare. This is especially true given my 9 year old has a pre-existing condition that will be with her for her lifetime. She has persistent viral induced asthma and serious nut allergies. She requires daily medication which is costly, even with insurance as well as even more costly acute medication. I urge you to find a way to provide access to medical care to all individuals without cost restrictions that will allow my child to grow and not worry about a time when she may be on her own and unable to provide for her own basic medical needs.

I ask that you consider alternatives and work together across the aisle of congress to find path towards a solution.

Please consider the lives of millions Americans that are like my family and those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Karen Smith
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Courney [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal and Replace

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...

Six years ago my wife was diagnosed with Stage 4 Ovarian cancer. Prior to that I was diagnosed with Prostate cancer and underwent surgery and am currently in remission. Without the provisions of the the Affordable Care Act instituted by President Obama, All of our life savings would have been exhausted several years ago. The structure of the for-profit medical industry brings us a medical system that treats us well and saves our lives and buys us additional years of life but is structured to charge what the market will bear and in many cases, without insurance, it becomes a choice between treatment or trying to retain savings. My wife underwent surgery and chemotherapy the first time and was in remission for 4 and a half years. Her cancer re-emerged a year and a half ago and she underwent another round of surgery and chemo. Now, she has had several good scans and is in waiting mode again. We are very grateful for the high level of quality care by well qualified and caring medical professionals that have helped her get through this treatment period. We are also extremely grateful to President Obama for his untiring and selfless efforts to bring affordable health care to all Americans, not just the elderly and the military. We recognise the imperfection of the ACA and understand that it was the best compromise that could be attained with a political climate that was determined to keep it from happening in the first place. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for our Washington State Representatives, Derek Kilmer, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, and others, that have tirelessly worked to keep this program from being irresponsibly repealed and replaced with whatever the Trump administration can slide through. Please do not allow this administration to pass their irresponsible legislation regarding the ACA. It is my belief that a large part of the motivation for this is a personal hatred of the previous President by Donald Trump who will go to any length to destroy anything that President accomplished. This is aided by the Republican Representatives that decline to hold this president accountable for his behavior and are largely guided by the special interests of the Medical industry, Medical Insurers, and the Pharmaceutical companies the set insane prices on prescription drugs because consumers have no choice but to let the insurers pay it or forego treatment. As an American citizen, this is an abuse of the office and we citizens and taxpayers, that underwrite the salaries of these elected officials deserve more responsible governance.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Courney, [REDACTED]

Janet Watral, [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Martha Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill

This will hurt the most vulnerable Americans.

Martha L. Williams
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Kelliher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

I and my family depend on affordable health care. My husband and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary, and we have 3 children aged 19, 25, and 27.

I have multiple sclerosis, rendering me uninsurable on the individual insurance market. My husband was in a bad motorcycle accident so that he now has a titanium rod in his leg. Without insurance, I don't know how we would have handled that. He is also now uninsurable in the individual market. Although we are both well-educated and hard-working, we have each had periods of unemployment due to the economy: Should that happen now, as we are in our mid-fifties, and uninsurable, we would be in a bad spot without the ACA's protections regarding pre-existing conditions. Everything I have read about Graham-Cassidy tells me that it would not help us.

This is very personal to me: one of our friends died at about 27 of breast cancer. That's my daughters' age. She was a farmer and had no insurance. She could not get treatment until it was too late. This was 30 years ago, before the ACA. Had the ACA existed then, she might well be alive today, with children of her own.

I do not want my daughters in that position. I have already been able to cover them for several minor (because we had insurance) conditions through the ACA. Both my older daughters are now employed in positions which offer insurance, but it was not always so. They were able to take and keep entry positions which did not offer insurance because we could insure them through the ACA. Otherwise, they would have had difficulty keeping their heads above water through even minor illnesses, which both experienced. I have seen people lose their jobs because of their inability to access health care.

One of the best things we can do for our economy as a nation is make sure our citizens are able to work productively and consistently. Reliable health care is part of that. So if you don't see this issue in terms of compassion, think of it in economic terms. Healthy workers are more productive.

I understand and agree that the ACA is not perfect. I would like to see a bipartisan effort to reform and improve it, but repeal is simply going backwards. Don't do it.

Sincerely,
Margaret Kelliher
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ernest Meshack-Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO

I am urging you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill.

As a director of a safety net community health center, I see daily the effects of lack of affordable healthcare. Not only are there the direct adverse health effects, there s also the the economic and social outcomes from illness and pain. This bill will make the problem worse.

There is a place to debate principle and philosophy. IN fact that's a good thing. We all want to help ppl help themselves and have access to good health. The difference is in how to go about it. Let the discussion continue on how to do that. There is a middle ground somewhere. We've done it before and we can do it again. Please don't take action just to save political face, so you can say you "repealed Obamacare". You will just be making things worse, and that will ultimately be your legacy

VOTE NO

Ernest Meshack-Hart, DDS, FAGD
Dental Director
Terry Reilly Health Services
emeshackhart@trhs.org - www.trhs.org



Your Health. Our Mission.

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Myra Pressman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham

I oppose the Cassidy Graham bill. It makes affordable health care nearly impossible for people with pre existing conditions. Furthermore we don't even know how much it costs or what's in the bill because it is rushed through congress so you can say you repealed ACA. Think about your constituents not about the money given by wealthy donors to your reelection campaign.

Myra Pressman
Indivisible Montgomery

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sean Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sean Hayes
Eugene Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Usberghi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill; Comments

Sunday, 24 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam:

My wife recently retired at the age of 62 after a career of 40 years as a Registered Nurse. During her long career, she has worked in direct patient care, providing bedside nursing service in critical care and operating room departments. As you might expect, this work has been both stressful and physically demanding.

It is unfathomable to me, that after caring for literally hundreds of patients and their families in our community, and maintaining continuous health insurance through her employer, that she would be unable to afford and/or obtain an individual health insurance policy due to pre-existing conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill, with its repeal of the individual and business mandates and the certain demise of guaranteed issue, is not in her best interest, nor does it serve the interests of most responsible, middle-class working Americans.

For these reasons I believe that the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill should be withdrawn from consideration, and a bipartisan solution to stabilizing the individual insurance market be found.

Respectfully,
Michael J. Usberghi

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kimberly Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:08 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. It seems as if the only goal of this proposal is to rob citizens of access to healthcare. I truly believe that if this new plan was in the best interest of the country it would also apply to all of the politicians who claim to serve this country. The Affordable Care Act was by no means perfect but it allowed for people to have healthcare that they need and deserve.

The rush to push this proposal through without the normal vetting is also deeply concerning. What is in it that you do not want the public to see or know about. This is just another example of how our elected officials no longer work in the best interest of the public. It seems as if morals, ethics and care for human beings have left the legislative branch of government.

If you truly want to lessen the burden of the Affordable Care Act, the pharmaceutical companies and medical industry have deep pockets. Get the money from them not the people of the United States. The excessive profits they get from charging ridiculous prices should go back to the people they take it from instead of the personal bank accounts of board members and CEOs.

Please do not allow this horrible proposal to pass. Give us hope that all is not lost in D.C.

P.S. Please do not send me any propaganda in response to this comment. I am tired of receiving half-truths and outright lies from my representative already.

Kimberly Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tessa Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My youngest son was born prematurely and has dealt with multiple issues since birth, including a congenital heart defect, seizures, and a speech condition. He is now a thriving, happy child who should not be penalized for his health history by even considering the risk that we return to life-time caps or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Tessa Peterson
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jonathan Lyons [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:08 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: MY STORY: Why I Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Three years ago, I was struck by a truck while riding my bicycle. The driver was at fault and his insurance policy helped pay for 2 years of surgery, rehab, and physical therapy. Now, through no fault of my own, I have a "preexisting condition." I rely on our present system of healthcare, sometimes called Obamacare, to make sure that I have access to affordable care despite this terrible accident that has imposed considerable hardship on me and my family.

As a result of my own personal experience, and out of concern for my fellow Americans (anyone of whom could find themselves in my position), I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Rather, I would like to see both parties negotiate and study ways to improve the ACA, not repeal it and condemn so many of us to lives of uncertainty, anxiety, and in many cases poverty from health emergencies or other medical needs.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lyons, PhD
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mary Jo Rozumalski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:07 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Committee members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I favor a single payer, system, but if I can't have that, then I would like a bill that not remove millions of Americans from their ability to have health care. I believe that this is another shameful attempt to direct federal monies to the wealthy. I would like to hear committee members reject this idea loud and clear.

Mary Jo Rozumalski

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 70621
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kevin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Keep the Affordable Health Care Act.

All the double legalize talk about what states can do is a MESS!

There is NOT and understandable full plan in place or even discussed.

Almost everyone professionally is against what you are trying to do.

Finally use common sense
And starting working on other more important problems.

Kevin P McAnarney

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:09 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare repeal

Dear Senators,

I am sending this short note to ask you all not to repeal the ACA. I have had the good fortune to work for a company that provides very good health insurance for its employees. I realize that many of my fellow Americans are not so lucky. Access to affordable healthcare is a fundamental right. Everyone, especially those with pre-existing conditions, the poor, and the unemployed should be covered.

Respectfully,
Laura Fox

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Welch [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing Comments 9/25

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment. My son (age 35) and I (age 64) both have Psoriatic Arthritis, an autoimmune inflammatory arthritis that causes pain, swelling, stiffness, and disability to joints, tendons, and even affects internal organs like the heart and lungs.

I keep reading the words of various Senators and Congress members who say if a person leads a good life, or is a Christian, or doesn't do dangerous behaviors they will be healthy. I also see statements that, if a person is not lazy and works at their job, they will be able to afford medical care. These are so overly simplistic, and just plain WRONG.

My son was an honor student (his brother was valedictorian), never smoked, never drank, never took drugs, drove safely, attended church and the college Christian club, worked hard, was responsible, and did not engage in risky behaviors. One day during his senior year of college at age 21, his knee became swollen and painful. That started a journey that led to us almost losing him a few years later. He not only had Psoriatic Arthritis, but also a related condition, Ankylosing Spondylitis, which is inflammation of the spine, including the rib cage and chest wall, making it difficult to breathe.

After finding a very good rheumatologist and getting on the right combination of medications, he was able to come back to a better quality of life, but is still disabled and unable to work. He lives at home.

For years, I stayed awake at night, frightened about what we will do to afford my son's medications once I retired. I taught school for 37 years, and was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award in my school district. Everything I said about my son earlier as far as not smoking, drinking, etc. also applies to me. I was healthy, ate a good diet, etc. Yet, at age 60, I suddenly had Psoriatic Arthritis. Crazy, unexpected, but there it was!

My son has continued to be covered under my work insurance as an Adult Disabled Dependent. (Fortunately, the ACA made took away lifetime caps on coverage, which your bill would bring back!!!)

I have now retired, and continue to pay \$1,400 a month for family coverage through my school district. But that will stop next year when I reach 65 and qualify for Medicare. What will we do? My son takes Enbrel and Otezla to function. I take both medications as well. Out of pocket, without insurance, that would be over \$6000 for each of us every month! I worked all my life, and we were thrifty and saved money, but nobody middle class can afford that kind of monthly outgo!

My son was able to be qualified as disabled by the government, and now receives SSI and Medicaid. Currently, the Medicaid is only his secondary insurance, as my insurance still covers him and is his primary coverage.

We were told that when I reach 65, my son will qualify for Medicare through me, with his Medicaid, if Medicaid decides he needs it. That relieved my mind, and let me know that my son would be able to have a life.

But if this bill goes through, it would destroy the Medicaid funds. It would put my son's life in terrible jeopardy. By putting back the lifetime caps and taking away protection for pre-existing conditions, this bill would also put my life in jeopardy.

Again, we are a family that has worked hard, done everything right, did not live dangerously, saved money for old age, helped others. And yet we are terrified of what this bill will do to our family. Anyone could be in this situation. Those who "don't want to pay for other people" don't understand that this could happen to them! Anyone can suddenly receive a diagnosis of cancer, autoimmune illness, a heart condition, or be in a car accident. Anyone can need help. That is what insurance is!! Everyone pays in when they don't need it, as my family did for many years, so it is there when you do need it.

I am sickened to hear some people say, "I don't want to pay for someone else's child being sick." That is not what our country is founded on. When a farmer's barn burned down, the community came together for a "barn raising." When I was young, my parents and I went on a summer vacation to Alaska on the old Al-Can gravel highway. When you had a flat tire, NO ONE drove past. Anyone who came along stopped to help. You might help them today, but they will stop to help you tomorrow. That is America!

Please, do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy bill or others like it. Health care must not be gutted to pay for huge tax cuts for the wealthy. Health care must be for the benefit and protection of those in our country. Please think of your constituents, and of everyone in America.

Thank you,
Margaret Welch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: monica Cody [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Our Healthcare

To whom it may concern,

We, the citizens of the United States deserve a health care system that is not punitive, that takes care of it's people no matter their economic standing. A health plan that does not cause people to go bankrupt because there is a cap on how much insurance will cover, nor block people from being able to have insurance due to pre-existing conditions. Healthcare is part of our inalienable rights to happiness.

There is absolutely no excuse for Americans to be threatened quarterly by congress that they will lose their health rights.

This latest bill is just as ugly as the others. Fix the ACA, make it better, encourage enrollment. The corruption we are witnessing and connection to the Koch brother's money influencing our congress is becoming more and more obvious. In time I am confident we will vote out every corrupt member of congress.

Until then, do what is right. Make our country a better place and an envy of the world once again.

Thank you,

Monica Cody
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Deborah Guy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Its provisions would strip health care coverage from all of the people closest to me. My mentally ill son would lose his coverage under Ohio's Medicaid expansion. My elderly parents and I may lose our Medicare coverages due to pre-existing conditions. This, despite our having worked and paid taxes throughout our working years.

Graham-Cassidy will murder millions of our most vulnerable citizens by depriving them of the healthcare they currently have under the Affordable Care Act. The answer is to remedy the flaws in the ACA, not to discard it wholesale. Any plans put forward in the future must not deprive a single American citizen of robust healthcare coverage. That should be the litmus test.

I urge Senator Portman to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. I trust Senator Brown will do the right thing by his constituents and vote down this toxic bill.

Deborah Guy

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Caroline Kerrigan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi - I wanted to add my voice as a strong NO on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

My parents have gone above and beyond what the average American does to prepare for their care in their declining years. They have a long-term care plan, as well as a well-funded 401K. However, when I see the rapidly increasing costs of senior care, I still worry it won't be enough. My parents have always been my role models for saving, and I'm well on my way to following in their footsteps financially by living well-within my means. However, I still worry that if their coverage isn't enough, what is going to happen? Will I need to pay the \$11,000 - \$15,000 per month for a bed in a nursing home if the eight years they planned for runs out? As well as my family and I have saved, a catastrophic illness would put us in the category of people who would go from being on Medicare to Medicaid.

Will the rampant de-regulation that the Republicans and Trump seems to support give insurance companies freedom to break long-term care contracts causing my generation to shoulder the financial burden and physical challenges in spite of all our good planning?

The process by which this bill had been introduced is the latest in a string of unprofessional behavior and breach of process by the Republicans to mess with hard-working Americans' lives, and needs to stop. No-one has had a chance to read the bill, it hasn't received a CBO score, and numerous medical professional organizations have spoken out about the consequences of repealing the ACA. Why do a bunch of Republican politicians, who clearly have a limited STEM background, think they know better than people who understand numbers and medicine? It is disrespectful of experts who have years of experience in the industry, and would not be tolerated in any profession in which I have ever worked.

Thank you for your time,

Caroline Kerrigan
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Dave Lennert [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

My wife and I rely on affordable healthcare. As we've gone through life, we've collected a set of pre-existing conditions. (Don't we all?) We've felt constrained about leaving jobs because of the uncertainty of being able to qualify for affordable healthcare insurance at another job or on the open market.

We've already been declined for long-term care and other forms of insurance because of pre-existing conditions; in one case because I had prostate cancer, which was removed by surgery and over several years shows no indication of having returned, but because I didn't also have (unnecessary) radiation therapy, it's still considered a pre-existing condition and precludes new insurance coverage. My doctor (reasonably so) refuses to even consider giving me radiation therapy as it's not medically necessary. (I wonder whether my existing insurance would even cover such a thing.) Catch-22.

Because of these issues, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

David Lennert
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stuart Lytle [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

I am fortunate to now receive healthcare from my employer. My parents are not so lucky. My father has been working construction for over 50 years. His hard work has helped keep the family afloat, and to put me through college. He is now 71, and is fortunate enough to be semi-retired after several knee and hip surgeries. He was able to afford those surgeries because of Medicare.

My mother is the one taking care of us now. She is only employed part time so she doesn't get benefits. She still works full time hours. She has an autoimmune disorder that cost a fortune to insure before the affordable care act because it was always a preexisting condition. If something were to happen to her, I don't know what would happen. Nothing good, I imagine.

I know I am not alone.

If this bill passes, myself and my family, along with millions of others, would suffer needlessly.

Do. The. Right. Thing.

Not because it betters you, but because it betters humanity.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: healthcare

I am a 65 year old woman who qualifies for neither Social Security nor Medicare. As an artist I had "alternative" ways of supporting myself by working on sailboats, bartering with artwork, waitressing, living in 3rd world countries etc. and simply didn't know I had to take out \$ for these things. Starting in 2009 I nearly died from CFS and neurotoxins, mainly from art materials. Finally after being diagnosed I got treated with 3 IVs a week, many, many expensive supplements, (I still take a lot), and the amalgams in my mouth had to be removed (\$17,000. and no dental insurance). I am grateful as I am no longer 93 lbs. and bedridden, going blind, deaf, falling over, spasming, in pain etc. I am unable to work because of orthostatic and heat intolerance, and never know when I will be exhausted. I am selling some artwork. I still need a regular GP and hospital insurance and BCBS has told me I will pay about \$2000.00 a month for health insurance. As my income is barely \$13,000. yearly this will put my aging mind and body in grave jeopardy. I and many millions of others. Because of boundless greed and politics that have no interest in the citizens of this country. Please, please, please try to see people like me with some compassion. Charlotte Robinson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Aufderheide, Sherrri [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sherri Aufderheide, MSN-RN
Romeoville, IL

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ayeola Boothe Kinlaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Thank you,

Ayeola Kinlaw
[REDACTED]

Ayeola Kinlaw

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandra Heenan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:19 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham bill

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please do not vote yes for this terrible bill. It is opposed by every health care association that I have ever heard of, and it will leave millions without affordable health care. You must see that people who can't afford healthcare ultimately cost society much more than health care and preventative medicine ever would. Please don't continue to be so short-sighted on this. Write a bill based on data and input from medical professionals as well as from state and local governments. I hope that ultimately we will arrive at a public option, and there will be affordable health care for ALL Americans.

Kind regards,

Sandy Heenan

Small business owner and mother
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alice Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, My 22 year-old nephew, through no fault of own, has two health conditions that will follow him the rest of his life as "pre-existing conditions" if this bill is implemented. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. You should want to do what is best for your constituents.

Sincerely,

Alice Ruf
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: RobO [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:17 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: vote NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

I'm writing to express my concern with the Graham-Cassidy bill. I implore all those voting on this bill to vote AGAINST the bill. It is not a good bill. Without the CBO score, there is no way to accurately assess the damage it would cause 1/6 of the US economy.

As a resident of New York state, I would be adversely affected by this legislation, as it seeks to punish the states that did the right thing by expanding Medicaid to lower income residents.

Those in power should be seeking a bipartisan answer to best address this massive issue. And, in all honesty, should be looking into a Medicare for All solution, in order to bring the US into the 21st century like all other modern, industrialized countries.

Respectfully,
Rob O'Connor
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Margaret Murphey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Murphey
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ellen O'Gorman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care bill

To who it may concern,

I am very concerned of the impact of the health care bill on the people I serve.

I have been in health care for 35 years and have seen HMO, people denied care, people who can not afford care. The worst thing to happen in Dayton Ohio was the economic downturn, when so may people lost their jobs. The luck people had a family member that worked at the hospital, Things got much better with the ACA, people could get health care and try to get back to work. The hospitals now received less reimbursement for Medicare, because of the Medicaid expansion.

The small rural hospitals will have to close and the big hospitals will have a reduction in force. I fear this big will have a negative impact on the second largest employer in Dayton. As well a a great negative impact in health care through out the country.

Ellen O'Gorman PT

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Allyson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:16 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.

Allyson Richman
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sarah Prineas [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA

I'm in Iowa, where the state has showed its ineptitude in managing health care, to the point where we've fallen to almost last in the country when it comes to health care. The Graham-Cassidy bill would make our problems even worse.

You represent us, not the Koch brothers, not special interests. Us. People. Instead of tearing the ACA down, fix it--make it better.

Sincerely,

Sarah Prineas
[REDACTED]

--
Sarah Prineas
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Laura Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:16 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 becauseits HORRIBLE! Do you actually want people to die? Because if not then I truly do not understand how you would want this to pass. Hopefully human lives are more important to you than money and you will do the right thing. Please, I beg of you, vote no!!!!

Laura Jackson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Mike Howser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care Act

As a retired citizen, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I deeply oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our daughter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at a young age. For a while she was covered under our family insurance. Then as she reached adulthood we had to pay for an individual insurance plan to make she she had continued coverage while she completed her college education. All this was because MS is a pre-existing condition. She now works for a company that provides minimum health coverage but she pays for additional to help cover her MS related annual costs. We all worry that if something happens employment wise and she no longer has access to her affordable health insurance how this could impact her life as well as ours. Her monthly medication alone runs \$2000! I want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please don't make a stupid decision.

Sincerely,

Mike Howser
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA Repeal

It is an absolute abomination that in the greatest, wealthiest country on earth our leaders in DC would sooner take health care away from its citizens than reach across the aisle and work together w/ their Democratic colleagues. How dare Republicans in Congress stick to a hardline approach of governing. For God's sakes if John McCain is against your bill, you've got problems. And speaking of problems, McCain should be listened to, not belittled by our president, after all he's got brain cancer and certainly now more than ever understands how critical it is to have excellent healthcare.

I work for a FQHC as a specialty care coordinator. I work w/ a team of primary care doctors to facilitate the process of getting specialty health services--like seeing a heart doctor, for example--if a patient needs to be referred out of our clinic based on a given diagnosis. Nowhere is the importance of good, comprehensive insurance more apparent than in this process. If you are the patient I spoke to on 9/15 who is homeless, 6 months pregnant, uninsured, and smoking and using drugs daily, your options for pre-natal services are few and far between to see an OB-GYN as an uninsured patient. This patient needs insurance at most hospitals to be considered for comprehensive, pre-natal services. W/ out being able to sign up for the Oregon Health Plan on an expedited basis, she likely would not have seen the OB-GYN until after her pregnancy, if it happened at all. Thankfully her OHP kicked in immediately due to good policy in our state.

That our leaders in Congress are trying to jam through legislation that will have wide-reaching affects for everyone and their access to healthcare is an affront to legislative process and does a disservice to all people of this Nation who deserve affordable healthcare. No one is arguing that we don't need to fix the financial stability of Medicaid and Medicare in the long run, but for God's sakes, how about including the America people in the discussion instead of having a panel of 12 men decide the fate of health policy as McConnell chose to do w/ the last iteration of "healthcare reform." There should be a robust and lengthy discussion that includes patient/healthcare provider testimony, insurance company feedback, and the like before we even begin to think about changing policy. We should make it easier to get covered, not more difficult, and until you guys in DC decide to come together--regardless of party--like the rest of the country does when they go to work in the morning, then we are doomed to failure which is a life or death situation for people living in vulnerable situations. I am happy my Senators from the great state of Oregon understand what is at stake here, and will be voting against this shambolic excuse of a fix to our healthcare system at the expense of the patients it is disguised as helping. When money becomes your sole reason for improving something, you are no longer thinking logically about the problem. I will encourage my Senators to vote against this legislation and to continue to work towards legislative compromises in Congress that will make our healthcare system stronger by covering more people in more comprehensive ways like Medicare for all.

Anthony Cacibauda BA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara Black [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST GRAHAM-CASSIDY

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a bad deal for America. We need more access to healthcare for all Americans, not just the few who can afford the high premiums.

Don't cut Medicaid. Do you want to live in a country where the people who can least afford medical care may also be sickest among us?

Don't make it difficult or impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to get good, affordable healthcare.

If you think about it, we ALL have something that could be termed a pre-existing condition:

- * An abnormal pap smear
- * An elevated PSA count
- * High blood pressure
- * Herpes
- * A heart murmur
- * Seizures
- * Migraines
- * Asthma
- * Depression
- * Uterine fibroids
- * Erectile dysfunction
- * Diabetes
- * Basal cell skin cancers
- * High or low Thyroid function
- * COPD
- * Etc.

And that's just to name a few of the more common conditions.

What do YOU have that might be considered a pre-existing condition? What do you or your families suffer routinely that YOU hope affordable healthcare will be available to treat.

Please let the mean-spirited Graham-Cassidy bill DIE, not more Americans from lack of affordable widely available healthcare.

THANKS!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am appalled by the Graham-Cassidy Bill; it would leave millions of Americans without access to the healthcare they need. It is time to stop filling the coffers of the insurance companies, and start thinking about our people.

Sincerely,

Lauren Nirider

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: LINDA HARING [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham - Cassidy

I work in health care and I can tell you that this bill will be a disaster for health care in this country. Please do not consider this bill. Craft a bipartisan bill that everyone in this country can get behind. You owe this to the American people

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Cathy Radice [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

My thoughts on this:

A group of six major doctor, hospital, and insurance groups released a joint statement on Saturday condemning the latest GOP effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, urging the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

The groups that issued the statement included the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, America's Health Insurance Plans, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

The statement said the groups agreed that the bill would undermine safeguards for patients with pre-existing conditions, dramatically cut Medicaid and introduce a future "funding cliff," weaken the individual insurance market, and introduce an unworkable time frame to implement the bill's changes.

I am a woman, so that is considered a pre-existing condition. I am also 64 years old so I would have to pay a lot more for health insurance than someone younger.

Do not approve this bill.

Cathy Radice
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ron Folsom [mailto:ron.folsom@delaware.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Bill

It is beyond time that the GOP stop with destructive repeal bills against the ACA! Those that have followed these attempts are finally beginning to understand that the real answer is to make needed changes to the ACA NOT REPEAL IT! Congress continues to fail Americans with this failed process! I was told once that the numbers can be manipulated in any way desirable to the person/party discussing this issue (by a Republican) which has become obvious! Leaving pertinent facts out on either side is destructive but failure to recognize the successes of the ACA is no longer acceptable and the GOP has still failed to provide a solution! The time is here to repair the ACA where needed, fund Medicare expansion in EVERY state and begin the process of governing!! PLEASE vote no to the repeal of the ACA via the current bill being discussed! Do the job we sent you there to do and that is represent our best interest! Repeal is in no one's best interest!!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing - Vote NO

Good Afternoon,

Everyone needs and deserves quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am afraid to go for a general checkup because if they say I have high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol, I'll be put on the "pre-existing" list. So I just wait for my condition (if I have one) kills me? I feel so badly for people who cannot wait. Who HAVE a condition they must see a doctor for. How are we to live like this? It's incredible that the government, MY government, can allow this to happen.

You all need to figure this out. You have the greatest minds in the nation at your disposal so I cannot believe SOMEONE can't come up with a solution. If you want my inputs, please let me know. I am a problem solver and would happily lend my talents to this effort.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Feeley

[REDACTED]
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Holly Brewer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Bauer, Tommy (Cantwell); Baumgartner, Kate (Murray)
Subject: Stop the Graham-Cassidy health 'care' bill

Dear sir / madam,

please stop the damaging Graham-Cassidy health care bill. The CBO estimates that it would throw 32 million off their health care: and reducing payments each year will clearly damage patients' care, employees at clinics, hospitals and research facilities. Attacking health care like this not only hurts the patient, it also hurts their families and communities: and prevents people from being productive members of society if they are debilitated, or they have to care for loved ones. Health care benefits the elderly, the sick, the mentally ill, the disabled, and children: our most vulnerable. It could take care of those with diabetes, depression, blood pressure issues, and other manageable disorders: and enable them to be productive and happy.

There already 27 million without health insurance. Please do not allow 1 in 5 in our country to go without.

Please stop this.

Thank you,

Holly Brewer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alex Wan, [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I am writing to oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. Although I believe that the Affordable Care Act is imperfect and can be improved, I do not believe Graham-Cassidy bill is the solution. This bill will allow states to waive requirements for insurers to not discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. Moreover, I am very concerned about how this bill would make cuts to Medicaid. This is personal to me. Medicaid has allowed a friend of mine to ensure that her daughter is able to be cared for at home and receive community-based health care services. Cutting Medicaid would reduce opportunities for my friend's daughter and other individuals with disabilities to access such services and to live an independent life. It would also increase institutionalization. Thus, the Graham-Cassidy bill is inhumane and I urge you and your fellow senators on the Finance Committee to oppose the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alexander Wan

[REDACTED]
California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear People,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a threat to people who have the fewest resources when it comes to health care. Please abandon this approach and work together as a legislative body to come up with legislation that takes into account the greater good rather than one group's agenda.

Helen Richardson
[REDACTED]

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Douglas Roth [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: D. Roth - Graham Cassidy Hearing Comments for the Record

Hello:

I would please like to have the following comments submitted for the Record in the upcoming hearing this Monday, Sept 25th, on Graham Cassidy.

I am strongly against this proposed legislation. I urge all senators and representatives to please vote NO on Graham Cassidy should it come to a vote.

My wife and I have both been paying into the healthcare system for well over 25 years. The past 3 years we both had our first significant health events requiring extensive health care treatment.

I suffered an Arterial Dissection earlier this year and neared died. But thanks to the great medical staff with our local care providers in San Francisco I survived. My treatment included 3 weeks in the hospital and a surgical procedure to install an internal Pacemaker-Defibrillator which I will keep and maintain for the rest of my life.

My wife is in year 3 of battling recurrent metastatic cancer. Needless to say the treatment, tests and procedures needed to fight such an invasive and cruel disease are extraordinary. There is no way we would have been able to afford this treatment on our own without our health insurance. My wife's treatment is not over. She will need continued care and monitoring for the near future.

In addition, I have recently been informed my position is being eliminated by my employer, meaning I will need to find new employment and most likely a new healthcare provider. We are extremely concerned with maintaining good quality and affordable coverage for our pre-existing conditions. In particular we are very concerned with my wife's metastatic cancer situation where quoted premium increases under Graham Cassidy would likely be a death sentence for her and/or financial ruin for both of us.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Best Regards,
Douglas Roth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Perry Grossman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We need medicare for all

We need medicare for all; not a cruel plan to throw millions of healthcare.

