

**Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Graham-Cassidy Bill on Monday, Sept. 25th**  
*From Margaret Kilgore, [REDACTED] Branford, CT 06405*

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 32 million losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

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

**Commented [AB1]:** Only include this if you are a state that expanded Medicaid. You can pull state-specific numbers from the Avalere report, if it's helpful:

<http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>

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

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

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

**Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

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

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

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."<sup>1</sup> And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would

<sup>1</sup> "Fitch: Latest ACA Bill Includes Medicaid Repeal and Replace Provisions for States", <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/pr/1029238>.

**Commented [AB2]:** Only include this entire paragraph if you state expanded Medicaid. You can pull state-specific numbers from the Avalere report here:

<http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta>

drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

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

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

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

**Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

**Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.**

We believe that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their health. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to have an open and deliberative process that would allow for a true evaluation of and meaningful input on the

policies in this proposal that would affect millions of people and one sixth of the US economy. We encourage a return to “regular order,” as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including industry experts, providers, consumers and state policymakers to weigh in.

**Allison Scobie-Carroll**, LICSW, MBA, President  
**Rebekah Gewirtz**, MPA, Executive Director

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The MA Chapter of NASW (National Association of Social Workers) is the largest professional social work organization in the state. In representing social workers that serve clients in many settings that benefit from the Affordable Care Act, we strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. We are very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will:

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

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for clients and will likely result in approximately 665,000 Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.<sup>1</sup> Below, we've laid out in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on social workers and clients and communities served by social workers.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Many clinicians are able to provide vital services to these populations because of the ACA. It has provided clinicians alternatives to seeing clients in a traditional waiting room and office, including in-home behavioral health services for children and offering childcare at organizations to see parents.

#### **Threatens care for low-income seniors, children, clients with substance use disorders and people living with disabilities**

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% (\$1,079 billion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force

**Allison Scobie-Carroll**, LICSW, MBA, President  
**Rebekah Gewirtz**, MPA, Executive Director

Massachusetts to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

**Cuts to Medicaid would leave clients with substance use disorders without access to the most effective treatments for addiction and to life-saving overdose medicine, and since Massachusetts is at the height of an opioid crisis, these services are crucial.** Seniors and people living with disabilities would also face painful cuts, since Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term services and supports. Community Based Services - the services that keep people with cognitive and physical impairments home and in their communities - are “optional” in Medicaid. Community Based Services help to keep clients out of hospitals by utilizing these low-cost, least restrictive measures and truly meets the client where they are, which is a central value in social work.

#### **Increases premiums and out-of-pocket costs**

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA’s marketplaces. Our clients are already facing hurdles to find and keep mental health and medical providers and this would make those hurdles twice as large. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent.

Beyond the impact of this proposal on individuals, insurers currently selling in the Health Connector would face extreme uncertainty. Because this proposal allows states to change the market reform rules under the ACA and because there are no requirements or standards on how states must use the block granted money, insurers would likely face completely unpredictable risk pools. To make up for this uncertainty, insurers would likely impose large premium increases to protect themselves from unpredictable claims costs or choose to exit the marketplace completely. This means that clients who purchase coverage on the individual market would likely have fewer coverage options, much higher premiums and no guarantee of financial assistance to shield them from the increasing out-of-pocket costs. **This would leave thousands of individuals not seeking medical care and treatment when they need it the most.**

#### **Eliminates critical client protections**

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important client protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. **This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care.** This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or clients with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.


Allison Scobie-Carroll, LICSW, MBA, President  
Rebekah Gewirtz, MPA, Executive Director

**Does not provide opportunity for client input**

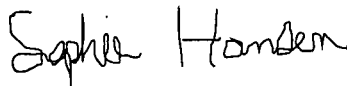
NASW-MA wholeheartedly believes that every individual has a right to unimpeded access to services with a full understanding of what those services entail before engaging in them. With only one hearing scheduled days before a possible vote, and without a full CBO score to properly evaluate the budgetary and coverage loss impacts, it is impossible to be truly informed in how this would affect clients and the clinicians that work with them. We encourage a return to "regular order," as requested by many members of the Senate and supported by the American public, which would require the opportunity for stakeholders, including providers, clients and state policymakers to weigh in.

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

Sincerely,



Rebekah Gewirtz, MPA  
Executive Director



Sophie Hansen, LCSW  
Political Director

## Why Medicaid Matters

Our angel, Tomás (Toh-máhs), was born in 1998 and diagnosed with lissencephaly when he was four months old. His mother had a typical pregnancy and birth. Nothing was amiss until he just didn't start smiling when he should have. His parents waited and waited and waited for that smile! But instead, he started making subtle, strange movements which turned out to be infantile spasms. His parents were so confused and scared, thinking he was blind or autistic. His pediatrician at the time refused to believe that it was even a slight developmental delay. His parents finally took him to the Hopkins ER. A simple CT scan—that was supposed to rule out anything bad—showed that his brain did not



develop and could not develop much more. The doctors at Johns Hopkins said he had lissencephaly and would live until about two years of age. He's now 18 years old and going strong! He is severely disabled: he has a g-tube, j-tube, seizure disorder, has to sleep with bipap, he cannot sit up on his own and needs a wheelchair to help him sit up properly and in a correct orthopedic position. He takes many medications and treatments for his lungs and seizures. We had to adapt his bedroom and bathroom for wheelchair accessibility. He will always need diapers. He needs 100% TOTAL CARE—forever.

Yet Tomás has a beautiful soul that teaches us something new all the time. How has he made it to age 18, almost 19? Love ... and amazing health care: the Maryland Model Waiver program, which is a Medicaid program. Maryland Medical Assistance pays for everything that his primary insurance doesn't cover: home nursing so that Tomás's parents can work; diapers; tube feeding; copays on all his medications and all his equipment. Before Tomás was on the Model Waiver, his parents were paying \$500 OUT OF POCKET for all his monthly prescription copays. MDMA pays for this and picks up the 20% that BCBS doesn't pay. When you have a child with severe medical needs, without a second insurance, you will pay thousands of dollars every year out of pocket, depending on your primary insurance's contract, if you are lucky to get it. When Tomás's mother first started working at her job, Tomás was newly diagnosed but his mom took the job because the organization permitted him to be on the insurance even though he had a preexisting condition. They didn't have to do that because in 1999, the law ("Obamacare") did not yet protect him. His mom's previous employer didn't cover his seizure treatment (ketogenic diet) because it was not considered a "prescription" item. The new employer did. Then in 2013, Tomás needed spinal fusion surgery. He spent 61 days in the Hopkins PICU. That entire ordeal cost about a half million dollars, and he also almost paid with his life. We had to make intubation decisions in the moment, several times. Thanks to the ACA, there is now no lifetime cap on his treatment. Kids like Tomás were not supposed to live past age two, but now thanks to technology and good health care, he survived. That's the opposite of a death panel; that's a chance at LIFE for Tomás AND HIS PARENTS AND FAMILY. Suffering and sickness will never go away. But we can manage them and care for those in need through strong Medicaid programs NO MATTER WHICH STATE AN AMERICAN LIVES IN. I write to share my opinion, by my family's living with disability and Medicaid, that we are stronger when we support vulnerable citizens and their families. DO NOT DEFUND MEDICAID WITH BLOCK GRANTS. DO NOT REPEAL & REPLACE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. There is no greater priority than health care. Congress: stop the childish fighting and SUPPORT and STRENGTHEN MEDICAID AND THE ACA.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Allegra DiNetta <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I believe in quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a pre-existing condition and a heart condition that could become fatal. Without treatment it is likely I would have a stroke or become disabled and be a much bigger tax drain. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Allegra DiNetta  
Newark, DE

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Achey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA, One more time!

The ACA is not perfect but, in my view, fixable. And I was extremely hopeful when bipartisan discussions headed by Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray were occurring. Unfortunately, these discussions were sidelined by the latest attempt to repeal ACA – the Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill.

Sadly, I have to speak up again and again or my family will suffer. I should not have to send one more email!

When I was in the workforce I was greatly disturbed when some of my employees were stuck in their existing jobs because of a pre-existing health problem. These were good people who wanted to move to a better job but could not do so because of their pre-existing health problems. Thus, when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed, it was a real relief because I knew this type of discrimination was over.

Now, pre-existing health conditions and CAPS is a real personal concern. I have three grandsons; two of the three have autism and one has a heart murmur. My daughter gets her health insurance through her employer with whom she has been 20 years. She isn't planning on making a career change but things such as acquisitions, mergers, etc. happen that often force new employment. The ACA protects health care for my grandsons at an affordable cost.

My grandsons have a first cousin who is less than 2 YO and has already had 2 open heart surgeries and will be needing more. His father isn't Jimmy Kimmel; both his father and mother work to support the family; therefore, the ACA protections for this boy are necessary.

I am extremely appreciative of my Senators – Senator Kaine and Senator Warner – who both recognize the importance of the ACA for Virginians and all Americans.

I urge the Senate to correct the problems with ACA rather than repealing it. Correction should be possible and will ensure that many, many individuals do not lose their health insurance.

Thank you,  
Anne Achey

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*Anne Achey*  
[REDACTED]  
*Round Hill, VA* [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tawnya Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being considered in the Senate.

Graham-Cassidy destroys all the ACA protections that make health care REALISTICALLY AFFORDABLE. How dare you erase them for nothing more than partisan politics or quid pro quo payments to wealthy campaign donors?!

Is my niece, fighting for her life against LEUKEMIA, worth less than your Republican pride? Lifetime caps would mean selling her life--and the lives of thousands of seriously ill children--in exchange for "keeping a campaign promise" no one wants kept!

Are my AUTISTIC children worth nothing compared to political points? Eliminating coverage for mental health and occupational therapies would deny them the ability to become contributing members of society!

What of my Air Force veteran father-in-law, with a heart valve defect? Are his years of service to this country worth less than your narrow-hearted need to "win?" Ripping away protections for pre-existing conditions would literally be a death sentence!

Will you force the horrific choice between necessary medical care or bankruptcy onto over 30M American families? Are you that far removed from Christian morality?

I beg you to let go of partisanship, even if \*just this once\*. Abandon Graham-Cassidy, work on the bipartisan fix to health care that was already underway.

Please put the welfare of the American citizens you were elected to represent and took an oath to protect. PLEASE SAVE OUR LIVES by voting AGAINST Graham-Cassidy!

Yours in hope,  
Tawnya Jones, TN

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Libby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** From a NP who takes care of the uninsured in SC

My patients deserve better, granted they tell me that I give them better care than they get from most offices and when they do get Medicaid they cannot find a doctor because they are too complicated; but I am not a surgeon and I cannot fix everything wrong with them. I am a nurse practitioner with a population of some of the sickest patients in town.

I care for the poor and uninsured with chronic disease problems at 2 different clinics for patients in Aiken, Orangeburg and Calhoun County in South Carolina. As you know the state did not expand Medicaid. They created the Healthy Outcomes Program; known as HOP and my clinic in Aiken is the model for the state free clinics. Why? Because we care about what we do and work as a team to meet the needs of these patients. We have expectations; if you get everything for free you play by our rules. Simple; come to your appointments-3 strikes you're out; don't display behavior consistent with substance abuse and if you do; get treatment and behave when we send you to the specialists that agree to help us. My expectations for improvement for your health include: eat healthy, lose weight if needed, exercise, don't smoke or drink to excess or use drugs, take your medications as ordered, if you need to see a mental health provider go and find purpose in your life: if not working why not? And if nothing else is working have you tried church? I see nothing wrong with telling a patient that they are killing themselves with the 100 or so extra pounds they are carrying around--- after all you wouldn't put 2 tons of stuff in a ½ ton pickup and be surprised when the springs wear out? I am relentless but they know I care about them. My patients have actually told me that I care more about them than they do themselves.

So what do I see as how we can fix this?

- 1) Stop promising we can fix self-inflicted health problems. We need a national discussion about knee pain and I don't mean about the type of hardware that goes into knee replacements. Put the responsibility back on the patient and forget about their feelings. They choose to eat badly and then expect it to be fixed. That must change. It is a large reason for excessive Medicare costs.
- 2) Many of my patients are age 45-64; worked hard their whole life and are worn out. They never learned to use a computer; they maybe never got their GED and the only path they see for themselves is disability. I work very hard to point out options. We are rural, without transportation often and lack of access to education hubs found at SC DEW as seen below:  
<https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/workshop-calendars> I pass out this information at many a visit. But how to do I get someone there who wants to go? Transportation is an issue. Furthermore, I am toying with finding out how to make attendance a requirement for those who use the Aiken ER repeatedly. If you think you cannot work can Vocational Rehab do an assessment to determine your readiness for work? It sadly often isn't that they don't want to it often is inability to find work at what was done before and no skills to build on for a new career.
- 3) And then I have patients who work 50-70 hours a week maybe more than 1 job and cannot afford insurance. I pay a lot for Obama-care so I can work 2 part time jobs that change lives. My insurance for my husband and myself is \$1800/month. You are right about lowering costs.
- 4) Sadly most of the healthcare costs of Medicaid and Medicare are in the last 6 months of life. Stop doing extensive measures to prolong life because you will prolong death. Stop letting physicians make promises and bring in nurses to help the discussion focus on the facts. The patient's family hears 2/10 chance for life to mean life. They don't know that means 2 months of the vent in the ICU, 4 months in rehab if you are lucky. I worked as an ICU nurse at Emory Crawford Long 31-ICU for 5 years. You either went to glory or rehab from that unit. Death was something we knew and accepted far faster than the doctors I worked with; I learned how to involve the family in the care to let them realize the futility of the treatment plan. And I did not pursue a masters degree in critical care because that is like putting a band-aid on a hemorrhage.

- 5) Look at the Veterans for Seniors; the VA aid and attendance program and pay family members to take care of their loved ones in the home. It is cheaper and more caring than an old age ghetto (nursing home).
- 6) Drug costs, I can get good medications for blood pressure and diabetes for free from [www.Welvista.org](http://www.Welvista.org), [www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org) and we have an inpatient pharmacy at Aiken (the model for the state) that as an unlimited use of meds from Ministry of Hope for a yearly fee. I go to Wal-Mart and Publix and use [www.goodrx.org](http://www.goodrx.org) to find meds that are affordable. I cannot just write a script. I have to be sure they can afford it. But there is no reason why we cannot bring down drug costs but let me be perfectly clear that means ya'll need to have the cojones to negotiate with the drug companies. You have not and did you know that every single doctors office in this country gets a catered lunch for 20 people every single day? Why? Because we have allowed the drug pushers to do it. My free meds are their response to excessive costs. But you know we could do better by letting Medicare negotiate.
- 7) Now the specialists. Why don't you let the doctors get a tax break for care provided from patients who are poor? They would more likely to provide reduced fees if they got some kind of compensation. I need a host of specialists and each patient who sees one is a campaign that we have achieved. I have a few that really help but most want \$500.00 before they will see the patient. I am lucky that the doctors will answer questions and so I get a lot of informal consults with a text but I still have a large number of unmet needs.

I would love for you to come and meet my patients, I keep inviting Senator Graham but he has not showed up. Hear from them. Meet the lady that needs a hysterectomy and cannot get it despite her abnormal pap smear that may become cancer and spread to nearby normal tissue if not treated. Meet the guy who lost 100 pounds but still has a previous fracture that never healed right and needs surgical input. Meet the blind lady who finally has a disability hearing after 8 years (thanks Senator Graham). Hear their stories and know that I provided more than just medical care; my team provided CARE when they needed it- a hand up not a hand out. And remember the words of Jesus:

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*" Acts 20:35

'For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Matthew 25:42-45

I would be glad to talk more about my patients and why I care, call me at [REDACTED]

Libby Seal APRN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cyndy White <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill...

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a Virginia constituent and a registered voter for 40 years.

Please do not allow Graham-Cassidy to be passed. Too many American lives depend on AHCA or Medicare For All. Please!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lucille White

[REDACTED]  
Virginia Beach, VA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kristof Aldenderfer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** About the Graham Cassidy Bill

I and my family rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would not be getting treated nasty allergies now, nor would I have been able to afford surgery on my ankle four years ago, without access to affordable healthcare due in no small part to the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Kristof Aldenderfer  
Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erika Leaf <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't gut our healthcare

Dear Senators,

If Graham-Cassidy passes, our whole economy will be disrupted as many medicaid funded nursing homes, disability support programs and hospitals are forced out of business, causing a domino effect of jobs that disappear and family members who have to quit to care for their loved ones themselves. And of course all the suffering it would cause directly to the people who will lose care should be unconscionable to anyone with a pulse. Please don't scare us with any more of these threatening bills that would wreck the fragile safety net vulnerable families have now.

Sincerely,

Erika Leaf  
concerned citizen and entrepreneur



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** C. R. Resetarits <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Please NO on Graham-Cassidy. My neice is working three jobs right now -- none of which include healthcare -- but she can hobble enough together to pay for ACA. She is 28. She is just trying very hard to make her way in the world on her own. Isn't this the American way. We should be helpful and encouraging not hateful and small.

Thanks you

Cheryl Rogers Resetarits

[REDACTED]e  
Oxford, MS [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** David Lima <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** What a reprehensible bill!

For many personal reasons I am opposed to passage of this bill. How mean-spirited. How selfish of the Republican party to take away what should be a human right to benefit the few wealthy donors. For-profit insurance is the main problem as I see it. No one should be making money based on the health of human beings. If you were brave and thinking about your constituents (the people in your community not corporations & wealthy donors) you would work to fix what appears to be wrong with the ACA. If this bill passes, I and many will be affected negatively. I feel you don't care. How sad.

Do the right thing in the end. Kill this bill.

David Lima  
Cranston RI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kim Kelley [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** This vote

I cannot believe anyone would approve this bill. This will hurt 32 million people with pre existed illnesses. I am 46 and just had a kidney transplant. ACA afforded me to live, receive my life saving medication and not be a financial burden on my family. If you do this we will remember come voting time. We will remember the lack of empathy you had for the sick and I, personally will not stop. I will rise up and fight for my rights. No one should have to choose to either pay their premiums or eat. You, Republicans only want to take a mans name off of one of the best things that has happened, you only want to win and in the process of that have forgotten there are real life people here that could be dying due to your policies. Stop this madness and start thinking about the well being of our people. STOP

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ruth Holton-Hodson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy

Dear Members

Please do not destroy Medicaid. Cutting billions from the program no matter how creative the states get will leave millions of elderly, disabled and sick Americans with no where to turn. 60% of nursing home care is paid through Medicaid-what is suppose to happen to everyone in nursing homes. It is time to return to regular order, to get back to a democratic process and pursue a bipartisan solution to improve and fix Obamacare. Please for the sake of the millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid for their health care vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Thank you

Ruth Holton Hodson.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rebecca Schroeder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** David Elin  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy

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

As someone who has a 10 year old child with cystic fibrosis, the current health care debate in Washington is personal to me. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive tract, leading to frequent lung infections and other complications. The current life expectancy for someone with CF is about 40 years.

On the outside, my son Brady seems just like every other 4<sup>th</sup> grade student. He attends public school, plays the piano, and enjoys video games and comics. No one could look at him and guess that he requires approx. \$420K in prescription medications annually, and a team of care specialists to successfully manage cystic fibrosis. When Brady has access to the care and medication he desperately needs—he leads a very normal life. Without access to care and medication—Brady’s cystic fibrosis would quickly become a death sentence. One of my son’s medications in particular, has been like a miracle for his disease. The drug, Kalydeco, has added immeasurable quality of life, and is anticipated to add DECADES to Brady’s life expectancy. That drug retails for over \$30K/mo. If insurers were given the room to re-impose lifetime caps on coverage, my son would be out of luck in just a few short years. Please don’t let this amazing American innovation go to waste. Brady is the smartest kid you will ever meet. He needs to be given the opportunity to grow up and change the world.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal, which the Senate is expected to vote on next week, is unacceptable for people living with CF and other chronic conditions. People with CF require a complex and demanding care regimen, and need access to high-quality, specialized care. **I urge all U.S. Senators to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** because it would roll back protections for people with CF and jeopardize their access to affordable, adequate health care coverage.

**The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to protect our community and is absolutely unacceptable for people with CF because it would:**

- a. **Remove full pre-existing condition protections for people with CF** by allowing insurers to set premiums based on an individuals’ health status. This may put insurance coverage financially out of reach for some people with CF and prevent them from accessing critical health care.
- b. **Eliminate Medicaid expansion and drastically cut funding for the program** by instituting a per capita cap or a state block grant system, putting coverage of new and innovative treatments at risk. Medicaid provides a critical source of health care coverage for one half of children and one third of adults with CF. We must preserve this safety net by retaining expanded eligibility and ensuring adequate funding for Medicaid.
- c. **Remove protections against annual and lifetime coverage caps**, including for the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored insurance, by making it easier for states to amend Essential Health Benefits standards. Health care costs can accumulate very quickly for people with CF, making it very easy to reach annual or lifetime caps. The results of these caps can be devastating – leaving people with CF stranded without any coverage – and our community needs the protections against these caps to be kept in place.

- d. **Allow states to waive Essential Health Benefits.** Eliminating the guarantee of essential health benefit coverage for individual insurance plans would segment the market into plans for sick people and plans for healthy people. This would likely drive up the cost of plans needed by people with CF, which provide more robust benefits.

While the Senate has considered several similar bills this year, Graham-Cassidy is the worst for people with preexisting conditions like CF, cancer, asthma, diabetes, or arthritis. Our health care system is far from perfect, but I refuse to believe any changes must come at the expense of the people who rely most on adequate, affordable health insurance.

I urge all US Senators to please keep families like mine in mind as you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Schroeder

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda Grassia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I am sending testimony as to how my family would be impacted by the Medicaid cuts to the state of NY included in the Graham Cassidy bill.

In 2007, my daughter was 19. She caught a virus in college that attacked her nervous system and developed a condition called dysautonomia. Dysautonomia makes it hard for the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system to do its job. It regulates blood pressure, heart rate, sleep/wake cycles, body temperature regulation, digestion. This illness, which is difficult to diagnose and treat, can be brought on by an immune system response such as Lyme as well.

My daughter Andria cannot work. She had to leave her job in college, and ultimately finish her B.A. online. She is unable to work because of the many symptoms she has in a single day. The medicate for this is limited, and to keep her blood pressure stable she eats large amounts of salt and drinks a lot of water. Still she suffers from exhaustive fatigue, and from her low blood pressure, she is dizzy all the time and must rest frequently if she even walks a little. Her symptoms are similar to someone with congestive heart failure. She has insurance only through the Medicaid expansion and she is not eligible for Social Security, having only worked part time in high school and her first year of college. If she were to lose her insurance, she would lose access to college. She is now nearly 30 and lives with her parents. We support her with food and a roof over her head, but could never pay her medical insurance or most of her bills as we are on a fixed income as retirees.

Families like ours, who worked our whole lives and paid taxes, when we run into trouble should not have to beg for this lifeline.

Please consider this testimony of Graham Cassidy on families like mine. There are many I know who have elderly parents in nursing homes and are retired themselves. Medicaid is paying their nursing home, and in some cases they are Medicaid/Medicare themselves with very low fixed retirement Social Security.

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to speak about my daughter's illness. There are about one million people in the US with dysautonomia, many of them young women. I am sure our story about Medicaid is not unique.

Linda Grassia  
[REDACTED]

Somers, NY [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nat Dodge <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please represent all Americans

Healthcare is too important and complex to prioritize politics over policy. Members of the Republican Party acknowledge that this bill is more about a campaign promise than doing what's right for the American people. With virtually all healthcare stakeholders opposed to this legislation and process to advance (and more importantly the majority of Americans), even the politics look bad. Furthermore, the deliberate targeting of "blue states" is un-American; and reinforces the Administration's use of lies and falsehoods to spread a message of intolerance and hate.

It would seem that the easier path is that of a leader, and making choices that benefit our country as a whole. Please step back and advance a bi-partisan process to tackle the complex and critical challenges of healthcare policy.

Thank you,

Nat  
[REDACTED]



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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Trudy V. M. Gygi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Input on the Graham-Cassidy bill from Colorado

Hello,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have a cardiac condition that, under the GC bill, could either preclude me from having care or allow insurers to increase prices for my coverage that would put my family and I in a position to lose our home in order to keep my care. I work part-time, and I am not covered by my employer because I don't work enough hours. However, my three children rely upon quality health care.

All Americans deserve quality, affordable health care regardless of their economic or personal health situation. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Trudy V. M. Gygi

[REDACTED]  
Louisville, CO

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joan Duffy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I have health care! My friends and family have health care. Because of the ACA.

Do not approve of the Graham Cassidy bill. Too many people would lose healthcare. Also, many state governments are not reliable (I live in Illinois) and would screw up any health system.

No, no on Graham Cassidy.

Joan Duffy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deevy Holcomb [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy- Oppose

Good morning,

I am writing to share that I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill in content and method.

Many of my family members work hard and do not receive employment related health care. My brother has autism and relies on the subsidized health care he receives through the ACA. My state cannot provide this coverage without ACA.

ACA isn't perfect. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve it, not repeal it. This attempt to push through an overarching and fundamental shift with simple majority is cynical and hypocritical.

Sincerely,

Deevy Holcomb

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alisha Bennett [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and I all rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with affordable health care is how I can afford to live, go to work every day and pay my bills. It has allowed me for prevention of potential cervical cancer and other illnesses. Without affordable health care, I could have had more terminal illnesses. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Alisha Bennett  
New York, New York

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jesse <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

As a father, husband, and family member to many with preexisting conditions who would be negatively affected by Graham Cassidy, and as an American who believes our country is stronger when people have accessible and affordable health care that would be imperiled by this bill, I strongly urge you to reject it. Health care is not something that you use to make political points or settle scores. It is integral to people's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Focus on the real implications of this bill and kill it immediately.

Jesse Ellis  
Fairfax, Va

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer Grochowski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** we deserve better

The American people deserve to have a CBO score, public hearings, opportunities for committee markups, and much more time to digest a change that will impact every person in America and 1/6 of economy. Trying to ram the Graham Cassidy Bill through without following these procedures is an appalling disregard to the American citizen.

This bill should not be brought to vote/voted down.

Jennifer Grochowski

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cyrelle Gerson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill--Statement for the Record on the Finance Committee Hearing

Comments on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill--Statement for the Record on the Finance Committee Hearing

I stand with Senator Mark Warner in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. This bill would eliminate the guarantee of affordable coverage for pre-existing conditions. That would be a big step backwards for the American people.

My child and many of the children of my friends are now in their mid-twenties and about to be or recently became 26 years old. They are faced with the necessity of finding their own health insurance and many have pre-existing conditions -- conditions that are not necessarily life threatening but that require treatment or medications to allow them to lead fully productive lives. They need the guarantee that employers will offer group health insurance. They need the guarantee that they will not forever be discriminated against in obtaining affordable health insurance because of conditions that started in childhood or even were congenital.

There have been many ideas put forward in the Congress and elsewhere about how to guarantee affordable health care to all. Congress needs to allow the HELP committee and others to consider all ideas and to develop a humane, bipartisan bill to either reform, if possible, or replace the Affordable Care Act.

The current motivations on the part of Republicans seem to be retaliation against President Obama under whom the ACA passed and the desire to see fewer poor people covered because it's too expensive to guarantee care for the weakest members of our society. The notion of passing a bill that was cooked up in secret without study on the implications of its impact to health and well-being as well as financial and without hearings and bipartisan input is ridiculous and downright un-American.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyrelle Gerson  
Arlington, Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mfontanesi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller in favor of a single-payer system like all other developed countries. 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.

Matt Fontanesi  
San Diego, CA

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no

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

Angela Dufresne

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara & Mike Vezeau <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** Fred Reisz  
**Cc:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: I Oppose the Curent Health Care Bill which You Are Considering

FRED - Agree with many of your points...and I'm very pleased to see Sen John McCain splitting from his "pal," our Sen Lindsey Graham on this latest legislative attempt to repeal the ACA. Take care, MIKE VEZEAU

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 12:21 PM, Fred Reisz <[freisz1@cs.com](mailto:freisz1@cs.com)> wrote:  
My opposition in part is based on the following objections:

1. The process for considering the bill has been very limited and mostly behind closed doors without inviting the Democrats to participate.
2. I understand that on the floor of the senate, there are 95 seconds of debate scheduled for this bill affecting one sixth of our economy. If true, that I a mockery of participatory democracy.
3. There is not time for a full Congressional Budget Office assessment of the implications of the bill. We should have the facts.
4. It appears that up to 32 million people will lose their health insurance because this bill has similarities to past bills which were "scored" by the CBO..
5. You push the issue of guaranteed coverage for preexisting conditions back on the states with options of them to opt out of that, and there are not assurances for "affordable" coverage for such people.
6. You do not assure affordable insurance for people with preexisting conditions and both my wife and I have had cancer. We and other people may be will be hanging out there without affordable health insurance..
7. Many of your answers to questions raised such as the above given to various media are half truths tying to deceive the public.
8. The bill is opposed by Directors of Medicaid in all the states.
9. The bill shifts major amounts of money from Democrat voting states to Republican voting states. This is a cynical political maneuver playing with the health and welfare of people.
10. This is a deeply flawed bill in a deeply flawed process which can result in less health care and more expensive health care for millions of people and you block all public assessment by the CBO to let the public know that.

SHAME! ....for publicly verifiable reasons.

Dr. H. Frederick Reisz, Jr.

[REDACTED]  
Bluffton, SC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rosemary Callahan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern-

I rely on quality affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill. I have pre-existing conditions that, if not treated, I would be unable to work or pay taxes. I have severe depression and without affordable medication and therapy, I would be unable to work. Last year I paid over \$4000 in taxes, this is compared to the approximately \$8000 I would have received in disability payments if I were unable to work due to illness. I am one of 9.8 million Americans who experiences a serious mental illness in a given year that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Callahan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir,

I as a taxpayer am against this bill. For one republicans sabotaged this bill from the beginning. This was an intention knowing this would provide leverage to remove it.

We have worst drug crisis and funding will be cut.

Mental health services will be cut.

Families will loose insurance.

Money being shifted for self serving purpose for re-election and not for Heath of the people.

Block grants will not work will be used for re-election purposes.

No no no

Laura t smith new castle nh

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Vicki Eicher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham -Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the impact of the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill, and urge you to oppose it!!

I have worked with people with illness and disabilities for the past 43 years, and specifically with people who have sustained brain injuries and neurologic diseases for the past 36 years. I know all too well that the recovery they make, and the quality of life they can achieve, is directly linked to the insurance and resource coverage they have. Some are lucky, many are not. Many rely on the services and supports provided through Medicaid programs, either because they did not have resources prior to their injuries, or because the care required by their injuries drained their monies. I also know that ALL of them will have "pre-existing" conditions for the rest of their lives.

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill will gut the Medicaid program and pit one disability group against another through block grants. Furthermore, relying on States to decide how to treat pre-existing conditions gives no protection to those individuals with pre-existing conditions. We all know that the policies of any give State can change drastically based on the times and financial strains of that State – and it is usually the people who are in most need who get cut out in the process.

So again I strongly urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I know we need health care reform, but it should come as no surprise to any of us that this is complicated, and deserves a reasoned, measured, bi-partisan effort to address what will affect every citizen in the country!

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Vicki Eicher, MSW

[REDACTED]  
Downingtown, PA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Allison Pryor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

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,

Allison Pryor

Rochester, NY

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: The abomination that is the Graham-Cassidy Bill

*"The first wealth is health." – Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Dear Members of the House and Senate of the 115th Congress:

The Constitution you each swore to uphold demands, in its very Preamble, to "Promote the General Welfare" of the citizens of this nation. Our Founding Fathers understood that the stability of any nation rests on the health and well being of its citizenry.