Perry Grossman
[REDACTED]

.....

Rep. Joe Kennedy III (@RepJoeKennedy) tweeted at 7:03 PM on Fri, Sep 22, 2017:
For anyone who has an opinion on #GrahamCassidy's impact on health care, you can send it to
GCHcomments@finance.senate.gov until 9AM Monday.
(<https://twitter.com/RepJoeKennedy/status/911365326566297601?s=03>)

Get the official Twitter app at <https://twitter.com/download?s=13>

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Nikki Kaplan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Against the repeal of the ACA

Like everyone in our country, I rely on health insurance to provide good, affordable health care for me and my family. I am lucky to work for a company that is committed to subsidizing the cost of that insurance for me, as do all of you who are employed by the US government.

But there are millions of people who don't have that luxury. They are independent contractors, hourly employees, unemployed, etc. The ACA was designed to help them by offering plans that are both comprehensive and affordable. For the states where it's not working, the federal government needs to pressure them to take the steps to make it work, rather than letting their own citizens suffer by not taking subsidies, expanding Medicare, etc.

You want to be the party of "personal responsibility" but you say that from your wealthy place in society and have no idea what struggles citizens face when they have no access. So instead, you've become the party of "F@&" them." And is shameful.

Nicole Kaplan
[REDACTED] MD

--
~Nikki

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marisa Olszewski [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony from Marisa Olszewski, Dundalk, Maryland

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I was lucky enough to have health insurance coverage that covered all of the complications arising during my pregnancy and the birth of my child and did not leave my family swamped in unaffordable medical bills. This legislation would not protect women and families from unreasonable costs arising from complications in pregnancy or childbirth. Instead, it would allow costs on these and other conditions to skyrocket. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Marisa Olszewski
[redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

There is a single principle in the healthcare profession that guides and supersedes all others: First, do no harm. The Trumpcare bill AKA Graham Cassidy does harm to the most vulnerable of American citizens--terrible and unnecessary harm. Being sick is not a choice. The very idea of pre-existing conditions as a barrier to health care access is morally indefensible. And a law whose spokespeople claim that pre-existing conditions are protected when in fact the mechanisms of that proposal clear the way for insurance to be wholly unaffordable by so many, is evil. Not just bad healthcare policy but a craven disregard for the suffering of others. You were elected by people who liked your ideas but once you are in the nation's capitol you have an obligation to all of the citizens of your state. Do the right thing. Vote NO on Graham Cassidy. Millions of people across the country are counting on you.

Sincerely,
Jim Petersen

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear sirs,

I am writing to implore you,as stewards of the nation,not to pass this atrocious bill, which will strip 32 million people of their health insurance.Every reputable medical organization opposes it, as do many insurers. Please, don't take this step off a cliff.

Best,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment letter for Graham-Cassidy proposal
Attachments: WSPA Opposition Letter.doc

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of the Washington State Psychiatric Association for consideration.

Thank you,

Jesse Markman, MD, MBA

President, Washington State Psychiatric Association

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare plan

This proposal is not healthcare it is deathcare. News flash, you run the country not the Koch's. They'll get over it! LEAD!!!! If you all stick together the can't band up with anyone else. Dredge up some courage.... This 'bill' is nothing but a gutting of what healthcare is in place. If you don't care about people's lives, how about the crushing 1/6 of economy? Stop the madness.....LEADor go down in history as monsters. Who, by the way will be voted out of office next election
Thank you
~Nor~

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:16 PM
To: Lynn Blakey; gchcomments
Subject: comments for hearings on Graham-Cassidy legislation 9/25

To whom it may concern re:comments for the hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare/ ACA/repeal bill

Thank you for asking for input on Healthcare reform. I am a 54 year old woman living in North Carolina. My family benefited greatly from the ACA, by being insured for the first time in my adult life in 2014, affordably and with excellent care. As a self employed individual it was nearly impossible to find coverage not to mention affordable coverage prior to the ACA. It just was not an option. I cannot begin tell you what a positive difference the ACA has made in my life and in the lives of friends and family.

The Graham Cassidy bill is a disaster in my opinion. My premiums as an older person will rise dramatically and the subsidy my family receives will disappear. This means I will have to drop coverage. Not a scenario I want to happen for anyone. I have family members with chronic diseases that are under control right now with simple affordable care and without care will escalate dangerously. What will we do then? My situation is not unique.

I cannot support reforms currently being discussed ie dismantling medicaid, raising premiums on older people, high risk pools etc.. Many people I know are watching very closely what the Senate will do. I should mention my mother was in a nursing home up until this May when she passed which medicaid paid for as well as for the hospice which helped her transition immensely, with peace, good medicine and compassion, literally a godsend. What will happen to the many elderly people in our country who rely on these benefits?

The list of people hurt by bills like the AHCA and Graham-Cassidy includes every sector of our society, those who are low income, children, the elderly, middle class (and even wealthier people will not benefit when they are pushed into high risk pools).

I have educated myself on this issue and continue to educate my friends and family. The ACA should stay. Work can be done to improve it. What you are planning right now is structurally unsound and honestly harmful/immoral. (slashing Medicaid by billions!) The American people want bipartisan work on healthcare and improvements to the ACA, not the dismantling of 1/6th of our economy rushed through without budgetary scoring, hearings or due diligence.

Thank you for considering my words, best of luck crafting legislation that will affect every single person in this country in such profound ways. Please listen to ordinary folks and to the many professional associations that have spoken out against Graham-Cassidy and similar legislation, for example the AMA, the AHA not to mention the AARP.

respectfully,
Lynn Blakey

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

[REDACTED]

RE: Senate Finance Committee-Graham Cassidy

Monday, September 25, 2017
2:00 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Graham Cassidy bill. To me, the hurried manner in which this was written by only a few GOP Senators, without extensive input from the medical professional communities and organizations, without a full CBO report and without almost any testimony from stakeholders whose very health and lives will be affected, is nothing less than shameful. It is particularly troubling that the supporters of this bill are anxious to radically re-order 1/5-1/6 of the national economy based upon such a flimsy and one-sided approach. I expect much more from the Senate. Clearly the ACA has some problems. Instead of working together with the Democrats to identify and fix those problems and actually help people, you are ripping people's lives apart and creating severe anxiety and angst by threatening the healthcare that they depend on for their very life.

It is highly persuasive, and almost unheard of, that virtually every professional medical community and association has publically advocated AGAINST Graham-Cassidy. Here in Ohio, even the renowned Cleveland Clinic has denounced the bill! The cogent conclusions of this extensive list of medical associations are, to me, far more credible than a few of the bill's spokespersons trying to push their product. My perception is, quite frankly, that these partisans will lie and misrepresent anything just to get what they consider a "win". And, again my perception is that they simply do not care about children losing their healthcare, grandma being kicked out of the nursing home, or people with serious medical problems and pre-existing conditions being priced out of the market. This is a startling lack of empathy.

While proponents of Graham-Cassidy have worked hard to sell the "block grant" advantages of the bill, I see absolutely no logic in their talking points. To take Ohio \$\$ and give it to a state that did not chose to offer Medicaid expansion to it's residents, seems crass. Further, to give healthcare money to state politicians to develop 50 different plans of wide ranging benefits, defies common sense and I strongly oppose it.

I strongly urge you to work on a bipartisan basis, as many Senators want to do, and as polls show Americans support, to fix the problems with ACA. If there are a number of people whose premiums have drastically risen under the ACA, then that obviously needs a fix, but not a complete re-write of ACA that removes healthcare of tens of millions. Further, the HHS Secretary, who has proven to be a disgusting hypocrite regarding the insider stock deals and private jets, should be directed to spend the money that was allocated to support the ACA on actually doing that instead of him attempting to sabotage, in number of ways, the healthcare of Americans who pay his salary. This subterfuge includes his efforts to destabilize the healthcare markets. He is supposed to enforce and support our laws, not kill them from the inside!

And finally, I would ask Senators who are pushing this rather "deadly" bill, to give serious thought to who they wish to represent and work for. If they wish to work for their wealthy donors, then they should leave the senate and seek other employment. But if they want to stay in the Senate, then they need to remember that they work **for us**, the American people, and they should keep our "needs" as their primary goal. Further, they need to commit to work in a bipartisan manner—we want Senators to work together cooperatively and transparently. No more closed door, backroom deals made by a few men.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that if not for the affordable care act, my younger sister would be without health insurance and left to fend for herself. She has a congenital condition where her hip bones don't fit properly in their hip sockets. She is 29 and has already had two hip surgeries. Were it not for the affordable care act, she would be in serious medical debt.

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Thickpenny
New York, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, 9/25/2017

[REDACTED]

I have been opposed to each of the several Repeal and Replace ACA bills that have been attempted to pass this session of Congress. This latest Bill is equally or even more an antithesis to how I want our government to regulate and facilitate the provision of full healthcare services to all citizens.

Regardless, of my personal opinions, this Bill that is designed to send funds to each state as a block grant for the provision of affordable health care to be decided by each state Legislature, has been REJECTED by many Governors, across party aisles! If they don't want the freedom to spend as they see fit on the state level, what is that telling the Senate? Please do not put forward this flawed Bill to the floor for a full Senate vote. Thank you. Carol A Jackson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!

To Whom It May Concern:

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America states:

"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*, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I'd like to think of it as a mission statement. I do not see how taking healthcare away from 21 million Americans promotes the general Welfare of its citizens.

I urge you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you,

Anne Yale

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, September 25, 2017

From Janet Montgomery
[REDACTED]

I oppose this bill. I am 72 and thankfully have Medicare, but I lived through trying to get health insurance for my family 20 years ago when I was a "female over the age of 50" and my husband had a pre-existing condition and we were both self-employed. We ended up paying over \$2000 a month for a policy with a \$7500 deductible for each of us. I don't want to see our country go back to this. I had "access" to health insurance, but but it cost a year's salary.

This bill has not been properly vetted and according to Tom Price is still being revised. I'm concerned the revisions are adding incentives for certain states to get hold-out Senators to support this bill. It is not acceptable to have "extras" for certain states in an effort to beat an artificial deadline to repeal ACA. Multiple health related organizations are opposed to this bill. Bi-partisan effort is needed to deal with our country's healthcare crisis, and was in process before this bill was presented.

It is not enough to repeal ACA. Our country needs a replacement plan that provides affordable insurance for all citizens including those with pre-existing conditions. This is an American issue, not a republican or democratic issue. ACA is flawed, but it is The job of Congress to fix it. I believe this bill will continue and ultimately worsen the crisis facing our citizens.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts.

I M a 62 year old retired teacher who does have healthcare. My fears for myself are that I will never have Medicare (which I've paid in to since a teenager) and my premiums will soar beyond what I can afford. My retirement check is \$1,800 a month and it is very conceivable that I will have to choose between rent/food and health insurance. I have one pre-existing condition, moderate high blood pressure (easily controlled by meds), I have annual screenings, exercise regularly, and rarely get sick. But, by my family history, I will live another 20-25 years which s scary if I am uninsured.

My daughter has type 1 diabetes - the only person in our family to ever have it. It's an expensive disease but pretty much under control. If this is a pre-existing condition and she loses coverage, she dies. Seriously, she can not afford the mess and supplies out of pocket; teachers in Arkansas don't make that kind of money.

My other daughter is a pediatric hospitalist at a public hospital. What will her patients do without Medicaid? Will they be turned away, left untreated, given substandard treatment?

The rest of the first world country have universal healthcare...why can't we.

I urge you to vote down Graham-Cassidy and improve the ACA so we can have fair and affordable healthcare for all. Fix it so insurance companies and their CEOs are not profiting at the expense of those who are the backbone of this country - your voters.

Thank you,

Debbie Murphy
Little Rock, AR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 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.

Like many who oppose this bill, I have a personal stake in the outcome. I am a self-employed author and publisher, caretaker to an elderly parent, and aunt to a developmentally disabled nephew. I receive insurance through the ACA. While my health has been relatively good, I had to undergo surgery last December for possible thyroid cancer. My diagnosis was ultimately benign, but I will be on thyroid supplements for the rest of my life. The ACA covered much of the financial burden of my surgery and makes the cost of these supplements affordable to me. No such protection exists under the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill, which does not provide coverage for essential health benefits like prescription drugs. People whose conditions are more serious than mine, who depend on the ACA's protections for day to day survival, must be even more frightened and alarmed. Please resume the search for bipartisan solutions. Healthcare is too vital an issue to be rushed through hastily and recklessly, with no thought or care for those who will be most affected.

Pamela Loy
Los Angeles, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:14 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony submission

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

I - a health conscious, fitness instructor, never-smoker - was diagnosed 3 years ago at age 41 with Stage IV Lung Cancer. I am alive today due to receiving great healthcare and an expensive medication which I take twice a day. I have two young children and a husband who desperately need me.

If this bill passes, my state could allow insurance to raise premiums for my "pre-existing condition" to rates well beyond anything most Americans could afford, leaving me effectively uninsurable. Additionally, this bill could allow my state to remove prohibitions on lifetime limits, and I could easily hit a million dollar limit within a year or two - just a couple hospital visits plus my regularly scheduled scans and daily medication is all it would take.

I did nothing to deserve this -- nobody deserves cancer -- and it could be you or your family member next. If it happened to me, it could happen to anybody. And this bill could very easily leave me and many others essentially for dead. It's unconscionable. We can do better for America and Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Lisa Goldman
Mountain View, California

--
Every Breath I Take - a blog about my journey with lung cancer [REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:15 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a person with a chronic illness, I recognize that this bill could be catastrophic for those in my community-- either because of higher rates in the marketplace if states ask for waivers and are able to charge those with chronic illnesses more, or due to a change in the reimbursement of Medicaid (with state block grants instead of the funds needed to treat everyone who qualifies). Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
Stephanie Mass

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill -- citizen input

To:

Senator Orrin Hatch, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee

I am deeply troubled by the decision to bring the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill before the Senate for a vote. Why rush a potentially devastating overhaul to our healthcare delivery system – reflecting one-sixth of our economy -- through budget reconciliation? There should be public hearings and an honest, vigorous debate, guided by transparency and mutual respect. At a minimum, we should wait for a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score.

I am a 54-year-old single woman with serious preexisting conditions, including asthma. I was born with congenital heart disease, had successful open-heart surgery at age 6, and count my blessings each day. I am also the primary caregiver for my soon-to-be 86-year-old widowed mother, who is on a fixed income and who frets over every dollar she has to spend – even for something as vital as her medications. My 21-year-old daughter graduated from college last May and is about to begin repaying her student loans. She, too, has asthma, and would therefore be affected by a bill that would allow insurers to deny affordable treatment for a serious preexisting condition.

The Affordable Care Act is far from perfect, but we need reform, not a hasty replace-and-repeal effort. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill is not the answer. I urge elected leaders to put shortsighted politics aside and work toward a thoughtful approach. **The U.S. Senate should return to regular order and work toward a bipartisan solution and strengthen, not weaken, our nation's healthcare delivery system for all Americans.**

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gwen Baggs Ito

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

Thank you for taking comments on this pending legislation. It is my opinion that this legislation is yet another attempt by the majority party to destroy a highly beneficial, but controversial piece of legislation. I agree that the ACA is in its infancy and needs work, but I agree with Senator McCain that a bipartisan approach is needed to improve its drawbacks. I presently trust neither party on its own, and believe in the importance of checks and balances now more than ever.

I was recently terminated from a full-time job, and received the offer to retain my existing coverage through COBRA. The premiums were far beyond my present financial means, but I was able to receive a quality health care plan through ACA that was much more affordable right away.

This is the first time that I have applied for or received government assistance, and I anticipate that I will eventually return to full-time employment and receive private health insurance. But I appreciate that the previous administration chose to install such bold legislation to take care of its citizens, and prayerfully consider that our elected officials not use a slim partisan majority to tear apart an approach to healthcare that has a proven track record in many other countries. The entire healthcare industry is rallying against this elitist and mean-spirited piece of legislation, and hope that all who happen to read this message will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Chris N. Wilks
Little Rock, AR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Concerns

I am very concerned about the potential passage of Graham-Cassidy. I am a former high school teacher from West Virginia. I have been battling an ongoing illness for over 6 years now that has kept me out of the workplace. It has taken over 5 years to get properly diagnosed, but I now know that I have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome with Intracranial Hypertension as a complication. We have depleted all my 401K and IRA funds to pay for medical expenses. I had to have brain surgery in January 2017 to prevent a stroke and potential blindness. I will likely need another surgery some time in the winter of 2017-2018. I am only 39 years old. My wife has a full-time career, but her company's insurance premium costs more than she earns per month. We make too much money for Expanded Medicaid, and rely entirely on a marketplace plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield. I can't go without regular brain scans and/or cerebral angiograms. I am terrified that if Graham-Cassidy passes, WV will decide that it can't afford to insure pre-existing conditions like mine and I will lose needed coverage or be priced out of adequate coverage. I realize that I am just one of tens of millions of people at risk of losing coverage. So many people, regular people, will be hurt by Graham-Cassidy. Our state has great difficulty balancing its budget annually. I have zero faith that WV can adequately manage providing adequate insurance coverage for its residents with less money issued via block grants. Please slow down, take your time and a bipartisan approach, and do this correctly. We all know that insurance companies are abusing the ACA to raise premiums, raise deductibles, limit coverage, but yet they still have money to give their executives massive bonuses and pay for tons of lobbying...but Graham-Cassidy isn't the answer. You'll hurt so many of us.

I have no idea if anyone will even read this, but I feel it is my civic duty to express my concerns. I just wish that you guys would stop making me constantly fear that you're going to screw up my coverage (or take it away) and let me die...along with millions of others. We can still contribute to society, if we are guaranteed that our health can be taken care of. That's all any of us want. We're not looking for handouts, just an assurance that we can seek treatment, adapt, and be able to live our lives to the best of our abilities. Being chronically ill and treating it makes us poor. We are one of the richest countries in the world. Why can't we have our Healthcare secured so that we can try to be the best we can be within our abilities and limitations? Please stop playing politics with our lives and health.

Fred Gerwig
Exchange, WV

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy!

Hello,

Please do not allow this disastrous bill to proceed. Please FIX the ACA and protect healthcare for all Americans.

I am begging you as a person who works for people who rely on Medicaid to survive, please do not allow this to pass. This will result in people going without the healthcare they so desperately depend on to live.

Thank you,

Kathryn Cleland

Portland, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No graham cassidy

To whom it may concern,
Please defend the ACA. It is a good start that has saved many lives, including those of two work colleagues. These people are self-employed contractors who, before the ACA, could not afford health insurance (and one has a 9 year old daughter). The father was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer last year, and thanks to the ACA was able to receive treatment and survive. The other suffered an intestinal abscess and was admitted to hospital and treated. He too survived. The ACA is not perfect, and as a US citizen I find it appalling that we are the only developed nation not to have universal healthcare. We should keep the ACA until we can implement single payer.
Please consider the lives of your fellow Americans - hard working, self-employed, small business owners.

Best,
Spyche Hawken

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alberto P. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senator Warner,

I am a scientist whose research has been funded by the NIH. The Affordable Care Act, along with the Medicaid expansion, has greatly increased the return on our country's research efforts.

I urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would remove tens of millions of Americans from medical coverage. The Republicans, who clearly favor passage for short-term political reasons, will in the long run thank you for helping them avoid making a cruel mistake.

Thank you for your efforts

Sincerely,
Bruce Alberts

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

We are retired individuals, with preexisting conditions. We are very concerned that the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill is being voted on without proper debate, public exposure or CBO analysis. The current ACA needs to be tweaked in order to make it stronger. Repealing would only throw the healthcare system into disarray and chaos. The ACA was a great start, now let's tighten it up to make it more effective. We are concerned that this bill would raise premiums for preexisting conditions and hurt us financially. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS BILL PASS. Work for bipartisan efforts to improve ACA—which was created after YEARS OF RESEARCH AND CAREFUL THOUGHT.

Lynn and Kenneth Denenberg

[REDACTED]@ane

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:13 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly 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 people of our country deserve so much better than to live in constant fear of losing their life saving access to quality and affordable healthcare. If we can afford to man our battleships, we can and must put our people first and provide them with the means necessary to have the opportunity to have healthy, productive, quality lives through medical supports and services. Without the people of this nation, what need would we have to defend our country?

Do the right thing. Work together for our country on the bipartisan bill which the Senate HELP committee was considering. Put our People first.

Nora Schubert
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 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.

Crystal Bradwin
Fairhaven, MA

Thank you,

Crystal Bradwin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 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.

Kenneth Jackson
Albany New York

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Laura S Abel
Waldport, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say No to GCH

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am extremely concerned about the most recent incarnation of the healthcare bill proposed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. I understand that it is not perfect, but rushing into a new healthcare bill without understanding its ramifications on people is totally irresponsible.

Most concerning is a lack of a federal provision for coverage of preexisting conditions. Please do not endorse this bill.

Sincerely,

Marie Mason

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Erika Kuykendall
Santa Ana, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Charmeri Thom
Saint John, IN

perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance. Health care must, as Sen. John McCain has stated, come from bipartisan cooperation and regular order.

I urge all members of the Senate Finance Committee to please keep the American people your top priority as you consider this legislation and vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Statement Submitted by Christine Yurgaites
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 this 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.

Millions without health insurance or access to affordable health care.

Massive cuts in state funding.

States competing for block grant money.

More uninsured children and veterans.

Discriminatory age tax up to 5X more than those under 50.

No guarantee of pre-existing condition coverage or recourse if states do not adequately or fairly administer funds.

No CBO scoring.

Governors oppose.

Major medical and insurance groups oppose.

How does this improve the health care system in this country? It doesn't.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like cystic fibrosis, cancer, asthma, diabetes, hypertension (like me) or arthritis (like me), etc. Our health care system is far from

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Andrew Berwald
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject Graham-Cassidy and in turn pursue the bipartisan approach the HELP committee was working on. This is not how we form policy that affect MILLIONS of people and and 1/6th of our economy. This is a brutal way to accomplish one's political goals and threatens many of our most vulnerable citizens. Please pursue a better path.

Thank you,
Andrew Berwald
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:36 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill: VOTE NO

For Hearing MONDAY SEPT. 25, 2017
on Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

Comments for the Hearing record submitted via email to [REDACTED]

By: Evelyn Cortez-Davis [REDACTED]

Honorable State Finance Committee Chair and members,

I'm writing to urge the Finance Committee to DEFER ANY VOTE on the Graham-Cassidy Bill until the analysis of its full financial impacts has been completed by the CBO and reviewed in its entirety by this Committee. As Americans, that's the minimum amount of due diligence that we should expect related to a bill that WILL AFFECT ONE SIXTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY.

As a U.S. citizen, taxpayer, and the mother of a child with a lifelong pre-existing condition (Type 1 Diabetes, diagnosed at age 8 through no fault of her own), I urge you not to rush this critically important vote.

My family relies EVERYDAY on the protections offered by the ACA to ensure the CONTINUED insurance coverage of my child's life-saving insulin and supplies. Those protections also guard against arbitrary, profit-driven lifetime limits placed by insurance companies and they would be weakened significantly if this bill passes. Allowing inconsistent state-by-state implementation, influenced by corporate interests, will impact Americans nationwide and would be a costly mistake with dire consequences to the most vulnerable Americans: the sick, the elderly, and the poor.

As a parent and taxpayer, I urge you to DEFER YOUR VOTE until the CBO completes its analysis and you have each had a chance to review it. If the vote does move forward despite the lack of this critically relevant financial analysis, I urge each one of you to share your moral leadership and courage in this process and PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL!!!

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] Joanna.Lloyd@discovery.com >
Sent: [REDACTED] 24 September 2017, 1:11
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No to graham Cassidy Bill

Dear sirs/madams,
The Graham Cassidy bill is just the most recent way congress is trying to hurt ordinary Americans. Vote no to this bill and protect average people.

I know congress gets a special health care plan for life so they don't really care about ordinary people's health care. You want to cut health care so you can give the rich a tax break. That is so shortsighted.

Providing comprehensive health care to all Americans will lower costs for all in the long term. This bill doesn't do that, it cuts coverage. Vote no!

Thank you,

Joanna Jacobsen Lloyd

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robert Kantner
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Robert Kantner
Acton, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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

Teri Dessalet
River Falls, WI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Amendment

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express my concern about the Graham-Cassidy amendment, the latest proposal to “repeal and replace” the ACA and drastically alter the current healthcare system in this country. I will be significantly impacted by the changes proposed in Graham-Cassidy. If Graham-Cassidy is enacted, it is extremely likely it will be impossible for me to retain health coverage, simply because I am a) one of the 130 million Americans with a preexisting condition, b) one of the 60 million Americans who are between the ages of 50 and 64, and c) one of the 15 million Americans who are self-employed.

I have worked steadily my entire adult life, working hard and paying my taxes. I have continually tried to improve and better myself, even returning to college at the age of 30 to complete a Master’s degree. Through it all, I have gone to great lengths to maintain health insurance, including purchasing an individual plan in my 20s when my employer did not offer any such benefits, buying a catastrophic plan at one point in my 30s when no other option was available, and using up most of my saving for an 18-month period in my 40s in order to stay on COBRA.

I had always been quite healthy until the age of 41 when I became one of the 1 in 8 women who receives a diagnosis of breast cancer. My treatment went well and I missed only 2 full days of work, despite undergoing radiation therapy and experiencing the accompanying symptoms of fatigue for most of a year. When I launched a full-time freelance business a couple of years later and began to research individual plans, however, I was told by multiple insurance companies that I was uninsurable. It was only once the ACA rollout was announced that insurers were willing to sell me an individual plan. The plan had high premiums and limited coverage, and I lived in constant fear of an accident, illness, or poor scan/test that would result in my rates being raised or my policy pulled, but it was my only option.

I signed up for a bronze tier ACA plan (via DC Health Link) as soon as I was able. My premiums were comparable to what I had been paying for my individual plan but my coverage was much better (thanks in part to the Essential Health Benefits provision in the ACA). I do have much higher copays, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limits than anyone I know with an employer-based plan, but I am grateful to have a way to obtain comprehensive medical coverage. (I have never qualified for a subsidy and believe that is completely appropriate as I make a good income with my freelance business.)

I was especially grateful for my ACA health plan late last year when I was unexpectedly faced with another potential cancer diagnosis and the need for immediate surgery. Thanks to the ACA, I got the screening and scans needed to identify the issue and the surgery required to biopsy and treat my condition. To my great relief, my final diagnosis was not a malignant condition needing more intensive treatment but rather something that will need only periodic monitoring. I am now back to living a healthy, productive, and enriching life – but

without the ACA, that would not be the case. It is likely I would not have received the diagnosis and treatment I needed. And even if I did - without access to comprehensive health insurance, the medical costs for this one event would have completely wiped me out, requiring more money than I have in savings and retirement accounts or can feasibly make in over a year (despite the fact that my business did well last year),

All the bills and amendments that have been proposed to date to “replace” the ACA, including Graham-Cassidy, put my future at risk. The exchanges will disappear under Graham-Cassidy – sending me back to the complicated task of trying to find an individual policy, where at best I am likely to find only bare bones coverage with far fewer benefits for more money. Graham-Cassidy would also allow for the reintroduction of restrictions based on preexisting conditions, most likely pricing me out of any access to coverage or care and possibly leaving completely uninsurable again because of my medical history. Additionally, Graham-Cassidy allows for the reintroduction of annual and lifetime limits on coverage as well as an increase in premiums based on age (above the 3:1 ratio now in place) – either of which alone could put the cost of health insurance and care out of reach for me.

The changes proposed in Graham-Cassidy would be devastating not just for me but for millions of other hard-working people across the country. Rather than attempting to “repeal” the ACA and “replace” it with something so much worse, I would beg you to please return to bipartisan discussions (such as those already underway in the HELP Committee) and try to reform it instead. The goal should be to provide security for the millions who have gained coverage over the past few years and then to find ways to extend that access to coverage and care to even more Americans.

I hope that you will remember stories like mine and those of the many other Americans in comparable situations as you debate the Graham-Cassidy amendment. Our lives quite literally depend on your ability to step up and deal with the issues of healthcare honestly, reasonably, and compassionately.

Thank you for your time.

Tracy J. Craig

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a small number '5' visible at the bottom right corner of the redaction.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote No!

Don't take healthcare away from millions of my fellow citizens!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Lana D Stephens
Republic, MO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare hearing, September 25th

My Story: My husband died suddenly three years ago this month, leaving me with two teenagers to finish raising. We were fortunate that his employer provided two years of healthcare coverage as a death benefit, and I was able to pay the premiums myself for the third year under COBRA. We are now on the open healthcare market and paying more for far less. Healthcare is by far my largest expense (about \$18,000 annually). I was afraid to sign up for anything cheaper through the ACA, as all the political posturing, partisan threats, evident lack of expertise by those seeking to replace the system, and resulting provider pull-outs made it a risk I wasn't willing to take. I would love to take advantage of lower premiums, but I'm not willing to risk my family's health in such a volatile environment. We've lost enough already. So I spend the equivalent of my daughter's college tuition on our premiums. And even so, I know we are more fortunate than most.

I am imploring members of both parties to stop simply angling for a "win" and to actually consider the end users in their endgame. In our house, that would be a widow with a 21 year-old son who just graduated college and does not yet have employer benefits and an 18 year-old daughter who just started college. We don't have the stellar Congressional benefits that these decision-makers and their families enjoy.

To our Representatives and Senators: Please end this shameful display of one-upsmanship and hubris and help the people who sent you there. Fix the ACA. Stop threatening to take it away. You are de-stabilizing the market and making it increasingly impossible for us to insure ourselves. All so you can say you kept a campaign promise. No. One. Cares. For the love of God, just work together to fix it.

Respectfully,

Theresa C. Parker
[REDACTED]

Res

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Lisa Naugle
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Charles Crowther,
Florida

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson 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.

Matt Hart
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse any typos.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Regards,

Frank Chan
Los Angeles, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham/Cassidy/Heller

I have worked as a medical billing professional for nearly twenty years - since long before the ACA was even debated, much less implemented.

As a medical biller, I am responsible for processing patients' medical bills from their doctor's office to the insurance company, dealing with any payments or denials that come back from the insurance, and sending appeals as necessary. I then process patient payments and speak to patients by phone about their bills.

While the ACA is in no way perfect, it is FAR superior to what existed before. In the days before the ACA, it was not uncommon to see patients whose insurance companies would refuse to pay bills after they'd hit annual or lifetime maximums for benefits, and it wasn't uncommon to see patients with astronomically high deductibles or huge gaps in their coverage (no ER care, no prescription coverage, etc). Individual insurance policies would be bare-bones because, frankly, they could get away with it and it helped them keep their costs low. That makes sense from a business standpoint, but it was terrible for patient care. As you know, medical bankruptcies were rampant and patients were often being hit with surprise medical bills that they simply couldn't pay.

Also, many people went uninsured because they simply couldn't afford full premiums for individual policies, but didn't qualify for Medicaid. These were often working Americans who desperately wanted to have coverage but simply couldn't make the math work.

In addition, several times for month I would receive requests for preexisting condition reviews for patients - I'd have to send records to determine whether they, for example, had been treated for shoulder pain or allergies at one of our doctors' offices within the previous five years. As an individual insurance enrollee myself, I know that those records I sent for those reviews would be used to deny, rescind, or charge patients more for their coverage. I, myself, had to pay more for my (terrible) insurance plan because I'd had knee pain three or four years earlier, even though I wasn't receiving current treatment for it.

After the ACA passed, the preexisting condition denials disappeared entirely and I, personally, no longer had to buy a policy that excluded maternity coverage. The uninsured rate for patients I deal with has declined from about 20% to about 5%, as people have gained coverage with subsidies or have qualified for the Medicaid expansion. This has, in turn, made it less likely that patient accounts go to collections so that doctors/hospitals are receiving more money.

On a personal level, once the ACA passed I was able to buy my own high-quality individual insurance plan. I do not receive a subsidy, and yet I paid less money under the ACA in Indiana for a better plan - one that included maternity coverage and a better prescription benefit schedule. The ACA was a net positive for me as well as for many of the patients I deal with.

ACA enrollees are not moochers asking for or receiving a handout. They are people who are more than happy to pay their fair share for coverage and are happy to have it, and are happy to know that they aren't buying a plan with huge gaps in coverage or one that will take back their coverage if they had allergies five years ago.

I understand insurance and the ACA, and I was very familiar on a personal and professional level with the pre-ACA individual insurance market. The claim by proponents of Graham/Cassidy that the bill allows states to innovate in a new or better way is simply false.

While the block grant provision, in theory, allows states to innovate, such innovation is currently available under the 1332 waivers under the ACA. The only additional "flexibility" built into the Graham/Cassidy block grant program is to allow states to cover fewer people on skimpier plans, charge patients more, or bring back preexisting condition reviews (by removing the "guardrails" on the waiver provision of the ACA). That is not flexibility that benefits anyone - not patients, not insurers who will lose customers, and not doctors or hospitals who will lose insured patients and, yet again, see bills go unpaid.

Listen to the doctors, hospitals, insurance companies, and patient advocacy groups who are opposing this bill. The ACA certainly needs reform, but this is not it. I oppose Graham/Cassidy entirely - from both a professional and personal standpoint - and am asking the Senate to scrap this bill and get back to the drawing board to develop a bipartisan plan to strengthen the ACA, not tear it down and make it easier for states and insurance companies to harm patients.

Thank you.

Julie Swando

03

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 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.

Maria Snell
Frisco, Texas 75034

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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 like myself.

Take care . Shalom.

Alessandra Kellermann

" Hope is like peace. It is not a gift from God. It is a gift only we can give one another. "

Elie Wiesel

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

If the Graham/Cassidy goes through it will be irresponsible. More than 10,000,000 people DID NOT VOTE for DJT and to think you have a mandate to repeal and replace the ACA is ludicrous!!

Fix the ACA!! It's not perfect but it is a start! It went through legal challenges. Just stop and think how you will compromise Americans and our entire economy.

Jay Lynch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Carole Roberts
Perry Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I live in Texas. 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 will also take away/lessen protections for people like me who have pre-existing conditions. Please reject it.

Thank you,
Amanda Miller

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:34 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment on the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am amazed and saddened by the current bill being considered so I must write that I am just one of many who would be hurt by this bill - it would have a huge negative impact on my whole family. The impact on Americans with pre-existing conditions would be terrible.

Would national employers have to offer different insurance for each state? So possibly in Minnesota your copay may be low to have a baby but in West Virginia it would be high?

Life is complicated enough - why ruin healthcare that Americans receive? Why not fix the small problems of the current system vs turning everything upside down?

So please begin to look at what is best for all Americans - not just each state or whatever party or your donors or corporations. Stop turning a health bill into a way to save the Wealthy more money.

Sincerely,

Anne R Robertson Schmudde
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:32 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson Comments

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) is a statewide trade association of providers who work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). OPRA supports and provides advocacy for community-based service providers to ensure the availability of programs, services, and funding adequate to support and assist individuals with IDD as they strive to achieve a life of increasing independence, productivity and integration.

OPRA is strongly opposed to the Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill. This bill is being paid for in part by cuts to Medicaid funding for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our programs have proven to be successful and spend Medicaid dollars efficiently, but there is no room for further cuts. If this bill becomes law, our businesses will fail and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will suffer.

We believe that real and sustainable health care reform is possible. But, we oppose Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson bill, as it was developed without key stakeholder involvement, is being considered absent knowledge of its impact/incomplete CBO score and fall short of ensuring necessary coverage for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Therefore, we oppose Graham/Cassidy/Heller/Johnson.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Tina Sine
Canfield, Ohio

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Talicia Tarver [mailto:talicia@talicia.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

To Whom It May Concern:

I don't believe this is the correct answer to healthcare reform. As a constituent, I urge Congress to reject the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill.

Regards,

Talicia Tarver


Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

As a public school educator for 20 years who lives in San Francisco, my family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We have various pre-existing conditions that have been treated with our current health care and are on our official health record. This bill would prevent us from being able to buy affordable insurance and this is not an option for us. San Francisco is almost impossible financially for teachers as it is. The Graham-Cassidy Bill is cruel and unacceptable. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ambrose
San Francisco, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Scott Vetter
Cedar Park, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no!

This bill does nothing to improve healthcare for all Americans!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy Bill. It is a bad bill and is especially a danger to people with preexisting conditions. That's why McCain in good conscience can't vote for it. Every American has a right to healthcare. It should not be only available to the wealthy. This bill will leave 20M+ people without healthcare.

This bill doesn't even come close to meeting the "Jimmy Kimmel" test of "No family should be denied medical care, emergency or otherwise because they can't afford it". The lifetime cap would cause major financial hardship, especially if you have a lifetime illness or have issues at a young age. Jimmy Kimmel's son would have reached his LIFETIME cap by the age of ONE.

"Access to adequate and affordable coverage" is not clearly defined in the new bill. Medicaid would be severely cut, leaving disabled and Seniors bearing the brunt of the costs. Large numbers of Seniors are only able to afford nursing homes due to Medicaid.

The GOP is trying to rush it through because their donors are waiting for their tax breaks. They have refused to work with Democrats to revise ACA and are trying to get it to pass with only GOP votes. There is not even a CBO score on the bill yet. It is obvious Trump has not read the bill, and I suspect very few have. Why would a vote be had before any debate and excluding one-half of the Senate's input?

Physicians, who never agree on anything, all agree that the bill is harmful and should be defeated. Coalitions of health professionals that have spoken publicly against the Bill include the AMA ("Provisions violate longstanding AMA policy"), the American Psychiatric Association ("This bill harms our most vulnerable patients"), the American Public Health Association ("Graham-Cassidy would devastate the Medicaid program, increase out-of-pocket costs, and weaken or eliminate protections for people living with preexisting conditions"), the National Institute for Reproductive Health ("the Graham-Cassidy bill preys on underserved communities ... a clear and present danger"), and Federation of American Hospitals ("It could disrupt access to health care for millions of the more than 70 million Americans").

This is in addition to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of American Medical Colleges, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and many others.



The bill would destabilize insurance markets and decrease access to affordable coverage and care. There is concern over the loss of small-business tax credits, cost-sharing reductions, and the replacement of current Medicaid expansion with "inadequate" grants (which would phase out entirely by 2026).

Lastly, GOP has been trying to sabotage ACA to "prove" it doesn't work. It does work, and can work better if Democrats AND Republicans act as true Patriots and together come up with revisions to the ACA to fix the problems. When the bill went into effect, Obama clearly said there would be wrinkles and they could be fixed as they arose.

PLEASE, PLEASE vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. I truly admire Senator McCain for taking up for the American people rather than voting on party lines. I wish there were more who were as courageous as him.

Thank you.

Janice Moran



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy for the Good of Your Constituents

Honorable Senators,

You can and should do better than this bill. My wife was a fit and healthy former 2 sport varsity athlete that was shocked to be diagnosed with breast cancer 3 weeks after her 30th birthday. She fought like hell in 2014 to beat cancer and is going strong thanks to the care of her team at Smilow Cancer Hospital. But guess what? Even in remission three years later, she takes medicine to stay cancer free and will be receiving treatment the rest of her life. Diseases, diagnoses, ailments, and conditions are frightening enough as they are. Please don't add to the burden of the sick and the scared by making them fear getting kicked off insurance, refused care, or going bankrupt. High risk pools are not a solution. Lifetime caps are not a solution. No one can predict when they will be sick and it is not their fault when they are. Have some compassion and do the right thing. Sick people are Americans too that vote and pay taxes and are someone's mother, brother, cousin, friend, or wife. Vote No on Graham-Cassidy and go back to work on a bipartisan solution that doesn't hurt patients.

Pleading in earnest desperation,
Dave Byer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 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.

Carol Fifield
Miami, FL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:18 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Eva Shiffrin, 109 N. 6th St., Madison, WI
Date: September 20 2017
Re: Testimony submitted for consideration to the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal which is to take place on September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal (the Proposal). The Proposal includes draconian, cruel and amoral substantive provisions, stripping health care from tens of millions of vulnerable Americans while purporting to fix health care and make it available and affordable to all Americans. It was also developed in a deeply shameful, undemocratic process that flies against the desires of 88% of Americans.

The Proposal's cuts to traditional Medicaid are draconian. Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, their well-being, and their independence. Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Thousands of people will die as a result. Previous and less draconian versions of this bill estimate that federal support will drop by 750-800 billion dollars by 2026, with deeper cuts to follow. I work with people with disabilities every day and know firsthand how important and lifesaving Medicaid health care can be. People with disabilities rely on critical Medicaid services like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work and live lives with dignity and independence. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities.

This Proposal will also impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. In Wisconsin, 28% of all kids are covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is lifesaving and cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care. We as a country have always thought that the children are our future. This Proposal takes us backwards. The potential impacts of this Proposal for children and pregnant women are frankly deeply disturbing.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens up the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All of the studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status. I personally know many individuals with disabilities who relied on ACA coverage when they could no longer work due to a diagnosis, but had to wait two years after a disability determination before Medicare would begin and who were not eligible for Medicaid. I also know multiple friends who relied on the ACA to receive treatment for cancer. These individuals could not work, but they also did not qualify for Social Security. These friends owe their lives to the

Affordable Care Act. I also have friends with full time jobs that did not offer health insurance and could only afford health insurance offered through the ACA with subsidies. These individuals were able to obtain services to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, illnesses that would worsen without treatment and then require costly but are preventable. The Proposal fails to make insurance more affordable and in fact, will price ordinary Americans out of any insurance market, returning to the days when a cancer patient who couldn't work but couldn't access health care, where a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due to a pre-existing condition, where a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. This is not what Americans want.

Many of the very sponsors of this Proposal vowed that they would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable. This Proposal fails miserably in all respects. It has also been crafted, introduced, and discussed in a deeply undemocratic manner. The fact that many Senators are unwilling to even wait to discuss the Proposal and provide for full and fair hearings on it after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office exposes this process as a deeply shameful charade, one that ignores the desires of the vast majority of the American people. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. If this bill passes and goes into effect, I want the record of this committee to show that those who voted for this Proposal were fully aware of its devastating and destructive impact and were told by millions of American citizens that this is not what we want.

Eva Shiffrin

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: John F. Klopf
Subject: Hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill on Monday, September 25th, 2017

Sunday, September 24th, 2017

[REDACTED]

Re: Hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill on Monday, September 25th, 2017

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Wyden,

"Well my role in the political process is first as an American. And I have the same concerns that many Americans do about the economy, about my children's future — and we're all in this together, Democrats, Independents and Republicans. ... At the end of the day, in a representative democracy it's about what the voters think, not what the politicians in charge think is best for themselves." Richard Painter in Bill Moyers: Spotlight. April 20, 2016. Retrieved on Sunday, September 24th, 2017 from <<http://billmoyers.com/content/richard-painter-full-transcript/>>

"The Grand Old Party's partisan fight to repeal the ACA has been declared dead before. We are not naive enough to think it is true now either." Senator Mark Warner, Facebook post retrieved on Sunday, September 24th 2017.

On Monday, September 25th, 2017, members of the Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. *"This hearing should not be mistaken for the thoughtful, bipartisan process that an issue as important as healthcare demands, but it is the path Republican leadership has chosen."* Senator Mark Warner, Facebook post retrieved on Sunday, September 24th 2017.

We hope that you have had a chance - as we did - to review the article "Three Ways the New Republican Health Bill Differs From Past Repeal Efforts" in the New York Times dated Friday, September 22nd, 2017.
<<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/22/us/republican-health-plan-comparison.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur>>

We want to participate in this hearing by telling our stories to you:
Throughout our lives, beloved family members and friends have passed away from conditions such as Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, Stroke, Nephroblastoma or Wilms Disease, Stomach Cancer, Colon Cancer, Melanoma, and others. When you are taking care of a loved one — child or adult — in their most vulnerable and fragile condition, you are looking in the mirror. One day, in the near or far future, it could be one - or any - of us. No amount of money will save you. It will only be useful to wallpaper your coffins.

From these experiences, we have learned that health, like life itself, is a precious and priceless gift. People and their health are NOT commodities to be negotiated between political parties or in any marketplace. As a matter of public policy, the GOP proposals, such as they are, make a Faustian bargain that reflect an idolatry of private enterprise and a sacrifice of our most vulnerable citizens on the altar of Social Darwinism. In other words, healthcare becomes

available only to those who can most afford it. It is especially ironic that the GOP, which proclaims itself to be "pro-life" seems to really only be pro-birth and, once someone is born, the protections afforded to them by governmental "interference" are removed away and sequestered only for those who have the financial recourse to pay for medical care. The United States is the only major industrialized nation where a single-payer option for medical care is not exercised. Consequently this country spends more on healthcare than other industrial countries with inferior results compared to those nations. Any sound public policy for financing medical care must start from the principle that health care is not a business but a fundamental right for ALL.

As Members of Congress - Ladies and Gentlemen - you have been democratically elected to serve "We, The People of the United States," NOT your own political interests, NOT your donors' interests, NOT the interests of transnational companies whose foreign currencies are rubles or yuan. You were elected and your sacred duty is to SERVE OUR NATION. In the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill, you need to ask yourselves:

1. where are you forming a more perfect union?
2. where are you establishing justice?
3. where are you insuring domestic tranquility?
4. where are you providing the common defense?
5. where are you promoting the general welfare?
6. where are you securing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity?

As American citizens, we do ordain and establish (and demand respect towards) this Constitution for the United States of America established in 1789 by our Founding Fathers and Mothers who risked poverty and death to defend our freedom. Who are you defending now? Are you with or against the American People? We urge you to get back to regular order to find a real solution for health care for All.

The eyes of our younger generations are judging and will judge you throughout history. Where are your values? May God have mercy in your souls and your judgment.

Troubled about the future of our Nation,



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 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.

Cathie McQuinn
Coatesville, PA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions and affordability, etc is that I have chronic hives and require an expensive treatment that is required to be administered on-site by a RN. The treatment is costly and would be considered a pre-existing condition. I am self-employed and therefore self-insured. While I pay a high monthly premium for my healthcare, it could be significantly worse with the changes proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill would also negatively impact a large number of my friends and family.

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

Sincerely, Jennifer Marks

San Francisco, CA

Like its predecessor repeal bills in the House and Senate, the Graham-Cassidy version would repeal the individual and employer mandates. It also would reduce federal support for the overall Medicaid program by sending states a fixed amount per enrollee, known as a per-capita cap, or a lump sum, known as a block grant.

All this could leave millions of people without coverage, warn the American Medical Association and American Hospital Association, which say Congress should work in a bipartisan manner to improve the nation's health care system." - Source as per above listed link.

As a nurse, patient and mother I find this bill unsupportable and unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Maria Connors, RN

The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson Bill has been condemned by the AMA, ANA, American College of Physicians, ACOG, AARP, March of Dimes, SEIU, National Nurse United, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, ALS Association, American Diabetes Association, American Lung Association and over 100 other health and human rights groups. I am horrified that this bill which would result in millions more Americans becoming uninsured, the loss of millions of American jobs and thousands of American lives is even being considered by the senate. The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson bill is a threat to public health and a deliberate assault on the the vulnerable, comparable to dumping toxins into the water we drink. It is also an assault on the fundamental principles of civilization and democracy as the overwhelming majority of Americans oppose these changes to current law and do not want to return to a time of survival of the richest or strongest beasts in the jungle.

Source:<http://www.ktvz.com/.../these-groups-not-happy-with.../624210735>
NEW YORK (CNNMoney) - *Even as Republicans scramble to find the votes to pass their latest attempt to repeal Obamacare, the list of advocacy and industry groups opposed to the bill continues to grow.*

On Wednesday, the two major health insurance industry associations voiced their concerns about the legislation, which would jettison several major Obamacare provisions and curtail federal support of Medicaid. They fear the bill would hurt consumers and patients by destabilizing the individual market and weakening Medicaid.

"The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections, as well as undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing medical conditions," the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association wrote in a statement. "The legislation reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans."

America's Health Insurance Plans was even more explicit, saying it cannot support the proposal authored by Senators Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana.

These two groups join a lengthy list of doctor, hospital and patient advocacy associations that are slamming the bill. Most of them were also opposed to the repeal measure that passed the House in May and the one that failed in the Senate in July.

The legislation would eliminate federal funding for Medicaid expansion and for Obamacare subsidies that lower premiums, deductibles and co-pays in 2020. Instead, states would receive a lump sum of money annually through 2026 that they could use in a variety of ways to lower costs and help consumers pay for coverage.

The bill would also allow states to waive several key Obamacare protections for those with pre-existing conditions. While insurers would still have to provide coverage to everyone, states could let carriers charge enrollees more based on their medical history. The legislation also would eliminate Obamacare's essential health benefits provision, which mandates insurers cover an array of services, including hospitalization, maternity care, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse services.

- Birth control coverage

Given the explosive increase in the opioid epidemic, depression and PTSD, as well as the increases in domestic violence and school shootings, do we really think that cutting mental health coverage now is a smart move?

Medicaid would be cut, particularly hurting poor children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Medicaid expansion will end. This has helped provide care to more low-income adults than were previously eligible; the subsidized care for moderate-income families will disappear entirely under this proposal.

The Graham-Cassidy bill provides block grants to the states. While promoting this as allowing states flexibility, it denies residents of different states equal benefits. Also, rural hospitals, which receive more of their income from the ACA and Medicaid, will be disproportionately hurt.

Shifting Medicaid expansion money would especially hit New York, California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Florida and Virginia, with funding cuts of 50% or more.

Last year, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office's analysis found repeal would increase the deficit by \$353 billion. This current proposal is proceeding without a complete, updated CBO analysis.

The co-sponsoring senator Dean Heller previously stated: "Health care reform cannot be balanced on the backs of Nevada's low-income families and sickest individuals. That's something that I cannot and will not stand for." Heller's support of this current bill shows once again what his word is worth. He boasted about the improvement in his state's health coverage from the Medicaid expansion, something he is now proposing to gut, along with protections for pre-existing conditions.

One might think that widespread opposition among groups that actually care for patients would give politicians pause. I know how much it will hurt my patients — many would become bankrupt or die without the ACA.

But the congressmen's bill repealing the Affordable Care Act is not about providing good care for their constituents. Nor is it about being fiscally responsible, with the estimated cost up to \$350 billion in the next decade. It's all about undoing good that the Obama administration achieved, and cutting taxes for the wealthy.

Brad Woodhouse, director of the Protect Our Care Campaign, summed up the GOP's current strategy: "Given Republicans will have to ram this partisan repeal bill through the Senate in the next two weeks in order to meet this Sept. 30 deadline, there will be no time for a regular process for the public to fully understand the impacts on their health care — with no time for adequate hearings, consultations with experts, constituent input and amendments. ... Republicans in the Senate are resorting back to a secret, partisan process to force through health care repeal out of public view." Source Forbes as per above listed link

TABLE 1

Estimates of premium surcharges for a 40-year-old individual with selected health conditions

Condition	Surcharge as a share of standard premium	Surcharge, in dollars
Metastatic cancer	3,500%	\$142,650
Lung, brain, and other severe cancers	1,790%	\$72,980
Colorectal, breast (age 50 and younger), kidney, and other cancers	703%	\$28,660
Diabetes without complication	137%	\$5,600
Rheumatoid arthritis and specified autoimmune disorders	652%	\$26,580
Major depressive and bipolar disorders	208%	\$8,490
Drug dependence	502%	\$20,450
Autistic disorder	135%	\$5,510
Seizure disorders and convulsions	179%	\$7,300
Congestive heart failure	459%	\$18,720
Acute myocardial infarction	1,422%	\$57,960
Asthma	106%	\$4,340
Stage 4 chronic kidney disease	286%	\$11,650
Completed pregnancy with no or minor complications	425%	\$17,320

Next, the current prohibition against lifetime limits on benefits would be lost. This would be particularly devastating to premature babies, those with disabilities, the rare-disease community and cancer patients.

Another "gotcha" is that insurers would no longer have to provide "essential services." These currently include:

- *Emergency services*
- *Hospitalization (as for operations and overnight stays)*
- *Pregnancy, maternity and newborn care (both before and after birth)*
- *Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (this includes counseling and psychotherapy)*
- *Prescription drugs*
- *Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills)*
- *Laboratory services*
- *Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson Bill

The Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson bill undermines federal protections for people with preexisting conditions, requirements that insurance cover essential benefits like maternity care, and ends prohibitions on lifetime limits or caps. If the Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson bill passes a premature baby or one with a heart defect may reach a lifetime cap and be uninsurable due to "preexisting conditions" or birth defects. Source Forbes <https://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2017/09/18/graham-cassidy-bill-the-last-ditch-gop-effort-to-deprive-millions-of-healthcare/#4f63b3173b92>

Having failed by a single vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the GOP has a new stealth campaign to gut it, this time via the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is not a sound proposal but rather another punitive bill, this time robbing blue states to gain votes by rewarding the red states with hefty bribes in exchange for votes of support.

Before the ACA was enacted, almost 50 million (or about 17 percent of people) were uninsured. That figure has dropped to 8.8 percent. Out-and-out repeal now will lead to an estimated 32 million people losing coverage — likely more, since this bill is more draconian than its failed predecessor, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). In recent months, the GOP and President Trump have been torpedoing the ACA by cutting education and advertisements about enrollment options. Topher Spiro, vice president for health policy at the Center for American Progress, commented: Trump GUTTED funding for ACA advertising—and SLASHED the open enrollment period. Fearing that that may not be enough, this backdoor attempt at repeal includes the following:

First, the bill ends current protections on discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions.

Graham-Cassidy bill text is clear: under state waivers insurers can charge higher premiums for pre-existing conditions. This is critically important as it affects 52% of adults under age 65. Here are projections of how much insurance would increase.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

I urge you not to enable the passage of the proposed health care bill. The bill is not being considered by a proper process, including a full CBO score, due debate, room for amendments, and all the other requirements that separate us from a banana republic. Please spare us this national embarrassment, and permit the millions of people who have recently acquired insurance to keep it.

Yours,
Aaron James
Irvine CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Doreen Trees <doreentrees12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Monday, September 25th Healthcare hearing

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

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: (of individual or organization)

Address:

I understand that healthcare in America needs to be reformed and improved BUT the proposals coming from the republican senate & congress are bitter reminders of how cruel and antipathetic our elected political representatives have become. Hollow shells behind smiling masks.
Bernie Sanders has the right idea. It is possible and it will come to be. It's a matter of time and creative minds.

Doreen Trees
Longmont, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Senators,

The Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill has been declared a disaster by every major medical organization in the US as well as by governors from all 50 states. It is not in the best interests of the citizens of this country to repeal the ACA and replace it with this cruel monstrosity of a bill. Stop bending over backwards to please your donors and start serving your constituents, as you were elected to do. I don't know how you can sleep at night, knowing that your vote for this bill could condemn your fellow citizens to suffering and death. Remember that the first rule of medicine is do no harm, so stop trying to harm the American people with this destructive bill.

Sincerely, Heidi Rabinowitz

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

David Clermont
East Freetown, MA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: GCH Comments

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to protest any advancement in the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Repeal Bill. There are few people I know who do not have a pre-existing condition. I work in the health care field and see how much suffering there is - even with health insurance. I see people on fixed incomes who would not be able to afford higher health care costs and medications. I have family members with heart disease. That would be a pre-existing condition. Cancer patients, with these becoming pre-existing conditions, would have restrictions on their coverage when they are in need the most. Have you met people going through cancer treatments? They do not need to lose their health insurance coverage or pay higher fees.

The ACA may need to be improved, but repealing it is not the answer. I would like to see a BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT to improve the ACA not repeal it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucy David

--
[REDACTED]
Iowa City, IA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 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 urge this in the name of a friend of ours who is no longer with us. In 2008, he (a retired man with excellent insurance) was waiting in the lobby to pick up his wife who was running late. They were going to go to dinner that night. A special occasion.

He suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the nearest hospital. It was a very serious heart attack and they needed to do extensive and very expensive procedures. He hit his lifetime cap and there was no money to pay for one of those procedures. His wife spent all their savings, 401 and money from friends and relatives. She was about to put their house on the market when he died.

The money had come too late.

Please don't let us return to that world. Please vote no on Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,

Inna Tysoe
Sacramento, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No Repeal or Replace of ACA. No to Graham-Cassidy

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am a registered Republican and have been my entire life. The Graham-Cassidy repeal attempt of ACA must fail because it is bad for the American People and would be devastating to millions. We need guardrails for pre-existing conditions so that the States may not eliminate it. The Graham-Cassidy repeal would dismantle Medicare which was a major campaign promise to remain sacred. The Graham-Cassidy repeal would put women's health at risk. Republican women do NOT want laws on our bodies. Republican women want to protect Planned Parenthood so that we may control our own lives.

We want you to do exactly what Senator John McCain said and to go through the normal channels so that we may have a bipartisan final product. We need a full CBO evaluation and score of our final bipartisan product. We need to work across the aisle on this important legislation. ACA needs bipartisan reform, not a ram this down our throat approach. Senator Cassidy has failed the Jimmy Kimmel test too!

Best regards,

Gina

[REDACTED]

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

No CBO, No Bill! Return order to Congress. Do your jobs! Lives are at stake. This is not a game to the American people.

Thank you,
Brooke Strishock

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:29 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.

Zachary Taffet
Allen, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:20 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Please vote NO on this bill. 71 yrs. ago I was born with glaucoma and cataracts in both eyes. It was diagnosed at age 5 months. Vision in my left eye was already gone, but drs. were able to save vision in the right eye with a type of drain to relieve the pressure. When I was 8 yrs. old, my left eye had to be removed in emergency surgery due to intense pain. My parents had nothing — little money, no insurance. The expenses for both of these medical treatments were paid with the help of my 19 aunts and 19 uncles as well as my paternal grandmother working in the Paterson, NJ, silk mills & my parents with whatever they could scrape together since my dad was in the US Navy. I worked hard with limited vision in one eye for which I've always been grateful. I became a teacher thanks to a scholarship. I raised two wonderful children who are contributing members of society. I was fortunate that medical expenses at the times of my issues could be covered by the family (no wealthy relatives — just hard working people) scraping together. Due to skyrocketing medical expenses today families could not do that for a loved one. I worry about what will happen if this bill is passed — I've had a pre-existing condition since the day I was born plus I'm a senior. What will I do? Go blind? Dig deep and find your hearts and do not do this to the American people!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to 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.

Terry Buckalew
Van Buren, AR

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 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.

Kenneth Edd
Roseville , Minnesota

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 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.

Robin Stelling
San Rafael, CA

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comment

Millions of Americans are suffering due to lack of good jobs. Don't take away their health care too! Work with Democrats to improve the ACA...please!

Dianne Dryer

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Ivan Keefer
Stephens City, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: s [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Doctor's Orders: 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 pediatrician, I care for children covered by Medicaid every day. The block grants proposed in this legislation put their health at risk, particularly in times of economic downturn or natural disaster when needs will increase but funding will not. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, state Medicaid directors, hospitals, and insurers oppose this bill, as does the American public.

Sincerely,
Sadie LaPonsie, MD
Chicago, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Laura LeClair
Amherst, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Laura Hahn
Gaithersburg, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: gch

please please please do not even consider abolishing current health care. My son was just 26 and off my insurance when he was diagnosed with AS, ankylosing spondylitis, a rheumatoid arthritis autoimmune disease. His medication costs a fortune and he is currently covered by Medicare. OMG I shutter to think of how much he will suffer under Trumpcare. What country will we have to emigrate to in order to keep up with healthcare costs?

thank you for hearing this plea,
Jamie Newman

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:45 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.

Dagmar Lambrecht
Hollywood, FL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Jay Lynch <classicday14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

This bill will wreck havoc in my family. Make adjustments to the ACA rather than throw the baby out with the bath water!!

We are tired of fighting for healthcare. Listen to people! Not to corporations or big donors!

J. Lynch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

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

[REDACTED]

PLEASE do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill. I have employer-sponsored health insurance, but I believe health care should be available to everyone. I'm particularly concerned about the impacts of this bill on people who cannot afford health insurance, people with pre-existing conditions, and the many elderly people and children who depend on Medicaid.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:45 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 or single payer. 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.

Maria Bernal
Dayton, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:46 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 urge you to pursue a bipartisan solution under regular order with full markup, debate, and CBO scoring to fix the ACA. Retaining those elements of the ACA vital to protecting the coverage of American citizens while working to control premium costs should be the highest priorities in this effort. The health of American families are far too important to be compromised for the sake of hollow political victories and tax cuts for the wealthy. I humbly request that you put the protection of the most vulnerable of those you represent, those who are most in need of your voice, above all other considerations.

Thank you for your service to our nation.