You who support this Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill, and any like it, are officially in Violation of your sworn oath of office.

This bill is a Declaration of War against your own people. It is a blueprint for mass-murder to rival that of the Third Reich; no other nation in living memory since Nazi Germany has ever contemplated legislation this willfully heinous. The Nazis killed over 16M people in WW2. The 115th Congress is on track right now to double that figure.

It is a violation of the UN Charter of Human Rights. The Secretary-General of the UN has spoken against a previous version of it.

This bill is a Declaration of War on the American people - it will negatively impact our national security and our economic future; it will give aid and comfort to our enemies, which is the definition of treason.

If this bill is passed, the results will constitute a war crime. What do we do, what have we as a Nation done in the past with other war criminals? Nuremberg trials, anyone? Guantanamo?

You who vote for this bill will deserve their fate.

All America will be watching this vote. We may not have as much wealth as your precious billionaire donors (and that is largely your doing as well), but remember:

We The People Outnumber Them - and WE are who you answer to. If you decide to declare war on hardworking Americans by passing this bill, we will patriotically fight back as our Founding Fathers intended we should (See: Declaration of Independence). In the voting booth, in the courts, on the streets in mass protest if necessary. Vote for this bill and it won't matter how much money is in your campaign treasure chest, because your careers will be over.

We will NOT roll over on this.

Americans are tired of your kissing up to the Koch Bros, the Mercers, and other American oligarchs. Sick of your racist dog whistles to distract from the billions in tax dollars you take from us and misappropriate each year. And we're angry.

We're not putting up with it anymore.

W. Garrigus



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Weiss <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham/Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a volunteer health advocate and retired physician, everyday I see how people rely on Medicaid expansion and the Affordable care act. People do not choose poverty, the elderly population is growing, Medicaid support for nursing homes is a critical element of caring for our people. Addiction is an illness not a choice. Treatment is critical for this epidemic and Medicaid and health coverage for this vulnerable group is absolutely necessary. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We need to address healthcare costs, premium escalation and quality issues. Sincerely, Elizabeth Weiss, MD

Betsy Weiss  
Tele. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Winthrop WA [REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** hannah wendling <wendling.hannah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Good morning,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother was diagnosed with type one diabetes when he was 12 years old and has relied, and will need to rely, on the provisions in the Affordable Healthcare Act. He cannot afford to pay the increased costs proposed due to his pre existing condition. He does not deserve to be punished for living with type one diabetes and instead should feel that he can live in and work for a country that will support him. My parents are getting older and hoping to retire in the next few years. However, without access to adequate healthcare such as the ACA they have no idea how they'll be able to survive. My mother is a breast cancer survivor and after having fought for this long and helped our family for so long she deserves peace of mind and better healthcare. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Hannah Wendling

Washington DC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daryl Fischer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care for All

I strongly oppose the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill. The healthcare of millions of Americans should not be treated as a political football. We must have a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Daryl Fischer

Spring Lake, MI

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jane Hollyer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Every single, and I mean EVERY SINGLE expert, has come out and said this plan is simply unworkable in any way, shape or form.

The Medicaid directors of all 50 states (that's 100%) have come out against this travesty.

States who opted into waivers under ACA have proven that stabilizing the market is the way to go. When the GOP stops sabotaging the ACA, even more lives & money will be saved.

Do your jobs and stop trying to kill people so millionaires get tax cuts.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** rebekah wharton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** info@warner.senate.gov; info@kaine.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Hearing  
**Attachments:** GCH comments.docx

I have attached a statement opposing the Graham Cassidy hearing.

Rebekah Wharton

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Valerie Elliott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I rely on a delicate balance of medications to keep my bipolar and OCD under control. If coverage for preexisting conditions is repealed, my drugs would run in the tens of thousands of dollars. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Valerie Elliott  
Indianapolis, IN

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** elizabeth grey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I'm a registered voter; I vote; I'm a small business owner and a homeowner; my husband & I pay taxes. Both my great-grandfathers were doctors; so is one of my brothers.

I want it on record that I oppose any bill, and in particular the Graham-Cassidy, that takes away the ACA until a single-payer system is implemented in the United States.

I have insurance. I had a knee operation in September of 2017 that cost \$200,000.00. It was an outpatient surgery; I didn't spend a single night in the hospital. My co-pay was \$34,000.00. I bargained with them down to \$10,000.00. Which I paid.

At this point, if you don't believe a single-payer system should be the solution to our healthcare crisis, you've become so corrupt by your office that the only honorable action to take is resign.

Elizabeth Grey-Pardo

[REDACTED]  
Yonkers, NY [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Stuart Greenfield <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham-Cassidy

Are the authors of this bill STUPID or just from SC and LA? I know they are both.

Stuart Greenfield

[REDACTED]  
Austin, TX  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Hawkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't let this pass.

Hi!

My family relies on ObamaCare. We bought our healthcare on the open market here in NYS before the ACA passed, and we often ended up with substandard health insurance. One year, I bought insurance that cost \$250/month, but it didn't cover my only prescription, so I paid \$145/month for birth control. I also had insurance with a \$50k lifetime cap that cost me \$300/mo. I've seen what having an open marketplace does to health insurance. I oppose Graham/Cassidy.

Thank you,  
Mary Hawkins

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kim Cannon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because while I think the healthcare has to be improved, it should not just be repealed. It is unfair to take healthcare away in order to pacify a political group. We need bi-partisan agreement and a thoughtful unrushed approach. Forcing a vote so that a 50 vote margin can win is unacceptable. Please save our healthcare. Thanks from two stressed senior citizens!

Kim Cannon  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Willis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on Graham-Cassidy. Do not Repeal ACA without Replacement

Dear Senators,

Trumpcare is morally reprehensible. Those who vote "yes" on Trumpcare will be remembered in the next election and history books as anti-American. The medical profession is against it, as are the majority of the voting citizens in this country.

We will never forget how Senators voted. These are our lives at stake.

Regards,

Jane Willis  
Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elijah Newton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Elijah Newton  
Saline, Michigan

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tim Hickey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 7:11 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy!

Good morning. Please do NOT pass the terrible, cruel Graham-Cassidy bill. Folks with preexisting conditions will be forced to pay enormous premiums or forego health care services until they have to go to an ER. Graham-Cassidy will also slash Medicaid, which will hurt many vulnerable people in our society. The process by which this awful bill is proceeding is un-American. No regular order. One sham hearing. No mark ups. No CBO Score. We do know that practically every health care organization in the country opposes it. The vast majority of Americans oppose it. It looks like around 32 million will lose coverage. Stop this nonsense, return to regular order & work together with Democrats to improve the ACA. Thank you.

-Tim Hickey, J.D. & NBCT  
Charlottesville, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Barbara Fishelson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

**Script:** 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,

Barbara Fishelson

Mendocino, Ca [REDACTED]

Barbara Fishelson

[REDACTED]  
Mendocino, Ca. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Temple [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

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

My story with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability is... after being self-employed for the last eight years and being covered under the affordable care act since it originated, my husband and I decided to sell our business. Our decision to sell was based on recommendations to reduce stress in our lives which impact pre-existing conditions including substance-abuse disorder and other mental health conditions. We are raising two daughters, one of whom has needed to use our insurance coverage quite a bit this past year. Living in rural Maine, we are now looking for employment to replace our self-employment income. I have found a job where the company also relies on the affordable care act to provide insurance for the employees. My husband recently excepted a job offer with another small business. We are not in a situation where we will find work for larger companies that offer health insurance as a benefit. Yet we need health insurance in order to keep our family stable and together. Our situation is not unique nor is it particularly dramatic but yet we are Americans and we to deserve the same opportunity to live safe, healthy and productive lives.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Temple

[REDACTED] Lincolnville ME [REDACTED]

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Jennifer Temple  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Max Hailperin [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** personal perspective re: Graham-Cassidy bill and academic tenure

In January of 2016, I decided to retire early from a tenured faculty position. Partly that was for personal reasons, principally to concentrate on caregiving for a family member. However, it also reflected my recognition that freeing up a tenure line would provide valuable flexibility to the financially stressed college where I taught. This choice was made possible not only by my family's wealth but also critically by the availability of health insurance via the ACA-shaped individual market. I was old enough to care a lot about health insurance but not old enough for Medicare. People in that situation making analogous decisions today will cling to their tenure lines if Graham-Cassidy passes. That certainly wouldn't be the largest impact, but it is illustrative of pervasive, economy-wide unintended effects that would follow from such a radical disruption to the status quo.

Max Hailperin  
[REDACTED]

Saint Peter MN [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carol <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

I have no respect for what you are doing. Work together and get it right. Get your egos out of this and fix what needs to be fixed.

Carolyn voelker  
Olathe Kansas  
[Your name]  
[City, State]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Quentin Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Repeal

Please back off until we know the full impact. Please support bipartisan strengthening of Obamacare.  
Thank you,  
Quentin Brown

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susanna Fraass <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** In opposition to Graham Cassidy

My family had coverage through the ACA when my husband was working a good job that necessitated his classifying himself as an independent contractor.

During that time, my whole family received care. My four-year-old daughter was seen for regular child visits: a rash, vaccinations, nothing out of the ordinary. My husband was seen for what turned out to be plantar fasciitis. I had a miscarriage.

None of these visits were predicted. Health insurance allowed for us to be seen when it was needed, rather than simply crossing our fingers without coverage and hoping we wouldn't need it at all.

Particularly with my miscarriage, I needed access to regular care. I needed to visit the doctor weekly and monitor the decrease of the pregnancy hormone in my system. I needed regular visits to ensure I did not need a more invasive procedure.

I could not have known I would lose a baby. But the ACA provided me with care when I did.

All of us will need healthcare at some point. We were grateful for the coverage the ACA provided us.

Do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill that will destroy the ACA and leave the most vulnerable in the worst positions.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda J Dunn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My story - Healthcare

Actually, this is the story of my friend, Jennifer and her youngest daughter, Cora, who has spinal bifida.

Jennifer and her husband were the type of good, Bible-belt church members that the Republicans claim to cherish and when the doctor told them Cora would be born with this condition, abortion was never an option. Instead, they changed doctors and hospitals and Cora's delivery was carefully scheduled so surgery could be performed immediately.

Her parents had insurance. Cora had options. She was loved by family and every member of her church... but Cora has a pre-existing condition and the family lives in a state where the government does not believe affordable health care is a right. Under "Repeal and Replace", Cora will probably die. Repeal is a death sentence for her.

Jennifer works from home because that is her only option. Her husband has left... another unfortunate event that occurs far too often in families that include a disabled child. Cora is frequently ill and had/has numerous medical appointments that would make it impossible for her mother/caregiver to hold down a normal job but, fortunately for Cora, Jennifer is an exceptional woman with marketable skills that allows her to work around Cora's needs. Jennifer is not just a "Tiger Mom" but a Wonder Woman riding a Dragon Mom. She has cleared paths for Cora to lead a "normal life" that would break most Moms and yet the one thing Jennifer cannot do is guarantee health care for Cora.

Only you can do that.

What happens to Cora when she is no longer covered by her father's insurance? If you valued her life while she was still in the womb, why don't you value it when she's an adult? She is a happy tween whom everyone loves so why do you want her to be sick and probably die when she's an adult and her shunt fails or an infection occurs (an all too frequent occurrence)? Why don't you want her to be self-sufficient and a productive, tax-paying citizen?

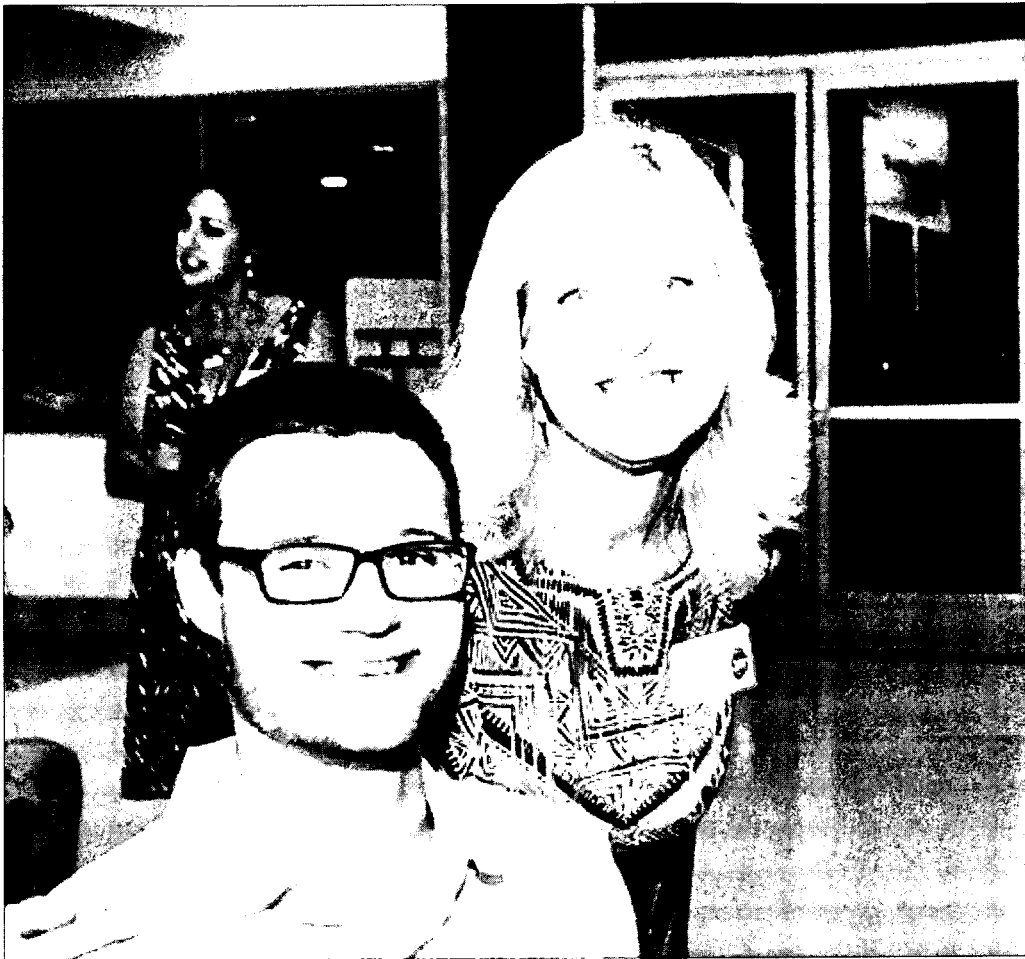
I am really at a loss to understand why our government can spend incredible sums of money to fight another country's wars but thinks it would cost too much to provide affordable health care to its citizens.

Something here is terribly wrong.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Dunn

[REDACTED]  
Greenfield, IN [REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Celia Brewer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy

Honorable Finance Committee Members:

Don't be bullied or bribed. Reject Graham-Cassidy. It is NO healthcare bill.

This is personal for me. My son was paralyzed in an accident when he was only 13 years old. He spent years learning to walk and be independent again. He has an amazing work ethic and serves as an inspiration due to his grit and positive attitude. He is now a college senior majoring in chemical engineering with an emphasis on polymers. He has so much to contribute. If he is denied access to medical insurance due to a preexisting condition, or if he is pauperized because he has to pay exorbitant prices for coverage, then this country is saying my son is not welcome here. By extension, it says I am not welcome here.

I am so  
so sad and hurt.

Three of my great uncles gave their lives up for this country, fighting the Nazis in WWII. My father was a USMC fighter pilot, serving during Korea. I am a public lawyer working every day to serve the public interest, assure fairness, transparency and compliance with ethics laws. I volunteer for several organizations and I pay a huge amount in taxes. I know my family deserves better than to be made into second class of citizens—those who cannot afford health insurance.

Please look at the attached photo of me and my son. We have been through so much. Do you really want to make healthcare unavailable to him because of his accident? Wasn't that bad enough? Do you really want to lose our combined talent, brains, and tax dollars by forcing us to move somewhere else to get affordable healthcare?

Americans do not want this bill—it is deeply unpopular. They do not want 28 million thrown off of healthcare. They do not want a second class of citizens who cannot afford or cannot get health insurance due to preexisting conditions. Americans do not want Medicaid cuts or caps on coverage. Americans do not want the poorest and most vulnerable citizens—the elderly, disabled, and children—to be deprived of healthcare.

Vote for the people you represent, not the rich Koch brother donors who are pressuring you to do their bidding. Repeal and replace was supposed to make Americans better off, not worse off. Keep working across the aisle until you get it right.

If you have a shred of decency left in you, vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. Please. Do the right thing.

Thank you,

Celia A. Brewer  
American Patriot

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carmen Hermo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy Act

To the esteemed Senate Finance Committee,

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs and imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields, and throw so many citizens off health insurance. From what I've read, not one industry involved in the medical field is in favor of this law.

What we need is a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion of how to improve the ACA and how to finance it so that as many Americans as possible can have basic, affordable health care.

Securing the health and well being of as many citizens as possible secures economic stability and allows economic growth across all classes in this country.

Thank you,

Carmen Hermo

Jersey City, NJ  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Angela <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO!!!! on Graham-Cassidy!!!!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a US citizen who votes writing to express my EXTREME dislike and outrage over the Graham-Cassidy bill. Why do Republicans insist on taking healthcare away from Americans? Do they enjoy watching vulnerable and working class people suffer? While they can enthusiastically support spending billions of dollars on war, military funding and tax breaks for the rich, Republicans seem to always play the "it's too expensive and increases the deficit" card when considering healthcare funding for the very people they claim to represent.

Of all the half-ass proposals Republicans have pieced together over the last 6 months, Graham-Cassidy is the most cruel, stripping away critical protections and the necessary funds to cover people in need.

Alternatively, I strongly support bipartisan legislation that improves our current healthcare system (the ACA) -- fixes that DO exist and will maintain coverage and work to lower premiums for as many people as possible.

Respectfully,  
Angela Spickard



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marie Vincent [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

We are senior citizens living on a fixed income. Every year, our medical costs, especially prescriptions, keep going up, but Medicare covers less and less.

We end up in the prescription Donut Hole every year. With the ACA, we only pay for part of our prescriptions when that happens, instead of 100%. If we lose the subsidy, we won't be able to afford all of our medicines.

Us seniors need the ACA! We need Republicans and Democrats to work together to make it better. We don't want the Republicans to keep trying to force through bills that are bad for people who don't have a lot of money.

Thank you for your time.

Marie Vincent  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Suzanne Ament [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Objection to Passage of Graham Cassidy

Data from a wide variety of authoritative sources indicate that this bill will not serve the interests or needs of the America people.

It seems the primary force in favor of the bill is hubris on the part of the GOP.

Suzanne Ament

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** debira84@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** the Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Committee Members,

**I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy Bill** because I believe it would lead to a loss of health insurance for at least 32 million people by 2026.

Debra Shelkowitz

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Margulies <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Amy Margulies  
New York, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Middleton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO!

No to Graham-Cassidy!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** joan hemm <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO ACA REPEAL!

*I am writing to remind Senator Cory Gardner that back in March he wrote that he would vote against any Obamacare repeal bill that "does not include stability for Medicaid expansion." Well, now the Kaiser Family Foundation has found that Graham-Cassidy would cut \$180 billion in funding from Medicaid expansion states like ours. It is time for Senator Cory Gardner to keep his promise and oppose Graham-Cassidy. Thank you for your time.*

Joan Hemm  
Boulder, CO <[REDACTED]>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Theiss-Nyland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

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

Years ago, I moved to Norway for one year and married a Norwegian. When we returned home to California, I was 5 months pregnant and our health insurance refused to cover the birth of our son due to a "pre-existing condition" clause. I had to use a midwife and deliver my baby at home in our apartment, because we couldn't afford a hospital without insurance. My son was bright blue at birth! It was an extremely stressful situation that no one should have to endure.

My sister works 3 jobs and couldn't afford health insurance for years. Now, with the help of the ACA, she is fully insured.

Again, 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,

Patricia Theiss-Nyland

San Rafael, CA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Corinne Kunkel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposed to GCH bill

To Whom It May Concern:

My son depends upon Medicaid due to his devastating diagnosis of SMARD - Spinal Muscular Atrophy with Respiratory Distress. He lives and thrives at home and attends school. But without Medicaid, his care would bankrupt us, even with our primary insurance. My husband and I both have jobs with benefits, but my son needs more than our insurance will provide. The new plan to fund Medicaid will decrease the amount our state has for kids like my son. I oppose this bill. It will be devastating to families like ours.

Corinne Kunkel  
Lorton, VA



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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Candice Freedman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Submit public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

Sincerely,

Candice Freedman

Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennie West [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Vote no on Graham Cassidy bill

**Subject: Vote no on Graham Cassidy bill**

As a 63 year old social worker, daughter and granddaughter of ministers who believed our churches AND our government should ALWAYS provide for those in need, I continually think I am living in a horror movie that we still have political so called "leaders" in our nation who would selfishly keep excellent health care coverage for themselves and treat those most in need so carelessly and brutally.

- 1) The proposed Horrific cuts in Medicaid would be completely inhumane.
- 2) Doing away with protections is ridiculous: a) for pre-existing conditions, of which most of us have some, b) removing the lifetime cap to send the seriously ill back into immediate bankruptcy and total despair; and
- 3) moving the little bit left to block grants ... Is a systemic failed mechanism.

I am increasingly ashamed that so many of our elected politicians care so little about the healthcare of ALL Americans, especially those in need, and much more so for their own pockets and the rest of the wealthy.

Sincerely,  
Jennie West

[REDACTED]  
Ferrum, Va. [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kate Rooney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on graham Cassidy bill

Please DO NOT pass this bill. Pre-existing conditions NEED to be covered by health insurance, removing the penalty for not having insurance incentivizes the shrinkage of the marketplace and does not create enough diversity of health needs in the marketplace to keep costs low. It's time we start viewing healthcare as an entitlement - not a privilege - and slashing Medicaid and eliminating tax credits DOES NOT accomplish anything that is in the health interests of Americans.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kate Rooney  
Chicago, IL

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Sent from a touch screen, please excuse typos.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Solzak Rice [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

**MY** family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Since my husband lost his job at age 64 last year, we have been saved by the ability to get affordable healthcare coverage for ourselves and our two adopted children, both with health issues. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Karen Rice  
Bentonville, AR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** David Whalen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH tragic

To whom it may concern,

Simply put, this is another uninformed, shallow attempt to get back at the black President that was never embraced. This will devastate health care for many people starting with individuals with disabilities.

David V. Whalen Disability Awareness Training Niagara University office [REDACTED] Home office 74 Fleetwood Terrace  
Williamsville, NY [REDACTED] Discrimination against any person  
on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person. —Preamble to the UN Convention on  
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Colgan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT put through the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am a voting citizen in the state of New Jersey and I oppose the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill. This bill would put myself and my child in jeopardy as we both have pre-existing conditions. Also, my parents are currently on Medicaid and they would be in danger of losing benefits.

Thank you.

Jennifer Colgan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** drdolittle1 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Leave the Affordable Healthcare Act alone

I am undergoing a life-altering, catastrophic illness. I have ovarian cancer. It didn't take me developing this awful disease to know that when someone is given such a serious diagnosis, it can end their world as they know it, not just medically, but financially. Why can't the republicans understand that too?!?

If I didn't have health insurance, I wouldn't be able to afford the treatment that I am receiving for my cancer and I would certainly lose everything that I've worked my whole life for: my home, my vehicles. Side note: if it weren't for FMLA, I would also lose my JOB. I'm 55 yrs old and have worked since age 20 yrs, as a nurse.

If you vote to repeal and replace the ACA, just to get a "win" for the republican politicians, I cannot even put into words, how evil that would be. It would devastate millions of people!

DF Hargus  
Salem, VA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Wendy Selene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment Against the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To: The Senate Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Senators,

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

I was treated with radium for a benign birthmark on my abdomen at 6 months of age. It was considered appropriate medical treatment at the time, so the results have been something I have just had to live with. It has given me a lifetime of problems. I've been told by one gastroenterologist that it is as if my transverse colon is wrapped in an "immovable plaster cast" of radiation burns, adhesions and scar tissue. I have had this pre-existing condition for my lifetime. I've had to rely on the individual insurance market.

My granddaughter was born two months premature and needs to be watched by physicians for brain bleed and motor issues. We won't know for sure the outcome for a while. She may be fine, but could also have a lifetime pre-existing condition.

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

Sincerely,

Wendy Selene

Evanston, IL



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cynthia Ayers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare for Americans

Dear committee members,

I am so deeply saddened that we are still rushing through the due process of coming up with a workable healthcare bill. It's clear now that the GOP are seeking short term political gain with little regard to what's in the best interest of the constituents that rely on them to be the voice. The ACA was in place for nearly seven years, there was more than enough time to rectify the issues that weren't working, the lack of willingness or perhaps laziness to create that change is proof of this political maneuver.

Abolishing the ACA may garner immediate favor as a win for your party, but to what end? Small businesses, individuals, the elderly across the board will suffer. History will not look kindly on the short sightedness of this bill.

I sincerely hope the stories of Americans around the country have made enough of an impression on you to realize how badly folks are hurting and how so many of us are just one illness away from bankruptcy, which ultimately will be a much larger drain on our economy.

Please consider keeping the ACA in tact and working in a bipartisan way to fix the bits of it that aren't working well, no need to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Kind regards,

Cynthia R. Ayers  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Peggy Jenkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I oppose the proposed legislation to change the affordable care act. Your plans made in secrecy are indecent and represent nothing more than legislative malfeasance. I urge you to vote against this bill in its entirety. Tell the American people the truth. You don't care about us and you want to prop up the corrupt healthcare industry. Why won't you get a scoring from the CBO? What are you hiding in your backwater meetings? Your hateful bill will result in more than 24 million Americans losing healthcare. Your venomous bill will reduce Medicaid coverage for the most vulnerable Americans. Do not allow this measure to go forward. I challenge you to serve the American people as you have sworn to do.

Peggy Jenkins  
Austin Texas

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** George Kim <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for committee on graham cassidy

It is absurd that we the good people of the United States has to put up with this lack of moral compass on the congress. Please do not pass this legislation that will economically and physically hurt the people. Your actions threaten the livelihood of those you portend to serve. Stop.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marion Genna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Charles Georges  
**Subject:** Medicaid Cuts  
**Attachments:** 20170710\_174115\_resized (3).jpg

My name is Marion Genna. My son is Lorenzo Genna. I am a single mom, raising Lorenzo, who is autistic by myself now for 8 years. Without medicaid waiver services I would not be able to hold a 9 to 5 job. Waiver services provide respite assistance so that there is someone home to get Lorenzo off the bus after school and care for him until i get home from work. Without this service i would not be able to hold a regular job to be able to provide for our household. These community respite services are funded predominantly through Florida's CDC+ monies which are Medicaid Waiver monies from the Medicaid program that will be greatly impacted by any block grants, cuts or caps as proposed in the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have worked so hard to support my child so that he can be part of our community and do not want to see that go away or be forced to make a decision about an institutional setting. We respectfully request that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and oppose any cuts or caps to Medicaid, on behalf of my son.

Sincerely,

Marion Genna  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Christine Sleight <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Seventeen months ago I received the life-saving gift of a kidney from my husband. Without it, I would be dead. With the Affordable Care Act, I am not only alive, I am also not impoverished. We are both able to return to work as productive citizens.

Americans all need affordable health care. No health care system is perfect, but the one we have now has kept me alive, and kept my family off welfare.

Best wishes,

Christine C.Sleight

Sent from my iPad

Christine C. Sleight, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Speech language pathologist

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, and I ask you to do the same.

In 2014, I was able to get affordable health insurance for the first time in over 10 years thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Prior to that I had been uninsured. I had very bad cataracts that were making it impossible to drive, and if it had not been for the ACA, I would not have been able to get the surgery I needed to be able to live a normal, happy life.

Please, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. The health care plan that you as senators enjoy seems like it ought to be good enough for the rest of us.

Sincerely,  
Darcy Prince  
Cleveland Heights, OH [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kip Wolin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators and fellow Americans,

I and my family rely on quality and non-discriminatory healthcare. I oppose Graham-Cassidy because it leaves open the possibility that my state can waive that guarantee and EHB due to the MacArthur amendment.

I am self-employed and employ others as well. I collect no government subsidies and pay for my and my families health-insurance, like a responsible citizen. I and my daughter have pre-existing conditions and would be severely negatively impacted by this bill to the point where my ability to work provide for my family and pay taxes would be in jeopardy.

I implore you to consider the 10's of millions of others who would be harmed by this bill and work in a bi-partisan approach to improve our healthcare system.

You as Senators have a moral, ethical and sworn constitutional duty to do so. I and the 300+ million American citizens, voters and tax payers have an inherent and unalienable right to life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness. Please don't forget that we've held these truths to be self-evident for over 240 years. Don't be the first politicians in our great country's history to try to take them away.

Kip Wolin

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill Rhodes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham Cassidy

I am writing with my thoughts on the Graham Cassidy impact on healthcare. I am very concerned with the block grants to the states that will shift existing funding away from states that have expanded Medicare to the states that refused the funding for political reasons. In my state, New Jersey, the number of people who will lose healthcare is in the hundreds of thousands.

Healthcare is too important to be shifted to a 'states rights' issue. Clearly not all states have the welfare of their citizens in mind. We need a larger central authority impervious to political pressure to guarantee access to healthcare.

Jill Rhodes  
Madison, NJ  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** kristi schrader <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't repeal the ACA

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My family relies on affordable, quality healthcare. We oppose the Graham Cassidy bill because our care will be taken away or become so expensive that we will not be able to afford it.

Before the ACA, and as small business owners, we had great difficulty finding an insurance policy that was affordable and covered our needs. We were denied coverage or offered policies with ridiculously expensive riders, bare bones coverage, and/or high risk pools for the flimsiest reasons: my husband, because he once thought the strange fluttering in his chest was heart related when it was simply low potassium, but after a thorough check and a letter of support from his cardiologist clearing him of problems and reporting a perfectly healthy heart, insurance companies still labeled him a heart risk; my son, because even though at the time he was a healthy preschooler, the fact that he was adopted at birth and therefore had an unknown medical history and that he was born with a very common septal defect that had long closed on its own, insurance companies denied him coverage blaming a heart risk; and I was denied coverage because even though I was healthy, I had attempted to conceive using fertility treatments and the insurance companies claimed that if I successfully reproduced my children would surely have major health problems because, in their opinion, IVF babies always do, and if they covered me they would be forced to cover children that didn't even exist yet (for the record, I have since had twins through reproductive technology and a singleton who was an amazing surprise and all of my children are quite healthy).

The ACA was enacted at a very financially difficult time for us and without it, we would not have had Medicaid for our children and an affordable, quality policy that could not be denied to my husband and me. And while we are quite healthy overall, we have had our share of, for example, the flu, the occasional stitches, and other pretty standard care needs, that would have been a financial hardship from which we would forever be recovering if not for the ACA. The ACA has enabled us to get the preventive care we need as well and we have been at peace knowing that we would not have to choose between our health and our financial well being.

Does the ACA have flaws? Of course, even we have had certain services we need denied, and we have certainly spoken with folks who seem to have some issues with it. But my family is begging you, please do not trash the ACA. Please do not pass the Graham Cassidy bill that will set us back to the time of denials, caps, and financial impossibilities, leaving my family and millions of others terrified. I implore you, please work in a bipartisan Congressional way to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Kristi Schrader  
Columbia, SC

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jacqueline Jules [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Preserve the Protections of the ACA

I am writing to share the story of my sister, Michelle, who died at age 52 from treatable diseases before the protections of the ACA were available. Michelle had pre-existing conditions, including diabetes, and was unable to obtain adequate health care insurance. She had a job as a convenience store clerk but her employer offered only a mediplan (coverage limit of \$2,000 a year.) We tried unsuccessfully to buy her a better plan but no one would insure her because of pre-existing conditions. Her health continued to deteriorate. By the time, we got Michelle on Disability (a 2 year legal battle), it was too late and she died a year later. Health care is a human right. The ACA provides protections for people with pre-existing conditions. It eliminates lifetime caps. It does not allow insurance companies to raise rates when people get sick. Every American citizen should have the right to health care. Insurance companies should not dictate treatment. Doctors should. Patients and caregivers should not suffer the added stress of health insurance woes during a serious illness. Health care is an important issue for all Americans. It affects a sizable portion of the American economy. Any health care reform needs to be done in a bipartisan manner, keeping in mind the lives and health needs of all Americans. If pre-existing conditions are not covered and lifetime/annual caps are re-instated by insurance companies, millions of Americans will die. The ACA took us forward. We cannot go backward. No one should die because they cannot afford health care. No one should go bankrupt because a family member becomes ill. Health care is a human right. Please work for a bipartisan approach to health care reform. Thank you.

Jacqueline Hechtkopf,

Arlington, Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Mon Hearing Graham- Cassidy bill health care

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely

Joanie Piken  
Newton, MA

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa Stilger [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public comment

I am writing to express my concern that the Senate is even considering a vote on a bill for which we do not have a CBO score. This is NOT the way American democracy is supposed to work. Beyond the significant policy concerns, I find the process concerns behind the current healthcare bill overwhelming. Healthcare is an issue that impacts all Americans. This will affect each and every one of your constituents. We are watching.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose G-C

My family members and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I OPPOSE THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL. My mother, brother and I suffer from a genetic kidney disease that requires special care and medication. My mother underwent a kidney transplant and will be on medications the rest of her life. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We need to be able to access our care when we need it and not be excluded because of pre-existing conditions.

Sincerely,  
Laura  
Stillwater, MN

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sheila Sarovich <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

Do what's right for our country - NOT your donors. This bill will cause immeasurable damage to people's lives and our economy. People will die. That will be on those of you who vote for it.

Please do your duty - work collaboratively to improve Obamacare.

Thank you,

Sheila Sarovich

[REDACTED]  
Naperville, IL [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nancy Egelko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. If this bill passes, the health and welfare of millions of Americans will suffer.

First of all, there are no inherent protections for those with pre-existing conditions, affecting millions of Americans -- including myself, my husband and my son. We will be faced with the choice of paying exorbitant premiums, forgoing needed healthcare, or financial chaos. No one should be faced with this decision.

In addition, the proposed cuts to Medicaid are unconscionable. Seniors and the disabled will suffer as their care is reduced drastically, resulting in tragically subpar treatment and ultimately more deaths.

It is obvious that this bill does nothing to improve the healthcare of Americans. In fact, it is estimated that over 30 million people will lose coverage due to this heartless legislation. It is also obvious that this bill is just a means 1) to save money to fund the GOP's obsession with providing tax cuts for the most wealthy, as well 2) to satisfy the Koch brothers and other wealthy donors in order to insure that the GOP's coffers are filled. This is greed at its worst.

Americans of all parties acknowledge that the ACA is not perfect. But we want a thoughtful and reasoned bi-partisan fix that improves our current system and guarantees better and affordable healthcare for Americans, not a hasty hail-Mary that is concerned only with fulfilling campaign promises.

As our representatives, I ask you to work together in regular order to serve ALL Americans. Do not pass Graham-Cassidy. Do not hurt Americans.

Respectfully,

Nancy Egelko  
Lakewood, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Miles Palley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject Graham-Cassidy

This bill was drafted in secret with little public input, minimal independent analysis, and has been thoroughly rejected by a growing chorus representing nearly every institution involved in our healthcare system, the vast majority of the public, and many across the political spectrum in the states that this bill would impact.

The authors of this bill make statements in support of it that seem untethered from its actual language. Their primary "defense" of the bill last week has been (i) to make *ad hominem* attacks against its public critics (e.g. Jimmy Kimmel) - even after invoking his example earlier in this debate when it was politically expedient to do so, (ii) to claim falsely that pre-existing condition protections remain intact (no serious expert engaged in this debate agrees), and (iii) to acknowledge that the bill is deeply flawed, but to claim that this bill represents a promise kept and that it must be adopted - warts and all - to keep that promise.

I think the flaws of items (i) and (ii) speak for themselves, but the pernicious allure that item (iii) seems to hold should be addressed. The GOP's leader was elected promising that Medicaid would not be cut, that people would not lose insurance, and that barriers between state lines should be dropped so that competition could thrive. This bill thoroughly fails each of these tests. Some have said that this experiment with block grants will let states do more with less, but the immense complexity of building 50 state systems in 2 years is a pipe dream. Nobody seriously and publicly defends the notion that health care coverage rates should be returned to pre-ACA levels, the public doesn't want this.

Senators Graham and Cassidy are right that this moment represents a unique opportunity. But the unique opportunity facing the GOP is not that, with enough arm twisting, they might be able to force through this bill. The unique opportunity for all of us is to seize on the consensus to improve the system we have. For Republicans to be honest in acknowledging that the ACA is a fundamentally market-based approach to the health care system first baked up by the likes of the Heritage Foundation and Richard Nixon. To reach across the aisle to build a stable and better system, to bring to bear the best that conservative ideas have to offer in collaboration (and at times conflict) with the best of what Democrats can offer. Engage the whole country in the debate, listen to experts and start the messy and arduous process of reaching a stable consensus (not one that will be up for renegotiation when the political winds next blow leftward).

This result might not please the GOP's most conservative voters, and calls on the left for a more progressive solution will surely continue regardless. But bringing political, economic, and regulatory stability to our health insurance markets should be this moments' enduring legacy, not this poor excuse for health care policy.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** susan ruddie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Do not repeal Obamacare

I had such bad arthritis with bone spurs in my hips that I could no longer work. I am self employed and the insurance I could afford had such a high deductible that I could not afford the hip replacement surgery I needed

Obamacare allowed me to treat my "preexisting condition" and the limit on out of pocket allowed me to get both hips replaced in 2014

My increased mobility and ability to sleep without pain changed my life! I started a new business and now employ 12 people, all thanks to Obamacare. Please DO NOT REPEAL AND REPLACE!!

Thank you  
Susan Ruddie

The Wedding Dresser

[REDACTED]  
Industry City Brooklyn [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Fitting Hours by Appointment  
Wednesday thru Saturday 11:00 - 7:00

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Darryn Lamb <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** 'Graham Cassidy '

My comments on the latest healthcare bill:

If you look at the healthcare bill, nicknamed "Graham/Cassidy," that is being presented in the senate it has quite a few flaws that will actually make the current healthcare market worse than it currently is.

The biggest problem with the bill is not its contents, but the way in which it was drafted. In order to enact new legislation that affects 1/6th of the U.S. economy, it is vital to hold hearings, debate all aspects, let the CBO score the bill to know its full impact before voting on it. We need more time to discuss this bill and make necessary changes to it.

In its current form, it's a terrible bill that will lead to higher premiums.

;-Darryn Lamb

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julie Catalano <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill public testimony

To Whom it May Concern,  
I am writing in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

My entire family and I all depend on quality, affordable health care, including the continuation of coverage for pre-existing conditions. We are tax paying, productive citizens who make positive contributions in many ways to the life of our country.

In addition, as a clinical social worker, I am acutely aware of the importance of coverage for behavioral health treatment. My chronically mentally ill, suicidal, and angry and aggressive clients would all be negatively impacted if outpatient and inpatient treatment for those psychological issues were to be curtailed. As a result our communities will be negatively impacted. I also know that the majority of my clients would have difficulty paying for insurance if state block grants were decreased or disappeared.

Please rule against the Graham-Cassidy Bill, and then work on a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA.

Sincerely,

Julie Catalano  
Somerville, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** SYK [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy health care bill

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sylvia Y Kaneko  
Newton, MA

Errors may appear due to keyboard sensitivity , please ignore

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Boyajian <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** New repeal bill

Please reject this new bill.

The Rev Dr Jane ABoyajian  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Priscilla Vivio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I stand in opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My family and my community relies on affordable healthcare for all, including those with pre-existing conditions. I support a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Priscilla Vivio  
[REDACTED]  
Santa Rosa, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alexandra B [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

My family and I, including my disabled brother and sick grandmother, rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My brother and grandmother depend on Medicaid for their care. In addition, as a person with serious pre-existing conditions, I could easily die from lack of access to care were it not for the ACA allowing me to stay on my family's health plan for another year and protecting me from being denied coverage later.

I suffer from serious but extremely treatable depression, and the medication required for it, which I have access to thanks to the Affordable Care Act, is all that stands between me being nearly catatonic and unable to function - frankly, a burden on my family and on society - and being an emotionally stable, productive member of the workforce, a caring friend and neighbor, a help to my family, and an enthusiastic participant in our great democracy.

I am an extremely capable and hardworking citizen, and in my case as for so many other Americans with pre-existing conditions, I can say with absolute certainty that the expense of my medication is paid off many times over by what I am able to contribute to the country when I am healthy. Therefore, this is not simply an emotional issue - it makes economic sense.

Because of these concerns, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Thank you for your consideration and for all you do for the country.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Burris

Rockville, Maryland

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ken Zeichner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Please do not approve this bill.

As Senator Grassley has acknowledged it is bad policy for many reasons; playing party politics with people's health and lives by approving bad policy is irresponsible.

One of the problems with Graham/Cassidy most important to me and my family (and millions of Americans in similar circumstances), is the provision that would jeopardize the protections under the Affordable Care Act for those with pre-existing conditions, such as my daughter who was diagnosed with and treated for cancer at the age of 18 months, by authorizing states to waive those protections and enable insurers to charge higher premiums or other charges based on rating factors such as my daughter's pre-existing condition. The weak requirement in the bill that States "describe" in their requests for waivers how they "intend" to provide "access to adequate and affordable" insurance for those with pre-existing conditions is insufficient to guarantee any effective means of avoiding putting families of survivors of cancer or other illnesses at such financial risk that they will be unable to afford the necessary life saving monitoring and treatment, especially given the major financial burdens the bill would put on States by capping and then eliminating Federal financial assistance starting in 2026 to cover the full range of health care issues states will be left to struggle with under this bill.

This is just one of the myriad of problems with this bill, which includes reinstating annual and lifetime limits on benefits, removing trillions of dollars from health care systems over 20 years as the healthcare needs of our aging population increase, making it more difficult for the increasing numbers of people in our changing economy who don't get insurance through employer provided plans to get access to affordable insurance, etc.

As Dr. Atul Gawande has written "Graham-Cassidy expects all fifty states to ... pass, and implement, alternative health systems for tens of millions of people within two years—with drastically less money, in most states, than the current law provides. This is not just impossible. It is delusional." [https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/if-the-us-adopts-the-gops-health-care-bill-it-would-be-an-act-of-mass-suicide?mbid=social\\_facebook](https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/if-the-us-adopts-the-gops-health-care-bill-it-would-be-an-act-of-mass-suicide?mbid=social_facebook)

I urge that instead of voting for this poorly considered and inadequately vetted bill, Congress should work to constructively address the problems with the Affordable Care Act through a responsible legislative process including full analysis and input through Committee hearings to improve access to affordable healthcare for all Americans, and not make the mistake of approving Graham/Cassidy just to fulfill some partisan political party electoral campaign promise.

Thank you,

Kenneth Zeichner  
[REDACTED]  
Gainesville FL [REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #grahamcassidy comments

My ACA story: in short, save the ACA, fix the parts that aren't working.

I have 3 siblings who all gained coverage under the ACA for the first time in their adult lives. One has a rare arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis and was denied by insurers prior to the ACA, he is now only 27. One was a young, healthy woman training to be a Goldsmith and could not afford her employers meager coverage that wouldn't even cover preventative care, she is 26. Another is a hair stylist who worked harder than I've ever seen to get through school, loves her job, makes people happy but does not have healthcare coverage. Under ACA she's able to visit doctors for her debilitating endometriosis. This disease is only treated with birth control to regulate her hormones and reduce menstruation, she is 29. The list goes on, and all of these people would lose coverage under Graham Cassidy. Luckily all of these people vote too and are watching to see what their senators do at this critical juncture.

I work in software, we plan, launch, and fix products. When Microsoft releases Windows, they don't scrap it and rewrite it, leaving millions of people without a computer, when they find a bug. They launch new code on top of the operating system to fix it. This is the way things work, so do what I pay you to do and negotiate some fixes to ACA to strengthen and keep people insured.

Stop with the political nonsense, stop letting a completely unqualified egomaniac push you around, and govern for the people.

Best,  
Sarah Morris  
Seattle, WA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care Proposal

I just listened to Senator Graham on ABC This Week make the statement that every state will receive the same amount of money that they have been receiving.

We all know that is a false statement. There are a multitude of states that will be receiving hundreds of millions of dollars less. How can a sponsor of this bill make such a false statement? I am truly disappointed in Senator Graham.

Affordable health care? Can one with preexisting conditions possibly find a health care policy? Maybe but to receive care, they have to be able to pay the deductibles for care that are impossible for folks to pay. If the goal for the senate is to make both a affordable policy and affordable care, this bill does not accomplish both.

Please do not support this bill. Many many people will die because they can not afford the deductibles. Would you do this to your parents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren? I certainly hope not.

Karen from New Hampshire

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Randolph Erickson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Why Medicaid? It's NOT part of the ACA! KILL THE BILL!

You folks,

I don't need any commercial health insurance. I also don't need medicare. However I care very much what happens to my family that needs both. What part of the ACA is medicaid part of? It's not, but you are handing over control of medicaid, and other insurance decisions to the states. Florida is a red, tea party state with many millionaires. Trump won Florida. The base couldn't care less, neither could Gov. Scott if these people died in the streets.

Rubio is very much in favor of Graham care. He's a tea party republican, and a millionaire. Mast, my congressman, is also a tea party republican who voted "Yea" on what Trump called a "mean" bill.

Why do millionaires and billionaires want to take away the most basic services for the poor? Because they can. No other reason.

Randolph Erickson

[REDACTED]  
Port Saint Lucie FL [REDACTED]

Member, ACLU, Planned Parenthood, Indivisible.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tim Vinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public comments on ACA

I very strongly oppose the repeal of the ACA.

Rather, I would like to see its stabilization and improvement.

The protection of citizens' health and personal finances in the ACA should not be repealed due to partisan political pressure and rhetoric.

The campaign promises to repeal the ACA were part of the anti-Obama campaign by the Republicans. Now in the Trump era, we know that the healthcare crisis has no simple or easy fix. The current senate bill is an insult to and an attack on the American public.

Many Republicans object to the insurance mandate in the ACA. Congress should work together to offer the current protections of the ACA, remove the mandate, and make the voluntary coverage attractive and affordable to all US citizens.

John R. Timothy Vinson  
[REDACTED]  
Gainesville, FL [REDACTED]

Sent from Tim's iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** barbara sudek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam:

On September 25, 2017 at 2:00, meeting is set for the Graham Cassidy repeal and Replace bill. Please cancel this hearing.

There has not been enough time for senators to totally digest the information contained in this bill and share the information with their constituents. Americans should know what their senators are voting for on such an important matter.

Also, there is no CBO score on the bill yet. How can the senators vote on bill, and not even know the fiscal impact of their vote? Please do not allow this to happen.

It would not be fiscally sound or in the best interest of American citizens for this vote to go forward at this time. Please keep the vote from happening on September 25, 2017.

Sincerely,

/s/

Barbara Sudek

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jill Clements <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Thank you for this opportunity. First, voting on a bill without a CBO score is not fiscally responsible and is hypocritical to republicans calling themselves fiscally responsible.

Second, my wife has colitis. She's had it since she was 13 (now 51). The medicines she had been taking were no longer working. She got so sick last year that she had to take a 3-month leave (without pay) from work to try to get better. She was a prisoner in her own house. The doctor put her on Remicade last fall. It's worked wonders. She is 100% better, but the doctors have told her that she can't ever come off of it, or the rebound effect will be horrible. If Graham-Cassidy is passed, she has a pre-existing condition, and these infusions could cost upwards of \$7,000 for EACH ONE (which she gets every 8 weeks).

This bill is hateful. Yes, hateful. Any bill that purposely targets the sick and needy with premium surcharges is hateful and completely unChristian.

Stop playing politics with the health and well-being of the American people. Stop worrying only about your few million-dollar donors and instead worry about your thousands of hundred-dollar donors. We are the ones who can't afford gold-plated health insurance. We are your constituents. We are the ones who will sway the next election, since that's what most of you seem to be concerned about now.

Fix what's broken, don't just eliminate it and pass the buck down to the states. That's not what you weren't sent to Washington to do.

Thank you,

Jill Clements

Sent from my mobile

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sylvia Strumpf <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am concerned that the Graham Cassidy (GBH) Bill is being rushed through without the benefit of CBO SCORING OF THIS BILL. Nevertheless it is clear that MORE than 20 million Americans (24 Million is a more probable estimate) will be without health benefits; and that as a result of a Medicaid expansion roll back and replacement by woefully inadequate Medicaid block grants caps with no requirement for keeping up with need, millions more Americans will be negatively affected . I urge you to stop the Graham Cassidy bill from reaching the floor until the CBO can produce a full scoring. The Senate and the public must have full information about the impact of this bill.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Sylvia Strumpf

Rockville, MD [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Robyn Dupont [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal 9/25/17

Subject: Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Proposal  
Hearing time: 1pm, Monday Sept 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen from Virginia who does not wish to see the Affordable Care Act (ACA) repealed, not only because of the accessibility to quality healthcare it affords to women and working mothers like myself, but because of the lifesaving impacts it has had on people such as myself who suffer from preexisting conditions and rely on access to affordable insurance to be able to keep our heads above water financially.

In 2011, I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer despite having "normal" mammograms for 7 years. I underwent chemotherapy, a double mastectomy, and 8 weeks of daily radiation. I was lucky to have insurance through my husband's employer because the bills totaled over \$750,000. This does not include the cost of reconstruction or the daily medication I have taken since 2012 to reduce the chance of recurrence. Without insurance, we would most certainly have been forced to consider bankruptcy. In 2013, I was diagnosed with stage 3 melanoma. After a lymph node dissection, I continued to experience recurrences and had several additional surgeries. I have recently started Keytruda immunotherapy treatments. Again, I am thankful to have health insurance to help defray the costs of treatment.

As you can see, I am one of many who now has an expensive preexisting condition. Prior to my breast cancer diagnosis I lived a healthy life and followed recommendations for preventative testing. I exercised daily and did not smoke or drink alcohol. I was healthy until I was not. If not for the ACA, I could have been faced with premiums for health insurance which were so high as to be unaffordable as well as lifetime or yearly caps on coverage. While \$1 million may seem like a large amount, costs to treat cancer and other serious conditions can easily exceed that amount. The ACA offered me peace of mind to know that while I was focused on fighting cancer at least I did not have to worry about how my family would pay for treatment.

Under the proposed Graham-Cassidy plan, it may seem like a boon to grant states "flexibility" by giving them the authority to decide which of the ACA's protections should be adopted, if any. But those protections exist for a reason: to safeguard citizens from abuses that states may not be sufficiently motivated or equipped to prevent. The standards being proposed by the Graham-Cassidy plan are too loose and therefore too risky given the loophole it leaves for insurers to base their premiums on a patient's medical history.

While the ACA is not perfect, it provides a needed measure of security for people like myself with preexisting conditions. It is also increasingly proving its value as a healthcare solution for those states that have embraced it and applied for the medicaid expansion. Those states that have denounced it, claiming its imminent failure as motivation to repeal it, all seem to have in common a total refusal to participate in the aspects of the ACA designed to ease the burden on the common taxpayer. In essence, those states have sabotaged it at the state level and claimed that the ACA itself is to blame.

I ask the Committee to consider the fact that the majority of medical organizations, including the AMA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Hospital Association, as



well as organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the March of Dimes all oppose Graham-Cassidy. Health insurers such as BlueCross BlueShield and Kaiser have also spoken out against this proposal.

I urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal. The majority of Americans stand with the ACA. So should Congress. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Robyn Dupont

Centreville, VA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Full Name: Elizabeth (Becky) Williams

Address: [REDACTED]

Thank you for looking at this message.

I have struggled for years getting adequate medical insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions: osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, bipolar disorder, high blood pressure and cholesterol, low thyroid with nodules, and multiple surgeries. Now, at age 72, I'm on Medicare. With the help of several physicians, I am able to manage these conditions effectively with medications, exercise, supplements, physical therapy, and other lifestyle changes. I take my health seriously and my primary physician says I should live to 90+.

Unfortunately, many of my family members have similar, numerous health issues that make insurance difficult/impossible to obtain without the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. For them, the Graham-Cassidy bill is a step in exactly the WRONG direction.

Please vote against Graham-Cassidy. Please work for bipartisan solutions! That's the ONLY way you can hope to represent the American people.

Thanks for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Becky) Williams

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** LJ Ball <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am sending this message to encourage a NO vote on this GC bill. Losing access to healthcare would devastate the lives of people all over the nation. I work at a large local children's hospital in Washington DC. Daily, I treat families. dealing with the most severe illnesses. Please do not cause more trauma to these already vulnerable people, trauma that would result from this legislation and would cause calamitous outcomes. Please do what you can to stop this bill from moving forward. Spend time, work on improving access to & quality of healthcare- stop trying to dismantle and start building.

Laura J. Ball

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robbie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 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. Without quality and affordable health care We, the tax payers/Voters will be burdened with higher taxes due to individuals using emergency care. Also, quality/affordable health care makes us able to be proactive. Hence , eliminating the higher Medical costs which is due to affordable care. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Roberta Adamczyk  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catherine Ettliger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE AGAINST GRAHAM-CASSIDY. PLEASE.

I OBJECT TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY!!! PLEASE DO NOT VOTE FOR IT!

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Catherine Ettliger  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James bolas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 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. As someone living with HIV for 20 years and chronic pain as a victim of a fatal auto accident, I require a consistent respect to affordable, comprehensive and stable health access for pre-existing conditions and drug access and affordability. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
James Bolas

[REDACTED]  
Newburgh, NY [REDACTED]

Sent from my iThing

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Annette Furst <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Beth\_Pearson@markey.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Block The Graham Cassidy Bill!!

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

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

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

Annette Furst MD

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

To all whom it may concern:

I am writing with my input regarding the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

It is unconscionable for the U.S. Senate to approve this sweeping legislation which would affect 20% of our country's economy and almost all of our families on this timetable which allows no analysis, debate or good faith bipartisanship. This legislation is beneath us as a country - we need to do better.

I respect Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, but for him to say that Republicans should pass this terrible legislation because they campaigned on doing so, regardless of "the substance of the bill," is just plain wrong and beneath him. I respect Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, but for her to say this terrible bill is "the only vehicle we have to address Obamacare that is failing" is a failure of leadership.

Please work harder for the American people, people! There is no way this bill should become law. And if it does, people who vote for it should never be able to sleep soundly again, because it is wrong. Our health care is the most expensive and least effective in the developed world. And don't tell me we can't do better! I believe in this country and its people and its enormous potential – do you?

My neighbor says, "if you don't believe we should take care of each other, well, I don't know what to say to that." PLEASE put your minds and power and enormous talents toward making this project known as the United States of America a "more perfect union"!

Thank you for your service.  
Martha Pinder  
[REDACTED]  
Grinnell Iowa [REDACTED]

Also sent to Sen. Chuck Grassley & Sen. Joni Ernst



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Paige Welborn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposing Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello, I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with Medicaid is that I am preparing for pregnancy and motherhood. Without affordable health care and insurance, I would not feel comfortable starting a family. How could we afford it if we had to pay such high rates that are predicted with this bill? Beyond me though, I truly believe affordable healthcare is a human right and that our government has the duty to help provide it for us.

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

Sincerely,

Paige Welborn

New York, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Leave our health care alone!

I am imploring all Senators to do the right thing for the PEOPLE of this country. DO NOT take away our healthcare. A vote for Graham-Cassidy is a vote to kill your fellow citizens. Please put country over party and do the right thing to ensure that we all have the same access to life-giving health care that you all enjoy with your government provided health insurance. VOTE NO!

Donna Kelliher

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Read <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Date: September 26, 2017  
Martha Read  
[REDACTED]  
Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

Please listen to what I have to say.

The Graham-Cassidy bill, makes healthcare unaffordable for millions of Americans. The premiums could be made significantly higher for older Americans by waiving federal protections that limit age rating and for all citizens.

Now on Medicare, I pay \$150/month in premiums. This could go up to more than \$1000/a month - way more than I could afford. And millions are in worse financial shape than I.

For everyone, the elimination of coverage for pre-existing conditions is ridiculous and dangerous. Nearly everyone has a pre-existing condition and needs to feel secure in their health care covering their care.

In short, the Graham-Cassidy bill would be a national disaster.

Please heed my warning and vote a resounding **NO** on this proposal. Let us protect and care for our citizens, we as one of the richest nations on earth should show a good example of caring for the health of all of our citizens.

Thank you for listening.

Martha Read

--  
Martha Read, LMP, Certified Watsu Practitioner,  
Certified Manual Lymph Drainage Therapist  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Check us out on Yelp!  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jami OHagan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not allow this bill to become a reality! My daughter is a 3 time cancer survivor followed by a treatment related stroke all by the age of 18. She has lifelong challenges, both physically and cognitively, which require expensive therapies and interventions. Her medical bills during treatment bankrupt our already struggling middle class family and to discontinue her benefits for pre-existing conditions would destroy our family finances again. And what's to happen to her when we are gone? How will she survive?

Thank you for your continued fight to take care of the citizens of this great country with bipartisan discussion and listening to those who believe you can make a difference.

Jami O'Hagan

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michael Byrne <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare reform

Repeal and replace is a bad idea let's just work with what we have and slowly improve it

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Schenck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments regarding the Graham-Cassidy bill

To whom it may concern--

My dad, a Florida resident and a lifelong republican voter who couldn't even stand looking at Obama on TV, would not be alive right now if it weren't for Obamacare. He lost his job and had no health insurance when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Thanks to the ACA, he was able to afford health insurance without going into debt, and get the treatment he needed (and still needs) to stay alive.

This G-C repeal bill would ruin his opportunity to live life without worrying about going bankrupt in order to pay for his expensive cancer treatment. There are millions of Americans just like my dad, with preexisting conditions or illnesses that require treatment, who'd be left without any options if the G-C repeal bill passes. This bill encapsulates the OPPOSITE of "freedom" as it would truly be life-ruining for millions of American citizens. People like my dad don't deserve a death sentence because of the exorbitant cost of necessary healthcare.

Thank you,  
Emily Schenck

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Emily Schenck  
University of Virginia, Class of 2014  
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Derek Trowbridge Frost <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I write as a concerned citizen to oppose the Cassidy-Graham bill. It will do nothing to improve the flaws in the current health care legislation passed under President Obama.

To the contrary, and despite all the mis-information being disseminated, it will leave people less protected, it will allow insurers to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions, it will increase by the millions the number of people without healthcare, it will begin to dismantle Medicaid, and it will turn over the vital work of providing health care insurance to the states.

No U.S. citizens should be made to suffer because of the state they live in. No U.S. citizens should be deprived of the right to comprehensive and affordable health care. The supporters of this repeal bill claim it will lower premiums. That is false. It will, however, reduce coverage, so people--if they can even get coverage--will end up paying more for less. Finally, the gutting of Medicaid will badly hurt poor people, many of whom are minorities.

Please prevent this bill from going to the Senate floor.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Derek Frost  
[REDACTED]

Bethesda, MD

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Peggy Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill has not been fully analyzed by the GAO nor has congress had time to fully review and discuss. Pushing this through without proper vetting is a crime against all the citizens of the United States.

The federal government would reduce support for Medicaid overall. The Medicaid limits will hit poor children and non-disabled adults the hardest. States will have the option to spend more to supplement those huge funding drops but it is not required that they do so or even clear which states would.

Shame shame shame on all of elected officials who vote for this.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marcia Storch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

To whom it might concern, and that is everyone in the United States,  
Please don't try to push another crazy and not right for this country healthcare plan on us. When are you going to understand that some people are happy with what we have now, and to jeopardize the healthcare of the vulnerable is a big mistake. Let's fix ACA, and not ditch something that is working for many in our country. Please do the right thing, and continue to vote no.

Thank you,  
Marcia Storch

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** HarryO3 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Caitlin B Owens  
**Subject:** In opposition to

I strongly oppose the Graham Cassidy bill aimed to reduce coverage to persons with pre-existing conditions, such as myself who has been challenged with medical concerns all my life. It also aims to reducing proper medical care to persons with disabilities. I am concern that this legislation will create more harm than good and so I urge your not to vote in favor of the Graham Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Harry Olmstead  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Iowa City, IA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Turner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 5:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express my vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I base my opinion and opposition on the following:

- People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk.
- The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
- Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many, *especially* people with disabilities.

In short, I oppose Graham-Cassidy and **any other bill that cuts, caps, or imposes block grants or per capita caps on Medicaid.**

Thank you for your time.

James Turner  
Independent Living/CR&I Director  
Work Incentives Specialist  
Living Independence Network Corp. (LINC)  
[REDACTED]  
Boise, ID [REDACTED]



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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** kevin jennifer zielinski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our Care

Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Chelsea came to our family nine years ago from the local foster care system and two years later became our adopted daughter. She is currently 11 years old. We have three other biological children ranging from six to 20 years old. All of which endured secondary trauma due to the severe nature of Chelsea's mental health needs. She deserves to be treated with an array of treatment interventions and services which are not only limited in Idaho but currently, most options don't exist. Being that Chelsea was once a ward of the state of Idaho through the foster care system, I would think that there would be a priority to effectively care for her and that simply is not the case. Chelsea's Medicaid/mental health care is critical to her everyday life. She is currently in a residential care facility where they are working hard to care for and stabilize her, which Medicaid does not pay for, we use her post-adoption payment and our own funds to support her housing and personal needs there. She has been diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder, bipolar type, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and Child Sexual Abuse. Due to the current lack of community and home-based treatment services, we must rely on residential care to provide 24-hour care for her in an attempt to treat, monitor, educate, and stabilize her. Medicaid allows her to access the available options such as daily medication management, a psychiatric review every 3-4 months, behavior management, medical services, daily living skills training, and symptom monitoring, just to name a few. These options are not covered by private insurance and are needed to avoid in-patient psychiatric care, ongoing emergency room visits, and years of crisis, all of which are risks to her and our family, but this revolving "crisis" door creates a larger deficit with zero outcomes. PLEASE PROTECT OUR CARE.

*Jennifer Zielinski  
Program Coordinator  
Idaho Parents Unlimited  
Statewide Parent Training and Information Center  
Family to Family Health Information Center/Idaho Family Voices*

*[REDACTED]  
Boise, ID [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** James Baugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy proposal

September 20, 2017

Dear Senator:

Disability Rights Idaho writes to express strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal. We cannot overstate the danger facing the millions of adults and children with disabilities if the proposal's Medicaid provisions are adopted. The bill's creation of a per capita cap for Medicaid funding will eventually decimate a program that has provided essential healthcare and long term services and supports to thousands of Idahoans with disabilities for decades. We are also extremely concerned about the changes proposed to the private individual health insurance market and the tax credits that currently assist low-income individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to purchase insurance.