Michael Dorsam
Bourbonnais, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: John Neesley
Subject: NO to Graham-Cassidy

There are many reasons why Graham-Cassidy is wrong for our country. Among them are:

1. Doctors, hospitals, patient care groups, and insurers have released a joint statement against Graham-Cassidy saying "the Senate should reject it. While we sometimes disagree on important issues in health care, we are in total agreement that Americans deserve a stable healthcare market that provides access to high-quality care and affordable coverage for all." It would be a sad day in America for the Senate to pass legislation despite warnings from such non-partisan organizations as the American Medical Association and the American Cancer Society who have been committed to patient care for decades. It is estimated that over 20 million Americans could lose insurance coverage if this bill were to become law - among them our youngest, oldest, and most vulnerable Americans.
2. The Affordable Care Act is much more than an insurance policy. The safeguards put in place by the ACA are life-saving measures which have been life-changing for anyone affected by any disease, disability, or chronic condition. This bill would allow insurers to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing medical conditions by allowing states to seek waivers to opt out of the ACA insurer regulations that provide essential health benefits. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that roughly half of the country's population lives in states that would eliminate benefit requirements. Another loophole would allow insurers to go back to placing annual and lifetime caps on coverage, threatening the quality and length of life for anyone who suffers with a condition requiring multiple medications, hospitalizations, or life-saving surgical procedures. For many people with pre-existing conditions, insurance would simply become unaffordable. The mandates of the ACA save lives.
3. The block grant system would decimate federal funding for Medicaid expansion, impacting millions of Americans.
4. During the past few weeks, while a bipartisan group of senators worked together to craft improvements on the current health care law, another group met in secret in a last-ditch effort to ram this bad bill through Congress. Neither Cassidy nor Graham nor several other Senate Republicans appear to have given this any thought or bothered to do any analysis of how it will play out. This should not be the way the United States Congress operates. The American people are overwhelmingly against this bill (as well as the previous 2 versions of it) and are in favor of the protections that the ACA put in place. Amazingly, Congress plans to vote on this bill without a full analysis of how it would affect real people's premiums and coverage. (Most Americans wouldn't even buy a used car with so little info.) For Congress to vote on a bill that would affect 1/6 of the U.S. economy and the health coverage of Americans without a full analysis is simply irresponsible. One Republican Senator was asked why he was voting Yes on the bill. His response was, "because we have a deadline." When you are elected to represent the people of your state, you do not pass legislation to get a win for your party as if you are a player in a football game. You study the issues, you have committee hearings, you listen to different opinions from healthcare experts, you make compromises, you take your time. It is completely irresponsible for any Senator to push a bill through knowing (but not caring) that a loss of life could be a direct result of an effort to score points for their party.

As a mother of a young adult son who has cystic fibrosis, I know how much is at stake. Because of the Affordable Care Act as well as the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, my son is able to have a productive life and career, and his opportunity to have affordable insurance coverage is protected in every state in America. The medicines which allow him to work and have a good quality of life cost well over a quarter of a million dollars a year - and the costs sky-rocket if he were to need a hospitalization. The loopholes in this law which would put his coverage at risk due to having a pre-existing condition are very frightening. This bill would affect his mortality. A lot is at stake here, for my son as well as my mother who is a cancer survivor. Most families have a family member who would be at risk. This law is bad for America, and it is sad that Americans with chronic conditions keep having to fight for the right to live their lives by keeping the insurance protections that were put in place when the ACA became law.

Let's work together to get it right, making the safeguards put in place under the current law a priority. Health care is too important to get wrong.

Bobbye Neesley
Houston, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

David Jacobson
Troy, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy opposition letter

To whom it May Concern,

My name is Jerome Babor and I live in North Carolina. I am a parent of 3 children, 2 of which have disabilities. I am also a cancer survivor of 13 years. We are a family of 5 and I am the sole provider in my household. This is mainly because of the disabilities of my children. My wife is a homemaker and also homeschools our children through North Carolina Virtual Academy.

My oldest child is Dillon. He is a 14 year old bright freshman who has High Functioning Autism. He was diagnosed approximately 1 year ago. Because of his Autism, he has anxiety and an extreme fear of germs. He sees a therapist, his primary care physician, and a pediatric GI doctor. He sees his therapist 2x per month. He sees his other doctors on an as needed basis. Dillon will always have High Functioning Autism and will need medical care including prescriptions. While therapy helps, it is not a cure.

My daughter is Savannah. She is an 8 year old 3rd grader who has Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. She was diagnosed at 2 years old. To this day, it is still unknown why she has JIA, but it affects her ankles and her eyes. She is on multiple prescriptions every month including folic acid which just helps to lessen the side affects of the methotrexate she takes weekly to help fight this autoimmune disease. She sees a primary care physician as needed for even the most minute illnesses due to her weakened immune system. She sees a pediatric rheumatologist and a pediatric ophthalmologist. In addition to the methotrexate, she has now started monthly Remicade infusions. These infusions are in conjunction to the methotrexate to combat her disability as it has been attacking her eyes more and more. While this is a disease she could possibly grow out of, the chances are slim. There is a better possibility that it goes dormant. Even with it going dormant, it is probable that it will come back in the future.

I am a restaurant manager and provide a good life for my family. I have health insurance coverage for my wife and I under my company's health coverage plan. Although I make decent money, my children thankfully still qualify for NC's Medicaid program. I would not be able to afford my children's medical care under my current health insurance. Savannah, my 8 year old daughter, has monthly pre-insurance medical and prescription costs of \$1500-\$7500+. This does not include items like possible joint injections which she has had this year. Dillon has pre-insurance medical and prescription costs of approximately \$1000-\$1500 per month.

The proposed Graham Cassidy bill would negatively affect my family in several ways. With the proposed bill, if any of us were to have a lapse in insurance coverage for any reason, our current or prior disabilities would no longer be covered under a new coverage. Having healthcare maximums set by each individual state, would mean that at least one of my children could end up having to pay for her own care in full by the time she is 18 years old. It would also mean she probably would not have the Medicaid coverage which helps to offset her high pre-insurance medical bills. Without her medications, it could result in her being blind. Leaving individual states to fully handle their own medical programs is a mistake. Most states can barely, ethically manage their own budget. This would end up meaning a reallocation of funds to areas that they probably should not be. In my opinion, this bill also pushes states to be individualist versus unified as a country. While I know it is hard to relate, I would ask for everyone voting to put themselves into middle income economic status with everyday healthcare and ask this question "If I was the average middle income family with or without pre-existing conditions or disabilities, could I afford health insurance?". Now look at the lower income status

without pre-existing conditions or disabilities or a middle income family with disabilities or pre-existing conditions, could you afford medical care either without insurance or even with insurance but no coverage for a pre-existing due to a lapse in coverage? I am pretty sure the answer will be no. Even your conscience should be saying no. If this is the case, which anyone reading this knows to be true, then the vote should be against the Graham-Cassidy bill. If this bill were to be approved, many people would either lose health insurance or be unable to afford there coverage. Even people who have insurance coverage would have issues paying medical bills if they are denied due to pre-existing conditions. I would hope you will do the right thing for the American people you represent, who voted you into office. Insurance companies, who do have persuasion are not losing money by you voting "NO" on this ludacris bill. We all know this to be true as we can all look at the financial reports. Please do the right thing and vote AGAINST the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Jerome Babor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I beg you to pass this bill. To many members of my family living in Missouri have been hurt by Obama Care.

Melvin Portell
Saint Louis Missouri

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I completely oppose the Graham Cassidy bill

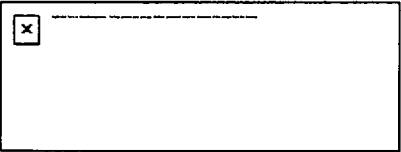
Hello,

I manage a non profit that service the LA Unified School District, it's children, our families and the community. This bill would devastate access to care and is guaranteed to result in catastrophic emergency room use by folks who are now paying in to the system. It makes no sense.

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.

[REDACTED] or
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL

Senators - I vehemently oppose the Graham Cassidy bill given the lack of process (NO proper and complete CBO score, NO time to research the bill, one hearing, No time for formal amendment process) and the projected devastating impact it will have on millions of Americans. Taking away billions of dollars in funding and eliminating protection for pre-existing conditions and life time caps are only a few of the reasons this bill is horrendous.

I support moving forward with bi-partisan legislation to improve the ACA instead of decimating the health care system like this bill will do.

Thank you,
Shelley Berger

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Objection to the Graham Cassidy Bill

I and my husband rely on quality, affordable healthcare.

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

My husband is a self employed carpenter and we both have pre-existing conditions.

After I was laid off from a job with health insurance we were turned down by every health insurance company.

ACA insurance literally saved my life. It is not really affordable but under the Graham Cassidy bill we will either lose insurance or not be able to afford it.

I truly believe this bill will be a death sentence for many Americans.

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

I urge that the Graham Cassidy bill not be enacted. Those like my husband and I are reliant on ACA.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Spence

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Joseph Ipacs
Athens OH 45701

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

My name is Stephanie Wudarski. I am a social worker who works in the addiction and mental health field. I am extremely concerned about the cuts to Medicaid and the gutting of protections for pre-existing conditions. We have an opiate crisis in this country that kills Americans at a way faster rate than terrorism. And yet, we can't afford to treat the most vulnerable but can afford 17 years of war? Medicaid expansion has helped so many people struggling with addiction get the help they need. When people stay addicted, they aren't able to work. They don't contribute to society. Or they die, which seems like that's what most republicans want these days.

Also, my husband and I both suffer from mental illness ourselves. The free-market failed me when it came to buying life insurance after we got married. I was denied for simply being on psych meds, despite never having any significant suicide risks. I got penalized for seeking out help. There is no doubt the free market would deny me when it came to adequate coverage. Then, maybe I would be a real suicide risk. But again, seems like that's what republicans are aiming for.

Stop killing your own people. This bill is insane. And it is being rushed behind closed doors, doing the very thing that republicans blamed democrats for doing. Looks like that projection problem is bigger than just Trump.

Please, stop this insanity and work together in a bipartisan way.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen that thinks saving the ACA will actually result in a longer term compromise and not so-called "Berniecare". However, kill the ACA and that's what we are looking at. You choose.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:44 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Mark Sullivan
Wichita, KS

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: ACA and healthcare - from a voting American Citizen

My husband and I are established with a primary care physician and appreciate the healthcare we receive. we are very concerned about the future of healthcare in our country. We oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. We would appreciate a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA - NOT TO REPEAL IT. We are also greatly concerned about the process followed re this GC Bill.

We are supportive of our government and expect positive revisions and a thoughtful, bipartisan approach to the needed improvements to the ACA. We do not support a Q&D approach to the needed revisions; nor do we want to see simply repealing it.

Marianne and Wayne Davis
Salem, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my special-needs children depend on Medicaid for life-saving medication (insulin) and critical early intervention services. I deplore the decision to leave it up to individual states to decide how they will spend their Medicaid money. Our family simply cannot pay for my type-one diabetic son's insulin out-of-pocket; if Pennsylvania cuts the Medicaid funding that covers the cost of my son's insulin, what are we supposed to do? Let him die? Likewise, if my four-year-old autistic daughter does not receive the behavioral therapy currently covered through Medicaid, she may never learn to have a conversation nor learn basic safety skills, such as not running into the street.

I also am terrified and outraged that the Graham-Cassidy bill allows insurance companies to deny individuals medical coverage due to a pre-existing condition. When my son gets older, this means he will find it difficult, if not impossible, to secure medical insurance. This is completely unacceptable and frankly unethical. What kind of nation abandons its most vulnerable and fragile members?

On behalf of my children and all the special-needs children and families, I beseech you to NOT pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Serruya

Gabriella Serruya

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because it will strip millions of Americans of health care. People like me. I am a hard working American. I hold two doctorate degrees. But, my job (as a veterinarian) does not provide health coverage. I buy insurance through the ACA. I do receive a subsidy (veterinarians are NOT highly paid people). If you pass this bill, I very likely will have no health insurance because a) I will lose my subsidy and b) rates will go up and c) as I am over 50 rates may well skyrocket for my age group and d) if pre-existing conditions are again allowed to be considered --well I sure won't have coverage --who lives to be 50-plus and has no "conditions"? Have you guys seen the list of what insurance companies call "pre-existing conditions"?

Please throw this bill where it belongs: in the trash.

Passing this bill just because Republicans promised to repeal Obamacare--what could be stupider? Abandon this idiotic pursuit, sit down in a true bipartisan fashion with expert advice and take the time--however long it takes --to design real appropriate health care for ALL Americans for the 21st century. Please.

Pamela Mueller



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee, regarding the hearing for the Graham-Cassidy Bill on September 25, 2017

[REDACTED]

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill you are about to vote on. I have a pre-existing condition called Polycystic Ovary Syndrome and several years ago I was denied healthcare coverage because of it. I finally got insurance under Obamacare, and was so grateful to have that. I was able to see my physician regularly and have coverage for prescriptions that I believe saved my life, helping me manage this disorder so I will not end up with diabetes, heart disease, or a stroke. I now have healthcare through my job, but many people do not and rely on Obamacare. I am concerned for them, particularly for vulnerable populations like the elderly, children, and those in poverty.

I'm also concerned for people like my mother, who was recently diagnosed with stage four breast cancer. She is currently undergoing chemo. She is retired. What will happen to her healthcare under this bill? The fact is, we don't know. You are trying to push this bill before a CBO score has been given, but based on past versions of Trumpcare, I suspect her premiums will skyrocket. Isn't dealing with cancer hard enough, without worrying about how she'll pay for her care? How does this bill help your constituents? It doesn't. It harms the people you are supposed to be representing. I respectfully ask that you vote no on this bill and focus instead on a bipartisan effort for single-payer healthcare. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ousley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments

Pleas do not pass this health care bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care

I hope this third attempt at repealing and replacing the ACA is the last and the end to an anxious, heart wrenching and cruel time in our nation. The good citizens of this, the greatness democracy, deserve a serious "bipartisan effort" to improve the ACA and help and ensure that every US citizen can afford health care. This can happen and it starts with Senator Lamar Alexander's health care committee. There is a very good reason that Senator McCain is a no vote: the current process, as with the other two repeal /replace attempts is flawed and undemocratic.

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,
Maryellen Alviti

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: We are the "United States" of America... Vote No on #GrahamCassidy

We are the "United States" of America. How can You give special advantages to any State over any Other State when it comes to American's Health Care? clearly it's being done in order to buy votes. How is that demonstrating integrity or Constitutional? Federal Government must be our Steward for healthcare not passing it off to each individual State with #GrahamCassidy or any other bill that denies protections for pre-existing conditions and creates lifetime caps on coverage. You are relinquishing what You've been elected to do in an effort to create tax cuts for Your rich donors. Please demonstrate compassion and vote in ALL Americans best interest with a vote of NO on GrahamCassidy assault on our health care.

Thank You, Karen Lipscomb

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: delin@cff.org
Subject: Statement on Graham-Cassidy to SCF
Attachments: Senate Finance statement LEddy.pdf

Dear Senate Finance Committee,
Please accept the attached statement to be part of the official Senate Finance Committee's record for the hearing to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on September 25, 2017.

Sincerely,
Laurie T. Eddy

Laurie T. Eddy
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony re. Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the G-C health care bill because it is being railroaded through Congress without time for adequate hearings and because it is not the product of bipartisan work. While the ACA needs to be improved, it does not need to be repealed. Too many people rely on the health care which is now available to them because of the ACA.

Coverage for pre-existing conditions -- without allowing insurance companies to raise rates for those individuals with those conditions -- should be ensured. We will all have pre-existing conditions sooner or later for which we will need affordable health care.

Sincerely,
P Scanlan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

Members of the Finance Committee:

I write to you this evening to express my extreme opposition to the Graham Cassidy Health Care Reform Bill. Passage of this bill would decimate my and my family's ability to receive Healthcare in this country since we struggle with and are being treated for pre-existing conditions.

I have been a type 1 diabetic for over 48 years, and suffer from retinopathy, cataracts, Grave's disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and depression. I receive medication for all of these conditions and need to see my Primary Physicians and specialists very frequently for treatment and follow-up. Without complete medical coverage I would die.

My granddaughter, who is 10 years old, is totally physically disabled with a genetic metabolic bone disorder which causes her bones to be extremely brittle and her muscles to be very weak and painful. She receives her medical treatment and therapies by way of Medicaid. She has broken the bones in her leg several times since she was 4 years old, and currently is wheelchair-bound.

Anything that Congress would do to NOT completely guarantee health coverage for me, my family, my friends and loved ones with pre-existing conditions, or would reduce the amount states receive for Medicaid, would be unconscionable and personally disastrous medically and financially for my family.

Please, I beg you to reject this horrendous legislation, and work together in a bipartisan fashion to improve the ACA rather than destroying it with something that will completely ruin people's lives.

Respectfully,

Eileen Molloy
Warren, Rhode Island

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

[Michael Bearden]
[Beverly Hills, California]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:41 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health care bill

I want to go on record as opposing the current version of the health care bill. I never dreamed that in my elder years I would have to worry every day about being able to afford health care.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@college.harvard.edu>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:41 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.

Olu Demuren
Virginia Beach, VA

--
Olutoyin Demuren
[REDACTED] cy
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] info@vindex.com

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Crohns Disease patient here - first vote was for Bush/Quayle '92

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I've only been to one President Library, President Reagan's in Simi Valley, and the first presidential vote I cast was in 1992 for Bush/Quayle. I've voted Democratic since 2008, though, in part because of the GOP's unwillingness to provide realistic, common sense help for ordinary people who need access to health care.

I have private insurance through my employer, but several years ago, United Health Care stopped covering one my medications for Crohns Disease. The first month I charged the \$1,100 tab at Walgreens, requiring a manager's approval for what they described as the most expensive Visa bill the pharmacy had ever seen.

Ultimately, when my insurance would not cover my medication (Pentasa), I couldn't afford to pay \$1,100 a month. I still have credit card bills but no longer take the medication. I live in fear that my disease will leave remission.

If I've had those troubles, I shudder to think what people with less income do, or those without healthcare at all, or those for whom the ACA provided access. Block grants to conservative states like mine, Tennessee, inevitably will result in pre-existing conditions not being covered state to state, and caps on coverage reinstated.

The GOP can do better. A whole generation is watching --- I think President Reagan would be dismayed to see what the party has become under the divisive, hateful, non-leadership being provided by the former casino owner currently occupying the White House.

Stand up on the right side of history and help people - don't hurt them. If you can't repeal with something legitimately better, don't insult us by taking us backwards in history. Fix ACA but if it's worse, you'll pay the political price in the long run.

Thanks,

Jim Hollifield
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Linzy Scott
Enumclaw Wa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:42 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: #GrahamCassidy

I cannot believe we are fighting for our healthcare AGAIN!!

Why is this not dead? Haven't you heard from citizens around the country asking you to not take our healthcare away??

I cannot believe the state of affairs in this country. My anxiety level is off the charts thinking my healthcare, Medicare and social security will be taken away at the same time we go to war because the person in charge can't stop being a bulky!!

Fix the ACA. It is a beginning point!!

Jackie Lynch

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy and ACA experiences

When the Affordable Care Act passed and was implemented, I was CFO with oversight for a large self-insured employer health care plan for a major research university. While at times, some of the requirements seemed overwhelming, we did not find the need to increase staff for implementation and monitoring. What we did experience was an expansion of the eligible subscribers to the plan based on hours worked. Actually, given the distributed nature of administration in a University, we found that several hundred participants were eligible as full-time employees, but without the hours worked tracking required by the ACA, the eligibility was not determined. Besides these several hundred people, we also had the expansion of coverage to individuals under the age of 26 on family plans, the expansion of the plan to cover many benefits, such as screening procedures and preventative medicine. One of the most controversial expansions, particularly for someone in the CFO role, was the elimination of the life-time cap. The University was able to purchase stop-loss coverage to minimize the risk that elimination of the cap would significant impact the financial health of the plan. With all these changes, we actually saw the increase in cost slow down dramatically, most likely because of the addition of premium paying subscribers to the plan.

In the nearly seven years that I was involved in decision-making related to implementation, we were never approached by the senators or representatives in our district to ask about our experiences. All are GOP. If they truly had cared about how "Obamacare" had impacted a large employer in their state/district as the law was discussed and constantly subject to repeal efforts, common sense would lead any reasonable person to conclude that reaching out to the University would have been a first step. The lack of concern leads me to believe that the interest in the impact of the law on constituents is non-existent.

I retired from my position as vice president and CFO just about a year ago. Since that time, my daughter and her husband have brought my first grandchild into the world. Early in the pregnancy, he was diagnosed with multiple congenital heart defects and another rare congenital condition. While they have excellent insurance, the expansion of benefits under the ACA have made a significant difference in the their financial viability. The baby has spent 7 weeks in neonatal Intensive care and two other hospitalization. He will require at least two very risky heart surgeries. It is expected he will exceed any cap previously in place on his employer insurance. The burden of worrying about this has taken a toll and counseling for both parents is only affordable because of mental health parity. Co-pays for office visits and procedures, supplies and pump rental for feeding tubes and other such expenses are a burden as he has not yet been approved for Medicaid. Suddenly, a young professional couple with multiple degrees are facing a very difficult financial future with no end in sight.

This is just one story of hundreds of thousands of Americans, through no fault of their own, are facing financial, physical and mental health stress because of the discussions and resulting actions in Congress. There is no good reason why our congressmen will not listen to these stories and seek feedback. I know that Rep. Mike Rogers likes to reference isolated instances of premium increases for those that do not receive a tax credit, but cares nothing about stories of the ACA saving lives, saving families from financial ruin, etc. I actually attended a forum where Rep. Rogers had two uniform policeman advance on an attendee as she cried and respectfully tried to tell her story. Senators Strange, Sessions and Shelby have refused to engage the people of Alabama in any conversation about the ACA. There is no confidence in Alabama that affordable care will be available to those with preexisting conditions, or other basic protections offered in the Affordable Care Act, should Graham-Cassidy become a reality..

I ask that Congress stop the game playing and politicizing of healthcare for Americans and do the right thing as this is life and death to many.

Marcie Smith

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:16 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose Graham Cassidy

Please vote No on The GrahamCassidy bill. This bill is a disaster for people with pre existing conditions and disabilities, the elderly, and the poor. VOTE NO!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Revised Graham-Cassidy is worse. Please help.

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I read the new version of the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill (as of 9/24).
The word "shall" addresses none of the issues with pre-existing conditions.

"Adequate and affordable coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions" is not the same as coverage for pre-existing conditions.
Under this bill, the pre-existing condition itself DOES NOT HAVE to be covered.

In fact, the bill specifically states that coverage exclusions and health-based exclusions are allowed, without so much as a waiver approval. Worse, this version adds multiple risk pools.

Exact language matters. On behalf of myself and thousands of Americans with pre-existing conditions, please, please, do not do this.

Thank you for your consideration of my desire to continue living,

Kristin McGarity
Kyle, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy will kill me

Please do not allow Graham Cassidy to go to the floor for a vote. I have a genetic heart condition and without specialized care as well as my medications, I will not survive. I am currently a contributing member of society, but by passing this horrid bill, you will be taking that away from me, I will not survive without the health care I receive now. I have insurance only because the insurance company can't refuse to cover my pre-existing condition. Please do not take this away from me.

Patricia G. Mattos.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: 2017 Save Medicaid, Mary Karlen.docx

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Regarding Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller bill

My son, Craig receives long term care services through the cost-effective **IRIS Medicaid** program in Wisconsin. I am concerned about the effect of the **Graham-Cassidy-Johnson-Heller bill** to people using Medicaid. A lot is unknown and will hurt people with disabilities. People with disabilities need these programs to keep them healthy and living and working in their communities. How many people will lose coverage if changes are made? Will my son be one of them?

My son Craig has a cognitive disability and seizures. While our family is working, Craig has a personal care worker that gives him his medicines, helps him get ready in the morning, makes his meals, and drives him to a daycare where he volunteers. He loves helping the kids and they love interacting with him. He is a natural with kids.

People with disabilities want to live in their own homes and communities, not in institutions or nursing homes. More money should be spent to support people in their homes because it costs less. I want our son to live and work in the community and not in an institution. It is cost effective and what is best for him.

Cuts to Medicaid would force Wisconsin to reduce services, cut optional services, restrict eligibility, and increase waiting lists. I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Mary Karlen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I oppose the latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act because:

1. The bill results in the loss of insurance for millions of Americans;
2. The bill also results in significant cuts to marketplace subsidies, Medicaid, and weakening of consumer protections;
3. The bill cuts the mandates. Insurance works by spreading risks over large populations, and by eliminating the mandates, the population will be reduced by those who opt not to take insurance. We do not allow people to drive cars without insurance – it is equally reasonable to require all citizens to have health insurance.

A bill that cuts coverage and reduces management of risk is a bill that does not deserve to be passed.

Carol Robinson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 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.

Action for its own sake—especially action explicitly to please donors—is never a good idea. Nothing has to be changed immediately, and a deliberative process on legislation affecting tens of millions of Americans is necessary. That is the only path of a responsible democracy.

William Detoy
Concord, NC

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote no to Graham Cassidy

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.

Dr. Gloriana Lopez
Austin, Tx
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Eric Vaughan
Allen, TX

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

I would like to add my voice to the millions who are against this atrocious piece of legislation. The Affordable Care Act may not be perfect but it is a far sight better than anything Congress has proposed to replace it. Millions of Americans are now covered who were never covered before. The Graham Cassidy bill is an affront to every senior now covered by Medicare, as well as the millions who will lose coverage as a result, and those who will also be negatively impacted by the proposed changes in Medicaid.

VOTE THIS BILL DOWN!!!

--
=====
Margaret Riley
Durham, NC
[REDACTED]

"The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion."
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 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.

Please do not let these 11th hour "changes" cloud your vision. They are insultingly transparent in their "bribery for a vote" audacity. No version of ANY health care bill should be voted on before it is scored by the CBO. Isn't that illegal during the reconciliation period?

Donna Wyzykowski
Clarence, NY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gman.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:40 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.

Please remember you work for and we're elected by people and we deserve a bi-partisan, put-your-differences-aside-for-the-greater-good, solution.

Thank you,
Nancy M. Gandelot
Detroit, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 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.

dan brubaker
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Our Care

Senators,

I am a pediatrician in group practice for over 20 yrs in Santa Rosa, CA (St Joseph Health Medical Group). I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote AGAINST the Graham-Kassidy bill.

Since the ACA has taken effect:

1. I have seen very few uninsured patients.
2. My practice sees about 20% Medicaid patients - from healthy to very fragilely ill children. This bill would dramatically cut funding for my Medicaid patients and but up barriers to their care that would severely compromise their health.
3. I know that my patients are covered for their well visits, immunizations and other health screening. As a pediatrician - prevention and early intervention are key to the general well being of my patients. Please don't endanger those protections with waivers to essential health benefits.
4. Prenatal care for the mother's of my patients - also key to healthy kids.

Please note the vast majority of health advocacy organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics of which I am a member, are opposed to this legislation since it is not sound healthcare policy.

There are many opportunities to improve the ACA.

I implore you to work for bipartisan fixes to some of the challenges that affects those on the individual market.

Please PROTECT OUR CARE!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Culhane MD

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Brooke Le Clear
Los Angeles CA.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Brenda Halvorson
Golden Valley, MN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Ryane McKinnon >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Graham Cassidy

Healthcare is a human right, and taking away affordable access is inhumane. My father was self-employed all his adult life and unable to afford insurance until the ACA changed that. Then he suffered a stroke. He's disabled now, and my mom works a job that keeps her hours low enough that they do not have to provide insurance for her. They both need the ACA to survive. Even if it weren't for this personal connection, I would strongly oppose this rash and ill conceived bill. They citizens of this country elected representatives to look out for our best interests. To protect us. To fight for us. Voting to strip away affordable healthcare options is a betrayal of the offices you hold. We are counting on you to fulfill your duty to the people who placed their faith in you.

Ryane McKinnon
Utah

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:38 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Shannon Graham
Livonia, MI

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:39 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.

Angela Spaulding
Charlotte, NC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

Vote no!

This is a MORALLY BANKRUPT bill.

Your citizens are watching.

Remember public service? Please get back to serving the public, not

- special interests groups
- big-time contributors
- political agendas.

Show your humanity. VOTE NO!

Jean Atelsek

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments

Dear Senators,

I am extremely concerned about the impact of the Graham-Cassidy bill on our healthcare system should this horrible piece of legislation be passed. There are several major problems with the bill, but I will focus my comments on pre-existing conditions. The teenage daughter of a friend was recently in a devastating car accident and suffered severe brain trauma. She has required intensive therapy. While she has made major strides over the past several months, there are likely to be lasting effects on her mobility. The Graham Cassidy bill removes key protections concerning pre existing conditions. My friend's daughter now has a pre-existing condition that jeopardizes her ability to obtain affordable healthcare insurance. There are millions of Americans who find themselves in similar circumstances through no fault of their own. Please do not turn your back on your fellow citizens! Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee, I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. Also, the newest version presented Sunday night, during the Ken Burns' PBS Viet Nam. It is filled with lies, ie, states will save money, but that is the state matching money!

Donell Stiers Clovis, Ca ,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony Opposing the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I live in Oregon. Oregon will suffer the greatest per capita funding reductions if Graham-Cassidy passes. I am not yet old enough for Medicare and am covered by an individual (not employer-provided) health plan. Because I am 63, my premiums will sky-rocket if the ACA is repealed. I have pre-existing conditions. How will I get coverage if these protections are removed by this bill? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. As Larry Summers has correctly said: **"If you pass this bill, people will die."**

Sincerely,
Mary Chaffin
Portland, Oregon

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy and ACA Repeal

I am writing because of the current attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill.

I have a grandson three years old who was born with a condition of the lymphatic system called lymphangioma or cystic hygroma. The form he has is anomalous, not genetic; it could not be prevented, and it was not predicted. The condition occurs when tissue in the neck and trunk is cystic, which means there are cavities, and lymphatic fluid fills the cavities instead of draining, forming a hygroma, or sack of fluid. In my grandson's case, a hygroma on his neck grew almost to the size of a second head; besides the obvious disfigurement, it wrapped around his carotid artery and also obstructed his airways. After spending weeks at a time in intensive care, he would be sent home, only to return in short order because of another breathing crisis. Finally he was sent to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) for specialized imaging and cutting edge treatment that so far appears successful. Today his condition is held in check by daily chemotherapy and regular trips to CHOP for imaging that can only be performed there because it requires one-of-a-kind equipment developed there.

Thank God for the Affordable Care Act! Without it my daughter and her family would have incurred debilitating debt or be bankrupt. And the story is not yet over.