Some 42,000 Idahoans who are elderly or have disabilities, depend on the critical services that Medicaid provides for their health, functioning, independence, and well-being. For decades, the disability community and bipartisan Congressional leaders have worked together to ensure that people with disabilities of all ages have access to home- and community-based services that allow them to live, work, go to school, and participate in their communities. Medicaid has been a key driver of innovations in cost-effective community-based care, and is now the primary program covering home and community-based services (HCBS) in Idaho. Older adults and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for nursing and personal care services, specialized therapies, intensive mental health services, special education services, and other needed services that are unavailable through private insurance.

Like other proposals considered by the Senate, the GCHJ bill upends those critical supports. Per capita caps (which have nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act) would radically restructure the financing of the traditional Medicaid program. The current system ties the federal financial support to the actual cost of providing essential services and treatments. Per-capita caps are not related to the actual cost of Medicaid services. Caps are designed solely to cut federal Medicaid support to states over time, ending a decades-long state/federal partnership to improve opportunities and outcomes for our most vulnerable.

Although Idaho may get a small increase in total federal funding for a short time, in a few years, this will turn into a rapid decrease in federal health care funding. Slashing federal funds will cause state budget crises and shift the burden to the state of Idaho. This cost shift will soon become unsustainable. Caps will force states to cut services and eligibility that put the lives, health, and independence of people with disabilities at significant risk. In fact, because HCBS (including waivers) are optional Medicaid services, they will likely be among the first targets when states are addressing budgetary shortfalls. The structure of GCHJ's cap – like the structure in previous bills – makes cuts worse after it reduces the growth rate in 2025. Congressional Budget Office score on similar per capita cap proposals showed cuts to federal support by \$756-834 billion by 2026, with steeper cuts the following years, amounting to a 35% cut by 2036, and that such caps would cause tens of millions of Americans to lose Medicaid coverage.

Limited carve outs and targeted funding pots included in GCHJ pale in comparison to the scope of these cuts. For example, GCHJ offers a four-year \$8 billion dollar demonstration to expand Medicaid home and community-based services – which is not even half of the \$19 billion cut to the Community First Choice option that eight states have implemented to expand access to necessary in-home services for people with disabilities. All individuals on Medicaid will be impacted by cuts of this magnitude, despite any limited, temporary demonstration funding or restricted funding carve out for a fraction of the children with disabilities that Medicaid supports. Throwing billions in extra temporary funds cannot curb the inevitable, long-term loss of critical Medicaid services that people with disabilities will face as a result of per capita caps.

Marketplace coverage ensures that people with disabilities can buy comprehensive and affordable health care and have equal access to much needed health care including examinations, therapies to regain abilities after an illness or injury, and affordable medications. We have serious concerns about GCHJ private market provisions, including the state waiver authority to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions (including people with disabilities), older adults, and people who need access to essential health benefits. The nondiscrimination provisions and health insurance reforms, the expanded access to long term supports and services, and the expanded availability of comprehensive and affordable health care have helped many more individuals with disabilities live in the community and be successful in school and the work place.

In short, GCHJ makes health insurance less affordable for millions of people, particularly people with disabilities, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions. The cumulative effect of the private insurance and Medicaid proposals will leave people with disabilities without care and without choices, caught between Medicaid cuts, unaffordable private insurance, and limited high risk pools. The CBO estimated that ACA repeal without a replacement would cause 32 million people to lose insurance. GCHJ would be even worse, as it effectively repeals all the ACA coverage expansions after 2026, and also implements per capita caps on the rest of Medicaid that will lead to additional enrollment cuts.

Finally, we are extremely disappointed that the proposal has not been considered under regular order and in fact threatens to usurp an active bipartisan effort to bolster marketplace coverage. The Senate has a longstanding history of deliberating policy proposals through transparent processes, including public hearings, open comment periods on discussion drafts, and multi-stakeholder meetings. We are particularly concerned that Senators are expressing support of this proposal without a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score that thoroughly examines the short and long term financial and coverage impacts. The complete restructuring proposed for the individual private insurance market is likely to have repercussions on coverage that prior CBO estimates do not take into account. The Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee has begun a bipartisan process examining how to strengthen the Affordable Care Act. We ask all Senators to reject this proposal and instead engage in the process of regular order and work toward bipartisan solutions that ensure that all adults and children with disabilities have access to the healthcare they need.

Sincerely,

DisAbility Rights Idaho

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I don't know if the rumor is true that Lindsey Graham received money to put his name on the bill because it would encourage John McCain's support but if that is true and that is why this cruel bill passes then that is beyond shameful and corrupt. This bill will have a devastating impact on people, including people with disabilities.

I hope that rumor is not true because it is so reprehensible.

In any case, however, passing this bill without a CBO score is reprehensible as well.

I am a registered Republican in North Idaho and I am against this bill.

Carolyn Guldborg

parents' home and an assisted living facility. I was able to move into in my own apartment.

I don't know why you need to cut or get rid of Medicaid. This will hurt people with disabilities also the people that work with them. People with disabilities need Medicaid because some people don't work or can't work.

Having Medicaid is important for me because I'm able to live independently, get medication, have motorized wheelchair so I can get to work and can get around in the community.

I am fifty-four years old now. Before I was on the Idaho Development Disabilities Council, I took a nine month class called "Partners in Policies". It went over the history of people with disabilities what others did to people with disabilities. They told us they put people in the State School and Hospital. I am concerned that if Medicaid was cut that history would repeat itself!

Sincerely,

Mike Smith

September 21, 2017

My name is Mike Smith, I live in Moscow, Idaho and I have Cerebral Palsy. I need Medicaid to go to the doctors and get my medication. Without my medications I would be very depressed and ill due to health complications because of my disability. I use an electric wheelchair and Medicaid pays for it as well as repairing it. This is my independence to go to work and getting around to where I need to go. Medicaid is essential to my daily life.

I have been on the Idaho State Independent Living Council for six years now. I also served on the Idaho Development Disability Council for nine years. The Idaho State Independent Living Council is very important to me because it helps people with disabilities to stay as independently as they can, and this is possible with the help of Medicaid.

When I was eighteen years old I was living at home with my family, I wanted to move out on my own. Medicaid helped me to be able to move out of my



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** CindyK. <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

Say NO to passing this bill! It is not any better than what we have, in fact far worse! It's time for the GOP to step up and do what's right for the people! If the medical association and other health entities don't support it, it's because they took an oath to preserve life and this bill will kill people! And what about vetting and a CBO score? Does that not mean anything anymore?

Cindy Knickerbocker  
[REDACTED]  
Boise, ID [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** William Toombs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Although I applaud and support the efforts of Senators Graham and Cassidy to restructure the current healthcare system and bring federal spending under some sort of control, I believe the perceived cuts to Medicaid would be extremely detrimental to individuals living with disabilities in Idaho. My biggest concern would be the limited access to home and community-based services for people with disabilities and the potential that these folks will be forced into institutions.

Again, I support and encourage a reworking of the current system. However, if this bill will in fact hurt millions of American with disabilities I would urge you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy legislation.

Cordially, ?

William Toombs, MA  
Idaho SILC Member

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Judy Halverson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against the Cassidy-Graham proposal

I urge you to not send out of committee the Cassidy-Graham proposal to repeal/replace the Affordable Care Act.

Any bill related to health care needs to protect Medicaid recipients for the long haul, stabilize the marketplace and improve affordability of health care, help low-income families afford their co-pays and deductibles for health insurance, and reauthorize CHIP for low-income children.

The Cassidy-Graham proposal Is not the solution to the above needs for millions of Americans.

Sincerely,  
Judy Halverson  
[REDACTED]  
Boise, ID [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joan Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy(-Santorum)

To my Idaho senators (but this applies to many other as well):

You must reject this bill. It is wholly damaging and without merit for Idaho citizens.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would (apparently--further study is needed, and so is a delay in this misbegotten effort):

- **End employer-provided health coverage for many Americans.**
- **Eliminate subsidies** that help middle- and low-income people purchase health plans.
- **Dramatically cut funding to support states' Medicaid costs and allow states to impose work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries**, an attack that could leave even more Idahoans with disabilities and low-income families without health coverage.
- **Give states the power to remove more expensive health services like maternity care from the list of essential benefits** that insurance providers are required to cover.
- **Allow insurance providers to charge more and reduce the quality of care for people with pre-existing conditions.** This directly affects so many people, it cannot be considered a viable option. This is particularly true since many more people currently have access to care, thanks to the ACA, and so now have defined pre-existing conditions.
- **Increase health care premiums for seniors.** There is a growing constituency in Idaho. Stop trying to make life harder for people who live here.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mel Leviton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Mike\_Crapo@Crapo.senate.gov; James\_Risch@Risch.senate.gov  
**Subject:** GCH Comment  
**Attachments:** GCHJ.doc

September 21, 2017  
(hearing date, September 25, 2017)

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal  
Idaho State Independent Living Council

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Boise, Idaho [REDACTED]

Dear Senator:

The Idaho State Independent Living Council writes to express strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal. We cannot overstate the danger facing the millions of adults and children with disabilities if the proposal's Medicaid provisions are adopted. The bill's creation of a per capita cap for Medicaid funding will eventually decimate a program that has provided essential healthcare and long term services and supports to thousands of Idahoans with disabilities for decades. We are also extremely concerned about the changes proposed to the private individual health insurance market and the tax credits that currently assist low-income individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to purchase insurance.

Some 42,000 Idahoans who are elderly or have disabilities, depend on the critical services that Medicaid provides for their health, functioning, independence, and well-being. For decades, the disability community and bipartisan Congressional leaders have worked together to ensure that people with disabilities of all ages have access to home- and community-based services that allow them to live, work, go to school, and participate in their communities. Medicaid has been a key driver of innovations in cost-effective community-based care, and is now the primary program covering home and community-based services (HCBS) in Idaho. Older adults and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for nursing and personal care services, specialized therapies, intensive mental health services, special education services, and other needed services that are unavailable through private insurance.

Like other proposals considered by the Senate, the GCHJ bill upends those critical supports. Per capita caps (which have nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act) would radically restructure the financing of the traditional Medicaid program. The current system ties the federal financial support to the actual cost of providing essential services and treatments. Per-capita caps are not related to the actual cost of Medicaid services. Caps are designed solely to cut federal Medicaid support to states over time, ending a decades-long state/federal partnership to improve opportunities and outcomes for our most vulnerable.

Although Idaho may get a small increase in total federal funding for a short time, in a few years, this will turn into a rapid decrease in federal health care funding. Slashing federal funds will cause state budget crises and shift the burden to the state of Idaho. This cost shift will soon become unsustainable. Caps will force states to cut services and eligibility that put the lives, health, and independence of people with disabilities at significant risk. In fact, because HCBS (including waivers) are optional Medicaid services, they will likely be among the first targets when states are addressing budgetary shortfalls. The structure of GCHJ's cap – like the structure in previous bills – makes cuts worse after it reduces the growth rate in 2025. Congressional Budget Office score on similar per capita cap proposals showed cuts to federal support

by \$756-834 billion by 2026, with steeper cuts the following years, amounting to a 35% cut by 2036, and that such caps would cause tens of millions of Americans to lose Medicaid coverage.

Limited carve outs and targeted funding pots included in GCHJ pale in comparison to the scope of these cuts. For example, GCHJ offers a four-year \$8 billion dollar demonstration to expand Medicaid home and community-based services – which is not even half of the \$19 billion cut to the Community First Choice option that eight states have implemented to expand access to necessary in-home services for people with disabilities. All individuals on Medicaid will be impacted by cuts of this magnitude, despite any limited, temporary demonstration funding or restricted funding carve out for a fraction of the children with disabilities that Medicaid supports. Throwing billions in extra temporary funds cannot curb the inevitable, long-term loss of critical Medicaid services that people with disabilities will face as a result of per capita caps.

Marketplace coverage ensures that people with disabilities can buy comprehensive and affordable health care and have equal access to much needed health care including examinations, therapies to regain abilities after an illness or injury, and affordable medications. We have serious concerns about GCHJ private market provisions, including the state waiver authority to eliminate protections for people with preexisting conditions (including people with disabilities), older adults, and people who need access to essential health benefits. The nondiscrimination provisions and health insurance reforms, the expanded access to long term supports and services, and the expanded availability of comprehensive and affordable health care have helped many more individuals with disabilities live in the community and be successful in school and the work place.

In short, GCHJ makes health insurance less affordable for millions of people, particularly people with disabilities, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions. The cumulative effect of the private insurance and Medicaid proposals will leave people with disabilities without care and without choices, caught between Medicaid cuts, unaffordable private insurance, and limited high risk pools. The CBO estimated that ACA repeal without a replacement would cause 32 million people to lose insurance. GCHJ would be even worse, as it effectively repeals all the ACA coverage expansions after 2026, and also implements per capita caps on the rest of Medicaid that will lead to additional enrollment cuts.

Finally, we are extremely disappointed that the proposal has not been considered under regular order and in fact threatens to usurp an active bipartisan effort to bolster marketplace coverage. The Senate has a longstanding history of deliberating policy proposals through transparent processes, including public hearings, open comment periods on discussion drafts, and multi-stakeholder meetings. We are particularly concerned that Senators are expressing support of this proposal without a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score that thoroughly examines the short and long term financial and coverage impacts. The complete restructuring proposed for the individual private insurance market is likely to have repercussions on coverage that prior CBO estimates do not take into account. The Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee has begun a bipartisan process examining how to strengthen the Affordable Care Act. We ask all Senators to reject this proposal and instead engage in the process of regular order and work toward bipartisan solutions that ensure that all adults and children with disabilities have access to the healthcare they need.

Sincerely,

The Idaho State Independent Living Council

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kristin Henrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please register this email as a plea to oppose Graham-Cassidy. Its passing would have a disastrous affect on many of my fellow Idahoans, and would negatively affect my own access to affordable healthcare as a woman.

Please focus instead on improving the Affordable Care Act, which has demonstrated success in improving access to healthcare and the lives of many of our nation's citizens. ACA saved my own life after a preventive test caught a potentially fatal disease; further testing and treatment would have been prohibitively expensive had I not been covered by ACA's provisions.

Thank you for your service on this important committee, and for listening to citizens like myself.

Warm wishes,  
Kristin Henrich  
Moscow, Idaho  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Ann <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy health Care bill

The proposed Graham-Cassidy bill is incomprehensible in its cruelty to American citizens – particularly the poor and middle class – with an estimated 32 million people losing coverage over the next several years. It is also wrong to vote on this hugely impactful bill without having the Congressional Budget Office totally review and score it.

The idea of block grants to states is a bad idea for several reasons:

It gives states the ability to discriminate against poor, disabled, elderly, women, people with mental health issues, and people with pre-existing conditions by allowing them to waive the ACA prohibition against higher premiums based on health status.

The one size fits all money distribution which Lindsey Graham says “every patient in every state gets the same contribution” does not even make sense since it does not recognize the variance in costs in rural areas and large cities. It also does not recognize the fact that most states that currently don’t receive federal funds voluntarily shunned Medicaid expansion.

Most states will lose billions in federal funding and will not be able to afford to replace the reduction with state funds.

History has proven that many states will not be responsible in providing for the needs of their most marginalized citizens. This bill penalizes the states that were compassionate and expanded Medicaid, and distributes billions to those who still do not have an adequate plan for providing care to the poor.

Idaho’s Republican Governor does not even support this bill because it does not allow the state to design how they would provide health care to the poor and those who fall into the “Medicaid gap”.

Reducing Federal Medicaid removes the one safety net that has helped millions of our poorest citizens.

When almost everyone in the healthcare industry including the AMA, Insurance groups, Hospital Associations etc. warns against the catastrophic harm this bill would cause, it gives me pause. It seems to me these groups should be at the table along with a bipartisan coalition of congressional members to develop legislation that will increase the number of Americans with access to affordable, quality healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act needs modifications and improvements, but throwing the entire law out and replacing it with one that harms the majority of Americans in some way is not only immoral, but it is Un-American. Please vote “no” on this disaster of a bill, and commit to working on a bill that serves your constituents.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Szymoniak  
Boise, Idaho

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lori Michas-Chastaine <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

As a 44 year-old-woman currently battling breast cancer, this bill terrifies me. Not only does it leave the HUGE question of pre-existing conditions unanswered, it also potentially pulls funding from Medicaid/nursing homes, and potentially blocks funding to Planned Parenthood. As a human with elderly parents, a mother of young girls, and a patient battling a disease, I'm baffled by the shortsightedness and brash wrecklessness of this bill. In my current situation, I am already spending hours and dollars fighting this disease that hopefully won't kill me. This bill, however, potentially sentences me to the lifelong pleasure of paying for ever having been sick. (Thank you Graham and Cassidy who have premium healthcare plans covered by the government, yet preach the dangers of government run healthcare.)

I think the next time Cassidy and Graham sit down next to each other for a haircut, they might think about how to engage more people in this complicated discussion about healthcare. Penalizing women like me, the elderly and the poor is unconscionable. Furthermore, asking for public input and reaching across the aisle to work together with the Democrats to find a real solution should be their goal, not a old boys club barber shop conversation that turns into a poorly planned and rushed bill.

Lori Michas  
[REDACTED]

Boise, ID [REDACTED]  
(Yes, I'm a real human being in Idaho)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Adriana DeAmorim-Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Adriana DeAmorim-Miller  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sandpoint, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tammy Bruegeman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Tammy Bruegeman

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Grangeville, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jay McBride <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Pretend you represent the public and not just the wealthy.

Jay McBride  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Pocatello, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Chris S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. Graham-Cassidy bill is an OUTRAGEOUS BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST AND TOTALLY UNETHICAL NO MATTER HOW THEY SPIN IT.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Chris S

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Coeur d Alene, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Adriana DeAmorim-Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Adriana DeAmorim-Miller

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Sandpoint, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA

Hello,

My friends and family rely on quality,affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. There are a multitude of reasons, care for Seniors in nursing homes, people with disabilities, people with pre-existing conditions. But I want to speak of the opioid crisis. One of my former students had graduated from our small school, NCH in Northern Idaho. He was on his way to a good life when an opioid addiction and an overdose killed him. One of my dearest friends has a son who is addicted to heroin. As well as destroying his own life, he is destroying the lives of those around him. I constantly hear that the opioid crisis is even worse in other areas of the United States.

Help is needed from the ACA.

Please improve the ACA rather than eliminating it.

Thank you,

Jeanne Wood

[REDACTED]  
Moscow, ID [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kenneth Krivanek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Improve the ACA not Repeal

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I have had a knee replacement and my wife has GERDs and will lose current health coverage if this passes. We would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Kenneth R. Krivanek

Idaho Falls, Idaho



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Virgil Edwards <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

I am a 68 year old male with multiple disabilities that still working full time.  
I see the harm that will be caused by the Trump/ GOP rich folks wanting to take away life saving health plans.  
The idea of giving the American health care the will/ may cause pain suffering and death is deplorable.  
How we have turned into such a hateful group of politicians as the GOPN is beyond me.  
I pay my taxes so it can assist people in need.  
Thank You Virgil Edwards

Virgil Edwards  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Postfalls, Idaho [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
DACNW.org

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lynne Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Gram Cassidy Bill/ PLEASE VOTE AGAINST THIS HURTFUL PROPOSAL

Please, please listen to so many people in this great country who are fearful of losing their insurance coverage, thus losing access to quality health care. **I am truly stumped and beyond understanding of why so many of our good congressmen are committed to repealing the Affordable Care Act just simply for the sake of repeal. Are not the lives and health of the constituents they represent more important than simply a political win?**

My sister several years ago was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer, a very aggressive form of cancer. Because her doctor was proactive and because she had insurance and thus was able to act quickly and get the care and treatment she needed, she is a survivor. Had she not had health insurance she probably would not have gone so quickly to the doctor in the first place for a checkup because of the cost of an office call or would not have been able to follow through with the long and very expensive regime of treatment over the next year and a half. Because she had opportunity for coverage, she is alive. She's my sister and I love her, praise God.

This is one story. There are so many. Those battling cancer, those with heart conditions, diabetes, children with congenital conditions, and on and on, so many with pre-existing conditions that would lose coverage. I'm 63 years old, approaching the Senior years and on a fixed income. I greatly fear the high cost of coverage for the elderly and that I may have to choose between housing/food and health insurance at some point if this bill were to pass.

Please help our congressmen see that healthcare is a right for ALL people, that everyone should be able to receive the same opportunity they have as our congressmen. I personally support the Single Payer system and hope this gets much more coverage and opportunity for debate in Congress. **But first the Graham Cassidy bill must be defeated.**

Thank you, Lynne Johnson, Nampa Idaho

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Swett <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The ACA

**To all who care about the health and productivity of American families---**  
My 27 year old son, who has had rheumatoid arthritis since he was 13, relies on quality, affordable healthcare so that he can walk and work and participate in the social and economic fabric of his town.

He had his own business and though his health insurance is crazy expensive, he at least has coverage. I absolutely oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill because his pre-existing condition could prevent him from getting the medications and care he needs and that makes all the difference to his ability to be a productive citizen

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.  
Please.  
Sincerely,  
Sarah Swett  
Moscow, Idaho.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Darcy James [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposing Graham - Cassidy health care bill

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to give Graham-Cassidy a very critical hearing. This bill purports to replace the Affordable Care Act, but it also is a raid on Medicaid, which has a long and successful history helping support the health of many of my neighbors without bankrupting them. As long as we have a for-profit, fee-for-service medical system, the federal government is the last line of defense from its pernicious effects.

Please do not let this harmful bill advance to the Senate floor.

Thank you,  
Darcy James

[REDACTED]  
Boise, Idaho [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ellen Vieth <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care voter

Please I urge you to reject this - yet another attempt at stripping away people's rights to adequate and affordable care.

Just yesterday I was in the ER, for a completely random bug bite that could have gone septic. I value my insurance, and my ability to treat my health- this would have potentially killed me without help. Vote down this abysmally mean and rotten bill- all it will do is hurt people.

Thank you.

Ellen Vieth

[REDACTED]  
Genesee, Idaho [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kookie Morrison <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:43 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Healthcare

I am emailing in regards to the affordable healthcare repeal. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As a nurse working with patients who have cancer and chronic diagnoses I have seen the benefits of the ACA. Even with some form of insurance there are still many who are not able to fully access the care needed. I have personally benefitted keeping my son on my insurance until the age of 26. We are now struggling to find affordable insurance that would cover more than catastrophic. Healthcare costs can change ones life in a moment, devastating finances, increasing stress and taking away choices. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Karen Morrison RN

Hailey, Idaho

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michele Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Michele Murphy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TROY, Idaho [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Secretan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Constituent Voice re Graham-Cassidy Bill

Quality, affordable healthcare is something my husband and I rely on. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill as we depend on this coverage. My own story is typical of those who are on fixed income: The majority of that income goes to paying for healthcare - office visits, labs and prescription medicine (in addition to the increased dental expense that is part of advancing years). My own wish would be a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not to repeal it.

Sincerely,

Linda R Secretan  
Eagle, Idaho [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Grant Thomas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

The Graham-Cassidy Health Care bill is the most recent in series of poor and damaging attempts at Health Care reform. It deserves defeat. I strongly urge you to resume bipartisan discussion on Health Care.

Grant M. Thomas  
[REDACTED]  
Pocatello, Idaho [REDACTED]

• ? f

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Godchaux <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Martha Godchaux  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Moscow, Idaho [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Daniel Hawley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill and the manner that it is being presented are an affront to the American public.

Graham-Cassidy should be rejected.

Daniel Hawley

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ketchum, Idaho [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** M. L. Melville [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham bill

Our family is strongly opposed to the Cassidy-Graham health bill. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has many flaws and should be improved. However, Cassidy-Graham would be far worse. The bill is not well thought out and has not received thorough comment. We understand that up to 32 million people could lose health insurance coverage if this ill-conceived bill is allowed to pass.

Thank you,  
M. L. Melville, MD  
Richard Gugelmann, MD  
Chapel Hill, NC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Richard Doyle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

PLEASE DON'T THE GOP'S DESPERATE LAST DESTRUCTIVE ATTEMPT HAPPEN!

Thank you,

Dick Doyle

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ed Everett <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not support repeal

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

Sincerely  
Chris Everett

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pamela Muir <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

Hello,

I am writing as a two time cancer survivor. I have had both breast cancer and melanoma. Currently my health insurance is through my husband's employer, as I work as a substitute teacher and thus do not receive any employee benefits. If at some point my husband needs to change employers, then I stand a good chance of losing my health insurance because of my pre-existing conditions. Please do not vote in favor of this bill that has no CBO score and is really just a tax cut for the rich and has been drafted and rushed through out of spite.

Sincerely,  
Pamela Muir

[REDACTED]  
Arlington, VA [REDACTED]

Voters for Accountability  
<https://votersforaccountability.com/>

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Colborn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO On Graham-Cassidy

Americans deserve far better.

The lack of due process and the plethora of negative effects that this hastily thrown together bill will have on many Americans decides the matter. After all, we have limited understanding about all of those negative impacts. Yes, we do understand it would, in the short term, save some monies. In the long term it would cost us far more monies.

I urge you to put some of the attention which has been inappropriately placed upon the "repeal and replace" of the Affordable Care Act for far too long and onto addressing its shortcomings and needs, and then you can move onto other important business.

Thank you.

J. Randall Colborn

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Mishawaka, IN [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** J R SANDOVAL [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham Question

In all the relevant information that I have been able to collect, I am utterly perplexed how this bill fixes anything. I can find no way to follow the money through the shuffling of money draining Medicaid funds through state block grants or find any reason to believe poor people will have better choices, more affordable premiums and co-pays, and greater access to health care care. This is not "repeal and/or replace" as much as it is an erosion of health care that the entire health care industry opposes: doctors, nurses, hospitals, insurance companies and national associations - yet they have no voice at the table as the drafting of this bill included no one. My question: how does this bill improve health care for Americans who need it most and what is the immediate effect?

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Singletary <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill. My family relies on affordable healthcare. My grandson receives benefits with Medicaid funds. We rely on this for his health care needs. Many families rely on Medicaid for support to care for children and adults with disabilities. My departed Mother needed Medicaid to help pay for nursing care. This bill does not meet the needs of millions of American families.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not to repeal it. Members of Congress should be ashamed of playing politics with peoples' lives.

Laura Singletary

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lydia Fahs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill would not only increase premium for American citizens, but also morbidity and mortality for American citizens.

Please: represent us, not party lines or corporates interests. This has gone too far, and everyone knows it.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jackie Guy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:40 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. Jacqueline Guy, Morton, Pennsylvania

Jackie Guy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kristine McCormick <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I'm registered and I vote

Dear Sirs,

I am writing today to express my disgust with the latest attempt at breaking healthcare even more in our country. No one wants this bill. Both my daughter and husband would become ineligible for future healthcare coverage if our state were to elect to allow insurance companies to not cover pre-existing condition. Our family needs that federal mandate. My Mother who suffers from liver disease and diabetes would reach lifetime limits and be ineligible for healthcare. She already can't afford the best medicine to help her feel better and improve the quality of her life. Why would you force her to suffer more?

The idea that people in this country should suffer and die because they are poor and can't get health care is a travesty of epic proportions. The entirety of the Senate should be ashamed of themselves for presenting this kind of legislation. The GOP has had seven years to come up with a better plan and this is the best they could do? DISGUSTING! Stop polarizing and politicizing healthcare. You are dealing with life and death for Americans.

Kristine McCormick  
[REDACTED]  
Roanoke, VA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Flanagan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham/ Cassidy bill

This bill, if passed, will kill millions of people, most likely people you know and care about. We need to fight it. Medicaid will be brutalized and pre-existing conditions not covered, even if you have employer paid insurance. Shame on republicans who support this bill. They need to work with democrats to improve Obamacare for the American people, not destroy it.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Artin Archer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please be fair and helpful to the people of this USA now!

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Artin Archer

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

Jessica Beir.  
[REDACTED]

Coral Springs, FL [REDACTED]

Committee Members:

I oppose the Graham/Cassidy Bill. The massive Medicaid cuts will have a devastating impact on many people.

I care deeply about health care and supports for people with autism, including Medicaid.

My son lives in Siler City, NC in a supervised home. He depends on Medicaid services and supports which include funds for innovations waivers. These services enable him to live as a productive citizen in his community.

Please oppose the Graham/Cassidy Bill.

Please oppose bills that make cuts to Medicaid.

Please work in a bipartisan way to improve access to health care, including autism services and Medicaid.

Thank you,  
Jessica Beir  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Martha Pratt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Say No to the Graham Cassidy bill. Keep the ACA because I am going to sign up for so I will have insurance and I medical needs! Keep the ACA!

Ms. Martha 

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act

I could send you several anecdotes from my circle of friends and family, but will start with this one, closest to my heart:

I have a 27 year old nephew, an artist gaining some international attention with his moving, balletic video art. Since his father's death 8 years ago he has suffered PTSD and depression, probably resulting from being the one who had to OK taking his Dad off life support. He was only 19, and a sensitive kid who adored his Dad, also an artist.

This has at times brought on erratic, non-violent behavior which frightens both himself and his family.

In the long run he will outgrow this but in the meantime he is able to manage his life with medication and counseling. He is only able to do this because of the affordability of health care through the ACA. If that goes, if the costs go up to satisfy the ever increasing appetite of insurance companies, his life is in jeopardy.

Please work to improve the ACA. It will cost billions to replace it, and fundamentally it's the best thing we currently have.

Linda Pharis  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Roanoke VA. [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** What Healthcare Means to Me

To the members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my hope that you will put aside partisan politics and act in the interest of the greater good. Millions of Americans depend every day upon their healthcare, and millions will suffer tremendously by either losing their coverage or experiencing diminished and inappropriate coverage should the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill pass.

I'd like to share my own healthcare experiences for your consideration. I'm a 37-year-old woman who has suffered with ovarian cysts from the time I was nine years old. The problem became more serious and painful once I reached my early thirties. One of the treatment methods that greatly helped me was the use of birth control to reduce the size of existing cysts and prevent new ones from forming. Before the ACA passed, the birth control my doctor prescribed cost me out-of-pocket \$120 for a three month supply. That obviously does not factor in the amount my insurance covered. I can't imagine how women experiencing the same health issue as I manage without insurance. I don't want to think about what birth control would have cost if I didn't have a plan through my job. It likely would not have been an option for me. To go without treatment would have led to frequent and extremely painful cyst ruptures and possibly a more serious outcome resulting in hospitalization.

Four years ago, following proper treatment and the passage of the ACA, my husband and I were blessed with an incredible, bright, loving baby boy. He has been the joy of our lives. He struggles with developmental issues, such as tactile dysfunction and the speech disorder apraxia. However, thanks to our healthcare coverage, we have been able to work with private therapists to help him overcome these issues and today he is absolutely thriving. Most people that meet him would never guess he needed to work with occupational or speech therapists. It was through early intervention and the ability to afford such treatment that we are able to help him be the very best version of himself. Without insurance, treatment would have been too expensive for us and the milestones our son has reached would have been impossible for him. He has tremendous potential that has only been realized because we have healthcare coverage. How many American children are out there today that did not – and would not with the passage of this repeal bill – have that advantage?

I hope you will take my story into consideration as an example of how important – critical, really – having health insurance is to your fellow citizens. I've been fortunate. I have healthcare, and thanks to the ACA millions of Americans do too. Please do not take this from them. Instead, seek solutions to improve it. Be bigger than the petty, partisan politics that are crippling us. Be an American first.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Beckner of Providence Forge, Virginia

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gloria Ocegüera [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** DeathCare bill

I beg ALL of our representatives to trash this obscene excuse for a healthcare bill. If not for the ACA, I would have had to bury my husband three years ago! If not for the ACA, my daughter, who suffers from multiple serious health issues and is currently on NY State of Health Essential plan, would likely not be on the planet.

Gloria Ocegüera  
Shady Cove, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** COMMENTS ON THE GRAHAM CASSIDY HEALTH CARE BILL

Dear Senators,

I believe that healthcare is a basic human right.

The Graham Cassidy Bill will:  
take healthcare away from as many as 30 million Americans  
gut Medicaid  
increase costs for families  
cause the deaths of ~18,000 Americans in the law's first year, with deaths approaching 40,000 in 2027.

Since the bill has not yet been scored by the CBO, there are other, unknown effects!

Medicare and Medicaid were not perfect in 1965, when first passed. However, our legislators worked across the aisle, and fixed the problems. The ACA is not perfect either, but it's a good foundation to build on. What we need now is bipartisan efforts to tweak the ACA to provide the best possible healthcare situation for ALL Americans. We need this effort to be out in the open, with committee hearings and public comment.

If upper middle income and wealthy folks need to pay more taxes to make this happen, that's ok. What we object strenuously to is tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of healthcare for lower income and poor folks. We also object to massive profits for drug company executives and healthcare administrators.

Sincerely,  
Sharon and Bob Brady

As Senators, you are charged with doing what is in the best interests of ALL your constituents, not just your wealthy donors.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ellie Brownstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy public comments

Dear Committee Members,

I am a pediatrician in Salt Lake City Utah. I urge you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill. I believe this bill is bad for Americans and bad for our children. We need a sensible approach to healthcare in this country not a quick fix. We are the only developed nation in the world that does not provide universal access to healthcare for all citizens. The ACA was an attempt to remedy this problem and it helped but had some unintended consequences, and could use some fixing but this bill would be a huge step backwards.

Graham Cassidy puts huge burdens on the states by changing Medicaid into a block grant. This would save money on the backs of our children and the disabled. There is no way to provide this safety net to 37 million on medicaid if you removed nearly 20% of the funding as this bill will do over 10 years. In Utah 73% of medicaid recipients are children, meaning they don't get the care they need with these cuts. Kids who have access to medicaid stay in school, stay healthier, and become more productive adults. As time goes on this cap will not allow for growth in the program so the states will either need to use other funds, cut people out of medicaid or cut services for those most vulnerable.

Turning funding over to the states, and requiring that they apply for a waiver to get this funding, will put millions at risk. Each state can introduce coverage caps, limit coverage, opt out of protections put in place by the ACA will lead to millions without healthcare access, as well as higher costs and premiums. Every American will utilize the healthcare system at some point in our lives. Removing the mandate for insurance coverage means that healthy individuals will not get coverage until they need it, but all of those with illnesses will seek insurance, so the premiums will skyrocket. Allowing states to opt out of the essential benefits package will mean people will buy cheaper plans and be surprised when the care they need is not included. This will result in increased out of pocket expenses for many.

This bill would also remove the subsidies put in place by the ACA. Eliminating subsidies for low income Americans means health insurance will be out of reach again for many of the neediest.

Please stop this bill it is bad for America and bad for children.

Sincerely,

Ellie Brownstein, MD FAAP  
University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics Greenwood Clinic [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cathy Taglieri [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

**Every American deserves and** relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a pharmacist and even with Medicaid, Medicare and the ACA patients have trouble affording their medications. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely

Cathy Taglieri

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Zafirovski, Robin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Kanner, Max (Durbin); Josie\_Villaneuva@duckworth.senate.gov; Fraggos, Jill  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Legislation  
**Attachments:** image67aa53.PNG; Letter to Senate Finance Committee.docx

Dear Members of the Senate,  
Please the attached letter addressing the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Proposal expressly stating my opposition to this legislation.  
Sincerely,  
Robin

Robin Zafirovski  
Founders' Board President, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago <[REDACTED]> | F <[REDACTED]> |  
<mailto:[REDACTED]> |  
<http://[REDACTED]>  
Chicago, Illinois <[REDACTED]>  
Facebook <http://[REDACTED]> | Twitter <http://[REDACTED]> |  
YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/[REDACTED]>

[cid:image67aa53.PNG@64a4d73b.4f833efd]

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

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Wogan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH comment

Dear People:

I am a Registered Nurse with first hand knowledge of the health care system. All patients should be treated with high quality, affordable healthcare. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill furthers a political game and does not truly address the needs of patients. Rather than political charades, we need to concentrate on finding resources to keep people healthy and provide optimal coverage for the necessary treatments when they are ill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to Improve the ACA, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,

Linda Wogan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Veronika Adaskova [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 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.

Veronika Adaskova  
Brooklyn, New York

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deborah Timberlake [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Title of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill  
Hearing Date: September 25, 2017

From: Dr. and Mrs. Mark Timberlake  
[REDACTED]  
Avondale Estates, GA [REDACTED]

Dear Finance Committee Members,

We would like to express our OPPOSITION to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. It would essentially put the healthcare system back where it was before the ACA, leaving millions of American uninsured and remove coverage guarantees provided by the ACA.

We are now old enough to be covered by Medicare and able to afford supplemental coverage, but for many years, as self-employed individuals, medical insurance was hard to get approved for and coverage could be inadequate. One had to be a master of interpreting fine print. The insurance companies held all the cards. On top of that, it was expensive for even catastrophic coverage with large deductibles.

Before our Medicare eligibility, we were paying between \$2000 and \$3000 a month with a \$10,000 deductible. That was when the states negotiated with the insurance companies. Nothing was done in the interest of the consumer. Pre-existing conditions led to exclusions and higher premiums, and even cancellation of coverage. Don't consider going back to that cruel scenario.

The days are long gone when everyone has a full-time job with one company that provides a benefits package. The "gig economy" that the young must contend with leaves people with the cost of self-employment taxes AND medical insurance. Uninsured people pay obscene amounts just to be seen by a doctor. God help them if they really get sick. The ACA provided subsidies make insurance available to those working hard to be in the middle class. Medicaid expansion, not retraction or block grants to the states, keep those struggling in the working and lower class healthy and productive. That will support a strong economy.

I know that, as Senators, you all have wonderful coverage provided by the American people through our taxes. We're happy for you to have it. We only ask that, in fairness, you secure the same for your constituents. We will not accept that this great country can not afford what the rest of the developed world manages to provide its' citizenry.

Please DO NOT support the Graham-Cassidy bill.  
Please work together, across the aisle, to fund and fix the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Mark and Deborah Timberlake

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Suzanne Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on Graham-Cassidy

I am a physical therapist who works with people who need rehab services to be able to work, take care of their families, improve independence, and to generally improve their quality of life. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Many of my patients are only able to access care because of the Affordable Care Act, and I work with people who use Medicaid on a daily basis. Most of my patients also present with pre-existing conditions. As such, I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Miller PT, DPT

Littleton, CO

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Frances Benjamin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Full Name (of individual or organization submitting opposition) Frances R. Benjamin
- Address [REDACTED] Concord, MA [REDACTED]

I strongly oppose this Bill (**Graham-Cassidy**) because of the devastating impact this would have on people, including people with disabilities and pre-existing conditions. The list I have seen of disabilities and pre-existing conditions would include almost everybody. Many people cannot afford an alternative.

Please hear those who oppose!

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ruben Carbajal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing today to ask that you reject Graham-Cassidy. Healthcare represents 1/6th of our economy. This is a matter that needs to be dealt with under regular order, in a bipartisan way. There is too much and too many lives at stake.

Sincerely,

Ruben Carbajal  
[REDACTED]  
Santa Monica, CA  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Twigg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to the G/C bill

I live in zipcode [REDACTED] and I believe the Graham/ Cassidy bill should not be passed. It's time to stop trying to gut the ACA, but rather improve it where it needs it. Millions who once were without healthcare now have it. Without the ACA the old, poor, and those with life-threatening conditions will die. This is not right. Everybody has a right to have healthcare, not just the those who can afford it.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Lindberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassady HARMS America

To the Committee:

As an American citizen I am saddened by this bill being presented for hasty vote. It does nothing to improve healthcare -- it actually worsens healthcare for millions of working, low-income Americans and their families, the disabled, and the infirm.

Vote No, please.

Thank you.

Jane Lindberg  
(currently insured by my employer and proud American and New Yorker)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie Baldwin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Please do not pass Graham - Cassidy Act. Let's work together.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Matt Silvers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Matt Silvers B.sci, EMT-I  
Colton, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sylvia Neukirk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comments regarding "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill

Dear Leaders,

I am writing to share my concerns about the "Graham-Cassidy" healthcare repeal bill. My husband and I have worked hard and saved carefully throughout our careers. I had hope in my late 50s, just a few years from now, I could "retire" and start a small business. This year, we learned my husband has brain cancer (the same one Senator McCain has) and now that dream is shattered. His surgery and time in the hospital was billed at \$130K and I am still waiting to see how much will be covered. His ongoing treatments, which are covered, are billed in the thousands. I know that we are truly fortunate to have my employer provided health care and our savings but, as I watch the healthcare debate unfold I have a fear: what if I lose my job? how will I manage then? Will I be able to have my husband's, now pre-existing, condition covered? Will I be able to afford healthcare if I can't find a job? How will we make the right choices if we have to worry about how to pay for them? I live with this fear as I try to navigate managing my husband's healthcare and the knowledge that his lifetime is shortened and I work hard to minimize his stress and ensure a good quality of life for him. I think about the anxiety that many people less fortunate than I have and about what it must be like to not have the resources to get the best care. It frightens and saddens me. Nobody should have to live with that fear and the extra stress that they cannot provide themselves and their loved ones with medical care, especially when they are ill and already suffering. Please choose to help all people afford the quality healthcare they need. I vote in every election and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Neukirk,

Tax payer and voter

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kim Quitadamo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Giving authority to the states after approval from HHS will destroy healthcare. We need a non-partisan bill to fix PPACA (the Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act - don't forget the PP) Also if the ACA is OK for ALASKA AND the Senate and the House then it OK for the AMERICAN FAMILIES. The Billionaires Donors that are filling your coffers should run for office if they want to make changes and instead of hiding behind closed doors and using you a puppet. To the Senators that are pushing this horrific bill need to remember the swore oath you took to serve all of Americans and to protect all the Americans and not your greedy supporters and your war chests. STOP TRYING TO DESTROY THE WORKING POOR AND THE MIDDLE CLASS. A Politician works to get reelected the statesman works for future generations which one is you?

Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Agnes Franz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on Graham Cassidy Bill

9/24/17

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I understand that the Graham Cassidy Health Care Bill will be placed before the Senate Finance Committee tomorrow for review.

As a citizen of this country I would like to send you my comments on this bill. I am a retired pediatrician and a resident of Fairmont, West Virginia. I am very concerned about the negative impact that this bill will have on the people of this country. I am also concerned that this bill is being rushed through without a proper analysis by the Congressional Budget Office.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would eliminate or weaken coverage for individuals insured through Medicaid by eliminating the enhanced federal match provided under the ACA for states that opt to expand the Medicaid program starting on January 1, 2020. It would allow states to re-determine Medicaid eligibility for individuals eligible every six months or more frequently for individuals eligible for Medicaid through the ACA expansion. This change would result in a substantial number of citizens who reside in states that expanded their Medicaid population that would lose coverage under this legislation, with no assurance that they would be covered under a state plan or in the marketplace.

It would also significantly decrease federal funding for the Medicaid program by converting the current federal financing formula to a per capita cap model. The proposed per capita cap on federal funding would be devastating to coverage and access to care for many of the 72 million people currently enrolled. Because most states are required by law to balance their budgets a reduction in and/or a cap on federal matching funds will necessarily require them to greatly reduce benefits and eligibility and/or impose higher cost-sharing for Medicaid enrollees, most of whom cannot afford to pay more out of pocket—or alternatively and concurrently, reduce payments to physicians and hospitals (including rural hospitals that may be forced to close), enact harmful cuts to other state programs or raise taxes. This is certainly true for West Virginia which is currently trying to cope with a huge debt crisis.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would also allow states the option to participate in a Medicaid Flexibility block grant program beginning in Fiscal Year 2020. Under the Medicaid Flexibility Program, states would receive block grant funding instead of per capita cap funding for non - elderly, non-disabled, and non-expansion adults. This would be devastating to coverage and access to care especially under this legislation as overall federal funding for Medicaid would be reduced from current law. Under block grants, states do not get any additional payment per enrollee. There would be strong incentives created for states to cut back on eligibility, resulting in millions of vulnerable patients potentially losing coverage.

Block grants will not allow for increases in the federal contribution should states encounter new costs, such as devastating hurricanes, flooding or tornadoes that may injure their residents or destroy

Rather than continue with an effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, I ask that you to set aside this legislation and instead, focus on bipartisan efforts to stabilize the health insurance marketplaces, create competition among insurers, and lower the costs of health care for all Americans. I would also urge that any legislation to amend current law should be developed through regular order, with hearings, debate, and committee mark-ups, and with sufficient time for independent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), independent experts, and the clinicians and patients directly affected by the proposed change.

This current health bill submitted by Senators Graham & Cassidy is poorly constructed and will lead to worsening of health coverage of many of the American people. I believe having adequate health care should be considered a basic human right although I do completely understand that the provision of health care does not come free and must be properly financed. Decisions about how to finance our health system properly so that individuals and our government are not bankrupted should be done in an open and considered manner with public input by all the various organizations who play a role in our health care economy. These should include not only physicians but also hospital associations insurance companies, disability organizations, individuals and others as well as experts in economics. The financing of our health system is too important to be rushed though without public hearings and proper considering of the impact of any legislation on individuals and our economy.

I would point out to you that numerous physician organizations, insurance associations, disability advocacy groups as well as consumer organizations such as the AARP have come out opposing this bill. Also 10 Democratic & Republican governors have recently released a letter opposing the bill as well. In addition separately Governor Larry Hogan released the following statement on 9/19/17:

"As I have said from the start, the Affordable Care Act needs to be fixed. We need to keep what works, improve the parts that do not, and do it in a way that protects Marylanders' coverage and stops rates from continually skyrocketing. I will support any solution – no matter which side of the aisle it comes from – that helps us reach this outcome.

"Unfortunately, the Graham-Cassidy bill is not a solution that works for Maryland. It will cost our state over \$2 billion annually while directly jeopardizing the health care of our citizens. We need common sense, bipartisan solutions that will stabilize markets and actually expand affordable coverage. It is time for Republicans and Democrats to come together, fix what is so clearly broken, and finally get something done for the American people."

Sincerely,

Agnes Franz, M.D.  


Much of the information that I used in my letter above comes from a letter released by the American College of Physicians released 9/13/17 that was sent to Sen. McConnell & Sen. Schumer. If you have not already done so I would encourage that you read their letter. You can find it by googling "American College of Physicians Letter of 9/13/17".

health care facilities. Under either block grants or per capita spending limits, states would be forced to cut off enrollment, slash benefits, or curb provider reimbursement rates .

I understand that under this bill in 2027, the Block grants will be eliminated unless refunded by Congress and there would be even deeper cuts to traditional Medicaid. In my state of West Virginia alone according to the West Virginia Center On Budget & Policy this would result in the loss of over \$2 Billion in Medicaid funding.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would also permit states, effective October 1, 2017, to require non-disabled, non-elderly, non-pregnant individuals to satisfy a work requirement as a condition for the receipt of Medicaid medical assistance. Medicaid is not a cash assistance or job training program. It is a health insurance program and eligibility should not be contingent on whether or not an individual is employed or looking for work. About 80% of Medicaid recipients already work and of those who don't and there are some who are unable to be employed, because they have behavioral and mental health conditions, suffer from substance use disorders, are care-givers for family members, do not have the skills required to fill available positions, or there simply are no suitable jobs available to them.

This proposal would repeal the ACA premium tax credits as of January 1, 2020 and allocate some of the funds that were used for that purpose on a new State -Based Health Care Grant Program. The concern is that this formula would provide less funding than currently in place for individuals to purchase health insurance in the individual market and that states could use these funds for a broad range of health care purposes, not just coverage, with essentially no guardrails or standards to ensure affordable meaningful coverage.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would allow states to obtain waivers for state innovation plans that bypass guidelines required by current law for tax credits or cost sharing reduction payments. There is no mandate in this legislation that requires that a state must provide an essential benefit package if it is granted a waiver under this bill. Congress should consider additional policies to encourage state innovation and bring more choice and competition into insurance markets without rolling back current coverage, benefits and other consumer protections guaranteed by the ACA and other federal laws and regulations.

Allowing waivers should offer states the opportunity to test innovative ways to expand insurance coverage while ensuring that patients have access to comprehensive insurance options. However, it is important that Congress should not weaken or eliminate the current-law guardrails that ensure patients have access to comprehensive essential health benefits and are protected from excessive co-payments and deductibles. Unfortunately, if existing requirements are removed (e.g. that waivers provide comprehensive, affordable coverage that covers a comparable number of people as would be covered under current law), a backdoor would emerge for insurers to offer less generous coverage to fewer people and to make coverage unaffordable for patients with preexisting conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy Bill would eliminate the employer and individual mandate. I am concerned that the elimination of this mandate would allow individuals to wait until they are ill to purchase insurance and that insurers would need to increase premiums to compensate for the resulting sicker risk pool and the destabilization of the insurance market. Maintaining effective adherence to the mandate helps balance the market's risk pool, attract healthier employees, and avoid dramatic premium rate increases. Insurance companies cannot provide adequate insurance coverage at affordable prices including those with pre-existing conditions unless they have large insurance pools with sufficient numbers of people who will not need expensive services. This is how insurance works. A person pays in during times when they are not likely to need it so it is there when they do. No one can predict with 100% accuracy when they will need expensive services even if they are currently healthy.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Luckard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The inhumanity that is Graham-Cassidy

Graham-Cassidy is the worst of all of the excrescences proposed to "replace" (read:destroy) the Affordable Care Act.

Money given to the states would be used for other things. Every Senator knows that.

People will die. Is that the goal?

Our economy is the sum of the activities of all of us as we try to move the country forward. It is a simple concept that I am sure any Senator can grasp - healthy people cost our economy less than sick people.

Think about that.

Most Sincerely, Kathleen Luckard

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Benjamin Sahl <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** To the Senate Finance Committee in opposition to Graham-Cassidy

I'm the son of a dual-eligible person who requires 24/7 care, husband of a self-employed person with a chronic life-threatening illness who requires costly prophylactic medication, and parent of a 12-year-old with cognitive, mobility and sensory disabilities who will require life-long arms-length care.

For my family, the integrity of the federal-matching funding structure of Medicaid, essential benefits requirements and prior conditions protection are much more than merely matters of sound policy.

I'd like to tell you briefly about my daughter, Noa, whose extraordinary lifetime care costs will far exceed our family's means.



Noa is enthusiastic, confident, joyful and loving, with a wicked sense of humor. She enjoys surprises but hates being tricked. She loves swings, stuffed monkeys, hugs, and anything that sounds like a fart. What makes her

different occurred before she was born: a pre-natal stroke resulting in bilateral destruction of her parietal, temporal and occipital lobes.

When Noa was first diagnosed, we were told she might never so much as sit up. Today at age twelve, she not only sits up, but with assistance is able to walk with a walker, has very fine manual dexterity, can read Braille, recognizes and interacts with her loved ones, and communicates her needs and wishes. Still, the symptoms of her injury will be with her for the rest of her life: extreme cognitive impairment, impaired balance, muscle rigidity in the lower part of her body, sensory issues. She is completely blind. With respect to communication, she relies on tactile, or hand-on-hand American Sign Language, and attends a school for the deaf-blind. She cannot on her own do any of the activities of daily life that most of us take for granted: she cannot prepare food, get in or out of the bathtub on her own or call 911 should there be an emergency. While she walks with a walker, between her blindness, developmental delay and physical rigidity, she needs someone to keep a hand on the walker to guide it. She travels longer distances in a wheelchair.

Beginning in the first year of her life, the costs of her Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Feeding Therapy, Vision Therapy and Hearing Therapy have been reimbursed by Medicaid. Procedures to ameliorate her lower extremity spasticity at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York and Boston Children's Hospital in Massachusetts have been reimbursed by Medicaid. The costs of home and respite care, which have permitted her to be raised in the community instead of in an institution, have been reimbursed by Medicaid. The diapers she still wears at night as a 12-year-old are reimbursed by Medicaid.

It's worth noting that the return on these public fisc investments include providing, for a person who might never so much as have been able to sit up, the opportunity to develop her capacities in such a way that she has the ability to live in the community. But will that opportunity continue to be available over the long term?

By the time Noa ages out of the services she receives thanks to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, my wife and I will be in our 60's. Noa has no siblings. Noa's conditions, profound as they are, are not life-threatening; God willing, will long out-live her parents. The question before the Senate Finance Committee is: under what conditions?

If she were aging out today, the present federal-matching Medicaid-supported system of services for persons with developmental disabilities in our state, under-resourced as it is, would permit Noa to live in the community. (By "under-resourced," I mean, for example, that individuals who have been found eligible have to wait, without services, on a wait list, and that individuals who have been assigned a budget, and come off the wait list, cannot find a provider due to present reimbursement rates.) Today, Noa's community setting would most likely take the form of a version of adult foster care ("Enhanced Family Care") which, given the right match in personalities, would likely suit her. She would be able to develop the close emotional relationships with her caretakers she enjoys, do the things she enjoys (reading Braille books she has created about her life and friends, listening to music, swimming, being taken for walks in her wheelchair), eat the pureed foods she enjoys (chicken, mac 'n cheese, peas, spinach, carrots and chocolate ice cream).

Under Graham-Cassidy, Noa's future might look very different. Whether our state were to choose per-capita capping or block-granting, federal contribution to the costs of supporting persons with developmental disabilities would diminish sharply over time. While in our state institutional settings for persons with developmental disabilities have been virtually eliminated, further under-resourcing would, at some price point, make the provision of services in the community by private providers untenable. Once the state becomes the provider of last resort, institutional settings will again be the only alternative even though, paradoxically, they will cost more. A long and well-documented history of efforts to reform such institutions has established their innate perniciousness.

Thank you for your consideration and for your vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Ben Sahl

[REDACTED]  
Merrimack, NH [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Judith K S Herman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Frederick, Julia (Warren); Pearson, Beth (Warren); 'Pam Swing'; 'Patricia Davidson'  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare proposal comment

Hello, Finance Committee Members,

Please, each committee member, consult your conscience about each of the following as you think through the effect on your own family and the constituents you've been elected to represent.

Do you have...

- A family member...with a pre-existing condition?
- A parent – or you and/or your spouse– who may eventually need nursing home care?
- A daughter or sister or granddaughter who may become pregnant?
- Anyone you know with a mental health or alcohol or drug problem?
- Anyone in your family – of any age - with a disability?
- Anyone in your family who may not be able to afford healthcare coverage either now or in the future?

How about your constituents, those you know, and all within your own state?

I really believe that each of you intended to perform due diligence in your capacity as senator or representative of your state. That's why you ran for office, to better the country.

With that in mind, how can any legislator be expected to vote on a bill right now, when the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has now confirmed that they won't have a full assessment of the latest ACA repeal bill's effects on the deficit, premiums, or insurance coverage rates until weeks after the reconciliation deadline?

Here's what I'm asking of you and the committee and the senate:

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee began working on what the American people want and need: a bipartisan solution to stabilize the ACA's individual insurance markets and prevent premium increases. The HELP Committee started holding hearings on the individual markets in early September with committee members on both sides of the aisle reportedly considering compromises to close a deal.

Let's work together to make health care work!

Thank you.

Judith

Judith K S Herman  
Health & HealthCare  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emma Kaywin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Cassidy-Graham

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. It is deplorable that while America pays some of the most money for healthcare worldwide, our health remains lower than many other countries. I love my country and I believe strongly that we should all have the ability to maintain our health so we can be positive members of society. I work with persons living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom will lose their lives as a result of this bill if it is passed. That to me is profoundly un-American.

Emma Kaywin  
Brooklyn, NY

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Vicki Malone <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My brother-in-law is in liver failure and on the transplant list, is currently on Medicaid because he is too sick to work. If this bill passes, what guarantees does he have that he will keep Medicaid? If a trillion dollars is cut from Medicaid funding, then who plays God to say which individuals get to keep coverage and which ones don't?

My daughter was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 24, before the ACA passed. She tried for several years after her surgery to get insurance but was denied due to cancer being considered a pre-existing condition. We begged, borrowed and pawned to pay for her surgery and tests she had to undergo postoperative every few months to ensure the cancer had not returned. When the ACA was passed, she got coverage and we had a little peace of mind, if Graham-Cassidy passes, that peace of mind is gone because she will be priced out of the marketplace.

Republicans are not for this bill because it will bring better coverage or be more affordable for more people, Senator Grassley said it himself, doesn't matter how bad it is, they are voting on it to keep a campaign promise. That is a sad state for our country to be in, that politicians are playing God with so many lives to keep a campaign promise to repeal the ACA for just the less than 20% who are in favor of repeal.

Thank you,

Vicki Malone  
Athens, AL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gfalconi210 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill sucks

Seriously either just fix the issues that the ACA has or go to a single-payer system.

Also stop pretending this is for the people, this is a tax cut for the wealthy and you know it.  
If you are gonna do it at least be honest, maybe people will respond to that better.

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Wendy Kirkland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham – Cassidy bill

Passing a health care plan that could and probably would take health care from Americans in need for political reasons is an immoral act. It's another confirmation of broken government.

I'm especially concerned about protection for Americans with pre existing conditions. My sister-in-law recently had surgery for an aneurysm, covered under her husband's insurance. If he retires before she 's 65 will the USA stand with her to see that she gets the care she needs without mortgaging their home to pay for it? Not under Graham-Cassidy.

I urge you to put Americans first. Defeat Graham-Cassidy and give us all a well thought out plan for national health care. We'll notice and we'll remember.

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jerry Deckelbaum [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Dear congressmen and women,

Please do not vote for this latest healthcare bill. Obamacare problems can be modified successfully in a bipartisan way. Most of you have yet to try. Do not throw out the baby with the bathwater, just because you campaigned on it. What you are now contemplating would create crushing upheaval. Every state with a different insurance scenario? The possibility of the return of pre-existing conditions and the elimination of essential health benefits? Effective yearly and lifetime caps on severe illness such as cancer? Huge premium increases?

Obamacare: without it, I would likely not be insured due to a "pre-existing condition." I saw a psychotherapist for a while for career-based anxiety. I was denied health insurance coverage on this basis. I also had some quite benign heart palpitations. I was then offered a policy that excluded anything conditions related to my cardiovascular system. Unimaginable. With my subsidy under the affordable care act, I now have some peace of mind at an affordable cost. I am 62 years old, and understand that for those my age, out of pocket costs will increase by 15-fold. This bill, opposed by literally every known chapter of the medical and insurance establishments, is ill-conceived, unstudied, un-debated, heartless and cruel. Oregon (as a "blue state") is slated to lose over 6 billion in Medicaid coverage, I am told. I would invite all of you to take a walk around downtown Portland, with eyes open. You will see that there already exists an unprecedented level of untreated physical and mental illness in the streets. This is the case all over this nation.

Please don't choose party politics over common sense and common decency. A society is judged by the way we take care of each other. It is all fine and well to want to make America great again, but we are not all cut out to be Donald Trump. The poor and disenfranchised need your help, and this is why you hold office.

-Jerry Deckelbaum, JD, LCSW

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandra Delamater <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Sandra Delamater  
Santa Fe NM

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Annette Windhorn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments of healthcare repeal

The federal government needs to provide a healthcare safety net for all of our citizens, not repeal a law that is offering some measure of security to millions solely to curry political favor. I am middle class, college educated, white, and work part time for a nonprofit. And I am fortunate that my child's and my healthcare are covered with insurance through my husband's full time state job. But I am sympathetic to those citizens who don't have the relatively easy access to coverage that I have. Healthcare and insurance to cover its costs should be an American citizen's right, not subject to education, race, class, employment, marital status, or state of residence. Please pay attention to the poorest and hardest hit end users as you work to refine the ACA, do not repeal it or replace it with something that works best the employers, medical providers, or states that are currently influential intermediaries. I'm grateful to have senators Warner and Kaine, and representative Scott, in DC to represent me on this and many other issues.

Annette Windhorn  
Newport News, Va  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Crocker Healthcare bill

Senators,

I urge you not to pass a bill that passes decisions to the states with regard to our healthcare. I am a Florida voter and I know that my state government will not protect the healthcare of Medicare recipients. As a citizen living on the meager state teacher retirement, I cannot afford the higher premiums I would face if this bill is passed. Neither would the majority of my associates.

Ruth Swartz

[REDACTED]  
Gainesville, FL [REDACTED]

Sent from Surface

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa Coates [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GrahamCassidy bill

This horrific bill being presented by my Senator Cassidy is a violation of the trust Louisiana votes. I am a disabled veteran and depend upon medicaid expansion, the VA is not equipped to handle the current level of veterans requiring desperately needed care. My children also depend upon medicaid expansion as well as my elderly Aunt and Mother. Please, I beg you, clearly identify the problems and how it will impact so many low income senior, disabled, and children. The most vulnerable and needy of our country. Thank you for your service, and I pray you are clear about the negative impacts so more senators have the opportunity to do the right thing and vote no.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** ERIC ZEIDMAN <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Graham-Cassidy is dereliction of duty

This bill is a sham and shouldn't even get the fig leaf of a hearing. It did not emerge from any committees where those who actually study healthcare delivery and coverage could craft a real solution. This is a political ploy that millions will have to pay the price for with their physical and mental well being as they are unable to access adequate care. Every organization with a stake in the healthcare system has come out opposed -- patient advocates, care providers, etc.

There has been no CBO analysis of its full predicted effects and each independent analysis has shown a disaster in the making. You are risking the health of millions and a pillar of our economy because of a campaign slogan? And to do this recklessly over a few days' time with no serious assessment, planning, or vetting because you couldn't come up with a better plan during 7 years of harping is disgraceful.

If this is your view of public service, please resign your seat on this committee or in the Senate altogether and make space for someone who actually cares for their fellow citizens, and not just those writing large campaign checks.

Sincerely,  
Eric Zeidman

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rand Childs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Horrible bill.

1. Not scored. How can anyone in senate vote for this without knowing effects. Time for regular order! I agree with Senator McCain. He is a true Statesman. Most of the rest?
2. States running healthcare BAD idea. I trusted the State of Alabama with my children's college education with their PACT guaranteed tuition program. Our current governor ran it into the ground. Never again.
3. State politicians will find a way to spend healthcare block grants on other things. Never again.
4. Can remove pre-existing conditions. Never again.
6. Can re-instate lifetime caps. Never again.
7. Removes millions from insurance rolls. Never again.
8. Savings will be used for tax cuts for the rich. Never again.
9. AARP, American Medical Assoc., among many others against the bill. Never again.
10. Senate and house wallowing in politics and lying to the American People for political reasons which will likely end up killing millions unnecessarily. Never again
11. It is time for Senate and House moderates to JUST SAY NO and restore regular order and compromise in our government. You people should be ashamed. No wonder congress poll numbers are so low!

Rand H. Childs

[REDACTED]  
Huntsville, AL [REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joan M. Luria <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Committee Members:

This week, as you consider the legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Cassidy that is before you, please keep in mind the people that you've been elected to represent - not just the constituents of your jurisdiction or your donors or people with whom you share a ideology, but all of the citizens of this great nation. The majority of Americans do not agree with this bill (56%). The proposed Graham Cassidy legislation will benefit a few wealthy donors and place healthcare out of reach for millions of Americans in order to pave the way for a massive tax cut for the very wealthy. It is a boondoggle. The people know this. We the people are not stupid.