What possible benefit is there to repealing the Affordable Care Act? As far as replacing it is concerned, nothing that has been written about the Graham-Cassidy Act in any reliable source shows anything but meanness and petty politics.

Sincerely,
Mary Hoffman-Crook

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Senator Warner,

I am disabled and have Medicaid. Right now, a lot of doctors in my area accept Medicaid. That was not always the care though. I remember sometimes calling three or four different doctors offices before I found one that would see me. That might also mean traveling over an hour to see someone. Another problem I have faced in the past was that some medications that could help me Medicaid did not cover.

I am sick right now and probably will need an operation. Many people like myself cannot go to any protest to show how many disabled people there are. To show that we are not just a lazy person that does not want to go to work. I cannot work, and I am tired. Every three months the Republicans are trying to change my health care and that frightens me. I have nobody to defend my needs and that is why it is important for congress to do no harm. Please keep fighting for people like me.

Sharon Primerano

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:35 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal
Attachments: HCBS letter.odt

Testimony for the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

Thank you,

Jessica Rachels

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Andy.slavitt@cms.hhs.gov
Subject: Graham-Cassidy, testimony

As a senior, living in rural Colorado, I am concerned over the haste with which the Republican leadership in the Senate is rushing to marshal a vote on the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

I moved to rural Colorado 18 months ago, following the death of my wife, who passed away as a result of living eight-years with Parkinsonian dementia. During her illness, our out-of-pocket medical expenses, even with insurance, averaged \$12,000 – 17,000 annually. In 2012 (five-years after her diagnosis), I was laid off. Within six months, her condition worsened due a doctor's error, that sent her to the hospital for a month, followed by another month in rehabilitation. Reduced to having the cognitive capabilities of a 2- 3 year old, I became her full time care taker.

I immediately inquired about assistance, and was told that under Colorado's expanded Medicaid program, we might qualify for the State's Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services program. This program is set up to provide primary caretakers with a small stipend.

It took another 18 months before we had spent down our retirement and savings to a point sufficient to qualify for the CDASS program. And, when granted in November 2014, my acceptance on the CDASS program came with no time to spare, as I had liquidated every asset possible to keep the home we had owned for 20 years out of foreclosure.

My wife lasted another 13 months, before passing away on December 20, 2015. I went back to work two-months after her death, and sold our house six month later so I could buy a house in rural Colorado where the prices are nearly half of what the market comands in metro-Denver.

The life-line that the CDASS program provided was enormous, and can be credited with allowing me the needed funds to save my house from foreclosure, and have the means to move on.

According to CNN, Colorado would see a 10 – 15% decline in federal funding under the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. This will have a huge impact on families who have done nothing wrong, and are desperate to hang on to what little they have left so that they, like myself, can do what is right and provide their loved ones (young and old) with compassionate care, in a familiar, non-institutional setting.

I pray that your compassion might extend beyond the partisan politics that are driving this rush to vote on such a punitive bill.

Thank you,
Greg Thomason
Fort Morgan, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:37 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.

Susan Stuart
Charlotte, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering.

I live in Wyoming, a state that is never going to do anything but vote for bills like this. But I am battling liver cancer and if it wasn't for the ACA I would not have health insurance. And I don't know how I would pay for all of this.

I lived in Wyoming before the ACA and I know there were no protections for people like me with pre-existing conditions back then. I know how much it was to be in the high-risk pool. It was not affordable for anybody who wasn't already rich. I worked as a waitress the premiums they offered for bare-bones covers the cover visibly nothing or \$800 a month. I could not afford that and rent and food and medical bills are playing the cover basically nothing on the money that I made and I busted my ass 60 hours a week.

That is what the state did when it had the right to do whatever it wanted. So this idea that giving to get them control of the money and expecting them to be benevolent and not outlaw pre-existing conditions it's a big help insurance affordable for those of us who literally need it to not die is absurd. This is my stay. I know how it ask. It Never acts in our interest.

I understand because I live in a state with only one option for health insurance that there are problems that need to be fixed. And no one wants them fixed more than me. My premiums are high and rising but I have good coverage and I am not lying here in this hospital writing this email worrying that I'm not gonna be able to pay my bills. This is with the ACA has given me. Peace of mind and no fear of massive debt when I eventually get out of this hospital.

Rushing a bill through without thinking it through and getting a full grasp on what this will cost is the opposite of what good governing should be. It's the opposite of what conservatism is supposed to be. You shave yourself if you call yourself a conservative and support this bill as it is without too hard financial projections.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller would also 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. And frankly that's just morally wrong.

Melissa Larsen
Jackson, Wyoming

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy Bill

To the members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing as an American citizen concerning the Graham/Cassidy Bill. It is shameful and un-american for the Senate to vote on this bill without public hearings, without a CBO Score, and without the truth being told that this bill in fact does not protect against those with pre-existing conditions. Where is the regular order in Congress? Without this our democracy is a sham. Senators have stated that there are many reasons to not support this Bill, but for 7 years we promised to repeal and replace the ACA, so regardless of the healthcare consequences to millions they will vote yes. You made this promise for 7 years without ever really working on this piece of important crucial legislation. That fact is the real crime against the American people who have trusted in you to do the right thing.

The Graham/Cassidy Bill is dangerous for people with mental illness. It will make it harder for people to get psychiatric medications, case management, and mental health services. Other Americans with mental illness will lose their coverage entirely. That is not Freedom, that is not how Americans should be treated!

I have two children with a mental health illness diagnosis. I know firsthand the struggles that come from these illnesses and the difficulties that are compounded by inadequate mental health care treatment or the inaccessibility to proper treatment. A vote for this bill is a direct attack on my family. A vote for this bill is an immoral and irresponsible act by you as a public servant to ALL Americans. A vote for this Bill will strip millions of Americans of their civil rights to life and liberty. I believe the Constitution states "WE THE PEOPLE, NOT WE THE RICH AND ENTITLED"!

For the 1 in 5 Americans affected by mental illness, including my family, you must vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,
Jeanne Mann

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Graham /Cassidy Bill.

I am a 59 year old waitress. I live in a town of 2500 people. Most of the people in my town are in the service industry. Before the ACA most of my friends could not afford health insurance. I have watched people unable to go to the doctor, unable to take their children to the doctor because of the cost. I have seen them suffer because of lack of health care due to cost. I had one friend who died from cancer because he waited too long to go to the doctor due to finances. The ACA changed this. Now my friends have regular check ups, are treated for their various conditions and are living healthier life styles. That is what the ACA has done for my little town.

Do you realize how many people would lose healthcare without the ACA. My boss would, she is a cancer survivor. They almost lost their business due to the overwhelming expense of her treatments. They employ 15 people those jobs would have been lost. The tax revenue they pay would have been lost. The ACA saved all that. This Graham/Cassidy bill will leave her without insurance or the cost will be all consuming. I have many friends with chronic life threatening conditions who are getting the healthcare they need because of the ACA. Would they still qualify for health care with the Graham /Cassidy bill? Maybe but they would but for how long? Eight years at the max.

We need healthcare reform but we can fix the ACA without taking much needed healthcare from millions of Americans. We are the only First World Nation without universal healthcare insurance. It is a crime that people can profit on other's misfortune. It is a bigger crime if people die because they can't afford medical treatment. Can you imagine what it is like to know a treatment exists that could save a family member's life but you can't afford it?

I have worked very hard as a waitress and own my own home. It has taken me 30 years to do that. I could lose my home that I worked for all my life if I became ill with a chronic condition or had a car accident. Is this the American dream I was raised with?

Why is this bill so important? It is not saving American lives. It is not making healthcare more affordable. It is not lowering premiums for people not covered by ACA. It is not protecting the American public. Is it just a tax cut for the rich as I have been hearing from so many organizations? If the Arkansas Children's Hospital is against this bill then so am I. They save children's lives and that is the most important thing I can think of.

Save an American's life and throw this awful bill out. Let's save American lives.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017)

I am a parent of a 24 year old girl who happens to have been born with a rare chromosomal abnormality. She qualifies for home and community based services. I have grave concerns about the cuts to Medicaid that this bill would produce. States will be forced to reduce services, cut optional services, restrict eligibility and increase wait lists. People with disabilities will be disproportionately harmed by Medicaid cuts. Care for people with disabilities makes up a significant part of State Medicaid budgets due to their long term care. I will not live forever, and one of my great fears is that my daughter will not be taken care of properly. **I think that it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure that my daughter is protected – the most vulnerable population. I feel that living in these United States a person should not have to have this fear.** You should have to experience having an adult child who is not able to care for themselves then you would know some of what we go through.

The bill would also remove protections for people with pre-existing conditions. States can roll back the 10 essential health benefits (including hospitalization, prescription drugs, habilitative and rehabilitative services etc.) currently required to be a part of all insurance plans, and to permit insurers to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions. This would have devastating consequences on our family. One could be penalized just because of the State they live in. It's not like we can just up and move to a State that offers the benefits that we would need. **You would be allowing the States to play GOD.** Who will they allow to live and who will they make life a living hell. Higher premiums for people with existing conditions or older adults would price us right out of the market – then where would we be.

This is a disastrous bill!

Cheryl Berg
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:01 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Say no to Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to say NO to lifetime caps ... NO to Medicaid block grants ... NO to any cuts to Medicaid ... NO to discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. NO to Graham-Cassidy. Fix the ACA, don't kill it and the people it protects. While imperfect, it is better than anything that's been proposed.

Judy Nathan

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: NO to Graham Cassidy bill

I urge all Senators to vote NO on this bill that is being railroaded through in another attempt to hurt thousands of Americans ability to get the healthcare they need.

Anyone who votes for this bill will be facing a tough time to keep his job come election time.

Thank you for sincerely considering the harm you are doing and vote NO.

Deborah Johnson
Independent voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you urgently 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.

Even though I currently get insurance through my employer, I know that this bill could affect me in the future if I ever lost my job. Please do not let this awful bill become law.

Paul Rickter
Belmont, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of 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.

Amy Silvers
Roseland, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:00 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Hearing on Graham-Cassidy bill on Monday

Dear Senators,

I am sharing these comments with your committee because I'm extremely concerned that the Graham-Cassidy bill will not offer a viable plan for quality, affordable healthcare.

No other prosperous developed country would do this to its citizens -- they have universal health care coverage, and their citizens have much better health than we do in this country! They have longer life spans, lower death rates for preventable diseases, better outcomes for mothers, fewer lower birthweight babies and more.

There has been no public debate in the senate and until Monday, no hearings on this bill that impacts 1/6 of our economy. And there is a rush to approve this without waiting for an impartial analysis of the impact of the poorly thought through provisions of this bill that will impact so many of us. It's also highly suspicious that the flurry of last minute concessions are being made on a political/ideological basis rather than on equity and public input and actual research findings.

More specifically, about my family:

- 1. The Graham-Cassidy bill would drastically reduce funding for Medicare, an essential program that has covered seniors since 1966.** My husband and I are lucky to have high quality care through his employer. But he is nearing retirement and we know that the likelihood of a major health issue affecting one or both of us in our retirement years is very high. We have worked hard for 40 years to save for contingencies, but we know we need Medicare to be strengthened in order to provide the coverage we may need for a bout of cancer, or heart disease, or Parkinson's disease which led to many, many bankrupt families before 2011.
- 2. Any bill that does not include the universal coverage mandate is unacceptable in our great country.** Our younger son is currently earning \$15/hr in a job he loves, but he only has healthcare through his employer because of the requirement for universal coverage through the Affordable Care Act. He has a pre-existing condition, and will need specialized care and ongoing prescriptions for the rest of his life. Without the ACA's mandate, he would be unable to afford any coverage at all, and unable to continue working.
- 3. The Graham-Cassidy bill will gut the funding for Medicaid, the primary provider across the nation for services to the disabled and extremely poor.** My younger brother has a disabling condition, and has only been stabilized recently after a series of crises because he was finally certified as eligible for Medicaid after exhausting his resources completely and losing his health so he could not hold a job. Today, he is in a program where he is making progress toward being employable again. This would be drastically curtailed over time if you pass this bill, as would the services for our neediest citizens. **It is simply insane to imagine that any block grant program to each state with decreasing budget over time will not cause great suffering and premature death for millions of people.**

In summary, I'd like to remind your committee that there is no mandate coming from the people for destroying the ACA instead of repairing it. **Instead, a strong majority favor strengthening and repairing the ACA!** I support a healthy bipartisan process following normal Senate procedures with public hearings, input from experts and the goal of strengthening the ACA.

Thank you for considering my views (and those of the majority of adult citizens). I urge you to vote down the Graham-Cassidy bill and return to normal Senate procedure.

Sincerely,
Kathy Durham

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposition for Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a diagnosis of Generalized Anxiety Disorder. With the proper balance of medications and regular counseling appointments, I am able to live a very fulfilling life. These interventions allow me to be present and in-the-moment rather than physically ill (chronic severe bowel issues) as a result of my fixations and anxieties. Without my health coverage, I would not be able to receive these services. Thanks to my health coverage, medications, and counseling services I am able to be a productive employee, wife, mother, and community member.

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

Sincerely,

Kristin Cooley

Cincinnati, OH

[REDACTED]

This message, including any attachments, may contain information which is confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not read, use, copy or disclose to anyone the message, its attachments, or any information contained therein. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail and delete the message and any attachments.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Testimony Healthcare

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

[REDACTED]
Date: September 24, 2017 at 11:57:26 PM EDT

[REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony Healthcare

My best friend is on disability with advanced Congestive Heart Failure. She may die without ACA.

I have a history of PTSD and Bipolar Disorder. Medicare helps with healthcare but I pay outrageous medicine bills. I have been hospitalized at The Institute of Living Hartford CT several times. Without adequate healthcare I could end up on the streets.

Health = Life

Marianne Zikaras Wainwright
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare Comments

Improving the healthcare system should be just that. Improve how many people are covered and lower the cost. If any of these conditions are not accomplished, then it is not a good bill. The Graham Cassidy bill will raise costs and cover fewer people, so it is not an improvement on healthcare and should not pass. Not having a concrete and steady fast protections for people with pre-existing conditions is a shame. People should not be discriminated against because of medical issues. Also trying to write a bill in the 11th hour of the healthcare deadlines should be criminal. Anything that has to be rushed will never be good. Vote no on C-G

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: hearings for Graham-Kassidy-Heller Healthcare Bill Sept 25, 2017

Comments - Graham-Cassidy-Heler Healthcare Bill
Hearing Sept 25, 2017

[REDACTED]

Dear Senate Financial Committee Members;

If this is such a great bill, why is it being pushed through, so quickly in the dead of a Sunday night ?

No CBO - and should the CBO be available, I suspect it would be a bad thing for American!

No to bribes for Alaska and Maine - while the other 48 States are thrown under the bus concerning health care.

RETURN TO REGULAR Order for this bill. Better yet, withdraw it.
Unconscionable!

--
"No one is a stranger here at Cherry Hill, for Love has made His home here in these hearts" - adapted from the
song Mimi's House by Amy Grant

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Karrin Hopper
Colorado Springs, CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Patricia Ocampo
Chicago, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: No to Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill would be disastrous for family members of mine here in Oregon. My niece, who is a financially struggling single mother, finally got health insurance through the affordable care act. Prior to that her pre-existing condition of being hospitalized for a blood clot while pregnant, made her too 'high risk' to get any decent coverage at any price.

The American public opposes this bill, and no amount of promises to Maine and Alaska to try get it passed will be forgotten.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Barbara S. Blonsky
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:59 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy

Dear Committe Members,

I am a 60 year old woman from New Jersey. I have survived two bouts of breast cancer which involved surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. It has been three years since my last treatment.

I am an Independent Insurance Broker who has had the great benefit of being covered through the ACA. My premium is manageable and my health care has been excellent. I have no complaints about my coverage or premiums and I want to be able to maintain my current healthcare plan.

The Graham Cassidy bill puts my health and life at risk. There is little information provided about how I will be affected, but the proposed plan appears to make those with pre existing conditions subject to higher premiums and reduced coverage. There is no benefit to people to change to this bill.

PLEASE PLEASE think about the people who use health care! The talk of Obama care failing is wrong! The statement that people will be treated better by local government regulating a product rather than the federal government is ABSURD.

This is not a bill meant to protect people or one involved in providing better care. This is a destructive political maneuver. This pathetic excuse for legislation should never be allowed in the United Dtates of America.

I have been involved in the fight to protect healthcare since January, 2017. The fact that my own government is conspiring to destroy my care, my health, and my life for naked political gain is disgraceful.

If you allow this bill to pass, you should feel nothing but shame.

Barbara S. Blonsky

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@netman.com
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Bill

Americans have a responsibility to take care of Developmentally disabled adults who were born having special needs through no fault of their own. This proposed bill cuts Medicaid. Medicaid assists these individuals to live in their communities and not in institutions.

Senior citizens in nursing homes rely on Medicaid as well. Senators who vote for this bill must know the AARP is a powerful lobbying group. Seniors cut from essential funding will remember who voted to take it away from them.

If you want to move to state block grants, you simply cannot do so without providing existing funding sources. It's too late that ship has sailed. If Congress can find 700 billion to spend on the Military, I am sure it can find resources to do what is right.

The Republican party must be of Honor. If you want the working and middle classes to trust the GOP, you must show you are consistent with what you claim to care about. Work with the Democrats to fix our existing Healthcare. Work for ALL Americans, not just 39 %.

I pay more on individual insurance because it's the right thing to do while I wait for a fix. Both the Senate and the House must lead by example and use the same insurance as the rest of us. As public servants, I would expect that you listen to the polls that are clearly telling Congress people do not like this bill.

Sincerely, Tiffanie Leistner

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO ON Graham-Cassidy

I URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON THIS AWFUL, DESTRUCTIVE BILL!!! THROWING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US (ELDERLY, DISABLED, NEEDY) IS JUST PLAIN WRONG!!! HEALTHCARE SHOULD BE A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE, IN A CIVILIZED COUNTRY. THIS IS A SHAMEFUL BILL, AND YOU ALL SHOULD BE ASHAMED THAT YOU ARE EVEN PUTTING THIS ON THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE WITHOUT EVEN A CBO SCORE, OR ALLOWING FOR PROPER DEBATE!!!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE SAME HEALTHCARE THAT YOU WANT ALL THE CITIZENS (YOUR CONSTITUENTS, THE PEOPLE WHO PAY YOUR SALARIES!!!) THAT YOU WOULD FOIST UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. MAYBE THEN YOU WOULD NOT BE SO EAGER TO TAKE COVERAGE AWAY FROM SO MANY! YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY TRY TO WORK AND COME TO SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE WITH MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTIES IN THE SENATE. YOUR BEHAVIOR IS DISGUSTING IF YOU THINK THAT DENYING HEALTHCARE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED IS IN ANY WAY "AMERICAN."

DO WHAT'S RIGHT AND VOTE NO ON THIS AWFUL, HORRIBLE, INSANE BILL!!!

Thank you for your time,
Floriana Alessandria
A very concerned citizen in California

happiness is not a destination but a way of traveling....

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 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.

Sharon Selman
Medford, NJ

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:58 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.

Carolyn Vinci
Morton Grove, Illinois

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

GrahamCassidy has little support from physician/patient groups. It effectively has little in terms of "replacement" for estimated 32 million. There is no complete CBO score, no Democrat input, and no hearings. This is a "no health care" bill, but a "wealth care" bill. Pew Research indicates that the majority of the American people support ACA! Republicans want to keep a promise that is outdated with "nothing" aside from tax breaks for the 2%. Graham Cassidy is vile as written, removes protections for preexisting conditions, increases cost for the elderly, puts children and veterans at further risk. This is not "health" care it is "wealth" care. It is robbery. It is shameful. Republicans aren't listening to the majority of the people, they are following the instructions of the richest 1%, who will reap the benefits of the major tax cuts in this bill. Most Americans see and know the truth, we are watching!

Please vote NO on this hideous bill!

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. 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 registered nurse, and the people I care for would be hurt by this heinous bill. Passing this bill is not the right, Christian, good, or ethical thing to do.

Avi Wofsy
(San Francisco, CA)

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Reject this bill

32 million Americans could lose coverage, radical change to Medicaid and diminished funding for every state, 90 seconds debate?

If you want to keep your campaign pledges, start by keeping your pledge not to touch Medicaid benefits.

REJECT THIS BILL!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Adair Lacono [mailto:adair@nyassembly.gov]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 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.

Adair Lacono
Brooklyn, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, 09/25/2017
Attachments: Letter to Senate Finance Committee RE Obamacare.pdf

I am a Licensed Life & Health Insurance Agent in the State of Texas.

I depend on Obama Care for my own Health Coverage.

I am the Grandmother of a Critically Ill Grandchild on CHIP.

Please see attachment for my official Testimony as to why you should Vote No on Cassidy-Graham & YES to Life.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hi,

I am writing to register my comments on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. While I am currently on insurance through my employer, no one can see the future. I have epilepsy, and take medication to control my seizures. With my insurance, I pay just \$130/3 months of medication. Without my insurance, that cost would be around \$7000. If I lost my insurance now--if my job went out of business, or something catastrophic happened--under the ACA, I'd be able to purchase insurance on the exchange. The insurance companies would have to offer me a plan, and would not be allowed to charge me any more due to my pre-existing condition. Under Graham-Cassidy, my potential premiums could go up by \$7,300, and my state could decide to allow the company to not pay for prescriptions. This would bankrupt me and I could find myself in a situation where I'd have to skip my medication.

Everyone I know, including my extended family and friends, has a pre-existing condition of one kind or another. One of my best friends is on Medicaid via the expansion--she has Rheumatoid Arthritis, constant migraines, and psychogenic seizures, which come with temporary paralysis sometimes. She's also in the midst of getting out of an abusive marriage, and has two kids who are also on Medicaid. If the cuts in Graham-Cassidy go through, she could be kicked off her insurance, or lose her mental healthcare, or have to stop taking her expensive medication. While she can only work very part-time right now, with proper healthcare, both mental and physical, her condition will improve, and she should eventually be able to get off Medicaid--if she is not treated, she'll just get worse and worse.

Before the ACA, I spent so much time being scared of losing my job and losing my insurance, and never being able to get insurance again if that happened. I took jobs that paid me less than I deserved, because they offered me insurance. I stayed at jobs that made me miserable, because I had insurance. The passage of the ACA was an incredibly huge weight off my shoulders. It has problems--absolutely it does! But Graham Cassidy does not make anything better--it destroys the federal exchanges and throws everything back to the states, expecting them to make up entire healthcare systems out of whole cloth. I don't understand why the bipartisan process Sen. Alexander and Sen. Murray were working on was thrown out--healthcare can be improved if everyone works together!

Please, please do not pass Graham-Cassidy. We need regular order in the senate--bills should go through committees, and have lots of hearings, and a full CBO score, and everyone should be fully aware of the consequences of their actions.

Please do not pass this bill. Please listen to the people of this country who depend on their representatives to protect them.

Thank you,
Sara Tantillo

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:57 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. Please don't let the fact that this is a copy-paste distract you from how much this bill would hurt our good country.

Gordon Smith from Plaistow, NH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:56 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.

As a teacher in a Title 1 school, this will directly affect my students, causing them unforeseeable harm.

Sharon Clarke

Kent, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:56 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.

Margaret Parkhill
Schertz TX

Sent from mobile

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

For the past decade and a half, I have worked in media production. Despite consistent, full time employment over this time, as a freelancer, I have not received benefits nor have I been compensated in a way that offset the cost of paying for health care as an individual. For ten years, while living in New York City, I was paying extremely high premiums, plus additional costs for prescriptions, eye, dental, and mental health care. My monthly payments were frequently as high as my exorbitant Manhattan rent, despite the fact that I was a young (20-30 something), healthy, single person.

A few years ago, I decided to go into business for myself. To offset the costs of this, I moved home to Pennsylvania to live with family. Around this time, I signed up for health coverage through the ACA. It has been a godsend for me. For the first time in a long time, I do not feel worried that I will be unable to cover my health care costs. My payments are affordable and I have been able to continue getting quality high quality care. In fact, I have even been able to maintain my primary care provider in New York.

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because if it passes into law, it will surely impact my ability to afford health care. If my premiums rise or I am pushed back into the private market to search for an individual plan (that will potentially be even higher than before because of preexisting conditions and my age--I am now over 40), I am honestly not sure how I would afford coverage.

The worst part for me is knowing that I am one of the lucky ones. I have a support network; I am able bodied, educated, and resourceful. For those who suffer from much greater disadvantages in life, for those with life threatening diseases and severe disabilities, for those who are poor and vulnerable, this bill would be even more devastating.

On behalf of all of these people, as well as freelancers like myself, I urge you to reject this cruel and heartless bill.

I fully acknowledge that there are some problems with the ACA. I propose that you work together to fix those problems and keep what is working with the current program. THAT is what you would do if you truly cared about the welfare of the American people. THAT is what you would do if you were truly committed to doing the job with which we the people entrusted you.

Health care should not be treated as a commodity. People should not be second to politics and political ambitions.

When it comes time to vote on Graham-Cassidy, dig as deep as you have to find the courage, the human decency, and the moral conscience to do the right thing and vote no.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hallam

Jennifer Hallam

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Susan Hoch
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of the bipartisan bill the Senate HELP Committee was considering. Graham-Cassidy-Heller would cause 32 million people to lose their health coverage while destroying Medicaid and harming some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, seniors and people with disabilities. As a retired rheumatologist, these are the people with chronic arthritic conditions that I took care of for forty years in practice.

[Susan Hoch MD, FACR
Haddonfield, NJ

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Three years ago, at the age of 52, I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. I am fortunate to have excellent health insurance that has allowed me to receive treatment from an outstanding medical team at Stanford Medical Center. Six years ago, at the age of 16, my daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, an autoimmune disease that requires the daily injection of expensive insulin to survive. We are extremely concerned that if the AHCA passes, we will lose our protections for pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,

Lori Ferrari

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

Please do not destroy the affordable care act. My family has benefited greatly from it. Several members of my family have diagnosed mental health conditions and under the protection of the affordable care act they have received treatment and medication so that now they are well. They are employed, contributing members of society. In order to remain that way they will always need medication and bi-monthly visits to their doctor. Having mental health coverage has given them back their lives. Do not take this away. Mental health needs to be given the same treatment standards as all other types of health issues. Preexisting conditions should not be a barrier when obtaining health care - premiums should not rise and coverage should not be denied. I remember a time when people were trapped in jobs because they would lose coverage if they switched jobs. That is ridiculous. Do not return us to those times.

Karen Nelson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Lauren Begansky
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, September 25, 2017

My family relies on the Affordable Care Act. My daughter has a pre-existing condition that would not permit her to have health insurance under the Graham-Cassidy Act. My Aunt died prematurely at 60 because she could not afford to go to the doctor and had no health insurance. So, I am terrified that my daughter will have the same risk of death or disability because of her condition.

If I or my son were to lose our jobs, we could not afford to buy health insurance on our own and we both have pre-existing exclusions too.

Please, please stop trying to destroy the U.S. health care system, which for the first time in my life now enables anybody to get care Please work in a bi-partisan manner to improve the Affordable Care Act. Do not repeal this Act; it saves lives and would have saved my Aunt's.

Sincerely, Agatha Tilly
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:55 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I am writing because I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My family and I, particularly my aging mother, currently rely on Medicaid. If it wasn't for Medicaid, my parents wouldn't be able to afford the caregivers who make it possible for her to stay in her home. She has several pre-existing conditions. I am really worried about what will happen to her if Graham-Cassidy is passed. My siblings and I also receive healthcare through the ACA.

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

Please don't pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Katherine Hunt

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public comment for Graham Cassidy Bill
Attachments: cassidygraham senate public comment CDDC 9.24.17.docx

PLEASE USE THE ATTACHMENT:

RE: GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL HEARING SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

TO: Members of the US Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Robert A. Lawhead, Policy Advisor

[REDACTED]

RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill Public Comment

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing and taking public comment on an issue that is exceedingly important to people with disabilities, their families and their allies. I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (CDDC). We advocate in collaboration with and on behalf of people with developmental disabilities for the establishment and implementation of public policy which will further an individual's independence, productivity and integration. The CDDC obtains input from Colorado citizens with developmental disabilities and their families to determine their priorities and to assure that we understand what policies the citizens of Colorado want from their public officials.

Increasingly, people with developmental disabilities and their families are telling us they hope to have the same opportunities to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness exercised by other citizens. The Congress, through its passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), indicated that it realizes that we as Americans must find ways to assure the rights of citizenship for all our people, including people with disabilities. When President Bush, in 1990 declared, "Let the shameful walls of exclusion come tumbling down," as he signed the ADA, he

was pointing our country in a new direction from the history of segregation, exclusion and mistreatment too often experienced by people with disabilities. The ADA confirmed that we are full-fledged citizens that should have equal access to the mainstream of American life.

People with disabilities depend on Medicaid for not only medical care but also access to housing, employment and personal care.

This brings us to the Graham-Cassidy health care proposal and one of the major concerns being expressed by people with disabilities. People with disabilities (as well as elderly Medicaid participants) not only utilize Medicaid for traditional health care but also services that allow them to live and work in the community. Personal care services provide assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, and other personal needs that allow people to work and perform the daily activities many American citizens take for granted. Without these kinds of supports people with disabilities become isolated and significantly less productive. These supports are provided through Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and allow people to remain in their community.

Flexibility and cost-saving opportunities presently exist within the Medicaid Program.

Millions of people with disabilities depend on Medicaid for medical care and for access to the community through Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs. In Colorado nearly 100,000 people with disabilities utilize Medicaid funded medical and community access services. Colorado's per capita cost has gone from \$7,200 in FY 2011-12 to \$6,500 in the most recent year for which we have figures (FY 2015-16).[1] This exhibits the kind of cost-savings that can be realized through the flexibility and creativity inherent in the federal Medicaid program as it presently exists. Colorado has taken advantage of a number of creative federal programs to improve Medicaid including Community First Choice and Medicaid Buy-In. These programs will either be eliminated entirely or significantly reduced under the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

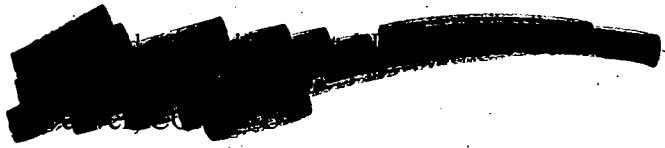
Medicaid is a cost-effective program and HCBS alternatives typically cost more.