We are a democracy not an plutocracy. Here's an idea. If you need to appease the monied class, your patrons, propose a tax cut and defend it. But don't put "we the peoples'" lives at risk to perpetuate this swindle.

This is a test of character. Be good people and do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Luria

[REDACTED]  
Gaithersburg, Maryland [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jody Douglas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

To all members of Congress:

I am one of the lucky few who have a good health care plan, one that I can still afford. However, I am on a fixed income now, and it is getting more precarious each year.

I have family members, though, who struggle monthly to make health care payments, and even some younger ones who can't afford to see a doctor for basic needs.

PLEASE do not pass a health care plan that is so little understood or wanted by most in the health care field. PLEASE work in a bi-partisan way to develop a plan that will help everyone less fortunate that we are to be able to get basic care, and be able to withstand a major illness without going bankrupt.

Janet Douglas

[REDACTED]  
Reston, VA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Rowe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Tom Rowe  
**Subject:** Statement for the Senate Finance Committee's hearing on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare repeal bill

Dear Committee:

I'm writing to let you know that our personal circumstances and those of other relatives and friends will suffer greatly if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes. We barely get by now with our reduced income since we are retired, and Medicare is our lifesaver for healthcare. Working families around us in our neighborhood would not be able to maintain health insurance for the adults or children if this bill is passed. This creates a devastating vulnerability for them if major illness or injury strikes. Please do not allow this cruel bill to pass.

Thank you,  
Nancy S Rowe  
Zip: [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Louise Nicholson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 10:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I strongly oppose this bill. I am visually impaired, so please excuse any irregularities in this message (typos, spelling, etc.)

Louise Nicholson  
[REDACTED]  
Encino, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tamsen West <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham - Cassidy Bill

I am a volunteer at a therapeutic horsemanship program. We serve riders with various special needs. Our riders have multiple physical and mental issues including: cerebral palsy, developmental delays, neurological conditions, PTSD, history of abuse, birth defects, and many other health problems. Passage of the Graham-Cassidy Bill will cause irreparable harm to their health. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal.

Sincerely,  
Tamsen S. West  
Albuquerque, NM

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Art Warsoff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote Against Graham Cassidy

This is a bad bill. I am a small business owner who works with small businesses. This will hurt those you are trying to help.

Arthur Warsoff

[REDACTED]  
Salt Lake City, UT [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marla Goldman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill: NO

Finance Committee: You MUST vote no on the Graham Cassidy bill. It does not fulfill the promises made by EITHER party for the last several years. Republicans promised to “repeal and replace” with something BETTER. This is not better for anyone, it’s worse. It will increase premiums across the board, create a highly inefficient insurance market that will crash, and leave 18,000,000 Americans without coverage in 2018 alone. By 2026, that number appears to rise to 21 million, with up to 32 million losing coverage when the bill expires in ten years. Please don’t tell Americans that this will all be fine, Congress will vote to extend funding or replace this atrocity with something else at the end of the decade, because I don’t see ANY effort whatsoever by Congress to extend CHIP, a vitally important program to provide health coverage for children whose families make too much money for Medicaid but not enough for other programs.

Speaking personally, I want Congress to return to regular order, with BOTH parties at the table and negotiating in good faith to come up with ways to “fix” the ACA to make it work for MORE people and work BETTER for all of us. I have been blessed to have employer-sponsored coverage for most of my life, but even that is no protection from the greed of healthcare providers. Pre-ACA, in 2000, my mother died of terminal cancer after a short 4 month battle to beat it. She had Medicare, a supplement plan, and eventually also had Medicaid to help with nursing home expenses. I *\*still\** wound up with thousands of dollars of debt for prescriptions and other care that were not covered. My husband had a heart attack shortly after my mother’s death. He was 37, and the attack was due to a unknown congenital defect. He carries a stent now, and will be on blood pressure medications for the rest of his life. As a result of the heart problems, he developed diabetes in 2002 (this is common). He also has a non-compensable service-connected injury (knees). All of these would be considered pre-existing conditions for him, should the state that we live in opt to eliminate the PE or EHB rules. I have had two c-sections and an post-menopausal. Many insurers have called those pre-existing conditions, as well. Even if the worst that happens is that we return to the pre-ACA status quo, where coverage for pre-existing conditions can be suspended for a period of time, we risk going 90 days to a year without coverage for dangerous conditions if we just change jobs. This should not be. My oldest son is part of that ‘lost generation’ of young people who graduated at the dawn of the Great Recession. He has a low paying job with a company that isn’t required to provide insurance because they keep everyone just below the legal limit to be full time. He has an ACA plan. It sucks, the closest primary care physician that is accepting patients is over 40 miles away. We are in a major metropolitan area, that is simply ridiculous. Still, he can use his coverage at a variety of urgent care clinics to get care when he has an infection or asthma, so that’s something.

Here's what I support, and what I think will work best: Add Medicare as a “public option” to all Exchanges. People can “buy in” to Medicare on a sliding scale of cost, based on age and income. Make Medicare available to all Americans over 55. A lot of the remaining baby boomers in the workforce are just hanging on for Medicare eligibility (or Social Security), taking up jobs that would otherwise likely go to millennials, improving their lot and making them able to pay off their massive student debt.

Be sensible. Vote for real change, not for punishing the poor to enrich the already-wealthy. Tell the Kochs and the Mercers that the American people are more important than their deep pockets.

Regards,

Marla Goldman  
Spring Hill TN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

To all Congress members:

Please, please, PLEASE listen to the individuals, groups, and medical organizations opposing this bill and DO NOT PASS IT.

Listen to Senator McCain and STOP this party-over-people attitude and regain the original premise of our government...a Congress dedicated to representing ALL our citizens by working TOGETHER, regardless of party affiliations, to do what is best for OUR COUNTRY.

If we can't find our way back to mutual respect and cooperation in D.C., this stubborn vindictiveness will tear our nation apart.

Don't you SEE that????

Janice Peters

Morro Bay, California



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin Woods <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My Healthcare Story

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 15 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.

# 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)**

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**From:** callmewibadesh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fwd: Healthcare

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

**From:** callmewibadesh <callmewibadesh@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 9/24/17 11:55 AM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** CGHcomments@finance.senate.gov  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as I am extremely concerned over the Repeal and Replace trying to get pushed through Congress.

Every citizen should be able to get good healthcare, healthy people are more productive.

I lost my job in 2010, Id been a LPN since 1977 and worked full time most of those years since. In 2011 I found a lump on my neck, didnt have insurance, first COBRA is a joke for most and frankly because no one would insure me, too many pre existing conditions, thyroid disease, high blood pressure. All the good things that happen as you age. They wanted over \$1200/ month just for crap insurance, so I waited and it grew. Finally found a low income clinic 65 miles from home, Doctor I saw thought it was an abcess, referred me to dentist. Long story short, IT WAS NOT an abcess, found a nice little free clinic in our little town. Have you ever had to go to one of these? Stand in line for hours just hoping you get a spot to be seen, waiting and waiting..wonderful people. Well in November 2013 I got disability, by this time 1 (ONE) LUMP TURNED INTO 4 (FOUR). But as promised my sweet free clinic doctor got me in to see an ENT and got the ball rolling. Stage 4 cancer of the base of my tongue. 3 years waiting, worrying, scared. I am lucky I found a very intellegent oncologist who took a chance. Im now 3 years post chemo and radiation. See 3 different specialists for follow up every 3 months. I make \$1200 from Social Security. So any increase or change in rules and regs all that time and suffering for what? PLEASE...I am just 1 of many people who struggle with health care, preexisting conditions are costly. Cancer care extremely expensive leaves one with piles of bills and no savings left. This is about everyday people who dont need an added burden.

Thank you for listening,

Elizabeth Cervone

[REDACTED]  
Norfolk, VA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer L. Greer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony on Graham-Cassidy for Sept 25 hearing  
**Attachments:** jennifer-greer\_comments\_Graham-Cassidy.doc

DATE: September, 24, 2017

TO: Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Senate

RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017, 2 p.m., 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building

FROM: Jennifer L. Greer, 1024 Colonial Avenue, Gardendale, Alabama, 35071

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a 61-year old retired school teacher from Alabama, who left full-time work to help take care of my 90-year old father. I work part-time, I pay taxes, and I am healthy. But the ONLY law that is preserving my access to affordable health insurance is the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without it, I would be faced with premiums more than 5 times the cost of a person under the age of 40.

That is why I am shocked and frightened to learn that you are about to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, which aims to "repeal and replace" the ACA. This GOP-only proposal would erase numerous consumer protections for me and other middle-aged Americans. It would, among other damaging consequences, restore the "age tax" that for-profit insurance companies automatically assess Americans between the ages of 40 and 65. If that were to happen, I would no longer be able to afford my health insurance plan.

But my concerns are not just about me. I am alarmed that Kaiser Health News says the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal is the most disruptive of all the measures proposed by the GOP Congress so far (see <http://khn.org/news/gop-health-bills-changes-go-far-beyond-preexisting-conditions/>). It is also opposed by almost every major medical and health advocacy group, 50 state Medicaid directors, and leading governors.

I urge you to vote "No" on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal and any measure that will raise insurance premiums and healthcare costs on Alabama/American families while cutting millions of people off of their health insurance, hurting work-place insurance systems and our national healthcare economy. In addition, according to Kaiser, the proposal has these hidden harms. It

**-Caps Federal Funding To Medicaid.** I do not want to live in a country that cannot afford to care for its most vulnerable and puts children, people with disabilities, the working poor, and senior citizens out on the street. I spent 4 years in Central America, and I have seen what real poverty looks like. With Graham-Cassidy's level of "limited government," the U.S. would be simulating a health crisis that we see in the non-industrialized world.

**-Gives Unprecedented Power To The Secretary Of Health And Human Services.** I do not want Tom Price or any other bureaucrat making my healthcare decisions. That's what I elected Congress and the President for. I work hard, take care of my family, and pay my taxes. Is a healthy America – healthy families and a healthy workforce -- really too much to ask for?

**-Cuts Off All ACA Funding After 2026.** We need federal support and standards in our national healthcare system, which is 1/6 of our economy and surely deserves our investment. The ACA is a mixed public-private system that brings us closer to universal coverage, which is what all of the experts say is the only way to achieve better health outcomes at lower cost.

**- Could Roil The Individual Insurance Market In Some States By Banning Abortion Coverage In Private Health Plans.** Abortion is a legal and necessary medical procedure that saves women's lives during high-risk pregnancies and enables them to make sound decisions about their healthcare and their families. High-risk and personal healthcare decisions should not be made by some politician or bureaucrat in Washington, D.C.

In closing, I urge you to protect the ACA, our 10 essential health benefits, protections for pre-existing conditions and against life-time caps, long-term and level funding of Medicare, CHIP, community health, and Medicaid.

I urge you to concur with Sen. John McCain and protect our democracy with "regular order" in Congress (i.e. bipartisan support, more than one public hearing, a process for amendments, and thorough "scoring" from the Congressional Budget Office).

I urge you to resume bipartisan discussions on real "repair" measures to the ACA to reduce premiums for individuals and small businesses and fund our existing national health care system by Sept. 30. These include efforts undertaken by Sen. Lamar Alexander and Sen. Patty Murray in the Senate Health Committee as well as those by Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Ben Nelson.

Finally, I urge you to stop scaring us all by threatening to cut off our healthcare. In Alabama, we are worried sick about this threat, which keeps coming, over and over again. Congress has accomplished nothing this year to improve our health, our healthcare system, and our lives in this respect. So far, it has only made an urgent problem worse.

Respectfully, we deserve better.

Sincerely

Jennifer L. Greer, PhD

[REDACTED] Gardendale, Alabama [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erica <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 2:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham Cassidy

Graham Cassidy is bad legislation for all Americans. Every healthcare organization has spoken out against this bill. Every Medicaid Director has spoken against this legislation. Several GOP Governors has spoken out against this bill. This is the worst bill yet. Time and time again Americans have clearly stated they want a bipartisan bill that corrects the true issues with the ACA. They have asked Congress to follow standard procedures. Ramming this legislation through will only cause increased instability for everyone. Healthcare has too much of an impact upon our economy for it to be handled in such a haphazard partisan manner.

If every other major country can figure this out, we should be able to as well, if our priorities are appropriate. That priority should be insuring affordable and comprehensive healthcare for every American. Anything less is unacceptable. Any wiggle room with that objective is unacceptable. We are talking about people's lives and ability to be productive, healthy citizens. This should never be about getting elected or party donations. Change is hard, but it doesn't mean it is bad. We must stand against this bill. It will cost too many Americans too much.

Erica T. Loring

[REDACTED]  
Cary NC [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Isora Bailey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no!

Say No to lifetime caps. No to discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. No to Medicaid block grants. No to any cuts to Medicaid. No to Graham-Cassidy. Fix the ACA, don't kill it (and the people it protects, imperfectly, but better than anything that's been proposed). Thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lesley Palmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham-Cassidy

My 4 year old son has a congenital heart defect. He had 3 open heart surgeries before age 2. The thought that you would take away his protections from the ACA and give the power back to the insurance companies is morally corrupt. He deserves better. We all do. Vote NO.

Lesley Palmer

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** JoAnne Wilkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act, oppose Graham-Cassidy !

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Below are the reasons it will be damaging to me and my family. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

- 1) I am in my early 60s and rates would likely increase greatly for elderly people.
- 2) My son was born with a heart defect and this "pre-existing condition," aortic stenosis, will likely cost so much to insure that he won't be able to afford insurance.
- 3) My granddaughter was also born with a pre-existing condition and is currently covered by Iowa kids medicaid program, which will be greatly reduced
- 4) Simple conditions such as hypothyroidism are counted as pre-existing conditions, as are seasonal allergies aka hay fever if you go to the doctor about this. In the days before the ACA, my insurance costs were about 50% higher because of these 2 very simple to treat (and low cost) conditions.

Sincerely,  
JoAnne Wilkins  
Fairfield, IA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Roxann Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with the lack of discussion on this bill as well as absolutely no information shared with those for whom it will affect.

Why Congress can not do their job to work together, Republicans and Democrats and Independents, to come up with fixes to the ACA which is working fine but CAN BE improved is beyond me? We pay your salaries and you treat us, your constituents, like so much bother.

Please search your souls and do what's right.

Thank you.

Roxann Smith  
Los Angeles, California [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Daphne Matadial <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Comments on health care

Politicians as Traitors to their Constituents is Deceiving "Americans be Advised

DaphnejuneMATADIAL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Long <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care reform

Graham Cassidy and all Republican proposals are nothing but DEATH PANELS in sheep's clothing.

Graham Cassidy does not represent health care reform at any level. I am a hospital social worker. Several times every day I discharge patients knowing we have given them the best care possible. I also know they cannot afford the medications or follow up care needed to maintain their health.

Increased medical costs are more about prescription costs than anything going on in a hospital or doctor's office.

Ask patients to tell you their experiences. BigPharma and the leaders of insurance companies do not have these experiences because they can pay to avoid them.

Susan Davis Long, MSW, LCSW

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Benditt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** kill the Graham-Cassidy bill before it kills Americans

Please do not pass this bill and instead, protect people with pre-existing conditions.

Naomi Benditt

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Katyaschapiro <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal/Graham-Cassidy

Dear Committee Members,

This bill has been opposed by all major health orgs and patients' rights orgs. It will balloon health care costs in this country, undermine the protections re: preexisting conditions, increase cross-state-boarder confusions, and generally is cruel, chaotic, and does not promote health and human welfare in any way. Why is it even on the table? Don't bow to the Koch bros. agenda, please. The ACA has flaws but it has saved the lives of friends, improved my employer provided health care, and allowed many of my friends and loved ones to pursue career mobility and family planning despite their (human) need for health care. As a reasonably young and healthy person, I am thrilled to subsidize health insurance markets--I would like nothing better than a single payer system, or at least an outstanding and easily accessed public option with negotiating power, and would be delighted to pay higher taxes for it if it really meant less of a health care mess of bureaucracy and cost opacity in this country. Graham Cassidy is a patchwork last ditch bad idea, and I am appalled that it's sponsors want to rush it through. Please do better.

Katya Schapiro  
Brooklyn, NY  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Annie Blazer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy plan because it take health care coverage away from Americans and allows for states to waive pre-existing conditions requirements. Please do not pass this bill.

Annie Blazer  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Donna Ford <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT support Graham Cassidy healthcare bill

I do NOT support Graham Cassidy. Healthcare should not take away coverage from anyone. Doctors and insurance companies agree, so who exactly are you working for?

Donna Ford  
Centreville VA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karen Chapman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

When my husband was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, our health insurance policy was through my firm and we paid the premiums. Thanks to the ACA, the policy no longer had a lifetime cap of \$1 million. My husband's treatments cost almost \$100,000 per month. When he passed away after 15 months, the costs totaled almost \$1,500,000. If not for the ACA, my affluent family would have used up all our cash and would have had to sell our home to raise more. Please do not repeal the ACA. You will bankrupt and kill Americans.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Elaine Friedland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

This report <http://avalere.com/expertise/life-sciences/insights/graham-cassidy-heller-johnson-bill-would-reduce-federal-funding-to-sta> demonstrates that the proposal will harm the majority of Americans.

“The Graham-Cassidy bill would significantly reduce funding to states over the long term, particularly for states that have already expanded Medicaid,” said Caroline Pearson, senior vice president at Avalere. “States would have broad flexibility to shape their markets but would have less funding to subsidize coverage for low- and middle-income individuals.”

| Press Release

**Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion**

Elizabeth Carpenter, Chris Sloan | Sep 20, 2017

New analysis from Avalere finds that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would lead to a reduction in federal funding to states by \$215B through 2026 and more than \$4T over a 20-year period (Table 1).

The proposed legislation would repeal the ACA’s Medicaid expansion, premium tax credits, cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments, individual and employer mandates, and the Basic Health Program (BHP). Instead, the bill would provide states with block grants to fund health insurance coverage in their state. The bill would also change the financing structure for the traditional Medicaid population from an open-ended approach to a fixed per capita cap or block grant approach.

“The Graham-Cassidy bill would significantly reduce funding to states over the long term, particularly for states that have already expanded Medicaid,” said Caroline Pearson, senior vice president at Avalere. “States would have broad flexibility to shape their markets but would have less funding to subsidize coverage for low- and middle-income individuals.”

Avalere’s analysis projects the impact of the bill compared to current law and details the expected cumulative changes in federal funding for each state through 2026, 2027, and 2036.

Funding cuts vary dramatically by state, including cuts for 34 states and DC.

Years 2020-2026: By 2026, the bill—compared to current law—would lead to 34 states and DC experiencing funding cuts; 7 states seeing funding reductions above \$10B; and 16 states seeing an increase in funding (Figure 1).

“The largest impact of the proposed bill would be the reallocation of federal dollars between states,” said Elizabeth Carpenter, senior vice president at Avalere Health. “Medicaid expansion states and states that have enrolled a high number of people in insurance affordability programs would be most adversely impacted.”

The bill then creates a funding cliff after 2026, when block grants would need to be re-appropriated.

Years 2020-2027: Importantly, the block grant funding appropriated in the bill ends after 2026. While funding for 2027 and beyond may be appropriated in the future, the bill currently creates a block grant funding cliff in 2027. The ability of the Congress to appropriate additional funding is uncertain and could be constrained by the need to offset the cost. As such, by 2027, states would see significantly larger declines in funding

compared to current law, with 39 states and DC facing funding cuts, and 18 states with reductions of greater than \$10B. By 2027, only 11 states would see an increase in funding under GCHJ compared to current law (Figure 2). The bill is projected to reduce total federal funding to states by \$489B through 2027.

“The bill creates a financial incentive for states to direct coverage to very low-income residents near or below the poverty line, potentially at the expense of lower-middle-income individuals who currently receive exchange subsidies,” said Chris Sloan, senior manager at Avalere.

Years 2020-2036: Finally, given the long-term impacts of the Medicaid per-capita caps, particularly the shift to lower per capita cap growth rates in 2025, and lack of block grant funding beyond 2026, all states would see a reduction in federal funds relative to current law by 2036 (Figure 3). Federal funding reductions range from \$4B in South Dakota to \$800B in California.

“A combination of slower Medicaid per-capita cap growth rates and the sunset of block grant funding would lead to substantial reductions in federal funds going to states through 2036,” added Chris Sloan, senior manager at Avalere. “The largest negative funding impacts of this bill to states are outside the current 10-year budget window.”

The bill includes additional changes to state insurance markets by allowing states to apply for waivers of key ACA provisions.

In addition to the funding changes, the bill gives states the option to include a waiver in their block grant application that allows the state to waive the ACA’s market rules. States are given the option to waive age rating rules, essential health benefits, the prohibition on medical underwriting, and the required medical loss ratio for plans and enrollees

who receive some benefit from the state's block grant funding. While this analysis does not attempt to project which states will pursue a waiver, nor which of the ACA's market rules states will attempt to waive, previous Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analyses have projected the expected impacts of waivers. CBO previously estimated that similar flexibilities to those in GCHJ would lead to lower average premiums, largely due to the reintroduction of medical underwriting and coverage of fewer services, and potentially higher enrollment in some states. However, CBO also projected this flexibility to substantially increase costs of those individuals with significant medical costs and those who would be at risk of medical underwriting.

Funding for this research was provided by The Center for American Progress. Avalere maintained full editorial control.

## APPENDIX

### EFFECT ON ACA POPULATION

GCHJ legislation would use block grants starting in 2020 to allow states to fund coverage expansion (i.e., Medicaid expansion and BHP) and insurance affordability programs (i.e., premium tax credits and CSR payments).

Block grant funding would be below current federal funding levels under the ACA for Medicaid expansion states, and would end after 2026. Beginning in 2021, funding would be distributed primarily based on each state's share of population with incomes between 50 and 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL), a range that excludes a significant proportion of people who qualified for exchange premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

Starting in 2024, block grant amounts would be partially determined by the state's enrolled population in credible coverage—defined as having an

actuarial value at least equivalent to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) actuarial value; effectively, coverage that has very low-cost sharing and premiums, similar to Medicaid and CHIP today. As such, funding would effectively be allocated according to the number of a state's 50% to 138% FPL population the state enrolls in coverage that is equivalent Medicaid and CHIP.

Under the block grants, funding for the coverage expansion programs under the ACA would be reduced, compared to current law, by \$95B, or 7%, from 2020 through 2026. From 2020 to 2027, the first year for which there is no appropriated funding, the federal funding to states would be cumulatively reduced by \$326B, or 21%. From 2020 to 2036, that reduction relative to federal law is projected to grow to \$3,071B, or 71%.

## EFFECT ON TRADITIONAL MEDICAID POPULATION

For those who would have historically been covered by Medicaid prior to ACA expansion, federal Medicaid funding would convert to a per capita allotment in 2020 and beyond. Through 2024, the inflation factor would be the consumer price index for medical care (CPI-M) +1 for elderly and disabled and CPI-M for children and adults. After 2024, the inflation factor would be CPI-M for elderly and disabled and the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) for children and non-disabled adults. CPI-U measures economy-wide inflation and typically rises at a slower rate than Medicaid spending growth. Therefore, tying allotment to CPI-U is projected to lead to significantly lower Medicaid funding for the non-expansion Medicaid population.

Under the per capita caps, funding to states would be reduced, compared to current law, by \$120B, or 4%, from 2020 through 2026. This grows to \$164B, or 5%, from 2020 to 2027 and \$1,079B, or 12%, from 2020 to 2036.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Audrey Clumm <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham Health Care Repeal Bill September 25, 2017 Hearing

My name is Audrey Clumm. I reside in the state of Ohio at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Apartment [REDACTED], in Worthington [REDACTED].

I am writing concerning the proposed Cassidy-Graham Health Care Repeal Bill that a hearing about will be conducted on Monday, September 9, 2017.

I do NOT want to see this bill become law!! It does NOT guarantee that those with pre-existing conditions, continued health care needs, or unable to afford health insurance will be able to keep their coverage or be able to purchase affordable insurance.

Your "spin" denies this, but it does!! "Leaving it up to individual states" without funding or mandates to do so, is a "weasel-way" of enacting legislation!

If the Senate is committed to health care legislation that truly IS good for everyone, then why not invite the governors (like



1

2

3

4

Ohio's John Kasich) to work with you on drafting legislature that will actually result in affordable premiums, no penalties or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions, Medicaid availability to those with addictions, mental health issues, and the poor, and no caps on benefits for those with chronic, long-term, and life-long health issues?

I'm sure you can find some pork barrel programs and other spending wastes to eliminate to fund this!

Thank you.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Devin Nordson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect healthcare. Defeat Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare is another outrage, which would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Devin Nordson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Boulder, Colorado [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Desiree de Myer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:54 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.

Desiree de Myer  
Linden, New Jersey

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rookie725 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

To whom it may concern,  
My wife died in 2014, at the age of 52. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. As a result of the ACA, we could afford treatment.  
Without it, life ending comfort would not have been available.  
Gaetane Scouras

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diane Verge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy HORRIBLE bill

How can you EVEN think of voting for such a terrible bill? If you were covered by the SAME health care you want for the public, you would NOT vote for this bill.

DOUBLE STANDARD!!!! YOU GET CARE YOU WOULD DENY MOST AMERICANS—

**WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU??????**

MEDICAIDE

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

PEDIATRIC CARE

MATERNITY CARE

ALL NEED TO BE AFFORDABLY COVERED-

**PLEASE DO THE THE RIGHT  
THING!!**

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Paul Welch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Hearing Comments 9/25

My name is Paul Welch. I am 35 and live in Vista, California. I urge you all to vote no on this bill. It will be gravely detrimental to me and millions of other Americans. While in school I diligently studied to be a psychologist to help others. I did everything I could to make this a reality but despite everything that I could possibly do I was not allowed to become a psychologist. The choice was taken from me. In my senior year of college I was struck down with psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis through no fault of my own. I very quickly went from an active college student that liked to play tennis when not studying to someone who could barely walk, barely speak and unable to do almost all daily living activities. My arthritis even inflamed my chest wall lining making it extremely difficult to even breathe. I almost died and would have died if not for biologic medicines that costs thousands of dollars. Remicade helped remove me from death's door and the Enbrel I now take has helped me to have some limited quality of life. My severe arthritis will probably always keep me disabled but with biologics and my parents help I have been able to have some quality of life. These life saving medications are too expensive for me to afford without insurance and without these medications I would die. This Graham-Cassidy bill would make it possible for states and insurances to take away my medicine and the medicine of others like me. People who wanted to work hard, help people, get married and have kids but whose future was taken from them through no fault of their own. Due to my psoriatic arthritis I will likely never be able to get married and have kids but I can eek out a life with my medications. Please don't take what little I have left and leave me to die a horrible painful suffocating death. Vote No on Graham-Cassidy.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Peter Brownstein [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no on Graham Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy healthcare bill would destabilize healthcare markets and result in nearly 30 million more people without health care coverage. With severe cuts in medicaid this would harm children in America and the poor disproportionately

This bill is opposed by the AMA the AAP AARP hospital groups and insurance companies. We need a bipartisan measured well-thought-out approach to health care for this country not a bill shoved through to beat a deadline.

Please vote no on Graham Cassidy.

Thank you

Peter Brownstein  
Sent from [Blue](#)



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Crystal Siegel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:56 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.

Crystal Siegel  
[REDACTED]  
Pinellas Park, FL [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Drew Hess <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care bill feedback

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother is struggling and has not had healthcare most of his life. I don't believe this is a state issue, but one facing our entire country and don't want people like my brother to fall thru the cracks because they are not organized, or articulate or can afford to lobby or elect the right leadership to fight for them. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Best Regards,  
Drew Hess  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Wiley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy ... Vote No

> On behalf of my family, friends and all Americans other than the top 1%, I am asking that all senators vote against this terrible bill. It will harm tens of millions of Americans and lead to the unnecessary death of other Americans. It goes against the country's values. It is hypocritical, inaccurate and immoral to state and vote otherwise. We need some leaders who can act strongly without sacrificing their values to wealthy donors. I still hope that there are a few republican senators who still care and who have the strength that so many have long since abandoned.

>

> Vote No!

>

> Regards,

> Mary

>

> Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Corrina Lahr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am a preexisting condition

To Whom it May Concern,

I served in the US Army from 1989-1993 as a 97E (interrogator/Arabic linguist). I served in Saudi Arabia and translated Iraqi nuclear documents at the Defense Intelligence Agency. I later used my GI Bill to attend college so that I could get a job that would ensure I had good benefits.

I joined the City of Madison Police Dept., in Madison, WI, in 1997. In 2004, I sustained an injury to my left elbow (and I'm left-handed) during a fight with a combative suspect I was in the process of arresting. The injury turned into a permanent partial disability, which forced my retirement from the police dept. in 2006.

Although the police dept. took care of many of my financial needs, continuing to provide health insurance was not one of them. During open enrollment for health insurance in 2007, I applied for private coverage for my family and was denied.

I was unable to obtain private health insurance coverage again until the passage of the ACA due to my several preexisting conditions. Not only do I have a permanent partial disability in my left arm, but I also suffered from post-partem depression that resulted in me taking antidepressants (which continues to this day), as well as chronic sinus infections.

The current Graham-Cassidy bill scares me to death. There is no guarantee that the states, once they obtain waivers from essential health benefits, will ensure my access to affordable coverage. If I cannot afford coverage, I will not have insurance.

My now 12 year old son also has a preexisting condition. He suffers from ADHD & anxiety. He takes meds for both on a daily basis. When he takes those meds, he's on the school honor roll. If he can't take the meds, he's an anxious frightened mess who gets scared if he forgets that I've gone upstairs to fold laundry. My highly intelligent son wants to be a theoretical physicist. If we cannot afford health insurance, and cannot afford his medications, that's out of the question. My best guess is that his future would turn into one where he's dependent upon his parents and the state for support for the rest of his life.

This bill takes us backwards to the days where people would go bankrupt due to medical bills. Not only due to lack of coverage, but also from the reinstatement of lifetime caps.

You, the Congress, is supposed to work to make the lives of Americans progressively better with every passing bill - not take us backwards to the dark ages of health insurance.

This bill will harm my son, and myself - as well as millions of other Americans. Passing it would be a shameful act.

Sincerely,  
Corrina J. Lahr  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathleen Riley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

This bill would destabilize insurance markets and decrease access to affordable coverage and care. I am particularly concerned 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.

Please do not be fooled by Sen. Graham's pronouncement that the ACA is marching us toward "socialized medicine" in which the state would not simply be a payer, but an operator of the health-care system. The ACA is not perfect, and it seems most agree on that point, but it is an improvement from the Bush-era system that both major parties agreed was broken.

I've not noticed any indication from supporters of this bill how it would benefit Americans. What I have noticed is the broken record of 'repeal Obamacare' that has been going on for years and wasting tremendous amounts of taxpayer's money. This should be an opportunity to create something that is beneficial to individuals as well as the United States of America.

It's time for Congress to work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to increase the number of Americans with access to quality, affordable health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy health-care bill would do harm to the country and should be defeated.

--

Kathleen Riley-Daniels  
Minnetonka, MN [REDACTED]  
phone [REDACTED] (Talk/Text)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jill S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

Many members of my family (including me) have pre-existing conditions, and we would be priced out of care if Graham-Cassidy passes. Without language that specifies what insurers are required to cover at an affordable rate, insurers in individual states could (and no doubt will) offer plans that exclude coverage for many of the conditions that affect me and my family (diabetes, Parkinson's, cancer, heart disease). The cuts to Medicaid, elimination of caps, and other aspects of the bill will hit others even more immediately and with even greater devastating effects.