Recent comparisons of financial data describing the federal Medicaid program and employer provided private insurance indicate that "costs per enrollee are lower in Medicaid relative to private insurance." [2] This same relationship exists for recent increases in health care costs with both Medicare and private insurance increases out-pacing those for Medicaid. [3] The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed these trends. [4] Additionally, a significant body of research indicates that community-based services cost less on average than institutional models. [5] This issue is important because the utilization of Medicaid HCBS waiver programs by the states is optional. As a result, many advocates project these programs will be the target of initial cuts made by the states under Graham-Cassidy and similar plans that cut Medicaid funding over time. This would result in high cost, soul-deadening institutional care for those presently utilizing Medicaid support in a cost efficient manner within community settings.

Ultimately, the Graham-Cassidy proposal will not only serve to reduce access to necessary health care for people with disabilities, it will also result in reductions in the HCBS program. This is the Medicaid program that allows people with disabilities to be contributing members of their communities, living, working and recreating with our fellow citizens. Being included as contributing members of our communities is consistent with our civil rights as U. S. citizens and the vision of President Bush as he signed the ADA. Please do not proceed with this proposal but instead develop a health care reform plan characterized by transparency, bipartisanship and within regular order. People with disabilities across the Nation are depending on your careful consideration of the unintentional dire consequences associated with the passage of the Graham-Cassidy proposal.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Lawhead, Policy Advisor



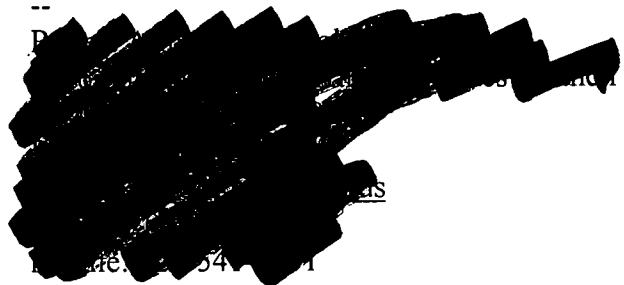
[1] Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (2016). *Putting Colorado's Health First: 2015-2016 Annual Report*. Accessed Septemebr 24, 2017 from: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/hcpf-2015-2016-annual-report>

[2] Kaiser Family Foundation (2017). 10 Things to Know About Medicaid: Setting the Facts Straight. Accessed September 24, 2017 from: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-medicaid-setting-the-facts-straight/>

[3] Medicaid Spending Growth Compared to Other Payers: A Look at the Evidence. Accessed September 24, 2017 at: <http://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-spending-growth-compared-to-other-payers-issue-brief/>

[4] Congressional Budget Office (2015). The 2015 Long Term Budget Outlook. Accessed September 24, 2017 at: <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/50250-longtermbudgetoutlook-4.pdf>

[5] U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (2000). Cost-Effectiveness of Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care Services. Accessed September 24, 2017 at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/cost-effectiveness-home-and-community-based-long-term-care-services>



Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Robyn McFerren [mailto:RobynMcFerren@att.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Gentlemen,

This new healthcare bill will cost lives. It is that simple. My son, 14 years old, is a recently diagnosed type 1 diabetic. He is smart, handsome, funny and witty. Through no fault of his own, his body no longer produces insulin that carries blood sugar to his brain, muscles, heart, and other organs. This means that for the rest of his life, he will need numerous daily blood sugar checks, the glucose meter and test strips, the needles, syringes, insulin, and emergency glucagon should his blood sugar drop dangerously low. No matter how perfect his diet is, how often he exercises, how well he learns to care for his body-he will DIE without access to frequent, reliable, affordable healthcare. Or worse, he will suffer a long life full of the complications of uncontrolled diabetes. Let me describe just a few: blindness, kidney failure, stroke, vascular disease that leads to limb amputations, constant numbness and burning, and the gruesome list goes on.

We are not rich; strictly middle class, and struggling. Right now we have coverage, but like many families a lost job would destroy us financially because of medical bills. This plan is disastrous for families like ours. We will be priced out of healthcare. If this happens, be assured I will not be ashamed to spend as much government money as I can get to keep my son supplied with the care and supplies he needs. If this doesn't sound expensive to you, multiply it by every citizen with a pre existing health condition. Multiply it by every year of their life. Do not forget to factor in the furious husband who's wife isn't covered for breast cancer, the grieving mother that lost twins because of poor/no prenatal care, fathers that can no longer support a family due to heart disease. WE are the people that will suffer and I will not go quietly down that dark road. My son deserves better, he deserves the best healthcare this country offers, and he deserves to be able to have it at reasonable costs. We all do.

Sincerely,

Robyn McFerren, DVM, American voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi,

I'm writing tonight in fear the ACA will be stripped away from millions of Americans. My parents rely on it. They aren't old enough for Medicare and can only work part time due to health issues. My mom is a breast cancer survivor. They have many pre existing conditions.

Not only my parents but our family friend has a boy with a degenerative muscle condition. Who knows how long he will live but he deserves every chance he can get. If Medicaid is dismantled he will be without services he needs and his chances of survival and life diminishes.

Please have a bipartisan effort to fix the ACA to make it work better. Repealing it, especially with this bill, is wrong for America. I oppose the graham-cassidy bill.

Kelly Redkoles

Mullica Hill, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Darlene Vescio
State College, Pa.

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hom, Ming [mailto:ming.hom@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments

It is imperative that Graham-Cassidy is stopped. It would disproportionately endanger low income people, people of color, and women.

Ming Hom

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Cindy Geiger
Canon City CO

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller. 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.

Dr. Rachel Sutherland
Family Practice Physician
San Jose, California

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Tom Ferrari [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern,
My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Three years ago, at the age of 52, my wife was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. I am fortunate to have excellent health insurance that has allowed her to receive treatment from an outstanding medical team at Stanford Medical Center. Six years ago, at the age of 16, my daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, an autoimmune disease that requires the daily injection of expensive insulin to survive. We are extremely concerned that if the AHCA passes, they will lose their protections for pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,
Tom Ferrari

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: J [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Impact in Middle America

Dear Sirs/Ms.

I am ONE example of 32 million Americans who will be impacted by this ill conceived legislation.

I am self employed (farmer) and a senior who has pre-existing conditions. I am a father with children who have pre-existing conditions, a grandfather to an autistic child, the Uncle to a nephew fighting opioids addiction and I also support an aunt with Alzheimer's in a nursing home.

My story is not unique and I'm NOT telling you this because I am floundering under these issues, I am sharing this because I am succeeding despite them under ACA!

You all know Graham-Cassidy will allow insurers to not cover pre-existing conditions and will eliminate much of the Medicaid expansion we Americans depend on. Block grants aside the GOP are acting to put me and my family in a hole we cannot climb out of if ACA is repealed.

Please consider: you are not threatening 32 million American's financial security but rather, as with my example, you are impacting our families too (32 million x 4?) Sadly I suspect the Graham-Cassidy repeal does not give me more choices, but fewer There is a nation of people just like me.

Please DO NOT bring this bill up for a vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
John David Martino
Morning View, KY

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: My Health Care Story

As you in Washington take ONE DAY to debate the issue of health care, whereas the rest of us actually live the reality of being dependent on health care every day, please take the time to hear my story...

Forty-two years ago at the age of four years old everything changed for me and in the blink of an eye I became an adult. That's the day I became a quadriplegic because of a farming accident. My parents instilled in me from that point on that I'd have to fight for everything in life or I'd be forgotten by a society who relegates me to dollar signs. Growing up was a financial strain for my family as we made a bit too much to get me on Medicaid. There were times we almost lost our family farm because of the medical supplies, equipment, and prescriptions I needed. Without access to Medicaid my parents had to see to my personal cares which strained the entire family emotionally, and as my parents aged it was clear they couldn't keep taking care of me.

Therefore it was a godsend to go to college as I was finally able to qualify for Medicaid which gave me access to home health care through Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and financial freedom through the SSI I started to receive. My feelings of being a burden to my family abated and I felt like just another college student. The years since then have given me a supportive group of friends and chances to become politically active and make a difference in the lives of others. I now live in my own apartment with the help of a Section 8 housing voucher and my health is exceptionally good for my being a quadriplegic for the last 42 years because of the consistent and high quality home health care I receive. Having access to transportation through Handi-Van and Transport Plus (programs again funded by government grants) allows me to go out into society on my own and purchase goods like every other American. The sense of freedom, and worth, these programs have instilled in me are guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence as the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and it disappoints me that my inalienable rights are being threatened by the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Gutting Medicaid through block granting, and per capita caps, will be devastating to my life as it will severely curtail my ability to remain independent. By setting caps and block granting, by not caring about the increase in medical costs, means that I will lose much of my home health cares and other support services which will put my life and health in jeopardy. States are already strapped for cash and by taking large amounts of money away from them through block grants and caps they will have no choice but to slash services, or make outright eliminations. NO ONE should have to choose between being up in your wheelchair all day or being abandoned in bed because of unjust limits to services! NO ONE should have to be trapped, sitting in urine or fecal matter, because the government has gutted Medicaid and left you with no way to get help because of lifetime caps! It's demoralizing and inhumane and I thought our society was better than that. Gutting Medicaid, which will lead to a reduction in HCBS programs, could once again lead to forced institutionalization or homelessness as there's only a set amount of beds in nursing homes that accept Medicaid. Gutting Medicaid will leave those most in need even more vulnerable and make a mockery of all the strides we've made towards greater inclusion in the disabled community. With this Administration's drastic proposals those with disabilities will once again become a dirty little secret, put in the corner while we wait for death. While some think giving more power to the states is a good thing, the fact that Graham-Cassidy gives them FAR LESS money to work with means drastic cuts and having to choose one group over another. This will NOT MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN as this will be class warfare at its most repugnant!

As those of us most in need quiver in fear of the Republicans who've made it abundantly clear that they care nothing about the American people please remember this...BEING DISABLED IS THE ONLY MINORITY EVERYONE HAS THE CHANCE OF JOINING! The decision you make today could affect you or a loved one one day!

Thank you for your time and I hope you put PEOPLE BEFORE PARTY by VOTING NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

Jody Faltys
Lincoln, Nebraska

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Genuine healthcare for all the citizens of the greatest country in the world should be a right, a first priority, and guaranteed. It is not a privilege for the chosen few.

A healthy country is a strong and prosperous country.

We, the people who pay your salary, demand you kill this sham of a bill, and drop your attempts to repeal and replace the ACA.

You are wasting OUR hard earned money.

William McAninch
Eugene, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Senate hearing on the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

at one time, I had respect for Lindsey Graham. Never again.
this Bill is the slimiest sort of political under the table legislation I have ever seen.
I would vote to impeach all GOP Senate members who endorse the Bill.

And it's all to get even with Barack Obama, former President.

alexis jones
Reidsville, NC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Graham-Cassidy

I am a 63 year old single retiree getting by on my Social Security monthly benefit and rely on quality, affordable healthcare as offered by the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

While I am currently healthy, being 63 and male means that tomorrow or next week I could have a reversal.

Every year from now on, the threat of aging-related illnesses increases.

I guarantee that I would not be able to afford major medical attention, let alone hospitalization. I can't even afford dental insurance!

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

Sincerely,

K. V. Bunker

[REDACTED]
667-342-9345

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing on 9/25/2017

Graham-Cassidy hearing on 9/25/2017

I am fortunate that I have a very good health care because my husband is retired military and we have Tri-Care for Life. I am asking your committee to work on a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal. I think all citizens of the USA deserve decent affordable health care. Many families are not as fortunate as myself or Members of Congress. If my husband and I did not have Tri-Care for life, we would both be dead by now. If you allow the Graham-Cassidy Bill to become law, you will be committing passive-aggressive acts of violence against your constituents. We are watching what is happening and we will vote you out of office if you do not do the right thing. Carollynn Zimmers

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senators:

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of working in an orderly and bipartisan fashion to craft a solid, workable healthcare bill that truly represents the best interests of the citizens of this country.

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 healthcare sector represents 1/6 of the United States economy - approximately three trillion dollars. It is utterly absurd and irresponsible to support a bill that is not given due process for analysis, public comment, amendments, and Congressional Budget Office scoring.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller is not only an attack on the most vulnerable among us, it is an attack on the democratic process itself.

Please do the right thing and oppose this bill.

With the utmost sincerity,

[REDACTED]

The price of apathy is to be ruled by evil men.

—

Plato

The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

—

Frederick Douglass

Humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights.

—

Julian Bond

I have lost my smile, but don't worry. The dandelion has it.

—

Thich Nhat Hanh

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to get through this thing called Life.

—

Prince

You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world.

—

Lucille Ball

Keep Bouncing. – RIP Phife Dawg

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions relates to my grandson's brain hemorrhage at his birth. He has a shunt that constantly drains the fluid in his drain, drop by drop to prevent hydrocephalus. He is almost seven now. He will always have this condition.

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

Sincerely,

Judy Hoffhine

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Lisa DeCristino
Fort Collins, CO

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Health care bill is a disaster

Slow down and quit trying to rush to some stupid finish line disconnected from real improvement and mostly guided by egotism and an us and them mentality. We are all people of the United States of America - not a state by state
Republicans Win subset of self centered power seekers.

Sara Grigsby
Corbett Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Chris O'Connor
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Chris O'Connor
Alexandria VA

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: VOTE NO - Cassidy/Graham Health Care Repeal

To whom it may concern:

Just because ACA Repeal has been "re-branded" under a new name.....the American people are NOT FOOLED. The Cassidy-Graham healthcare repeal will cause 32 MILLION Americans to lose their health care, eliminate preexisting condition protection and raise premiums by an estimated 20%.

The Arkansas constituency has made it very clear how vital the ACA is to living a life free of financial burden caused by medical debt. That message has been communicated consistently at various town halls across the state. Passage of this bill would adversely affect 2 of every 3 children receiving Medicaid in Arkansas. And yet both Senator Cotton and Boozman support this atrocity.

70% of Americans SUPPORT The Affordable Care Act (ACA) in its current form. PLEADE Support the will of the PEOPLE and REMOVE Cassidy-Graham from a vote. STOP this malicious and harmful attack on American health care!

Sincerely,
Damara L Davidson

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I Oppose Graham Cassidy

Greetings-

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare through the ACA. We both have pre-existing conditions with which we were born. The protections of the ACA have allowed us to receive coverage we would have been denied in the past. We are the healthiest we have been in a long time thanks to the quality healthcare we've been receiving in recent years. 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,
Jillian LS
Kensington, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 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 well as people like me and my husband that depend on coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Thank you,
Katy Schamberger
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Mon, Sept 25, 2017

My family relies on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill. My husband and I are both in our seventies and this bill will not require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions. The premiums for older Americans will be increased and will be larger than the premiums charged to younger people. We live on a fixed income, and higher premiums will be devastating!
I am also appalled that the Senate is trying to rush this bill through without any debate and without any input from the CBO regarding the impact of the bill. I would like to see a bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,
Elaine Foster

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments for Senate Finance Meeting 9/25/2017, 2PM

This most recent attempt to repeal the ACA is an abomination and a thinly-veiled attempt to reorder 1/6 of the economy to pave the way to tax cuts for wealthy donors. It is the worst yet of the GOP "health care plans".

I practice at a critical access hospital that has done better with the ACA. Though flawed and sabotaged by Marco Rubio and his amendment regarding risk corridors and now with sabotage by Price and HHS, it none the less has been an improvement.

Tonight's news that authors have tweaked an already horrific law as payoffs to hold out senators is beyond the pale. There has not been time for adequate analysis, debate and public hearings for something that affects each and every person in this country and a good chunk of the US economy. The entire process is shameful and a sham. Authors of this bill and whoever supports it will be held accountable by the American people for the consequences of your irresponsible actions.

Katherine A Silta

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Cc: lilyhousestudio@aol.com
Subject: Health Care for ALL Americans

This is to express my opposition to the latest version of the reprehensible effort to distort health care provision to We the People.

In medicine, as in life, the overarching credo is "Do No Harm." This must be honored.

Please listen to my voice, our voices, our situations and concerns. I know I am not alone. Pre-existing conditions, cancer survivor, lower income, long-term unemployed through no fault of my own, single woman, nearing 70, with a home on the verge of foreclosure.

I am one citizen. Each human being in this country deserves adequate, affordable medical care. We should not be bankrupted, stressed, worried, living in fear. We deserve the same level of medical care enjoyed by those we elected to office. That's what you should, can, and must provide.

Do the honorable thing. Our lives depend on it.

Paula Marie Gourley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing

To Whom It May Concern,

I, all of my siblings, and so many of my peers rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would not be able to afford crucial medication and dental work that make daily living bearable without the ACA, especially considering the cost of living of the city in which I live compared to my salary. And I know my story is very small compared to those with preexisting conditions, disabilities, large families to provide for, and more. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Sarah Knapp
Brooklyn, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:15 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.

[Shane Beatt]
[Everett, WA]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:14 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am one of the lucky ones. I am not currently in need of the government's assistance with my healthcare. But that could change for me, as it could for anyone, after one job loss, one catastrophic illness or accident. So I don't ask you to reject this bill because I have a sob story or because I need the ACA. I ask you to reject it because for those who DO need healthcare-- those who have needs ranging from basic to advanced-- Graham-Cassidy is just another unstudied, backroom, despicable attempt to keep them from getting what they need. Our nation is so, so wealthy. Why can we not find it in our American hearts to help those who need it most? What values do we hold dear? Those of the almighty dollar or those of compassion? Our elected officials should be doing all they can to GIVE all they can so that every American has access to healthcare. Advancing this bill does nothing of the kind.

Thank you for your time,

Kendra Niehaus
South Riding, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:16 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. Do the right thing for your fellow Americans!

Nils Soe
Long Beach, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I've been in and out of hospitals and doctors with both physical and mental health issues, deemed pre-existing conditions/ Health care is a universal right, and something I would not be able to afford if I were to be discriminated against for pre-existing issues. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to **improve** the ACA, not repeal it. Please, do the right thing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:15 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,
I am writing to urge you to reject the latest version of this awful and regressive health care bill. It is insulting to see how Congress is willing to reverse the gains made on a national level under the Affordable Care Act merely because it has President Obama's name attached to it.

This Graham-Cassidy bill is a very bad idea and unfairly targets our most vulnerable citizens. I urge you to reject this punitive bill and instead work on improving the ACA. We don't need to "repeal and replace". We need to improve and strengthen what we already have in place until every American has equal access to comprehensive health care.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill is a travesty. If it passes, it will harm my health and that of many millions of Americans, and make good health insurance unaffordable for me and millions of others. The cynicism this bill displays is reminiscent of the Soviet Union, where lies were passed as truth.

I urge you to work collectively and in a true bipartisan manner to improve the ACA to the benefit of ALL Americans, rather than to pursue naked, brazen partisanship that benefits only wealthy individuals and dooms poorer Americans to inadequate healthcare, and in some circumstances, death.

Yours truly,
Lance Murty
Portland, OR

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do NOT pass Graham-Cassidy

I am writing to urge you to keep the interests of all Americans top of mind as you review the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. If you do I feel confident you will vote NO on this terrible piece of legislation. Please do everything you can to keep and strengthen the ACA so that ALL Americans have access to decent quality affordable healthcare.

Sincerely

Vanessa Warheit
Berkeley, CA

--

Vanessa Warheit

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:16 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: You must reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Holly Hecker
Buffalo, New York

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:17 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: oppose Graham Cassidy

Please, please, oppose this healthcare bill. 1/6 of our economy should not be affected by a bill that has not had hearings, that has not been scored, that all the experts weighing in are against. Healthcare is so important to the American people and the economy, it should not be changed at the whim just because big party donors are demanding it. The American people do not want this. They want protections for pre-existing conditions, to do away with lifetime caps, and to keep Medicaid as it is. The Koch brothers should not have more say than me and someone in TN. We are equal.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Murdock

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:12 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 owe it to all Americans to do better.

Vicky Austin

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Any spelling errors I blame on autocorrect. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare bill

Please do not take away my health insurance. My husband and I have pre existing conditions and are self employed. If you make the changes that have been reported we will not be able to afford healthcare. Thank godness for Obama care. I vote in every election and so does my husband. Medicare for all or single payer would be grand but at the very least : do not take away what we have now

Thank you

Tracie and Fred Watson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:13 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee--

We must kill Graham-Cassidy now. It will leave tens of millions of Americans without health insurance and will result in severe financial hardship for many more. My sister, who has a chronic illness, will be one. She matters, as does every one of the people who will be left to fend for themselves due to pre-existing conditions. As a democratic society, we can and must do better. Let's work to improve the ACA instead.

Thank you,

Ann Marie Slevin
Seattle, Washington

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 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.

Chris Bombarger
Round Rock Texas

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Hearing, Monday, 9/25

Everyone relies on quality, affordable healthcare. It is a right, not a commodity. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I was unemployed for a few months in 2015, and I was very glad to be able to sign up for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Yes, I wish it had been less expensive, but the cost reflected my husband's income and was not unfair. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA. I completely oppose these mindless efforts to repeal access to quality health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Louise Specht

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: improve ACA not repeal

My family and myself rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would very much like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The alternative is very troubling to consider and would mean great hardship for my loved ones, many friends and those less fortunate than myself.

Sincerely, Gael Livingston

Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:11 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy would hurt people like me.

To whom it may concern,

I appear to be a healthy and happy 32-year-old. I recently returned from living abroad and am doing my best to establish myself back home in America by working two steady jobs along with weekly contract work and occasional bartending. I can easily make it through a 60-hour week or 20 straight days of work without letting the cracks show.

But unfortunately I'm not always like this. I suffer from chronic depression and fatigue. These diseases run in my family and I have had episodes so severe that I had panic attacks in the shower every morning for months on end, and found myself often too exhausted to drag myself up the stairs to my third-floor apartment in Berlin. I would sit down and rest for five minutes before tackling the last floor. I would speak to noone. I would have a hard time motivating myself to eat and only drink juice for days. Subsequent problems were not quite that bad, but I've still lost jobs and relationships because of unreliability that comes with depression. I take responsibility for the mistakes I made, but I also know that my illness has played a large role in the failures I most regret.

Luckily at that time I could afford to get the therapy and medication I needed through a publicly funded healthcare system. I knew that with this condition hanging over my head, it was a good idea to stay in Germany. But after the ACA passed, I could entertain the idea of coming home. In the summer of 2016 I decided it was time. I wanted to be near family and take advantage of job opportunities back here. I felt that with mental health care as an essential health benefit, I could risk it.

Then November came. I realized quickly that I wouldn't be able to meet the goal of getting a job in my field, or interning to get experience. I had to work and save up quickly because if and when I get sick again, I could be abandoned by ACA repeal. So I got a job at Starbucks. I got an office temp job. Whenever anyone offers me extra work I take it. I have four current jobs. I'm trying desperately to outrun the side of me that can't work like this and is liable to leave me unable to even leave the house if depression comes for me again.

It's a little awkward that stress is what triggers my condition but I would rather work myself into an episode and have money in the bank, than the alternative. Of course my savings could be wiped out quickly if insurance companies are able to charge me more for my preexisting condition. Which I foolishly disclosed to my doctor, because my condition ought to be monitored regularly. I didn't think about the financial hole I could be putting myself in if the penalties come back, I only considered my health. Oops.

I'm sure you have heard much worse stories. I don't expect pity from anyone because all in all I have been lucky with my health. But I believe you should know about the choices average people are already making because of this legislative push.

Thank you for your time.

Kate Bitz, Spokane, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy-Graham Bill VOTE NO
Attachments: FedFinanceComm.docx

Please refer to the attached document regarding comments on the Cassidy-Graham bill to be read/shared before the Senate Finance Committee on September 25, 2017.

Respectfully,

-Laura Leeman
[REDACTED]

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else!" - *Margaret Mead*

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:12 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.

Thank you,

James Jackson III
Tacoma, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:12 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 will destroy hospitals and health care. Please reject this insanity.

[REDACTED]

--

From the eComStation Desktop of: Mark Dodel

"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic State itself. That in it's essence, is Fascism - ownership of government by an individual, by a group or by any controlling private power." Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Message proposing the Monopoly Investigation, 1938

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sara Katz
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments

I and my family rely upon quality, affordable healthcare.

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

I have a pre-existing condition, which if I cannot afford medical care will become fatal.

My grown children are having trouble affording medical coverage as it is. If you repeal ACA they will become impoverished..

A number of my grandchildren have serious conditions either from birth or that developed later, such as Diabetes, a nerve disorder, Osgood Schlater's Disease, and Crohn's Disease.

Will you deny them health care in order to please your party? This seems awfully short-sighted.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve healthcare for all. Please do not repeal the ACA. For all its imperfections, it is the best thing we have. Find ways to improve upon it, please.

Sincerely,

Sara Katz

Oakland, CA

An infusion of inspiration:

Peace to those with anger
Courage for the fearful
Light for all who are lost
Hope for those who lost it
Divine protection for the threatened
Healing for the sick, injured
& broken hearted
And Love for all,
Because everybody, every soul
Needs Love.

~ Teri Waros, Molokai, Hawaii

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill. My personal story includes: treatment for my daughter for a heart condition when she was born. Without it, the doctors didn't expect her to live past 16. She's about to celebrate her 19th birthday and go to college. This would be considered a pre-existing condition and could limit her health care in the future if this bill is passed. I am grateful for Medicaid when I needed it as a struggling college student with an unexpected pregnancy. My Aunt received cancer treatment when she was unable to pay for it. My brother is an army veteran and is legally blind. We are grateful for the assistance he receives. I have been employed since I was 16 and have been contributing to social security since then, and have been contributing to health care plans for the last 16 years, since my first full time job after college. My mom and dad both worked two jobs. We are not asking for hand-outs. We are hard working Americans who have paid into the system with the intention that it would pay out when fellow Americans needed it. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACE, not repeal it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal , September 25, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Finance, Attn. Editorial and Document Section

My mother was afforded death with dignity due to Medicaid. She suffered from vascular dementia and diabetes, which in themselves limited the choice of nursing care facilities available to her to exactly ONE within a radius that would allow my sister and myself to see her and return home to our own children on the same day.

Under the current proposal, to get the care she needed at the time, she would have been forced to move to a different state. So she would have effectively been forced to choose whether to LIVE -- OR to be near family and for all intents and purposes be given a death sentence.

Is this what you wish to legislate for me and my family, should our medical circumstances prove similar when I reach old age?

That is the definition of EVIL. Nothing less.

You MUST oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Karen Rif

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 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.

She [REDACTED] T

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:10 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My family, friends, and neighbors 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah G. Johnson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to accept Graham-Cassidy-Heller healthcare bill!!

Helen Berge
Houston, Texas

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 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.

Michael saah
Laurel, md

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

- [REDACTED] s
- [REDACTED]

I am one of the people who will lose health insurance if this bill is passed. Born with a disability, I am over-educated and under-employed and yet I do work and pay \$200 a month for insurance. Unfortunately, regular insurance do not pay for long term care, so I pay for my Medicaid. All work incentives will be undone if this passes, reversing 40 years plus of hard won services. Many people will be in the streets, others will be in jail if this passes.

I could go on and on about why I am against this awful bill, but in a civilized nation, healthcare is a right.

ACA needs changes. PLEASE put your energy into making the needed changes.

Thanks,
Robin Stephens

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Proposed Replacement Won't Help

As an 85-year-old woman, I've been healthy -- thanks to Medicare. But each year I feel more strongly that those benefits I enjoy must be extended to my children and many, many more Americans who are fighting a losing battle to get adequate health care for their families.

The Affordable Care Act was a hard-won good start in the right direction. Please do not vote for the Graham-Cassidy Bill and undo all that is good in the ACA. Try and find a recognized medical or health association which supports Graham-Cassidy. Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

Congress must work together now and Missouri wants you to be a leader. We can catch up with the rest of the developed world in providing health care for all our citizens.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No

I almost met my lifetime limit at 40 when my placenta previa tore and I lost all of my blood but the doctors saved my 3 mo early son as well as my self. 10 mos later I entered Saudi due to my husbands Hughes aircraft job and then had an allergic reaction that caused a TIA. 15 years later I was turned down with a pre-existing condition due to this. California had a program and my life was saved from a sarcoma cancer. I worked 22 years and have a BS. Please create a health system that works for all of us. You are smarter than these political decisions. We can see through you.

Pauline Beavers's
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:06 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.

Kim DiPasqua
Chicago, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:06 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.

Stacie Vernon
Gilbert, Arizona

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:06 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham-Cassidy bill is another atrocious attempt to take medical care away from the Americans who need it most. I do not support this disgraceful, un-American bill that seeks to take away coverage for pre-existing conditions, children with disabilities, and more.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care

My family rely on health care. We are lucky to have good health most of the time but when we need it we are fortunate to be able to go to the doctor. The plans to repeal Obamacare are inhumane. Please please please in the name of compassion and all that is right do not take away Obamacare.

Carrie Johnston
Berkeley

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:07 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.

Rich Johnson
Hoffman Estates, IL

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Hillary Landers
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:07 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Congress,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. The Affordable Care Act has allowed me to work in outdoor education, providing wilderness experiences to underserved populations, without having to worry about paying exorbitant amounts for private health care plans. Because of my experience, 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,

Hillary Landers

Spokane, Washington

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 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.

Roberta saah
Laurel, md

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This bill is no more than a political charade to appease the deep pockets of funders who care not in the slightest for the well-being of American citizens. This bill will yank care away from millions. It has not been vetted in the slightest. It is cruel, inhumane, and (frankly) unthinkable that public servants have authored this bill. The fact that state-specific provisions have been added to buy the votes of swing-state senators is even more appalling.

Graham-Cassidy must not pass.

Sincerely,
Barzin Akhavan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Ghrahm-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I am taking this opportunity to express my opposition and concerns about the above bill. I am alarmed that such rapid action would be taken without a full CBO score and more importantly, an opportunity to work in a bipartisan fashion, with time allocated for full discussion and debate in order to craft a plan designed to fix the problems with our current healthcare.

I have grave concerns that the bill proposed will harm many Americans most in need of healthcare. I fear the erosion of protections for those of us with pre-existing conditions, and/or unaffordable costs for treating pre-existing conditions. For example, my husband has lymphoma and we depend upon the protections of insurance no to penalize for treating such a condition

It is essential that full representation of health care providers and pharmaceutical companies also be included in this debate.

I respectfully ask that you please vote no to this bill if you are truly representing your constituents.

Thank you, in advance, for hearing these concerns

Lydia Price

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 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.

Jane Kauer
Philadelphia, PA

best, Jane

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No on GrahamCassidy bill

We need health care that will take care of all Americans, regardless of preexisting conditions, age, gender or income. Graham cassidy is predicted to not provide coverage for more americans than are currently covered, we deserve a CBO score before voting.