The callousness and cruelty of the bill itself and the effort to jam it through without debate, without an attempt at bipartisan effort, and without a CBO score is frankly breathtaking. This is raw politics on display, not true policy making.

For these reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I support a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jill Shallenberger  
Sacramento, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Hanson York [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Jessica Hanson York  
San Diego, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** kac [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Cassidy-Graham

Oppose any bill that has not had public hearings by ALL relevant committees and had full assessment by CBO.

Kelly A Crawford

Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Terry Dutcher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** tdutcher@aol.com  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Graham-Cassidy is a cruel bill that will devastate those with pre-existing conditions.

An individual with metastatic cancer could experience an estimated surcharge of \$142,650.

An individual with lung, brain, and other severe cancers could experience an estimated surcharge of \$72,980.

An individual with colorectal, breast, and other cancers could experience an estimated surcharge of \$28,660.

An individual with diabetes could experience an estimated surcharge of \$5,600.

An individual with rheumatoid arthritis could experience an estimated surcharge of \$26,580.

An individual that experiences depression or has bipolar disorder could experience an estimated surcharge of \$8,490.

An individual suffering from drug dependence could experience an estimated surcharge of \$20,450.

An individual with asthma could experience an estimated surcharge of \$4,340.

If you are pregnant, you could experience an estimated surcharge of \$17,320.

My daughter lives in Iowa. If Iowa can't manage private Medicaid, Are \$13 million in debt... How can they manage block grant \$\$ for ACA? Vote No.

I am against this bill.  
Sent from my iPhone  
[REDACTED]  
Reedville, VA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kelly Keck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Good morning,

I'm writing to provide commentary on the Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill. My mother is diabetic, and currently has health insurance only through the ACA. Removing the requirement to cover pre-existing conditions without raising rates would likely price her out of health insurance completely. It's hard to say, because the CBO hasn't scored the bill, but previous repeal bills would have increased her payments by \$10,000 a year or more. While her diabetes is currently well controlled, that's not likely to remain the case without insurance to cover doctor's visits, lab work, and medication.

Many people rely on the ACA for insurance that allow them to access preventive care and to keep health conditions in check. Jacking up their payments by hundreds of dollars a month means they won't have insurance, and they won't get care until their situation is dire. Not only is there a huge human cost to this, but there's the economic cost of lost wages and productivity for every working person who becomes sick (or sicker) because they can't afford preventive care.

Approximately, 32 \*million\* people will lose their insurance under this bill.

I strongly encourage you to scrap the Graham-Cassidy bill and work toward a bipartisan effort to improve the ACA rather than scrapping its protections and gutting Medicaid.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Keck

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diane Picara <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill: September 25, 2017

Graham-Cassidy Bill  
September 25, 2017

Julia Picara  
[REDACTED]

Cedar Park, TX [REDACTED]

I'm a 30 year old female with Fragile X syndrome which is a genetic intellectual disability that causes severe anxiety, depression and learning disability. I've have been opposed to this "health care" bill and every "health care" bill the republicans have put out and they need to stop and stop now. This is tiring and really old having to fight for my right and other people's right to have a life. I need Medicaid is my and many other's lifeline. It helps me to have a independent and successful life and other people as well. The republicans need consequences for what they do. We the American people need to wake up and realize that republicans stopped working for us and have now started working for the billionaires and CEOs, the one percent. We need to dismantle the republican party and get rid of them forever. We need to have a government that starts working for the poor, the sick, the disabled, and the low income people, the real ones that matter and what really the United States of America is.

Thank You for Your Time,  
Julia Diane Picara

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Thomas Whitt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCHJ

My daughter is a 6-year old brain cancer survivor. In the last 3 years we've racked up over \$500,000 on medical bills. Any legislation that could lead to the return of annual/lifetime caps or discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions is unacceptable. The fact that this bill is heading toward a possible Senate vote without proper hearings, opportunities for amendments or even a full CBO score is simply unconscionable. GCHJ is not just a bad bill--it's a stain on the Senate.

Thomas J. Whitt  
Bloomington, IL

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Charles Stanton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

It is immoral and cruel to eliminate the federal prohibition on discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions. No matter what is said by the proponents of this bill, that is the horrific reality.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Rich <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because my family depends on health insurance acquired through the ACA. As two self-employed adults who provide jobs to others, we struggled for years to find health insurance we could afford that was comprehensive. Without the protections such as maximum out of pocket cost, pre-existing conditions, and preventive health care, we could be sunk. And for our state, this bill would be an absolute disaster. It would shut down rural hospitals, throw our most vulnerable elders, children and disabled people off of care, and burden family caregivers to an unsustainable level. I am adamantly opposed to this cynical and reckless bill. I support bipartisan efforts to improve the ACA for the purpose of stabilizing healthcare for all Americans.

Patricia Rich

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Dearing <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill

Hello-

My husband was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis last year, and the ACA has made it possible for us to afford his care without going bankrupt. I live in a rural county in Virginia, and until about two weeks ago there were ZERO insurance companies participating in the marketplace due to the discord and uncertainty caused by the multiple repeal efforts of the GOP. Thank goodness Anthem stepped in last minute and agreed to be in the marketplace.

My husband and I are young professionals, buying our first house and planning a family. None of those things would be possible without the ACA. It's not perfect, but because of it, my family isn't bankrupt because of medical bills. Please don't let this repeal bill pass. So many people rely on the ACA to live productive lives.

Thank you.

-Emily Caldwell, a constituent of Virginia. Zip code [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Mertz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to repeal ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare, which I have received under the ACA, including a time on medicare when I was unemployed. So I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, which would render healthcare unaffordable for me. I had cancer 40 years ago. If a recurrence would be considered a pre-existing condition, I would most likely not have health insurance under Graham-Cassidy, so would pass away without treatment. I want a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Mertz  
Mayville, NY



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Torie Cande <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** This is me

I don't share this information normally, I see it's more important now then ever to speak up. This is a bit of my story.

I have a preexisting condition, my medication is a \$10,000 injection I take every month. I pay a high premium and in one month I met my deductible and out of pocket totaling around \$13,000 for care I couldn't live without. Not to mention things my insurance doesn't cover which are paramount to my health including acupuncture, herbs, supplements, vitamins, liquid and alternative nutrition.

My intestines are so inflamed and damaged from having Crohn's disease for almost 20 years that my intestines are getting blockages. I can't keep food down and it won't pass naturally. These blockages are extremely painful and are very dangerous. I lost 30 lbs in 4 weeks with 6 hospitalizations during that time. I am still sick with no idea when or if things will get better. My treatment options are extreme and would leave me dependent on the health care system to live. because of malnutrition issues I may have to be dependent on a hospital to provide me with IV nutrition DAILY for the rest of my life.

I am scared, I can't work and my condition is chronic and there is no cure. This is not a talking point this is my life, my child's future and my future that is being gambled with.

As you can see I am the one who, in the end, is paying the most for being sick.

Without coverage my family and business would go bankrupt trying to keep me healthy and alive.

With insurance Crohn's patients on average spend \$6,000 annually on health care. This is already too much for most of us.

Please vote for the people for me not for the Cassidy Graham bill.

Thank you,

Torie Cande

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Bill Lustig [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Dear Senators,

I lost my longtime girlfriend last year to cancer. She received excellent care that made her last year far more endurable, even hopeful. We could not have possibly paid the bills if she didn't have excellent health insurance through her job. And while I am grateful for the care she received, it still upsets me that we did not get to have the happy, healthy years of retirement together that we dreamed of.

Seeing my girlfriend work her entire life until she was too sick to work makes me that much more determined to retire while I am still young enough and healthy enough to be able to enjoy a few good years. To this end, I have worked hard, typically working 12 hour days if I include my commuting time, and I have saved money for my retirement. I thought I had planned wisely, saved enough money to retire early, perhaps in another three years. Except now a poison pill known as the Graham-Cassidy bill threatens my retirement.

If I retire before I am eligible for Medicare I need access to affordable health insurance. Taking away the defined benefits requirement, taking away the mandate that all Americans purchase health insurance, and taking away the limits on how much insurance companies can charge older Americans versus younger Americans, each of these actions independently is another nail in the coffin of my dream of retirement. If you don't crush this bill you will take away my dream of early retirement, the dream that I have worked hard for and saved for.

I sincerely hope you will listen to AARP, the AMA, the health insurance companies, doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, and most importantly, the American people, and prevent this monstrous bill from ever reaching the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Bill Lustig

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julie Herrick <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Thanks to the 10 essential benefits regulations in the ACA, I was able to get mental health treatment for depression and anxiety, which I was not able to access prior to the ACA even though I had "good" coverage through my employer. My life is much better for this treatment, and I'm capable of working to my top potential at my job, and contributing to the economy and the community.

The Graham-Cassidy bill would weaken protections for the 10 essential benefits and, depending on the choices of my state, could turn my depression diagnosis into a pre-existing condition that haunts me, rather than a positive step I took to improve my health.

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

We need a health system that incentivizes preventative care and early intervention, to keep people healthy and working, and one that provides an adequate safety net for the most catastrophic health problems such as cancer or chronic disease. We need a system that is truly universal: everyone in, nobody out. It must include every person from the wealthy billionaires, to the homeless people who live in the riverbed near my home. (Yes, them too. Health care is essential to them getting back on their feet.) It must also ensure that people are not underinsured, so that nobody will ever delay or skip health care on account of money. Single payer is one way to achieve this but there are also other ways to get there that involve a mix of public and private funding. I'd like to see Congress have a substantive conversation, through regular order, to discuss the various ways our country could achieve universal, affordable health care.

In the meantime, please reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** L. Kassuba <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

The heartless thugs who crafted this bill, and any heartless individuals who vote for it, will be swiftly and decisively voted out of office.

Single Payer is the only answer to health care, and the only way forward.

Sincerely,  
Logan Kassuba

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Stephanie Stagno <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Hello,  
I'm a mother and work full time in the financial services industry with an employer provided HMO. I care deeply about the good of our country and its people and have been paying close attention to the health care debate, though I receive coverage through work. My concern is about the way certain republicans are trying to pass legislation--it feels sneaky and irresponsible, rushing things to a vote without proper diligence, research, analysis or debate. It feels purely political, as it doesn't seem to be what most of the people want based on polling. Tremendous time and effort by many put the current system in place, and I believe most would like to see bipartisan effort to improve that system rather than one sided, chaotic overhauling for political reasons. The next time democrats have the power, we'll be at this again at great expense to all. Please work together as colleagues to improve the promising system we have in place, and thank you to those who have shown the integrity not to give in to political pressure and bullying. The right thing to do here is obvious to most of us. Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Barston <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal ACA

Dear sir or madam,

Please: Don't repeal/replace the ACA. The new bill is terrible. The new bill does not cover people well enough to be called "healthcare". More like "health doesn't care". For example, "You got cancer again? Sorry you've hit your lifetime cap. Health doesn't care". What's that person supposed to do? No one can pay for cancer treatment out of pocket, that's what insurance is for. Oh except your version of insurance doesn't pay after a certain limit has been reached. Your version is going to mean that cancer patient is going to be denied treatment because insurance no longer pays... and now they get to just die.

You don't cover pre existing conditions, pregnancy, or medication? And premiums will increase beyond the current astronomical rates? Sounds pretty useless. And it has not been properly evaluated by the budget office. Quit sneaking legislation past us. Get input from all sides and let the budget office evaluate it.  
Enough of the dishonest, integrity free, sneaky weasel behavior. You are playing with people's lives! Start accepting the responsibility you've been given to make sure healthcare is a right in this country!

Amy S. Barstone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cory Anotado <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee Graham-Cassidy hearing

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Zabik, Teresa <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

*Members of the Senate Finance Committee,*

*As a pediatrician who cares deeply about the ability of America's patients to access the care they need, I write in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill to replace the ACA. This bill is harsh and unethical. My home state has worked hard to improve the well-being of its residents, and this bill would clearly undo many of the gains that we have worked hard to achieve over the years. Rather than stripping health care from millions of Americans, Congress now has an opportunity to take a bipartisan approach toward stabilizing the insurance markets and fixing the ACA. I urge you to take that opportunity and join me in opposing Graham-Cassidy.*

*Teresa M Zabik MD*



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marian Faux <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care repeal

Dear sirs:

Please do not repeal ACA or hand it off to the states. My husband has a heart condition and I have arthritis, and our prescription drugs alone could not be easily purchased without insurance. We want to see a bipartisan committee working to improve our health care-- and move it toward single payer-- as soon as possible.

Furthermore bipartisanship and single payer appears to be what the country wants. Ignoring a huge majority of voters to cater to a handful of rich donors seems blatantly corrupt to me.

Best regards,  
Marian Faux

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kelly Martinez [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record re: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is a disgrace. It's about a technicality (being able to say to your voters that you repealed and replaced) not about actually trying to fix healthcare in any meaningful way. In fact the bill would make healthcare worse - and it's not just my opinion. Insurance companies don't want this bill, states don't want this bill, the American people don't want and literally cannot live with this bill.

You are currently enjoying only 24% approval on this stupid idea and yet you persist. There is no CBO on this bill and yet you persist. At what point will you do what you were sent to do and actually govern in a responsible, bipartisan way with proper thought, consideration and debate.

Shame!

-Kelly Martinez

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joyce McGee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Legislation

Please vote no on this legislation. I and my husband have employer provided health care. BUT members of our families do not. Please do not take away the Affordable Care Act. Let's improve it. Do not throw the baby out with the bath water.

Joyce and Rob McGee  
Charlotte, NC [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karyn Baum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Cassidy-Graham

Good day

I am writing to strongly request that this bill not move forward as currently written. It will end up with millions losing insurance and do nothing to calm the volatile market.

Having, essentially, 50 different health systems throughout the US will be bad for the economy as people will have a harder time moving for jobs as they negotiate whether Texas happens to cover maternity care vs Arizona vs Maine. Citizens deserve to be able to move where they need to for jobs and to improve our overall economy.

In addition, with significant differences between states, while this allows for experimentation is also worsens the inequalities between wealthy and poor states. You thus consign people to life or death based upon their place of birth and might keep people from moving into those states to improve their economies.

Finally, though you might not be aware of this, patients often need to cross state lines for very specialized care. This system is likely to make this already challenging need even worse.

The ACA is far from perfect, however we have the lowest number of uninsured Americans in decades. Our goal should be to cover everyone, and do so in a way that keeps costs down and outcomes high (eg high quality). In that way we can lessen the costs, keep people working and paying taxes, and drive the American economy. Risk pools are essential for this to function. If only people who drank and drove bought car insurance from a certain company, that company would go out of business. Block grants is this concept. Just say no. Let's fix the ACA and the marketplaces that the Republicans wanted added to the ACA in the first place.

Thank you for your time, and please reach out with any questions,

Karyn Baum, MD, MEd, MHA  
Associate Chief Medical Officer, UMMC and M Health  
Associate Chair of Clinical Quality, Dept of Medicine  
Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

For additional help please contact:

Kenya Senter at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dylan Brady <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments,  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

please stop trying to kill the people I love.

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.

Dylan Brady  
Eugene, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** LM [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy catastrophe

I have watched in horror for months now, and written and called and faxed and emailed to my Members of Congress. I will be voting in 2018 for anyone but my current Representative. I am now writing to this committee in some shred of hope that someone will consider my words.

I don't want my sister to die prematurely. She is in remission right now, but she has been in remission twice before. Even if my siblings and I were to bankrupt ourselves, we would not be able to afford an uninsured reoccurrence of her cancer. I know she is only one of hundreds of thousands of who have preexisting costly-to-treat conditions that the insurance companies would deny coverage or make it beyond her ability to afford adequate insurance.

Last Sunday was the 230 "birthday" of the Constitution. Please go back and reread the Preamble. Each member of the committee has sworn an oath

*" I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."*

How is it even possible that 48 sane adults (who presumably were not perjuring themselves when they took the oath) could believe in the face of all information to the contrary, from hospitals, doctors, even all 50 State Medicaid directors and insurance companies, that the repeated votes to repeal and replace the ACA could in anyway "promote the general Welfare"? How? Just how?

Sincerely,  
Lynn Melton  
[REDACTED]  
Reedville, VA [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
- Dawna Peterson
- [REDACTED]

I understand there will be hearings on the impact this bill will have for the average American citizen. I have a story to share. Back in 1990 while my husband was in graduate school, we had a toddler learning to walk. She fell, as they all do, on the hardwood floor of our apartment. The same action taken by countless children every day for our daughter that day ended with an epidural hematoma and brain surgery. Our neurosurgeon later told us that these freak accidents occur more often than people are aware but that padded rooms and helmets are not going to keep our children safe from every day living.

Our daughter is now 27 years old, a college graduate, married, mother of our grandson. Fortunately for us this was not a personal tragedy. However, it was a financial tragedy. I was employed part time as a therapist and my husband was a teaching assistant in graduate school. His student insurance coverage was inadequate to the costs of neurosurgery and we were left bankrupt.

I have remained an advocate for single payer national healthcare ever since. Insurance corporations should not be a for profit industry, profiting off of our injuries and illnesses. We need to join the rest of the world's leading nations and protect our citizens.

Please do not repeal the ACA. It is our least, best opportunity to protect citizens from being bankrupted by illness and injury. Fix it, or better yet vote Sen Sanders Single Payer National Healthcare into law.

Best,

Dawna Peterson  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alice Toohey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save our Healthcare! NO to Graham-Cassidy, please.

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband is covered by his work because of the employer mandate and my daughter and I are covered through the ACA. I know full well that the ACA needs work but I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Alice Toohey

Glendale, CA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Pratt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO

Please vote NO to the Graham Cassidy bill. My best friend's daughter is living with Cystic Fribrosis and she could never afford her medications if there are limits on preexisting conditions, which in my mind has no place in a society that considers itself civilized.

Thank you for preserving good health care for all

Sincerely,  
Amy Pratt

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Paula Sciarrino <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Atrocious bill

I'm am fully against the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Words can't express my disappointment in the GOP for the cruel and inhumane way you are treating people worried about losing their healthcare. It's a basic right to be able to find and afford medical help for yourself and your family.

I have spent my career writing for patients, to help them understand their health and treatment, but I can't for the life of me explain to anyone how supporters of this bill are so willing and eager to let innocent people suffer. Healthcare is not an entitlement, but a basic right. Medicaid is not a "bridge to a job" when sick children and elderly people depend on it to stay alive. Not having money doesn't devalue your humanity.

Don't be smug about your own good health, or look down on sick people. We are all only one diagnosis away from disaster. Americans deserve a return to regular order and a bipartisan effort to fix what's broken with the ACA, not a fixation on a campaign "promise" that was never anything more than a manipulative sound bite to get votes.

Let this bill die...not innocent people.

Sincerely,  
Paula Sciarrino

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin Cope <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Senator Warner asked that we share our healthcare stories. Here is mine:

I buy insurance on the individual market. My premium was \$323 a month with a \$750 deductible before the adoption of Obamacare. Since then, my plan has been canceled every year. My premiums, until I said no more, I cannot afford this, rose to \$989 a month with a \$7,000 deductible!

Yet, a family member receives subsidies and pays \$240 a month with hardly any deductible and has great care. I am happy for him, but am furious that the authors of Obamacare callously assumed that someone making \$65,000 a year, before taxes, could afford these kinds of premiums. This insurance fiasco, has pit family member against family member and it is grossly unfair to people like me.

Why is it that no ones seems to talk about, or care about, people in my position.

I had perfectly good health insurance and now I cannot afford to have pay outrageous premiums and ridiculous deductibles.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erik Stambaugh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 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.

Erik Stambaugh  
Fallbrook, California

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Min Hearing Graham Cassidy Health care Bill

I/my family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with [Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, disabilities, affordability, etc.] is... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely

Dr Sylvia Kaneko  
Boston, MA

Errors may appear due to keyboard sensitivity , please ignore

This email and all accompanying documents are privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents is strictly prohibited. If you receive this in error please notify back immediately. Thanks

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Audrey or Donald Dowling <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy should not be supported

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Our story with affordability for that we are seniors who cannot afford to see changes to Medicare that make it more expensive for older Americans. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Audrey Kay Dowling

Donald D Dowling

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jeannie Songer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PLEASE VOTE NO

To whomever may read this -- thank you in advance for taking our comments seriously!

My name is Jeannie Songer; I am 36-years-old self-employed mental health counselor, have been healthy my whole life, until this past year. I was diagnosed 6 months ago with ulcerative colitis, a condition that requires bouts of very expensive treatment alternating with (hopefully) periods of remission. My sister who is 3 years older also has the same thing -- we seem to have lost the genetic lottery in this regard. If you followed me around for a day, you'd see that my entire life is devoted to maintaining my health. I cook 3 meals a day at home and have all sorts of gear to bring my healthy, home-cooked meals with me to work. I get a full night's sleep each night and take long walks every day for exercise. I also attend doctor's appointments each month and am following the medical protocols that they have prescribed. This is all to say -- I am not drawing on insurance or medicine as a free ride, but am 100% committed to being responsible for my health. And yet, I am still symptomatic. My family depends on the current healthcare options. I pay my way -- \$435/month plus co-pays, plus out of network costs. Until this point, I was content paying into the system as a healthy person helping cover the costs of others. Please consider voting no on the Graham-Cassidy bill so that people like me can continue to receive coverage. Losing this would devastate my family.

Jeannie Songer

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to GCH \*

Dear Senators,

It is clear that the GCH bill will effectively remove protection for people with existing medical conditions and steadily decimate coverage for those most in need, on Medicaid. You will have this confirmed if you will await the nonpartisan CBO report, as you obviously should. Along with my fellow physicians in every major national organization, I ask you to dump this bill immediately. Instead, please focus now on strengthening the current system and addressing the places that costs remain too high and coverage too low. Many vulnerable voters are counting on you.

John Haresch

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #Trumpcare share with Committee members

My name is Erin Brown. I reside in Sawyer ND. I am a mother of 3 children, one whom has a Congenital Heart Defect. I am a stay at home mom and my husband owns his own small business. Before the ACA we were spending \$1300/month on health insurance through his employer. After the ACA came out his employer decided since he didn't have to offer insurance he wasn't going to so we got to switch to the ACA. Thank God his employer did this. The first year we were paying \$700/month. Now that my husband has his own company we are paying under \$400/month for our insurance. We do not qualify for Medicaid nor do we want it because this would take away my son from the very doctor that saved his life.

You see my son is 9. He was born with a Heart Defect, to no fault of his own or anyone of us God chose him to be this way and we were chosen to help him as his parents. He had to be monitored every 3-6 months as an infant and then every 6 months to a year as he got older. In 2013 he got worse. He couldn't function as a normal little boy. He couldn't do any sort of strenuous activity let alone any activity. He had his 1st Open Heart Surgery in 2013. I paid \$2500 out of pocket and the other \$279,000 was paid by my insurance company. We were monitored very closely for the next few months. He wasn't getting any better. He would need another Open Heart Surgery in 2014. They again opened my baby up, stopped his heart and lungs, where a machine was the only thing keeping him alive. He was in surgery for 8 grueling long most painful hours of any of our lives. Again he made it and again we only paid \$2500 out of pocket and this time his insurance picked up the other \$750,000 in medical bills.

My son now has a mechanical heart valve where he has to be on blood thinners in order to live. He of course can't be on the generic brand because it doesn't work well for him so we are on the name brand. Without insurance it's over \$500/month for his life saving prescriptions, with insurance its \$45/month. He will need this medication for the REST OF HIS LIFE, not to mention he will have to have more surgeries and his valve will not last forever. Also to mention we have bi-annual echocardiograms and blood draws on a weekly basis. If my son takes a hit to anywhere on his body, the ER is inevitable because this could KILL HIM.

So you see health insurance is a HUGE deal to me and my family. Affordable health insurance is a HUGE deal to me and my family. If lifetime caps exist my son WILL DIE, if we have to pay more for preexisting conditions we won't be able to afford insurance and again, he WILL DIE. My son was born with this not because it was his fault but because God so chose him for this. Health insurance is a God given right. Disease doesn't discriminate against poor people or impoverished people, it doesn't single anyone out. This is what this bill will be doing. The block grants and leaving it up to the states is a joke. The states government doesn't care about us as much as the vey people voting for this bill doesn't care. Give American a chance to live and be healthy and if not give us a chance to do whatever we can do in order to protect our children and families. Without health insurance a lot of people will die, my son included. Do what's right and stop this travesty of a bill and work together to improve what we already have in place.

Erin Brown  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Sawyer ND [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Holly Edwards [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham

Make tweaks, leave comments, and share with others to edit at the same time.

NO THANKS [GET THE APP](#)

AHCAI write today as an advocate for those with developmental disabilities. For those who often do not have a voice or struggle to find the words, I write to you as their voice. A voice that is pleading to have a life like yours. To live independently, to have friends, to know where their next meal will come from, to travel, to be safe, to be happy. I believe that you all feel this way too, because to think otherwise is just cruel. I believe that perhaps you just do not understand what it takes for someone with a developmental disability to live a life like yours.  
Holly Edwards

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I write today as an advocate for those with developmental disabilities. For those who often do not have a voice or struggle to find the words, I write to you as their voice. A voice that is pleading to have a life like yours. To live independently, to have friends, to know where their next meal will come from, to travel, to be safe, to be happy.

I believe that you all feel this way too, because to think otherwise is just cruel. I believe that perhaps you just do not understand what it takes for someone with a developmental disability to live a life like yours.

In Virginia there are currently over 30,000 individuals whose lives quite literally depend on Medicaid waiver funding. They are enrolled in programs that provide them funding to live on their own or in group homes. To attend day programs, to work, to have the support to go to church on Sunday, to go have a cup of coffee with their friend. These programs ensure that these individuals can take their medication correctly, can cross the street safely and can go to the doctor. These services build wheelchair ramps on their homes so they can leave; they pay for glasses so they can keep their job. Waiver services allow mothers and fathers to return to work and ensure that their child is cared for. Waiver services allow a person with a disability to live a life like yours. Waiver services are matched 50% by the federal Medicaid system. How can you ensure that the 30,000 people that rely on these services every day to live will continue to receive these supports when you cap Medicaid?

Beyond the 30,000 people who are currently enrolled in services there are over 11,000 people waiting for these supports. These are children and adults with developmental disabilities waiting to live a productive and happy life. Waiting to get glasses because they can't afford them. Waiting to have a ramp built on their home so they can leave safely. Waiting to work because they need someone to be by their side and teach them the job skills. The waiting list grows for services every single day in Virginia. There are individuals with disabilities who have been waiting for services for over 12 years. How can you agree to cap Medicaid knowing that there are over 11,000 waiting desperately to have the opportunity to live a life like yours?

In 2008 the non-partisan Dept of Justice began an investigation into institutional care for people with developmental disabilities in Virginia under President Bush. The state of Virginia was sued by the DOJ for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court Olmstead ruling. The state of Virginia was sued because it was not funding enough home and community based services for people with disabilities but rather allowing them to remain institutionalized for their entire lives. The settlement agreement will close all of Virginia's institutions for individuals with disabilities by 2020 except for a 75 bed unit for emergency

placement. The settlement agreement says that the state of Virginia will eliminate the majority of the waiver waiting list by 2020. I ask again, how will thousands of people receive the supports as agreed upon in this agreement if Medicaid is capped?

People with disabilities are terrified of what the AHCA will mean for them. Will they no longer have a life like yours? Will they lose their job because their coach can no longer work with them? Will they have to sit at home all day and never leave because they don't have support? Will they lose their apartment they worked so hard for? Will they have to move into a nursing home? Will they have to move back home with family? Will their family have to quit their jobs to care for them? Will they die because they have a behavioral or medical condition that requires 24 hour supervision that is no longer covered?

It is your responsibility as lawmakers to ensure that these individuals who have no voice are heard, that they are cared for and that they have a life like yours. Because that is all they want.

Do your job.

Holly Edwards

[REDACTED]  
Virginia Beach Va  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nick Pantier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** graham cassidy bill is a terrible piece of legislation

The Graham Cassidy bill is one of the worst pieces of legislation ever to be introduced in the senate. It was crafted with out any real knowledge of how healthcare in America works and with no regard to how it would effect millions of americans.

The bill should never be allowed to be voted on and and Senator that supports it should be voted out of office.

Nick Pantier  
[REDACTED]

Wheat Ridge CO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kerry Travers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I am a recently retired physician. Many of my patients required affordable health care. The above bill would likely deprive many of my former patients of their access to health care. I am unaware of ANY medical organization which approves of it. Please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Michael Travers, MD

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Insley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Proposed Health Care Bill

I want to strongly state my opposition to the proposed health care bill. This bill will adversely affect 10s of millions of people. Republicans and Democrats need to work together to put in place health care that will work for everyone.

I do not want this bill to pass.

Nancy Insley

[REDACTED]  
Walpole, MA. [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gail Tauber <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Trumpcare

Trumpcare is fiscally irresponsible. Millions of people will still lose coverage. And the States will wind up overly burdened. The proposal is full of holes if not outright lies.

Gail Tauber  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deborah Krant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on the Graham Cassidy bill

All I can say is that as a citizen and a voter I strongly urge the Senate to NOT PASS this bill. It is a travesty.

Deborah Krant  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Fox <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Improve Affordable Health Care Act; no repeal

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Previously because of pre-existing conditions, my mother was denied insurance for a needed operation. The Affordable Care Act has ensured that cannot happen again. Everyone deserves to be able to have affordable health insurance that covers all issues that arise. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. \*

Sincerely,  
Mrs Karen Adams-Fox  
Raleigh, NC

*Karen Fox*  
*jakfoxuk@aol.com*

*"No man in the whole world can change the Truth. One can only look for the Truth, find it and serve it. The Truth is in all places."*  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathryn Hodges [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Need for new bipartisan bill

I am U.S. citizen, a mother of two, and a passionate advocate for women facing unintended pregnancies and trying to raise healthy families. While I appreciate how much Obamacare has cost some families and how desperately broken the entire health care system is in terms of costs, any bill that removes insurance from so many people and gives insurance companies the opportunity to pressure states to increase premiums for pregnancy, new born care, pre-existing conditions, and mental health cannot be considered anything but a move backward.

Defunding Planned Parenthood for a year is just a political bait that ignores the complicated reality of the kind of care that many Americans depend on. If you care about reducing abortion, make it easier and more affordable to prevent pregnancy and to keep pregnancy. Anything else is illogical and cruel and also, won't fix the situation, just placates a voting block. This is cowardly politics and ignores the reality that you were elected to wrestle with. You represent us. You work for us, the citizens. I am in a top tax bracket, and I want to pay more so people who can't afford additional premiums will still have access to prenatal care, mental health care, etc.

Please start from scratch and come up with a bill, together, that solves the real issues of rising costs and an industry complex that has profited from pain long enough. We need to make changes that help shape this industry so it serves the people, not us serving them.

Thank you for your work. I really appreciate how massively complex and politically loaded this issue is. I am grateful for anyone who reads this and who fights for all Americans on this issue.

Kathryn Hodges  
[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Molly Gollinger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have several pre-existing conditions that, thanks to the ACA, I can treat. I have Graves Disease, a genetic disorder that made my thyroid so overactive that it needed to be destroyed. I rely on daily medication and regular blood tests to keep my entire body functioning. Without it, my metabolism would drop, as would my heart rate and my blood pressure. Without treatment, it would kill me. I also have a genetic disorder that causes my joints to be hyper-mobile and partially dislocate while I'm doing mundane activities. Stretching has caused my joints to partially dislocate, causing wear, tear, and lots of pain (which I generally just suffer through). I will likely need joint replacements in the future if I want to continue to work and care for those around me, which I do. Thanks to affordable healthcare, I'm able to deal with both of these (and several other) pre-existing conditions that would otherwise severely limit my functioning. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Molly Gollinger

[REDACTED]  
Duluth, MN [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kj Basten <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reflections from 28 years of Health Care, Policy, Block Grants and parenting a child through this maze who is paraplegic and has Spina Bifida.