Carly Scholz
American Citizen and Voter

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: my comments on Graham Cassidy bill

TO THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Graham Cassidy bill, popularly known as the bill that will repeal and replace Obamacare.

I object to the bill and I hope that it fails to reach the President's desk.

From where I sit, the Affordable Care Act was a good first try. It is successful in those areas where people have not actively worked to sabotage it.

Millions of people who previously had no health insurance finally had a way to afford quality health care plans that meet minimum standards. My son, his wife, and their two children are just four of those people.

Any complicated program can be expected to run into unforeseen circumstances, and the ACA has its share. I believe it would be much more effective to renew and refresh the ACA.

The Graham Cassidy bill would make good on certain politicians' promises to bring a massive tax cut to their richest backers. But it would bring pain, suffering, and financial ruin to millions in the middle and the lower classes.

Voting for this cruel bill would clearly be a political decision, not a decision to make the lives of citizens in the USA better—which Senators Paul Wellstone and Al Franken have said is the whole point of politics.

Even worse than the contents of the current bill is the way it is being brought up for a vote. On its face, it appears to be an attempt to "pull a fast one" on the American public. I'm with Senator McCain, who called for the Senate to follow proper procedures. I also give full support to my own Senators, Mr. Wyden and Mr. Merkly, whose positions on this bill mirror my own.

I suggest throwing the Graham Cassidy bill away and working in a true bi-partisan fashion to renew and refresh the Affordable Care Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:08 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. Any one of us are a bad accident or random chronic illness away from needing Medicaid. Access to this care is a human right.

Lindsay M. Stuart
Alexandria, VA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Alison Christensen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:09 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: testimony

My brother relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that my brother (age 42) has a bad shoulder from an injury in his 20s and ongoing trouble with his feet due to being overweight. He tries to exercise and eat healthy however he's a single guy and often eats fast food and processed food. He also is a returning student and currently unemployed at this time so he lacks insurance coverage through an employer. About two years ago, he got on ACA for basic health coverage which has been an incredible peace of mind for my family should he become seriously ill or injured.

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

Sincerely,

Alison Christensen

Kirkland, WA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Health Care in America

Please don't take our nation backwards by repelling ObamaCare. We have made strides towards becoming a more civilized nation which can take care of its citizens. Universal health care is a hallmark of progress.

Rebecca Smith
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@et>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:02 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Save the ACA

I had cancer which is in remission. If it recurs, if the ACA is eliminated, I will be devastated, and will not be able to afford the care necessary to survive.

Please save the ACA.

Thank you,

Helen Berggruen

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 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 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.

Allie
NYC, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy healthcare--please vote AGAINST

I do not support efforts to push an ill conceived bill that would take benefits away from the poor and those who have pre-existing conditions. Please turn the bill down.

My cousin finally got healthcare through Obamacare. But if tomorrow you take that option away, she will no longer be able to afford coverage. So the next heart episode will just kill her. And she is only one of many.

I wish both parties would work together to serve the people they represent instead of conglomerates.

Please do not push the bill forward.

Deb Dewey
Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:04 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Comment
Attachments: SHenslerSenateFinance - 1.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 4.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 6.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 2.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 3.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 5.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 7.jpg; SHenslerSenateFinance - 8.jpg

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to REJECT Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson in favor of bipartisan legislation addressing the current problems with the Affordable Care Act.

My daughter, Savannah, is three years old. She has Heterotaxy Syndrome, which literally means “Different arrangement”. Her internal organs are jumbled and not placed in the traditional layout. This also causes defects in a variety of systems. Hers include issues with her heart, lungs, airway, intestines, kidneys, spleen, liver, and immune system. Her most severe defects come from her heart. She was born with 8 congenital heart defects. Her heart is on the wrong side of her body and is rotated backwards from typical placement (so the front faces her back and the back of her heart is to the front of her chest). It also has a variety of internal structure problems and “plumbing” problems in the way blood flows to and from the heart.

Savannah has undergone 2 major open heart surgeries, 9 heart catheterizations, 1 pacemaker placement, and countless other procedures. She has spent more than 10 hours on cardiopulmonary bypass. She has spent weeks on a ventilator. She has spent months in the hospital. She is pacemaker dependent, meaning if her pacemaker were to malfunction, her own heart rhythm cannot sustain life. Her medical bills for her lifetime total over \$2,000,000. They will continue to climb.

Her annual care - just her medications, appointments with specialists, therapies, etc - are more than our annual income, despite my husband working 3 jobs.

The Affordable Care Act is the only reason that Savannah still has health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal puts her life in grave danger. She relies on robust, comprehensive healthcare to continue to thrive in the life she has fought so hard to have.

She needs the provisions currently provided in the Affordable Care Act to survive. Without those provisions, she would likely already be dead.

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson would compromise Savannah's ability to get what she needs to survive. She would most certainly never receive what she truly needs to thrive.

Allowing alteration or waiver of Essential Health Benefits will be catastrophic for Savannah and others with preexisting or chronic conditions.

Not covering ESSENTIAL health needs means you may have a health insurance plan that doesn't even cover things that are necessary for survival as someone with a chronic condition. A plan that doesn't cover chemo or surgery or prescription medications is useless.

One aspect of the Essential Health Benefits is the removal of annual or lifetime caps. She is far past the lifetime cap of \$1,000,000 that our private employer insurance had before the ACA mandated removal of the caps. She will eventually need another open heart surgery. They can AND WILL refuse to take her to the operating room without a guarantee of payment. Without surgery, they will stabilize her with medication until that no longer works, at which time she would pass away, because once medication stops working, odds are she would not survive open heart surgery to fix the valve.

The current version of Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson removes the needed protection by not requiring waivers to be approved, states must just "describe plans" that may or may not be viable and workable. There is also no provision for out-of-pocket costs, allowing bare bones insurance policies and meaning families like mine will go bankrupt trying to afford the more robust plans needed.

Lifetime Limits and waiving of Essential Health Benefits means she will lose her private insurance. I will be forced to look at my child and say "I'm sorry honey, Mommy and Daddy don't have enough money for your surgery. We can't afford to keep you alive."

Changing funding to Medicaid puts kids like her in jeopardy, as well.

Right now, Savannah is also covered under the Medicaid Waiver. We do not qualify financially for Medicaid, but because her medical issues are severe, she qualifies for a waiver. This covers services like respite nursing, equipment like wheelchairs and mobility devices, and medications that our private insurance does not.

Cutting Medicaid funding, adding per capita caps, and changing eligibility recertification periods means that Medicaid in each state will be forced to figure out how to cut their expenses. Cutting kids like Savannah who have high medical bills and don't qualify financially will be a first step. They will also likely cut the "expensive" things they can consider non-essential, like therapies, mobility devices, and respite nursing care.

High Risk Pools, allowed under the most recent iteration of Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson, will place those with pre-existing conditions in to modern-day leper colonies.

They will be separated from the robust pools developed by the Affordable Care Act and costs will be driven up to an infinite degree courtesy of the new Section 204 which allows age/community rating, EHBs, Actuarial Value requirements to be waived. This will cause those with pre-existing conditions to be priced out of the robust plans needed to keep them as healthy as possible.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal will take away Savannah's ability to survive, let alone thrive. It will end her life prematurely.

Right now, because we have insurance, we are able to fund Savannah's medical needs through that. Then we use our income to take care of the things that let her THRIVE and be a kid. We give up our wants to pay for what she needs to be able to keep learning, growing, and getting stronger. We pay out of pocket for feeding therapy, therapy toys and tools, products for adaptive eating, shoes to fit over her braces so she can walk, and the gas to drive her to the best specialists. We pay for the cannulas and tape for her oxygen because insurance covers the tanks, but not the supplies. If we have to try to pay for her medical needs out of pocket (which is impossible, they're too much), we can no longer give her the "above and beyond" that insurance doesn't currently cover. It will steal her childhood and her ability to just be three.

Odds are that I will outlive my child. She will likely not grow up to get married and go to college or any of the things most parents hope for their child.

But she has fought like hell to live through what she's faced. And I think she is the only one who has the right to decide when her battle is over. Not lack of insurance. Not lack of money. NO ONE except HER. Life is precious, her fight is hers, and she can decide when she is done. Politicians and legislation should not make that choice for her. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson will remove that choice and condemn her to suffering and likely an earlier death.

Please see attached pictures of Savannah. You must understand that on the other side of this terrible legislation are real families, real people, and real children who will be irreversibly harmed by this proposal. This child is one you will harm.

Sincerely yours,

Lori Hensler
Mom to Savannah
Kokomo, Indiana

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 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.

Crista Hopp
Herndon, Va

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:05 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Revised GCH

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing as a citizen and a Physician to urge you to reject this newest version of a terrible idea. This bill is even worse than the earlier one of last week, despite the (misleading) calculated attempts to buy off certain Senators who have been putting their constituents and Americans before party and money. At the very least, this should be examined under regular order including hearings and expert testimony, and should be scored by the CBO before ANY action is taken. It's a disgrace the way this legislation has been handled.

Americans deserve much better than this, and I believe you know it. Stand up for what you know is right and reject this abomination.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gch.com on behalf of Connors, Daniel Connors>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 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.

Daniel Connors
West Chester, Ohio

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: health care is important

I am opposed to the Graham Cassidy Healthcare bill. This is a bill that was thrown out without proper vetting, discussion or a full CBO score. Health care is important to Americans and deserves better than this.

I am someone with a pre-existing condition, so am worried that healthcare would be unaffordable for me under this act.

Rhonda Adams
Portland, Oregon

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:03 AM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Healthcare

Dear Government,

I do not support you being able to make me buy something I don't want. It is illegal and I will not stand for it. Unfortunately John McCain failed to listen to the people he represented and he left America at the mercy of the communist Democrats. Since "Obamacare" was not repealed I have to encourage a vote for the lesser of two evils which is FOR GRAHAM-CASSIDY!

V/R
Devin Pauley
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a US Veteran now an entrepreneur. I was raised to believe that hard working Americans who contribute to the local and global economy would be supported by our government.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My husband has a pre-existing health condition; he was treated for cancer in his early thirties. Should we lose access to healthcare we would be forced to emigrate from the US; it would be unsafe for us to remain here, as my husband is required to have annual checkups for which we could not afford direct-pay costs.

I struggle to imagine how revoking an American's right to affordable healthcare can be considered a political success.

I hope to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve ACA. Having recently lived in Europe as a civilian, I was grateful to have access to excellent affordable healthcare. It would be shocking to be forced to leave my native country forever because of what appears, to an outsider, rushed and underhanded action on the part of our congress.

May you deliberate with wisdom and an eye to the future of our nation, Sincerely, Sha Whit Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy will hurt my patients

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a pediatrician in Minnesota, Board member of the Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Vice Chair of the AAP Council on Communications and Media, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Act because it will rip away Medicaid coverage from 31% of children in the program.

Uninsured kids can't access adequate medical care. This will lead to higher costs and worse health for children in the future. Healthy kids benefit from insurance coverage and Medicaid is the single largest health insurer in the country. Graham-Cassidy will devastate Medicaid and that will hurt millions of children and adults.

The AAP and every other major medical, hospital, patient and insurance organization opposes this bill with good reason. We are the experts in this field. Please listen to us and scrap this bill. Look for humane bipartisan solutions that will strengthen our current system and work to help all people access and afford coverage.

Thank you,
Nusheen Ameenuddin, MD, MPH

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 09/25/2017 Hearing to Consider Graham-Cassidy....

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

To: Honorable Senator's and Committee Member's

[REDACTED]

I am writing on the behalf of my family who is entirely at risk of losing our health, safety, and security, should we lose any aspects of Healthcare in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. We need tangible assurance that we are actually covered by healthcare and not just hearsay of a promise of access. Access is not a comfort if you do not have tangible security of written policy that actually provides Healthcare to back up that access.

I have three children the oldest is living on his own, graduated from college and is employed. The children that live at home with me are both on the autism spectrum, and they both have different abilities, needs, and supports. There are also other health issues they are challenged with on a regular basis that keep us routinely in contact with medical and mental health providers. Both children need not only access, but actual assurance and insurance that they can rely on to continue their medical care, mental health care and other services provided by what is currently available. To lose any of those services would put are entire family at risk, and not just for routine office visits, but for our means to fill prescription medications and therapy that are essential to our health and the quality of our lives.

I am a recent widow who had to make a choice at several junctures over the years to put my families wellbeing at the forefront of continuing my career in medical billing. Our youngest was diagnosed with autism at age two, we learned shortly afterwards that our daughter also was on the autism spectrum as well, and we discovered what her emotional support and developmental needs entailed shortly thereafter. My husband had a cancer battle not long after that, and that spun into a long term illness that required support and it eventually came down to home hospice care. We had help through programs during this time, but no program covers help 24/7 and I wouldn't ask for that. Taking care of loved ones who are sick, aging, and disabled even with as much love as we have does indeed take a toll on even the strongest and most loving of families. It eventually got to the point where I couldn't work three jobs, two jobs or continue my career in medical billing. The right thing to do was putting my husband, our daughter, son and even my own health as priorities.

I have more than one auto immune disorder and other challenges that are managed by diet, exercise, prescription medications and regular visits to therapist who helps with coping skills to manage the symptoms and the significant increase in stress by consistently having to worry that my family won't have the Healthcare they need for survival. For all our sakes we need not only your assurance, but the elected officials unwavering commitment to healthcare that will continue to provide the coverage that continues the services and support my family needs in order to survive. If we really subscribe to the notion of American family values, then it is imperative you protect the foundation of healthcare that is keeping families like mine alive. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal would be detrimental to our family's survival, so with that in mind we urge you to vote NO on the bill, because it it is a moral imperative to do so.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:54 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

I'm writing to the members of the Finance Committee to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. If this bill is passed by the Senate, I will do everything in my power to see to it that John Cornyn and Ted Cruz will lose the next time they are up for election, whether they voted yes or no. I firmly believe all Republicans will have a difficult time in the mid-terms if this bill passes. Until we the people have the same rights to affordable health care as members of Congress, you are all likely to be out of work soon.

Kathy Fisher
Kerrville, TX 78028

--

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Susan Winner
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham/Cassidy no-healthcare bill

For Pete's sake, it's time for the leadership of this country to stop fighting one another and to take care of Americans' need for sane, decent, affordable healthcare. Otherwise, these "leaders" are not leaders at all. They are shysters taking advantage of their position by benefiting not Americans at all but their own bank accounts. If that's the case, shame on them.

"Stories, like dreams, are the way that people understand the world and their unique place in it." Michael Meade

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy proposal

Please follow regular order, allow time for the CBO score, have debates and let the public in on what you are doing. Healthcare for our country is way, way too important to rush through without proper bipartisan consideration. We the people will support Congress if you stick to regular order.

I am a 76 year old woman who relies on Medicare and MediCal - and literally couldn't live without them!

Sincerely,
Melinda Guyol

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:53 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

Hello,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. The ACA has allowed so many of my friends and family to start businesses, support their families, and deal with long-term health conditions that have saved their lives and families. The insistence of Senate Republicans on pursuing a reckless, destructive bill that the entire healthcare industry, state Medicaid directors, and patients rightly reject frankly surpasses understanding.

Although as a resident of the District of Columbia, Congress does not recognize my right to the representation enjoyed by their own constituents, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,
Katherine Harkins
Washington, DC

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: 2ND REVISION FOR: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017)

ADDITION TO ORIGINAL EMAIL: THE PROPOSED CUTS OF CUTTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE, SUPPORT FOR LONG TERM CARE, CUTS TO BEHAVIORAL SERVICES, WILL RESULT IN SEVERE DAMAGE TO MY SON'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE AS WELL AS INVOKING A SAFETY RISK NOT ONLY FOR MY SON BUT FOR THOSE TAKE CARE OF HIM AS WELL! HIS LIFE DEPENDS ON THESE CONTINUED SERVICES.

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017)
Date: September 24, 2017 at 9:11:06 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]

Please read my SHORTENED version plea of the importance to voting NO to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal below!
Skip below the photos of my son, SLADER, to read our story!

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





Hello!, I could write an entire book about our family's story for the critical need to protect and keep our Medicaid system as is, and to protect health care for all by voting NO this week to the proposal. But I will simplify our story and what can happen to any family, any child that is born. Having a child with special needs could have happened to one of your children, but instead it happened to my son and the traumatic events and the domino effect it has played on my entire family is real and we would never have survived without the federal government's help with Medicaid on so many levels. My son has severe autism (cognitive functioning level of a 2 year old), a seizure disorder, possible mental psychosis and is non verbal. He didn't ask to be born this way. He got cheated, the wrong end of the stick, he was the unlucky one of thousands of people who have to live this way! He has two sisters. My marriage did not survive because of all the sacrifices our family had to make to move from Nebraska to Wisconsin to receive services while my husband at the time, had to stay in Nebraska to work. My two daughters left their home as they knew it to move with me and to get help for my son.

Through the years of growing up Slader was very close to his sisters and we went everywhere together as a family. My two daughters were swimmers, one of them a two time Olympic qualifier, and yet we struggled tremendously financially to keep us together and to maintain some type of quality of life. That all fell apart in November of 2013 when something horrific went wrong with my son and he suddenly developed episodes of extreme pain and behaviors of life threatening caliber.

This included him jumping up and down, crying out and running over to a wall targeting specifically the corners of a wall to head bang repeatedly until he would split open his head. And if I tried to stop him he would turn around and want to bite my hand in order to bear down on the pain he was experiencing. (He is 6'2"). Being Non verbal he could not tell me what was going on. Over the last four years we have had fifteen 911 calls, been in the UW Hospital multiple times with experimentation on medications trying to

stabilize him with very disastrous results. He ended up in three different institutions before finally becoming stable on 15 different prescription medications, taking an exhausting 3 years of dangerous challenges to finally save him. He is now being supported in an adult family home.

My own health suffered greatly during this time due to stress. I couldn't work due to his needs. I am on health care through the government and can only afford a catastrophic policy already. My financial costs have been through the roof as I have had to pay full price for my own health issues which have been tremendously costly. My daughters quality of life has also been greatly affected as a result of the trauma that my son and I have been through. You see, my son was also traumatized in one of his experiences and the scariness of this as well as just trying to help my son stay alive has also cost and greatly affected my extended family, my friends, so on and so on!

There are many stories out there very similar to my story and the majority of the public have no idea what so ever, goes on with this population as these people usually cannot speak or advocate for themselves and the families are so exhausted just trying to do what they can to help their loved ones that they,(we) are just too exhausted to have the energy to put into having to advocate and fight for the rights of our loved ones!!!

I have a Masters Degree in Education and have always been a hard working American citizen. These people need and deserve the help of our federal government in supporting our loved ones to have the best quality of life that is possible!!! PLEASE!!!! It is our moral obligation and God's love for all people who are created equal in his eyes to help those who are less fortunate. I could tell you so many more details to my family's story and I would LOVE to come to Washington to speak and share my story that is not the only one in our country!

Do the right thing and vote NO this week please. If you want to make revisions, fine, but do NOT do this at the cost of those who CANNOT survive without Medicaid!! And I also need to be able to afford health care in order to be able to still be there for my son who needs me every single day in his life! I would trade places with anyone to have a healthy child and be able to go to work but I can't. PLEASE VOTE NO to the Graham-Cassidy... proposal this week! WE CANNOT SURVIVE with this suggested proposal!! Please be fair and vote NO, for the heart and fairness of our loved ones in America!! Sheila Kulm at 608-333-5992. Thank you!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Opposing Graham Cassidy Heller

Dear Senators:

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill. It will cruelly drop millions of Americans - working men and women, children, the elderly and the disabled - from access to critically needed healthcare. You have heard their stories over the last months, and you have, I'm sure, seen the photographs of Americans with disabilities being dragged from the halls of Congress. That has not changed.

To the extent that your focus is not on human suffering, but on the financial impact of Graham-Cassidy-Heller, it is clear that its enactment would be the height of recklessness. As of yet, there is not only no CBO score on the bill, there has not yet been a macroeconomic analysis of ANY of the bills seeking to repeal the ACA. The CBO has stated that it has simply not had enough time. The healthcare sector is nearly one-fifth of the US economy, and this bill will have both an immediate and long-term impact on the economy in each and every state, city and town in the United States.

I urge you to oppose this cruel, reckless bill.

Susan G. Anderson

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

My name is Lisa Johnson, [REDACTED] my phone number [REDACTED].

My father lives in PA as well and has stage IV cancer. He served in the Marines, did 2 tours in Vietnam and raised my sisters and me basically alone. I'm an attorney and while I am well off and can provide for my children, my father's medical bills will be astronomical if ACA is repealed.

Bottom line, I'm happy to pay more taxes to make sure everyone is covered. Stop trying to repeal ACA - the country has demanded that ACA be worked on by both parties.

Funds from the Koch Bros are not worth the lives & families you will be ruining. Just stop.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy health plan

This plan is being crammed through without the much- needed debate and review it requires. The world is watching. Put aside your cowardice and partisan politics and find your conscience, if it exists. The American people deserve better than this sham of a health plan.

Signed,

A US taxpayer from Michigan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hurts the disabled who depend on Medicaid & lifetime caps

Graham-Cassidy would dramatically & negatively impact our family. I have a disabled 5-year-old niece Olivia who depends on the ACA's ban on annual and lifetime benefits caps as well as Medicaid for secondary insurance to cover costs of care that her parents' employer healthcare insurance does not cover.

Olivia has a progressive neuromuscular disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) that has no cure and is terminal. If Graham-Cassidy is passed into law, the combination of Texas waiving the ban on annual and lifetime cap on benefits and the cutting of Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) coupled with Texas' 2017, \$1.5 billion cut to their Medicaid program, will result in Olivia losing access to the only drug (Spinraza) that has been approved by the FDA to halt the progression of her disease.

Spinraza, which was one of the test cases for the 21st Century Cures Act, is a game changer to the SMA community. However, because Spinraza is a lifelong drug, it costs \$750,000 the first year and \$350,000 each additional year. If a state is able to waive the EHBs, notably the ban on annual and lifetime caps, patients who have been on Spinraza will lose access to the drug in as little as one year and face a dramatic regression in their newly developed physical abilities and the rates of mortality will rise again.

Graham-Cassidy does not protect people with pre-existing conditions, nor protect the disabled & medically fragile and nor does it lower premiums and deductibles. It will end up causing medical bankruptcies to rise again, people to lose coverage, and costs for everyone to rise. I implore the Senate to return to regular order and have critical discussions about a bill that effects 1/6 of the national economy.

Sincerely,

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:52 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill and efforts to reform healthcare

Dear Senate Finance Committee

I write to express my deep dismay at the way that the recent healthcare bills, including the bill sponsored by Senators Graham and Cassidy, have been drafted and discussed. Health care is one of the most complex and consequential issues you could address -- after all many people will literally live or die depending on whether Congress gets this right -- and the bills that have been proposed completely fail to live up to the seriousness of the issue. The Graham-Cassidy bill appears to invoke something magical in its suggestion that the states will be able to make everything work beautifully, with almost no time to prepare and reduced funding. I do not believe that this bill will lead to anything but deep dysfunction and chaos, and I urge you to step back from the brink and take a more thoughtful approach.

I am an older woman, aged 57. Access to healthcare matters to me, as it does to anyone who has begun to understand their own mortality. The Affordable Care Act has been much reviled, but it has provided a lifeline (literally) to many in need. A few weeks ago I went to a garage to get an emissions check for my registration renewal. This was during another attempt to repeal the ACA. The garage attendant performing the emissions test was beside himself about the possibility that the ACA could be repealed. He was 62 years old and had never been able to afford a prostate examination before he was finally able to get insurance through the ACA. Many many people feel scared and helpless because of the monomaniacal focus on repealing the ACA, which appears brutally unconcerned with the effects on ordinary people.

Please, show us that you are public servants who care about your constituents. Re-start the bipartisan effort to improve healthcare for all Americans, instead of working to take it away.;

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Brighton, MA.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to Graham Cassidy Heller Health Care Bill

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote no on the Graham Cassidy Heller Health Care Bill. Passing this bill would take millions of Americans off of Medicare and other health care subsidizes. Health care is unacceptably expensive here in the United States, and more than 10% of us need a subsidy. Instead of reducing the subsidy, or continuing to inflate the market, I urge you to work in a bipartisan way to reduce health care costs. Medicare is a cost effective model. Take the Medicare For All proposal from Sen, Bernie Sanders seriously.

On a personal note, in 2000, my family returned to Massachusetts after living overseas in the Ivory Coast. We had to leave and return home due to a military coup. Unemployed, we were fortunate to return to Massachusetts where Romney-care/MassHealth was available. My daughter became deathly ill, and nearly died during this time period. But Mass General Hospital and MassHealth saved her life. Medicare and health care subsidies saved her and our family. Our story is not unique. Things happen to us beyond our control, and that is why we turn to you to protect our common good, so that all Americans can have health care regardless of employment, or transitory status.

Vote no to Graham Cassidy Heller Health Care Bill

Signed,
Mary Waygan

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing, Sept. 25, 2017

Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

September 25, 2017

In a blatant effort to kill the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill will lead to actual deaths and utter misery for the millions for whom health care will no longer be accessible because of cost. Kill the Graham-Cassidy Bill!

Florence Hedeem

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Do not repeal the ACA

My husband and I represent a group of people who are retired but not yet 65 years of age. We have no other options but the national health insurance network. DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA!

When we closed our business due to the recession, no insurance company would take us on due to "pre-existing conditions." They would not insure me at the age of 58 because I injured my knee in 1987! I have no chronic illnesses and neither does my husband. There will be many people who have serious illnesses, or their family members have serious illnesses, who will be greatly affected if the ACA is repealed.

The national health insurance network was somewhat confusing to sign up the first year in New Hampshire. However, for the last two years, it has been very easy. We can always get assistance on the phone whenever we have questions. It is priced reasonably.

We need a full scale overhaul of the health insurance industry in the U.S. In the meantime, please keep the ACA intact and organize a bipartisan approach to reform.

Thank you.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:51 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Comments on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hi,

I would be greatly effected by this bill. Please don't enact this legislation that would most likely remove my insurance and that of my family immediately. My wife and I have come to rely on the marketplace and the incentives it provides. Without it, my two sons wouldn't have been even able to be born in the hospital. My wife has several chronic conditions, and we need continuous care to make sure those don't get out of control. We really could not afford those things otherwise. Compared to some the health problems are not that bad. And that's the problem. One of my friends expenses would go up 8,000 per month with Graham Cassidy. That's it's own well paying job just to pay for her healthcare. In addition this bill is not being considering in any normal sense of the word. Please block passage of this bill and look to more sensible reforms.

Richard Rothstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kristenlyn <kristenlyn@embarq.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: <No Subject>
Attachments: 20170915_170056.jpg

As an American, i am counting on your vote to repeal and replace the unethical bill known as Obamacare. It has done nothing but hurt my family. Attached is a copy of my recent invoice for insulin and testing strips that i use to manage my type 1 diabetes. Under Obamacare, my premiums have gone up, my coverage has gone down, ive lost doctors in my plan and.... i pay more now than i have ever paid for my medications.

Please help me and millions of others like me, hurting from Obamacare! Repeal this garbage, now! Please!!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Fwd: Health care

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to respectfully implore you not to pass the current healthcare bill. I know so many who have been able to get insurance through the Affordable Healthcare act. A close friend is self-employed and has had insurance for the first time in years for her and her family. They have never been able to afford it before. Based on the research they've done, they are terrified that they will lose their insurance. Although they are healthy now, they have both had preexisting conditions that likely will prohibit them from getting insurance through the new plan.

I have a son in college for whom we are able to provide insurance due to the provision allowing students to stay on their parents insurance longer. He would likely be uninsured otherwise, so we are able to keep him insured which gives us peace of mind and are, therefore, paying into the system for a younger, healthy person.

I do realize that the AFA is imperfect. I have one friend who makes just enough money to not be able to afford insurance because he is ineligible for subsidies. He is having to pay the penalty and for whatever care he can afford that he needs. I think that overall the penalty makes sense. People without insurance don't stay home if they have an emergency or need serious care that they cannot afford. They show up and then the system (us) has to absorb those costs. So many more people are covered now. It makes no sense to send the system into disarray, playing roulette with people's lives. Please just fix the problems with the AFA.

People should not have to risk bankruptcy (which is happening less with the AFA as I understand) or go without care because they cannot afford insurance. In the end, it costs us more because they seek out expensive care.

Thank you,

Teresa

--
[REDACTED]

--
Teresa Parr, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:43 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote no on the healthcare bill

I'm writing to urge you to vote no on the new healthcare bill. I'm a 35 year-old female from Wisconsin and rely on the Affordable Care Act for health insurance. Prior to the Affordable Care Act I had a hard time purchasing health insurance privately. After multiple denials for coverage I finally found a plan would cover me with a very high premium and that would not cover my pre-existing mental health conditions or provide me with maternity coverage.

With the passing of the Affordable Care Act I was finally able to purchase health insurance that would provide the coverage I needed. I was able to have a baby and have coverage for my maternity care. The new bill would eliminate the provisions I need to get worthwhile health insurance. By providing states the option to charge more for pre-existing conditions, my insurance premiums would increase. By providing states with the option to remove the essential health benefits, maternity care and mental health care would no longer be required to be covered by insurance. If I want to have another child I would again be unable to find insurance to cover my pregnancy. I would be charged a higher premium because I have a pre-existing mental health condition and then my insurance wouldn't even cover that condition.

Please vote no on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

Sincerely,

Aimee LaDousa

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: "reform"

I live in California. If this so-called reform bill passes, we stand to lose out (bigly) on federal funds. Beyond that, it does nothing to improve the lives of ordinary Americans. Instead, it puts us at increased risk for bankruptcy and even death. I cannot support this bill, nor can I understand how anyone with so much as a drop of empathy would. I have called both my senators to express my views on this matter.

Sincerely,
Dianna Deem

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: No to the Graham Cassidy Amendment

If this amendment passed, it would likely result in a major financial burden to my family. My 3-year-old son was diagnosed with Autism this year, and as we began to get his the therapy he needs for long-term success, we discovered that my insurance (a self-funded plan) explicitly denies coverage for Autism services. We cannot afford all of the therapy he will need out of pocket, so as we began to explore options, we realized that we barely eked under the income line for children under 6 to receive Medicaid. Because New Mexico mandates coverage for Autism services, Medicaid will cover his medical necessary therapies, giving him the best chance at his brightest future. If the Graham Cassidy Amendment passes, and Medicaid expansion ends, families like mine who barely qualify will no longer be able to afford our children's necessary services.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family, as do all Americans, rely on, and deserve affordable Health Care. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

As a hospice professional, I work with many people who depend on Medicaid to pay for care for their home bound, seriously ill or dying loved ones either in their own home or in nursing homes . Without adequately funded Medicaid and Medicare there would be no where for these patients to go, family members would lose their jobs and possibly all their savings due to caregiving needs, and patients will suffer. Americans need a bipartisan approach that seeks to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Bess Steiger
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Comments

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with (Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disability, affordability etc.) is... It is time for a bipartisan effort to strengthen and protect the Affordable Care Act. We cannot afford to repeal a law that helps so many Americans.

Sincerely, Chris Loftis

Marion , NC

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern

I am writing to implore you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. Even without a CBO score we know it would take away affordable health insurance from millions of people (including me). The huge reductions to Medicaid would cause great hardship to seniors, children (on CHIP) & people with disabilities & substance abuse disorders. Many months of work, study & public meetings went into the ACA & its protections & requirements. Turning those protections over to individual states is a mistake - people with pre-existing conditions would face much higher or unaffordable premiums. Removal of the essential health benefits would cause health costs to rise because people would forego important tests & treatments, & their problems would become more severe.

That is my personal situation. Before the ACA passed I was without health insurance for several years & was 5 years overdue on several screening tests. I had a small business, & had given up insurance so I could keep my employees. Once the ACA was passed I could afford insurance & I got the screening tests, such as colonoscopy, pap & ob/gyn tests. In both cases there were complications that would have gone undetected & possibly gotten worse had I not had the insurance.

I know of other stories: a close friend has a son with severe autism & relies on Medicaid to care for him. I've helped people sign up for the ACA who previously could not afford the medication or treatments they needed.

The answer to our health care problems is not to jeopardize the health & lives of millions of people by repealing the existing act & its protections, it is to work together in a bipartisan way to fix the problems.

Please act, & vote responsibly, with respect & caring for your constituents.
Sincerely, Louise Ward

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:50 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote against Graham-Cassidy

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a cancer survivor - at least for now. Cancer survivors never know when a polyp will turn out to be malignant, when a mammogram will show cancer in a lymph node, when a mole will be a melanoma. And of course anyone can develop cancer - that includes Senator Graham, Senator Cassidy, and any one of the other senators who are planning to yank my health care out from under me.

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

Sincerely,

Martha Krow-Lucal

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:49 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.

Jennifer Brown
Baltimore, MD

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] m>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham Cassidy

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy. We need health care for all.

Tim Smith
Portland, Oregon

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy comments - an appeal

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please listen to the citizenry and the healthcare professionals who are speaking out in force against all measures to repeal the ACA, including this latest atrocity called the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Health Care Repeal Plan. This plan is quite simply immoral and heartless. This country cannot be truly "great" until we are on par with much of the world and take care of our citizenry with basic, affordable healthcare that has no eligibility barriers, including barriers due to gender, race, age, financial opportunity, or states of relative health or pre-existing conditions.

The ACA surely has some faults and is still young enough to have not reached its full potential - but what public health program of such a size could ever reasonably be considered perfect? Dismantling the ACA is not the answer, and will cause more - *real* - harm than good. Please support the retention of the current program, on which so many millions of Americans rely, and work instead to improve on it.

sincerely,

Karen Oldfield

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:49 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy bill

How about a return to general order? What kind of insurance do you people in the senate have?
Why not give all Americans the same healthcare that you enjoy?

Throwing people off of healthcare to give the richest few a tax break makes me sick. Oops, better not let that happen,
CAN'T AFFORD IT! ☒

Vote no!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy

This is the WORST idea to come down the pike. Please put it down!

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: Boone, Portia (Kaine); Figueroa, Marvin (Warner)
Subject: Voices of the youngest,/sickest among us should matter the most
Attachments: Letter for Consideration_McGovern .pdf

September 24, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member

Committee on Finance

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

My name is Josephine McGovern. I am 20 months old and am what my mom calls "medically complex." Born at 24 weeks' gestation, I spent the first 407 days of my life in the hospital. I worked so hard to make it to where I am today, but without quality affordable health care that can't discriminate against me for my preexisting conditions, and that protects against lifetime or annual insurance coverage caps, I don't know what my parents will do. Please consider my story before voting on this Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Today I am home with my family. I have been home since the end of February and we are having the best time. When I first came home at 13 months, I was unable to hold my head up. I couldn't roll over, sit unsupported, or crawl. Today, I can do all of those things. When I came home at the end of February, I came home on ventilator settings so high local hospitals wouldn't work with me; today my ventilator settings are lower (which is a good thing!). Before I came home, I only got to see my parents during pockets of time during the day. Today, their smiles are the first thing I see in the morning and my mom sings me to sleep at night when I go to bed. And although all of this is great, it comes at a very high cost.

I have four speech and physical therapists and eight specialists to follow my various medical issues. In any given week, I have at least three medical appointments, and in some weeks I could have as many as five or six.

We have private primary insurance and Medicaid as my secondary insurance, which, among other things, also helps cover the approximately \$5,000 in annual copays.

I am vent dependent, which means I require a lot of medical equipment. The total cost of my medical equipment is \$10,269.50 per month (\$123,234 annually). Because of the trach and ventilator, I require someone to keep eyes on me 24/7 to make sure that I am not in distress or experiencing an emergency. When I create an emergent situation, it's no joke. Most parents don't know how to resuscitate their daughter. I am lucky that my parents do. Private-duty nursing, which is COMPLETELY covered by Virginia Medicaid, bills at \$5,000 per month (\$60,000 annually). Because I require such specialized care, these nurses take care of me during the day so my parents can work, and at night so my parents can sleep -- and without their care, my parents would have to quit their jobs to take care of me. All of these expenses are just everyday medical expenses to keep me healthy, growing, and thriving.

The 407-day hospital stay I referenced earlier was split across two hospitals. The first five months of my life were spent close to home at the INOVA Fairfax neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). I was then transferred to the NICU at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for more specialized care for the remainder of my hospital stay. The combined cost of those two hospital stays tops out at over \$5,358,202.50. My parents work hard and have private insurance, but no matter how hard they work, they would never be able to afford bills as high as mine.

I am at the very start of my life. Lifetime caps could make the rest of my life challenging. I will likely always have some health challenges (although hopefully not anywhere near what I am experiencing today). The cost of my care would eventually exceed any lifetime or annual cap, as my prematurity, chronic lung disease, and pulmonary hypertension could all be considered preexisting conditions. How will I survive, go to school, go to college, or live the life my parents dream for me if I am uninsurable?

Please don't gamble with my life, my future, and the well-being of my parents by voting to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. My parents have fought for so hard for me and would do everything for me (and they have). Please don't make them give up their jobs, our house, and their dreams just to cover my health expenses.

Our lives are in your hands. Thank you for taking the time to consider my story.

Warm regards,

Josephine Grace McGovern

20 months old

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:48 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please do not repeal ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Private insurance obtained through the Affordable Care Act has saved my life. I am grateful that it is available and affordable to me in California, and would like to see the same benefits extended to every person in America.

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Because I have HIV and other health problems that are considered as pre-existing conditions, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Michael Griffin
Pasadena, California

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
<tim.schwarz@educationlawgeorgia.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Small Business

Dear Senators,

I am a lawyer, with my own firm. Since I work for myself, not some big company, employer based insurance is non-existent. I could not continue this way if I cannot access affordable, comprehensive health insurance. For the last two years, I and my son have purchased affordable insurance through the federal exchange, allowing me to continue to try to grow my business.

Additionally, school districts pay for the costs of services for severely disabled students by billing Medicaid. Cutting funding to Medicaid is cutting funds to the education of our children.

In short, I ask you to oppose the pending healthcare bill because it would make it harder to open a new business and would cut funding to schools.

Sincerely,

Tim Schwarz

Law Office of Tim Schwarz
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lee Drake [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:48 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.

Voting on this bill without a full CBO score and re-writing it days before you intend to pass it is financially, procedurally, and ethically bankrupt. Millions upon millions will be affected by this. Please take your jobs seriously as we do ours outside of DC and vote no on this devastating bill.

Brandon Drake
Denver, Colorado

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:48 PM
To: Eileen O'Connor
Cc: Judy Fletcher; gchcomments; Kami Seligman; Peter Beitchman
Subject: Re: Graham-Cassidy Comments

Wow. Beautiful. And thanks, Eileen.

On Sep 24, 2017 10:09 PM, "Eileen O'Connor" <eioc@optonline.net> wrote:

To the Health Finance Committee:

I am a family nurse practitioner working in the Bronx, where I work with many families struggling to hold themselves together. Examples include:

- The mother of 4 who was in a domestic violence situation. Her children witnessed this and suffered because of it and are in need of mental health services;
- A patient with cerebral palsy who has a 5 year old daughter and needed the help of a home health aid because she could not walk and hold her baby. She is unable to take public transportation and depends on her transportation to get to appointments;
- I have many elderly patients who are able to stay in their homes because their home attendants help with cooking, cleaning, bathing, and shopping.

I am a mother of a 23 year old daughter, who worries about paying for her health care premiums; I am one of 6 children, 2 of whom are beneficiaries of Medicaid and Social Security disability. One brother who has severe persistent asthma has prohibitively high copays and often foregoes treatment because of the expense; this is despite the fact that he works full time

supporting his family and paying for his daughters college education. One of my nephews needed to go to a 330 federally funded site in order to pay for his mental health medication.

So you see, the benefits of Medicaid and federally funded basic health care affects people in all spheres of my life. I believe that it is our duty to work hard, teach our children to care for themselves and their neighbors, to be compassionate and help others when they need help. In return, our government, who from the time we start earning our first paycheck, and continue to send one third of our income for all of our working lives in the form of taxes, should be there to be our safety net to help us stay out of poverty, to help with health care needs. This way we stay united in our sense of relationship to one another. This social contract is the basis for my getting through my day. It is now continuously threatened by those who care only about their own enrichment and see Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act as an unnecessary burden to the rest of us. I believe I speak for the majority of Americans when I say that in order to stay together as a country, we have to take care of the myriad needs of all of us in varying degrees, depending on what life throws at us. Our constitution spells it out in the first few sentences:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, **promote the general Welfare**, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We must keep these principles in mind as we find a way forward with health care. 32 million people will suffer if the Graham Cassidy Bill goes forward. We are capable of so much more than this. We must do better. #Kill the Bill.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Connor

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:45 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: The Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing about the Graham Cassidy bill. I am strongly opposed to it. I am proud to call John McCain one of our leaders at a time like this -- no bill that effects 1/6 of the US economy and the health and life over millions of Americans should be decided in such a hurried manner, with no time for bipartisan discussion, amendments, etc. The Framers of our Constitution believed in this sort of process and so should we.

Further more, and with more life and death stakes -- I have numerous so called pre-existing conditions, including diabetes. The Graham Cassidy bill despite reports to the contrary will exclude Americans with pre-existing conditions. By the most recent estimate I heard, 21 million Americans will be left without health care, a staggering and inhumane number.

My family, friends -- nearly every person I love -- will either lose healthcare or have premiums so expensive they will find it impossible to treat their cancer, their failing kidneys, to deal with so many issues. I personally am terrified of the future that this country and me personally will face if this terrible bill passes.

We have not even had a full assessment by the CBO. This is appalling given the life or death stakes.

I cannot stand idly by while politics takes my health away from me. Healthcare is a fundamental human right. The USA is the only industrialized nation with some form of socialized medicine. Now more than ever is the time for us to come together and fix our broken healthcare system. The ACA is imperfect and must be improved. By completely destroying it and changing the rules of Medicaid and shifting to Block Grants will literally kill or seriously impacts millions of citizens.

For these reasons and MORE!! I must insist that you do not support the Graham Cassidy Bill and listen to the overwhelming reaction of Americans, just like me, who do not want this dreadful bill to be passed.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Kalin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
.....

TOM KALIN

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Stephanie Ramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Stephanie Ramer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I write to express my deep opposition to the draconian, cruel and amoral Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. The sponsors of this Proposal vowed that it would replace the ACA with something better and more affordable. This Proposal fails miserably in all respects.

It has been crafted, introduced, and discussed in a deeply undemocratic manner. I demand a full and fair hearing on this legislation after it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office. The last bill scored by the CBO had an approval rating of 12%, yet this bill is moving forward and is even worse than the last bill scored.

Millions of elderly individuals and people with disabilities rely on traditional Medicaid for their lives, well-being, and independence. Although the Congressional Budget Office Analysis has not been completed for this Proposal, it is similar or worse to previous bills that would radically restructure Medicaid, kicking millions of Americans off health care. Reducing the number of insured means that thousands of people will die needlessly for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

Medicaid saves the lives of people with disabilities who rely on things like tracheotomy care, nursing care, dialysis, cancer treatments, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life-saving medications, durable medical equipment, and more to work. With health insurance through Medicaid, they live full, independent lives will be at risk. These people are our family members, our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. We are the wealthiest country in the world. We can and should provide Medicaid for the elderly and people with disabilities.

This Proposal will impact pregnant women and children, who are insured by Medicaid in high numbers. In Wisconsin, 28% of all kids are covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all US births are covered by Medicaid. For many children with disabilities and extensive health care needs, Medicaid is again lifesaving, and again, cutting it could literally put children's lives at risk. Children who receive regular health care to treat things like asthma, diabetes, and treatable medical problems fare better in school, miss fewer days of school, are more likely to graduate, and earn higher wages than those without health care.

The changes to the Affordable Care Act are also deeply troubling. The proposal opens the door to imposing pre-existing condition exclusions again, limiting essential health services, and reducing the affordability of health insurance, which will result in millions more losing health insurance they only recently gained. All studies done thus far on health outcomes for individuals newly insured through the ACA show the enormous positive impact of insured status. Many people with disabilities rely on ACA coverage when they could no longer work due to a diagnosis, but had to wait two years after a disability determination before Medicare would begin.

Many people rely on the ACA to receive cancer treatment. They owe their lives to the Affordable Care Act. I also have friends with full time jobs that did not offer health insurance and could only afford health insurance offered through the ACA with subsidies. These individuals obtained services to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, illnesses that would worsen without treatment and then require costly but are preventable. The Proposal fails to make insurance more affordable and in fact, will price ordinary Americans out of any insurance market, returning to the days when a cancer patient who couldn't work couldn't access health care, where a person with asthma couldn't afford health insurance due

to a pre-existing condition, where a person working a full-time job couldn't afford health insurance. This is not what Americans want.

I am submitting this testimony to the committee to ensure that it is entered into the official record of these proceedings. I want the record of this committee to show that those who voted for this Proposal were fully aware of its devastating and destructive impact and were told by millions of American citizens that this is not what we want.

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Wilson, Ben [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: comment against the Graham-Cassidy bill

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,

[Redacted Signature]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Sandy Guilliano [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear Congress,

I am a physical therapist, Virginian and American citizen and am appalled at legislators' disregard for patient rights, and lack of respect for health care providers. I have been a physical therapist for 20 years and in the last 2 decades have seen less and less reimbursement for the skilled services I provide to my patients. I am forced to see more patients in a day to be reimbursed less and less, while the cost of living, rent and other expenses increases. How can therapists provide high quality care when they can't pay rent because they are working harder for less pay?

When will congress focus more on the people providing and receiving health care than the insurance companies who unfairly dictate the value of services provided? Healthcare is about people, not insurance companies. Members of congress get healthcare/insurance for life. Perhaps if members of congress did not have guaranteed health care for themselves and their family, they would feel differently about how much they paid for insurance and the services they were entitled to have. It seems easy to give states the right to allow or deny coverage when the individuals writing the legislation have nothing to lose.

Please think of the people who elected members of congress when deciding on their access to health care.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandy Guilliano PT OCS WCS
Core Health LLC

[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:48 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.

Carol Janes
Moorestown, NJ

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017
Attachments: Daniel.JPG

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to let you know about the negative impact the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal will have on my son, Daniel, and so many other citizens like him.

Daniel is a 33 year old young man who is developmentally disabled and suffers from schizo-affective disorder. With the help of Medicaid Community Based Services, Daniel is able to work in his community. Medicaid helps pay for the medicines that keep him stable. The bill currently being considered would drastically reduce Medicaid payments. Block grants to the States do not guarantee that Community Based Services would be supported any longer. Without Community Based services, Daniel will not be able to work. If he doesn't work, he doesn't pay taxes, he doesn't have money to spend in the community to support local businesses.

Daniel was able to move out of our home into the community last January. He is currently living with another family member who supports him, making sure he is taking his medicine and helping with meals and other daily living activities. Someday, there may be no family to help Daniel. If Medicaid Community Based services are no longer available, Daniel will need to live in an institution, which will be far more costly to all of us.

This bill is bad for all of us, not just Daniel.

Thank you for your time.

Theresa Ellis
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Senators,

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. After long and careful study, I find it financially catastrophic for our country and its people. We can have healthy Americans AND a healthy budget. As one-sixth of our economy, healthcare must be solved with a bi-partisan solution, as it should have been from the beginning.

Country over party!
Don Haake

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: nsspiral <nsspiral@...>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy. No!

My mother is 84 - under GrahamCassidy proposed bill she will need to spend more on healthcare - and likely not have Medicaid to help with nursing home expenses when that time comes. I'm considering retirement, and do not want to pay more for equal or less 'care' on a fixed income. Many relatives have pre-existing conditions and would be punished with this bill. It's not necessary - and it's not humane.

I strongly oppose any change to healthcare that results in less care for individuals.

I don't understand the rush to 'fix' issues with Healthcare.

This country is (or was) about discussing and debating and coming to a consensus that benefits the collective individuals in our country.

I support healthcare improvements - and GrahamCassidy is not that - not for the patients and purchasers of healthcare policies - who happen to also be the voters.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Patricia Stump
Owego, NY 13827

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: G-C is a bust

You are robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Please work together with Ds and Rs to come up with a plan we can sustain. We cannot keep jumping around,. People in ALL states need consistency

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:47 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony re: Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My family relies on the quality, affordable health care that we've received through the Affordable Care Act, and for that reason oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. In 2012, I left a job that I did not like, though it had good insurance, to become a nanny, a job that I love, because I assumed I could get an individual insurance policy. But when I applied for an individual policy, I was denied due to pre-existing conditions (kidney stones and PCOS), and a height to weight ratio insurers deemed unacceptable though I was otherwise healthy. I was told that I still had a good option for insurance, Minnesota's high-risk pool's, but the premiums were far too expensive for limited benefits. In fact, it was so costly that it was cheaper for me to pay for COBRA benefits through my former employer, which was still ridiculously expensive. Fortunately, soon after my COBRA benefits ended, the ACA took effect and I was able to secure an affordable plan through MNSure for myself and my husband. My husband, who from 2008 to 2016 worked as an Independent Contractor, remodeling homes, building fences and decks, etc. had been uninsured for more than 15 years due to the cost. With the ACA we were finally able to insure him as well. As a nanny and a self-employed carpenter, my husband and I do not have access to employer insurance. We must shop on the individual market, and it is only through the Affordable Care Act that we have been able to access and afford quality health care.

If we had not had insurance through the ACA, we might not have had our daughter. Because of the ACA I was able to have a wonderful and kind OBGYN who helped us through our struggles with infertility and provided excellent prenatal and maternity care while I carried and then birthed our beautiful daughter. She is now two years old, and is able to go to the doctor for well baby checks and when she has an ear infection because of the ACA.

As with most things, I'm sure there is room for improvement with the Affordable Care Act, but I would like to see those problems fixed, rather than the entire thing repealed and replaced with such cruel legislation. Those of us with pre-existing conditions depend on the ACA. So many people depend on the care they've been able to access because of the ACA. What the Graham-Cassidy Act does will be devastating to millions of individuals and families across this country. Please, find a way to work in a bipartisan manner to address the health care crisis in this country. Please work to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Vote No on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,

Sunshine Hedlund
[REDACTED]

What do we live for if not to make life better for each other?George Elliot

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:46 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Public testimony re Graham Cassidy Hearing

I am a registered nurse working in a community health center. I provide health care to low-income, hardworking people in East San Jose. Most of our patients are the people who do the construction, domestic chores and food service that make the Silicon Valley successful and profitable and most can't afford health care. I've triaged many patients who can't get surgery for treatable conditions because their insurance will not cover their care or they have no insurance. They are left in pain, with disability, facing early death and yet continue to work to provide for their families. Providing health care for everyone is a basic function of government - a function most developed countries have been able to accomplish. I believe we are equally capable of ensuring that not one person in the United States needs to suffer because they do not have access to health care.

In addition, my family has benefited from the expansion of Medicaid. I attended school full-time to become a nurse and my husband's work didn't provide health coverage for his family. We were able to access affordable health insurance through Covered California for our children. Health insurance is an investment in our people that pays off with far-reaching benefits. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA so that more people are covered and the quality of covered services improves. This makes much more sense than an attempt to repeal it which will leave millions of people worse off.

Improve the ACA. Don't repeal it.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Statement from National Health Council
Attachments: NHC Statement for the Record SFC Hearing on Graham-Cassidy.pdf

Please see the attached statement of drastic opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal from the National Health Council.

Eric Gascho
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 61
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Putting Patients First[®] by Providing a United Voice for People with Chronic Diseases and Disabilities

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@abr.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Protect Medicaid

Dear Committee Members;
I have a adult daughter with autism spectrum disorder and a adult son with schizophrenia. Both my children struggle daily with the challenges of their disabilities. Medicaid is a godsend. Please reject Graham-Cassidy and protect our most vulnerable citizens, two of whom I love.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
S
A

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy

There was a line in a *Politico* [article](#) yesterday that I read twice, because it was such a striking detail about the state of the health care fight: “To date, not one major health care industry or advocacy group has expressed support for the Graham-Cassidy plan.”

That’s not an exaggeration and it’s no small development. Next week, the Senate is poised to vote on overhauling the American health care system, and at this point, the bill’s Republican supporters have managed to persuade no one but themselves. Medical professionals hate the Graham-Cassidy plan, as do hospital administrators and every major patient-advocacy organization in the country. To a very real extent, GOP lawmakers are going up against literally everyone who has a stake in the American health care industry.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Lynn Blakey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: Lynn Blakey; gchcomments
Subject: comments for hearings of Graham-Cassidy legislation

To whom it may concern re:comments for the hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare/ ACA/repeal bill

Thank you for asking for input on Healthcare reform. I am a 54 year old woman living in North Carolina. My family benefited greatly from the ACA, by being insured for the first time in my adult life in 2014, affordably and with excellent care. As a self employed individual it was nearly impossible to find coverage not to mention affordable coverage prior to the ACA. It just was not an option. I cannot begin tell you what a positive difference the ACA has made in my life and in the lives of friends and family.

The Graham Cassidy bill is a disaster in my opinion. My premiums as an older person will rise dramatically and the subsidy my family receives will disappear. This means I will have to drop coverage. Not a scenario I want to happen for anyone. I have family members with chronic diseases that are under control right now with simple affordable care and without care will escalate dangerously. What will we do then? My situation is not unique.

I cannot support reforms currently being discussed ie dismantling medicaid, raising premiums on older people, high risk pools etc.. Many people I know are watching very closely what the Senate will do. I should mention my mother was in a nursing home up until this May when she passed which medicaid paid for as well as for the hospice which helped her transition immensely, with peace, good medicine and compassion, literally a godsend. What will happen to the many elderly people in our country who rely on these benefits?

The list of people hurt by bills like the AHCA and Graham-Cassidy includes every sector of our society, those who are low income, children, the elderly, middle class (and even wealthier people will not benefit when they are pushed into high risk pools).

I have educated myself on this issue and continue to educate my friends and family. The ACA should stay. Work can be done to improve it. What you are planning right now is structurally unsound and honestly harmful/immoral. (slashing Medicaid by billions!) The American people want bipartisan work on healthcare and improvements to the ACA, not the dismantling of 1/6th of our economy rushed through without budgetary scoring, hearings or due diligence.

Thank you for considering my words, best of luck crafting legislation that will affect every single person in this country in such profound ways. Please listen to ordinary folks and to the many professional associations that have spoken out against Graham-Cassidy and similar legislation, for example the AMA, the AHA not to mention the AARP.

respectfully,
Lynn Blakey

Show details

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Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:12 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham Cassidy Hearing September 25, 2017

Many of my friends, family and fellow citizens rely on affordable, high quality health care. Because of this, I would like to see a bipartisan effort to IMPROVE rather than repeal the ACA.

Respectfully,

Pamela Bullen

[REDACTED]
Albany, CA

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Members of the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing you to humbly ask that you do not give support to the Graham-Cassidy Bill and vote no. I am a 36 year old mother of two young sons (2.5 years old and 1 month old) who has multiple endocrine disorders and I depend on the ACA to provide the health care I need to stay healthy and alive to take care of my young boys. I have suffered repeated miscarriages and without the proper medicine and treatment I sometimes have difficulty even getting out of bed. The ACA has made my sons lives possible and it makes sustaining my life possible. My husband and I both work multiple jobs but it's still not enough for us to afford expensive health care and the ACA has made a way for us to get care for me and have a family. Because I have so many preexisting conditions the passage of this bill would be disastrous for me. We only made 40,000 last year, there's no way we would afford to pay a premium of 25,000 plus for just me. I need medication, I need doctor's visits and I need to be able to take care of my children. If I lose my health care how I will manage the hemorrhaging, diarrhea, headaches and other physical problems?

I also have a grandmother who lives in a nursing home with Alzheimer's. If she loses the ability to stay in the home, we'll lose her completely. My mother has an autoimmune disease and is my father's caretaker. My father has COPD, MS, kidney disease, epilepsy, severe high blood pressure and Crohn's disease. We recently discovered that he has vascular dementia as well. Even with my father's Medicaid, my parents have to pay over 1,000 a month in medicines just to keep him alive. Thankfully because of Medicaid and disability we are able to keep him alive. If Medicaid is reduced or destroyed there's no way that my father will be able to live. He requires too much care and medicine and I don't believe that his poor health means he deserves to die.

I ask that you please do not support the Graham-Cassidy bill. Vote no and encourage your friends and colleagues in the Senate to do the same. This bill will rob my family of our most precious treasure, our lives and the lives of our family members. Please vote NO!

Thank you,
Kari Rothstein

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:11 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Don't repeal the ACA

I am a concerned citizen who struggled for 15 years as an entrepreneur. Even though my business provided me and my young child with income, it was almost impossible to find health care insurance and when I did it was extraordinarily expensive. I lived in fear of losing coverage knowing that my pre existing condition of spinal problems would prevent further coverage.

When the ACA came along it saved me from bankruptcy because it covered my unexpected surgery and I knew that I could not be rejected. No more night terrors with fear of losing coverage.

Please have mercy on the citizens of this country and help us keep affordable health care coverage.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Kara Leach
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:11 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. And as a 48 year old woman with several pre-existing conditions, there's no possible way I could afford coverage. As an American and as a Christian, I beg you NOT to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,
Kara Leach
New Orleans, LA 70118

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Cc: duckworth@senate.gov
Subject: Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am writing today asking you for a "NO" vote on the proposed Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill.

My husband is 40 years old and a cancer survivor. He has a permanent t feeding tube and a history of epilepsy. I am 69 years old, and also a colo-rectal cancer survivor. I have a permanent colostomy.

We are fortunate to have healthcare today, but premiums are over a thousand dollars a month. While we would like to pay less and have lower deductibles, we are scared of losing our insurance if Graham-Cassidy is passed into law!

Our pre-existing conditions are exactly what would price us out of affordable insurance under this proposed law.

Please save Healthcare for vulnerable Americans! Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy!

Thank You!

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:11 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.

I recognize that the beginning of this note is a form letter, and you will, too. That does not mean that my opposition is insincere. I view the proposed legislation as disastrous for our country. I would urge the Republican Party to stop trying to force poorly-crafted and irresponsibly-considered legislation onto the American people. Not only is it horrific that you keep attempting to gut the ACA with no adequate replacement; you keep trying to smuggle massive entitlement reform of traditional Medicaid into your efforts, even though the President did not run on that platform and the vast majority of the American people do not want it.

The healthcare wars will not end until Congress grows up. It is time to engage in bipartisan negotiation and debate. Senators Murray and Alexander were well on the way to achieving a maturely-rendered end based on compromise and debate; abandon the horrific legislation represented by Graham-Cassidy and resume those talks.

Best,

Tiffany C. Graham
Sioux Falls, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Cassidy Graham

Aside from the blatant attempted bribery of key senators on this bill, the legislation would eviscerate my coverage and render it unaffordable. I have a fine, \$700 per month policy under ACA. I'm 62 and take four medicines daily.. Missouri could cause my premiums to become unaffordable and there are no guarantees my existing illnesses would have to be covered. Why are senators trying to kill my coverage? My life expectancy will drop hugely if I am not covered for my conditions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
46

Sent from my iPad

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: A [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To whomever it may concern:

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, both personally and professionally. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a Physician Assistant who works in family medicine in a rural community in Oregon. The ACA provides desperately needed affordable coverage for many of my patients who would otherwise be unable to afford it or be excluded due to pre-existing conditions.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Or better yet I would love to see Medicare for all. Because I believe healthcare is a human right, not a luxury for those who can afford it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Armstrong, PA-C
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Todd Stone [mailto:stone@stg.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Vote No on Graham-Cassidy

The current bill in front of Congress to repeal the ACA, will likely send the economy into a tailspin. With millions being thrown off their insurance and more and more unable to get affordable Care, the financial cascade failure in the US economy will be laid at the feet of the Republican Senators who vote for this bill.

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: le squ [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:10 PM
To: gchcomments
Subject: Please vote NO

Please vote "NO" on the Graham/Cassidy bill. I am 25 years old. Last year at work I twisted in my seat and a horrible pain radiated in my back and I could not stand or walk. My mother came and got me and took me to the ER. After an MRI, I learned that I had 6 herniated disks in my back and I have had this for years. I knew for years that I would get many backaches but they were manageable. I have received steroid shots in my back 2 times and will soon have to have extensive surgery. With my story, if pre-existing conditions are not covered, a year ago I would not have been able to afford going to a spinal specialist or get my shots. This would have been considered a pre-existing condition at that time even though I was not aware of the massive extent of the condition of my back. I work and pay taxes and I have insurance through my employer. If pre existing conditions are not covered in the future, I will be unable to afford to see my spinal specialist and will be unable to work and become a burden on the taxpayers instead of being a tax payer. Please vote "NO".

Wright, Kevin (Finance)

From: Marlene Glaser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:07 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.

Marlene Glaser
Birmingham, AL

[REDACTED]