I'll make this as short as possible. I am now a 56 y/o widow, losing my Air Force lawyer husband to cancer ten years ago. That is another reason to vote to NO Graham-Cassidy. I am a veteran who has served my country, who has Tricare and will lose that coverage if I choose to marry again.

The more important issue is I have worked in the field of Early Intervention, Maternal Child Health, Zero to Three, ADA, Health Care Reform, consulted for HCFA now CMS, OSERS and MANY federal agencies on MANY Block grants. Some well written and well funded, most poorly written, with poor oversight and not meeting objectives that are not clearly defined.

When I was a young mother I testified at public hearing with my young daughter in her little red wheelchair, practically begging for services and I am one of " lucky" parents .

Please don't take us back to days of exclusions for pre-existing conditions.  
Parents of children with disabilities can max out at million dollar cap in no time.

Let families spend at much time as possible making sure we can focus on the other laws are not in compliance !  
My daughter is now 28 we just went to dinner and parked in a parking lot that did not have a handicapped space! I still volunteer with families who have a child with a disability who do attend their neighborhood school, who do not receive services guaranteed under 504 and IDEA.

I know after 28 years of working in health care and educational service delivery there many sides to this argument. I do ask that you carefully consider your vote and it's impact on families with medically fragile and children with disabilities. Quality healthcare in the early years of a child with developmental delays or disability is cost effective. Republican or Democrat that makes sense.  
Please vote No to Graham-Cassidy

Kate-Jennings Basten  
[REDACTED]

Mt. Pleasant, SC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Katelin Kennedy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 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 parents had a small business their entire lives and saved up enough to retire. When the financial crisis hit their business dried up, and for 5 years they had to live on savings to survive. Simultaneously, my dad's hip was injured and had to be replaced. They are now still working into their 70s and rely on affordable healthcare and Medicare. They are in this position through no fault of their own, and should have an affordable means to cover their healthcare costs. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Katelin Kennedy

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Glenda Keller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Say NO to GrahamCassidy Bill

This bill is absolute garbage! DO NOT pass the bill! It is time for both parties to work together to praise what is right about the ACA like not punishing people for pre-existing conditions and fix what is wrong which is the price of healthcare. Stop putting party and profits before people.....all Americans! If your child had a serious medical problem and you didn't have the privilege of your high salary to pay for the best care, you would fight like hell for your child. If you pass this bill, the blood of millions of people who would lose their healthcare coverage and their lives will be on your hands.

Do the right thing. VOTE NO!!!!!!!!!!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary kay Voytilla [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** For 9/25 Hearing on Graham Cassidy Heller Johnson Proposal

**Title of Hearing:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

**Date of Hearing:** September 25, 2017

**Name:** Mary Kay Voytilla

**Address:** [REDACTED] Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

I am concerned that the Cassidy-Graham-Heller-Johnson bill is a rushed and dangerous version of Trumpcare. As a US citizen, I expect lawmakers to work together on a bipartisan deal that allows for real health care improvements. I am asking Republicans and Democrats to work together to repair the existing ACA. Repealing it and replacing it with the cuts to essential benefits as included in the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal is a death sentence. Healthcare legislation should be enacted through regular order and be good for all Americans. The rushed proposal is a failure on both counts.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marcia Geotsalitis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Bennett, David (McCain); Esper, Luke (McCain); Heiden, Helen (Flake); Morse, Chandler (Flake)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Vote NO Graham Cassidy repeal-replace

Please see attached email originally sent to wrong email address. Thank you.

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

**From:** "Marcia Geotsalitis" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Sep 24, 2017 9:29 AM  
**Subject:** Vote NO Graham Cassidy repeal-replace  
**To:** <gch@finance.senate.gov>  
**Cc:** "John McCain" <david\_bennett@mccain.senate.gov>, "John McCain" <luke\_esper@mccain.senate.gov>, "Jeff Flake" <helen\_heiden@flake.senate.gov>, "Jeff Flake" <chandler\_morse@flake.senate.gov>

Dear Committee Members,

Tell our Senators to vote NO to Graham-Cassidy bill to steal our healthcare.

This isn't what Sen McCain promised. No bipartisanship. No regular order. No committees, debates, mark-ups, amendments, open hearings, experts or women's & minority interests represented!

It isn't what President Trump promised either; better more affordable healthcare for all & not lowering Medicaid funding.

It's the cruelest GOP health coverage plan yet. It is OPPOSED by every health advocacy group, healthcare providers, many insurers, and EVERY state Medicaid director.

It will cut Medicaid for seniors, people with disabilities, and kids -- and it will end Medicaid expansion coverage like we have in AZ.

It will end pre-existing conditions protections. I have multiple preexisting conditions, as do 50% of US population & 80% of us over 55.

It will add a higher age multiplier. So I pay higher premiums for being older & AGAIN for each specified PEC!

It will raise individual market premiums to UNAFFORDABLE levels for bad coverage with high deductibles.

It will eliminate ACA funding by 2027. And leave at least 32 million MORE Americans uninsured. We can't be sure on real costs & enrollments, these are best estimates from multiple conservative think tanks. Why? Because GOP isn't even getting this bad, rushed legislation properly scored by CBO.

AZ will be especially hard hit. We'll lose Billions in healthcare funding. Medicaid expansion eliminated. Our healthcare economy will be decimated. We will lose JOBS.



This will negatively impact health plans of those currently with employer group coverage. This is not MAGA!

What is wrong with GOP party? With you!

Once again, GOP chooses to remake 1/6 of our economy without thought to the consequences other than tax cuts for wealthy. You KEEP better insurance I pay for.

We told you NO in August. We say it again.

GOP should have completed the bipartisan plan to shore up ACA, drive down premiums for all & cut pharmaceutical costs.

We need your help. Do whatever it takes to convince Senate & House to fix ACA, not repeal it. Do not use a seriously flawed healthcare bill to launch your greedy tax cut plans.

This will be an awful legacy and the end of GOP party as we know it unless you stop it in committee.

Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy repeal.

Sincerely,

Marcia Geotsalitis

[REDACTED]  
Buckeye, AZ. [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jonathan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Support the ACA, not Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing to express my support for the benefits of the Affordable Care Act and my extreme displeasure with the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

I currently receive health insurance through my employer, and am seriously concerned my insurance will be negatively impacted through primary and secondary effects to the insurance market through this bill. I also find it telling that the supporters of this bill can not explain to the American people why it benefit them, and that few health care providers think it a good bill.

I believe healthcare is a right, NOT simply a privilege for those who can afford it. Our country spends more than any other on health care yet only has a middling health record.

I urge you to support efforts to kill the Graham-Cassidy bill, to support bipartisan efforts to improve the Affordable Care Act, and to put pressure on the current Presidential Administration to faithfully execute all mechanisms associated with the Affordable Care Act.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Jonathan L. Petters  
Blacksburg, VA

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Kelly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Act

If this bill is passed, it will be a death sentence to my sister and my niece.

My sister has breast cancer. She has worked her entire adult life and is a manager at a major corporation with good health insurance. She is beyond retirement age, but is still struggling to work because she wouldn't be able to afford more than a few months of paying for the medication, medical tests, doctors' appointments, etc. required without insurance. As a child, she had polio, so now she has two pre-existing conditions against her.

My 9 year old great-niece has a brain tumor. She is positive, smiling and fighting with everything she has, as she barely tolerates brutal treatments. Her parents are working people with average health insurance, but their share of the cost is astronomical. They would lose everything they own in order to pay so their child can LIVE! What did she ever do to deserve this kind of treatment? She's a little, innocent girl; she did not make bad life choices.

How can you be so cruel to take away the lifeline from people who are sick?

Mr. Trump promised there would be better, cheaper health care for all. You can blur the facts and outright lie, but we see that this isn't better or cheaper! Many, many people will die for lack of both preventive and acute health care. We will remember who voted to take away health insurance!

Mary Kelly

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please DO NOT SUPPORT the Graham-Cassidy bill. This is as bad as the last bill that the republican congress tried to pass and could not.

We should not cut medicaid dollars, we should not give all the authority to the states to manage their state's health care. And there will not be nearly enough money to manage even the most basic of human health needs.

This is another disastrous attempt to simply destroy Obamacare. We need a fix, not a destruction and MILLIONS - TWENTY-THREE!! to be torn off health insurance.

Where is the OCB report? why is the vote required BEFORE this vital report? Why are there no hearings about this bill? (oh, except the briefest of attempts Monday, 24th)

My friends who have children with disabilities are receiving warning letters from their insurers telling them that diapers are a "convenience item" and will no longer be covered. Unlike government funding for Tom Price's overuse of a private government jet. Appalling.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL

thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Summer Burns <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Hi,

It's late here now. I finally got the kids off to bed. Hard to find a moment sometimes, even for things that are important. But I knew I had to sit down and tell you how the decisions being made in Washington, D.C., on the other side of this vast country from me, will affect my community and myself. I want to believe you all got into politics, way back when, before all the craziness, because you believed in our Country and believed in representing it's great people. I want to believe you still understand that you have been elected to serve the people and represent their best interests. All the other noise, all the background stuff, it is a distraction. Our best value as a Country is our democracy. 'A government of the people, by the people, for the people'. If we lose that, we lose that which is special and strong about our great nation. We lose what men and women have fought to protect throughout our history.

I live in a small rural town. There's not much here in the way of work but we have family, and I have always found value in that. Out of high school I got a job at one of our towns largest employers, a hospital. I went to college and got a degree and upon graduation, decided I wanted to make the healthcare industry my career. I just want to say, I think this health care bill is really scary. I remember how things were prior to the ACA. People couldn't get or afford insurance due to pre-existing conditions, they would go bankrupt with medical bills they couldn't possibly pay, they would put off seeing their doctors causing their chronic conditions to exacerbate. After ACA, we saw people getting preventive services, we saw chronic conditions properly managed, we saw hospitals getting bills paid by insurance rather than sitting unpaid by patients who could not afford to make the payments, we saw a lot of really great improvements for both patients and hospitals. Does it need fixing? Sure! But this is not the way to do it. We have to find a way to fix our healthcare system without hurting a lot of sick and innocent people in the process. It is the responsibility you took on in accepting office to help fix the problems of this great country for its people (and not just the richest among us). It is our responsibility as citizens to hold you to it, and please know that we will. We can't rush through this. We must work together to figure out the best possible way forward.

As a career employee in health care administration, along with many, many other professionals in the healthcare industry, I beg you not to support the Graham Cassidy legislation. Please trust the experience and expertise of professionals in our field when we tell you this bill would be devastating to the American people and to rural hospitals and healthcare providers. The focus needs not to be on just 'getting rid' of the ACA but also finding something better to take it's place.

Thank you for your time,

Summer Burns

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Milazzo Walters [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony - Graham-Cassidy Hearing

To Whom It May Concern,

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. At present, I have great health care through my workplace which gives me and my husband peace of mind knowing that we can get what we need for our family. Everyone in the United States deserves this feeling of peace. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anne Walters

Corning, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Micah LaDousa <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote No on GC

I urge you to vote No on Graham-Cassidy. I am a small business owner in Wisconsin. My wife and I were able to start our small business because we were able to buy insurance on the ACA exchanges. Without it, we would likely need to shut down our business and go back to working for an employer who offers healthcare, due to preexisting conditions. Our business gives us the flexibility in work, life, care for our daughter, along with many other benefits, including bringing more money into the economy than we would under private employment.

Please vote no on GC. I welcome any bipartisan efforts to fix various areas of the ACA that might not be working well. Please continue to allow Senators Murray and Alexander to continue their bipartisan talks.

Sincerely,  
Micah LaDousa  
Madison, WI

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erin Bearss <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. My parents are not yet of the age where they can participate in Medicare but because of unfair job loss and age discrimination in the work place, they use the coverage provided by the ACA. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Erin Bearss  
Florida

Sent from my iPhone



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brian Guynn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Graham-Cassidy" bill vote

Dear Senators,

My name is Brian Guynn and I am from Galax, VA, a small city in Southwest Virginia. I am represented in the Senate by Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. I am thankful both oppose this bill. Because of the ACA, my employer offered all of their employees health insurance starting in 2014. Because of the ACA, my father was able to get health insurance he could afford from the exchange, where before he was denied or could not afford insurance plans because he is diabetic. I have many other friends and family who now have health insurance because of the ACA where before they did not. When President Trump was elected, he said that the plan was to repeal and replace the ACA with something better. This bill is not better. The ACA requires insurers to cover pre-existing conditions without charging more. This bill gives states the power to waive that requirement. The Graham-Cassidy bill gives states control over how they spend federal funds from Medicaid, meaning that they can use them in ways that benefit only some of their population and not others, or choose not to spend the money at all or at least not on what it is supposed to be used for. The bill also cuts medicaid funding over time. It lets states allow insurers to opt out of essential health benefits in their plans. The repeated attempts to repeal or undercut the ACA have contributed to the uncertainty and market instability in the insurance exchange, causing many insurers to opt out or increase plan rates because they have no idea what to expect from the government. All of these repeal attempts have been rushed and done in secrecy, with as little analysis and input as possible from anyone besides those constructing the bills. That is not the way this should be done. Something this big that affects so many people needs to be well thought out, debated, and the effects on all people considered, not just a privileged few. I hope that this bill will go the way of others proposed this year in the hopes of repealing the ACA through the narrow window allowed by reconciliation and be defeated. In it's place, I want to see a discussion of ideas proposed by all sides to improve our health care system for all Americans, real measures to lower the cost of health care in America to levels closer to the rest of the world, and a commitment to the people and communities you are supposed to truly represent. We are watching. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian Guynn

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tanya Boggs, Photographer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill the Trump (don't)Care act! The Graham-Cassidy bill is Unconstitutional!

My daughter and I have a pre-existing condition that would make us UNINSURABLE with the ACA. Our lives depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I vehemently oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is absolutely imperative to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Trumps (don't)Care bill leaves all of the most vulnerable people in our country without the care and support they need to have their basic needs met! Let's stop protecting the rich man's pocket book and start taking care of the millions of Americans who actually make this country work. The Graham-Cassidy bill is Unconstitutional!

Sincerely, Tanya Boggs  
Charleston, SC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** bakerk58 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Trumpcare

Those concerned:

It is fully apparent that the nations healthcare and the corresponding 1/6 of our economy has become a political hockey puck for the Trump Administration.

In the eight years that Mr Obama was president, we have listened to the Republicans outraged howling about the ACA and the desperate need to repeal and replace it. The R&R effort seemed to morph into a " Repeal and Screw Poor People " effort, which failed and now here we are.

Repeal or Else Donald Trump and the Koch Brothers are Gonna Be Mad is a poor silly excuse for a bill, and I'm sad and ashamed that my own Senator, Lindsey Graham, has co-authored it.

For God's sake, FIX the ACA. Americans will die because DT needs a win. And btw, Republicans had 8 and a half years to work on a replacement healthcare solution. THIS is the best you can do????

Kathleen Baker

[REDACTED]  
Myrtle Beach SC, [REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon. Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rachel Evans <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Record

Please let the record reflect my vehement opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Repeal bill, and all other attempts to repeal or terminate the Affordable Care Act.

My husband & I have health care but before the ACA was implemented we had to wait a full year before his Rheumatoid Arthritis was covered because it was a pre-existing condition.

We were and continue to be blessed and lucky but so many Americans are not as fortunate as we are. Please cease and desist these attacks on our healthcare system and instead of undermining or eliminating it be the heroes who refine and perfect it.

Thank you.

Rachel Evans

[REDACTED]  
Chincoteague Island, VA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Roy L. Goodman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator (Gillibrand); Schumer, Senator (Schumer)  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I write to you to oppose the bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My daughter was born with a cavernous angioma or cavernoma in her brain. It caused her problems for the last five years, and it was removed this summer. The medications she requires after surgery are many and expensive.

Under this new bill, she would certainly not be able to afford this necessary treatment if she were not on our insurance. Further, when she is older, this "pre-existing" condition will make her insurance prohibitively expensive for her.

I urge you to reject this mean-spirited bill which does no good for anyone who needs any sort of medical care ever.

Roy Goodman

[REDACTED]  
New York, NY [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Debbie Dey Hastedt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy- Vote No!

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on Graham-Cassidy. I'm a 34 year old woman and business owner who will directly be harmed by the passage of this healthcare bill. Although I'll never qualify for any ACA subsidies due to my income, I'm tremendously grateful for the "essential benefits" that the ACA provides. I would love to pay less than my \$550 monthly premium for a gold healthcare plan, but I willingly do so because it allows me to get the care I need for my Endometriosis; a chronic inflammatory condition. The ACA also allows my family members access to care for mental health, diabetes, arthritis, asthma, cancer and prenatal care. Insurance plans could certainly be more affordable, but they shouldn't be cheaper or more expensive based on pre-existing conditions or essential benefits being stripped. Graham-Cassidy is a terrible healthcare bill that will clearly harm millions of middle class American's. Please vote no.

Best,

Debbie Dey Hastedt

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Hayes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill, if voted to move forward, would be a disaster for our health care system, which as you know is a 5th of our economy.

Please do what you fan to FIX the ACA instead of dismantling it.

Thank you,

Karen Hayes  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** karen.scheinerman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Dear Senators/ Representatives,

My family relies on Quality , affordable healthcare. AS a result, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister was diagnosed with breast cancer over 10 years ago and relies on medicine, physical therapy, and specialty doctors to maintain her health. I do not trust that she will be able to maintain what she has without proper vetting of this latest bill which is being rushed through due to its massive flaws .

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

Thank you  
Karen.scheinerman  
West hartford, CT



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lorinda Bosch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am absolutely opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill and urge all of you to vote NO to strike it down.

Lorinda Bosch

[REDACTED]  
Bealeton, VA [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Hammann <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham- Cassidy comment

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my concern as a citizen, a health care consumer and a health care provider [I am a psychologist] about the proposed Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. I have friends, family, clients and acquaintances with modest incomes who depend on the subsidize policies available under the current health care system for their health car security and, in some cases, for their survival in the face of chronic conditions or major illness necessitating costly medicines or other treatment.

My understanding of this bill is that it will put health insurance out of the reach of many millions of people, whether because of the cutbacks in Medicaid funding both immediately and in even more catastrophically in coming years or because of the elimination of subsidies which allow those with modest income to afford insurance, or because of the elimination of effective incentives for some of those young enough to discount their health risks now to buy into the healthcare insurance system, thereby making themselves safer [I would certainly advise my children and grandchildren to do this] and making everyone's healthcare situation more secure. I am also aware of the national crisis around opioid addiction and the implications for the national workforce of depriving the enormous numbers of potential works of healthcare that will e effective for their currently chronic conditions, as well as the economic impact on the population generally of health care insecurity.

I urge you strongly to take seriously the concerns of Senators McCain and Collins and wait for a bipartisan bill which will actually address the issues of stabilization of the insurance markets and controlling medical costs, while providing genuinely available and affordable [regardless of pre-existing conditions] health care to the country's people.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hammann, Ph.D.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Aimee Maharaj [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello, I'm a resident of Newbury Park, CA and I work with children with disabilities. These important people in our community rely on Medicaid for health care and community support.

The Senate is considering a bill, the Graham-Cassidy bill, that proposes devastating cuts to Medicaid and removes protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

11 million people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for critical services that help them live and participate in their community.

I am asking you to oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, or any other bill that cuts or caps Medicaid.

Thank you so much,  
Aimee Maharaj

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Verizon sub account <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** constituent

Hi, my name is Pat Johnson and I'm a constituent from Fairfax, Virginia

I'm writing to urge elected representatives to vote against the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal plan. Any healthcare plan that eliminates Medicaid expansion, protections for those with pre-existing conditions, and hasn't been scored by the CBO is unacceptable. The American people want a bipartisan approach to repairing the ACA, not a repeal of it.

Thank you for your time.

Pat Johnson

[REDACTED]

Fairfax, VA [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** amanda varsel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on repeal of ACA

To whom it may concern,

I find it infuriating that once again I have to to ask members of Congress to vote against a law which would cripple the economy and gut access to affordable and appropriate levels of healthcare for all Americans. The proposed bill is opposed by all organisations which represent those in the healthcare industry and users - in short, everyone. This bill is dangerous for America. Furthermore, without a CBO score and significant debate it's one more attempt for Congress to operate in the shadows rather than conducting government in the sunshine. Our founders expressed a mandate that government promote the general welfare and in no way is this achieved better than guaranteeing millions of Americans aren't forced to choose between saving their lives or protecting their livelihoods. We need a bipartisan fix to the issues with the ACA not a monstrous bill like Graham-Cassidy. Listen to the vast majority of Americans who support the ACA and Vote No !!!!!!!

Thank you,  
Amanda Varsel

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Roseann Petropoulos <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO

On Graham - Cassidy bill is a disgusting and a disgrace. Thank you

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mark Sniadecki <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Regarding the Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" Bill

To whom it may concern,

Listen to me.  
Listen to all of us.

We know the game the GOP is trying to play with human lives. They have little reason to care because they've insulated themselves and their families from hardship. Most of America has not had that privilege.

And it's not as if the GOP is playing this game for the benefit of citizens' lives, as Obama had to struggle to get his healthcare reforms through in the face of this same, selfish-headed GOP. The entirety of this repeal-and-replace obsession is driven by two motivating factors: funnel money into places it will benefit the GOP, and smear the legacy of this nation's first black president.

**This is a petty bill.**  
**This is a heartless bill.**  
**This is a bill without any sense of moral decency.**

This disgusting state of affairs exists because we have a disgusting man at the top of the ladder, an overgrown infantile lummoX who is--without a doubt--a white supremacist in his heart. A misogynist in his heart. A bigot and a xenophobe in his heart. Qualities he demonstrates daily in his words and actions.

Passing this horrendous legislation, which *the whole of the American healthcare system has united in denouncing*, would be a step toward legitimizing the the most horrendous Commander-in-Chief our nation has seen in a long, long time.

There are dozens of reasons to strike down Graham-Cassidy, and not a single honest good reason to make it law. Do the right thing. For the love of all that is sane and right:

Do. The. Right. Thing.

Shut this bill down and don't look back.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Sniadecki

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bloomington, IN [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** gregory.michael <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My thoughts for the healthcare hearing members.

Dear Senators,

My medical condition puts me in a situation where I can find only low pay work and without medical insurance. I depend on the individual markets

to get coverage for me and my son. My wife is disabled. Thankfully she is covered under medicare. Before the ACA I was nearly bankrupted

because of my medical bills. My premiums were higher than my mortgage and my deductibles were insurmountable. Every year I saw a 10 to 20% increase

in my premiums. The ACA SAVED ME!

If you repeal the ACA you will totally ruin what I have left. Cancer runs in my family. Both my parents and my aunts and uncles had cancer.

At 59, I've been lucky so far. I do, however, realize that I am at extremely high risk. If you repeal the ACA, I would have to drop my insurance

due to the cost and know that if I do get cancer, I'll have no hope and will likely die. This is not what United States is supposed to be about.

If a foreign power did something that jeopardized so many Americans as this repeal bill does, you would all be up in arms.

I don't understand why you are willing to do to the American people what you won't tolerate from any other power.

We are living, breathing Americans. We are not things that you barter and make deals about. To approach key states and offer

deals for a vote on such a life threatening bill is barbaric.

President Trump said he would repeal and replace the ACA with a plan that was superior leaving no one behind. What happened to that?

Instead, we are having this cruel and deadly bill shoved down our throats while the ACA is being squeezed to death? This is not What America



is supposed to be about!!!! We shouldn't have to be begging our senators not to Kill Us! I DON'T WANT TO DIE, SIRS!

The bill also goes against good basic fiscal principle. Emergency rooms will once again fill. This will put a burden on hospitals which will be forced to raise prices.

People will be sicker, and lose their financial stability. Bankruptcy's and foreclosures will soar. People will be sicker and have less to spend.

Think about how this will effect the economy in general.

Please stop terrorizing us with this bill and bills like it. I hope you can all reset and come to your senses. Lives are at risk. AMERICAN LIVES!

Drop this bill and these repeal efforts. We need both sides to work together openly and properly to reach good and fair solutions.

Thank you,

Gregory Zuccarello

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margot Roth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I urge you to reconsider the push to undo the ACA for political reasons. Certainly it needs improvements and changes should be made but not in the way this bill proposes. With time and hearings and good intentions I'm sure all elected officials can reach consensus. After all you are all there to represent all the citizens of the USA not just a small group of donors. Consider this to be for the health of our country and our citizens.

On a personal note, had the ACA not been enacted the large company I worked for would have imposed a lifetime cap on my husband who suffered from heart failure and kidney failure. We cannot leave important decisions like this up to states with no expertise in these matters and certainly not to employers who will only be shopping for the best deal. Canada and many other countries have excellent health care systems in place. Let's not reinvent the wheel, let's be the world's best not the most expensive.

Thank you for considering my letter,  
Margot A Roth  
[REDACTED]  
Portland OR 97215

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Shannon Campbell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments for hearing

As a resident of the great state of Oregon, as a mother, as someone with a pre-existing condition, as someone who values research and facts over political plays, and as a human with a sense of decency, I am disgusted by this bill.

This bill would effectively punish states that chose to embrace the ACA instead of fight back, and reward states that resisted. (Incidentally, the states having the most problems with the ACA are those that resisted – research has shown this to be true. See <http://acassignups.net/16/11/01/update-x2-2017-rate-hikes-yes-medicaid-expansion-matters-so-do-state-based-exchanges-and> . It is essentially self-fulfilling sabotage.) Also, every legitimate problem that Republicans like to refer to when discussing the ACA would be made worse by this bill - rising premiums, dropping coverage, etc. Rarely do bills get opposition from healthcare providers, insurance companies, AND patients, but you have managed to do that with this bill and its predecessors.

I am a middle-class, well-educated, employed married woman with a child, and the ACA helped me immensely when I needed it. (Those demographic factors shouldn't matter, but I know to many politicians, they do. I'm in that "tax-paying middle class" everybody always wants to talk about, and I'm going to use that voice as loudly and clearly as I can on this.) I recognize that my situation is not so for everybody, and it is terrible that some people's premiums rose to unaffordable heights. But I encourage politicians on both sides of the aisle to find constructive ways to improve healthcare for everyone, rather than throwing one population under the bus in favor of another every few years.

If Republicans want to cast themselves as the "pro life" party, they ought to be encouraging policies which include maternity care and caring for newborns with congenital conditions. They ought to be encouraging healthcare for everybody, young and old, healthy and sick. But I fear their claims of valuing life are hollow. A true pro life ethic would include the unborn and the born, the rich and the poor, the sick and the well. Some Republican leaders have even admitted that this bill is terrible, but they must keep their "promise." Why start now? They have broken many promises over the years. This is not good policymaking, to take up as your central tenet the destruction of the policies that were created before you, without thought to the consequences for your constituents. And to attempt to enact such sweeping reforms under the guise of reconciliation, while technically legal, is highly unethical and a misuse of the process.

The only potentially positive element of this bill is the theory of greater state flexibility. Let states innovate. But as the governor of Alaska said, flexibility without funding is meaningless, and that is what you are doing. Anti-federalism is a flimsy smokescreen for the destruction of many peoples' lives and livelihoods (lest we forget also how much of our economy is dependent on the healthcare sector, and how many rural hospitals and clinics are depending on the ACA to stay in existence).

I urge senators on both sides of the aisle to strike this bill down quickly, to stop deceiving their constituents as to what it contains, and to work together to promote affordable, quality healthcare for all the people, all the time.

Thank you for your time,

Shannon M. Campbell, MPP  
Portland, OR

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Shannon M. Campbell, MPP

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

As one who has lived with Type 1 Diabetes almost 30 years I can speak with authority on the critical need for the Affordable Care Act. At 18 I was forced off my parent's insurance but unable to get my own due to my pre-existing condition. I worked full time as a college student and used loan money to afford the monthly hundreds of dollars of expenditures to manage my diabetes. As an adult I had insurance but was laid off from work in the economic downturn. I obtained part-time work and because of the ACA mandate once again had insurance. My story is one of millions and certainly the experience of your constituency. We can't be a strong country when our citizens are kept sick.

The Graham-Cassidy bill does nothing to protect Americans or our economy. Pay attention, read it closely and the implications will be clear. Save the ACA or lose America.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Kenny  
Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jayne Spottswood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement of opposition to Graham Cassidy repeal bill

Hello,

My name is Jayne Spottswood. I'm a 32-year-old woman, descended from generations of Americans.

My family has genetic hyperlipidemia, and my older brother, Mark had a heart attack at 35. Thankfully, he's doing well, and he and his wife just gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby girl. But Mark has to wear a medical alert bracelet, be on a strict diet and exercise regimen, and it still may not be enough to keep him healthy.

Before the heart attack, Mark was an avid exerciser, who ate extremely healthy, and was quite trim. He was already doing everything he could do to stay in good health, and with genetics, it didn't matter. And he's hardly the only person for which this is the case.

If the Graham-Cassidy repeal bill passes, Mark will get flagged as having a pre-existing condition, and insurers are likely to charge him through the roof for coverage he desperately needs. That could force him at some point to make a heartbreaking decision between financially taking care of his family, or paying for necessary care, so he can be with his family.

This is unconscionable.

You're doing this because of financial threats from the Koch brothers. (\$400M tends to get people to do things.)

And if this passes, I will spend as much time and resources as possible to ensure your constituents know what you did to them, and why.

I'll also adopt a child, as pregnancy is not something I feel like being bankrupted for. And teach them to be better to their fellow Americans than you.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jayne Spottswood

[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ann Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators:

This bill is heinous. It will harm millions of Americans for the sake of a tax cut for rich people. It's insane public policy.  
VOTE NO.

—Ann Anderson  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elise Dirlam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject the graham-Cassidy bill

Good morning.

We are engaged voters from Oregon and we want all voting members of Congress to oppose this bill, as its impact on the economy has not been fully evaluated. No CBO score has been derived, so too much is unknown.

But more important is the human impact -- the loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions and cuts to Medicaid, most importantly. Despite mealy-mouthed attempts to indicate that pre-existing conditions will still be covered, the truth is that they will not be for everyone. And think about the impact on our mobile workforce. People frequently move from state to state for jobs. What was covered in one state may not be covered in another. For this reason, the protection for pre-existing conditions MUST be a nationwide mandate. It simply cannot be left to each state's discretion. (Similarly, this is a problem of equity for out-of-state employees who would have different coverage from those living in the same state as the company's home state.)

And the cuts to Medicaid are unconscionable. Seniors, economically disadvantaged, and disabled citizens rely on Medicaid as the sole source of coverage for healthcare. We cannot strip a penny away from these programs!

This bill, it turns out, is likely worse than the previous proposal, in that it does not even offer funding for addressing the opioid crisis.

No matter the pressure you are under from wealthy campaign contributors, we urge you to reject the Graham-Cassidy proposal. Please work together to improve and strengthen the ACA. The People do not want the ACA to be repealed. Please represent the will of the People -- ALL the people, not the wealthy fringe elements.

Elise Dirlam  
Tim Dirlam

Scotts Mills, Oregon 97375



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Connie McDowell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed healthcare bill

I am very concerned about the current proposed GOP healthcare bill. First of all, there is no CBO score so no one is really sure what this bill will cost in terms of coverage lost and coverage costs.

Next, the bill language is not very clear as to state options to cover or not cover pre-existing conditions. I have two family members and several friends undergoing cancer treatment right now. What would happen to them if cancer is deemed a pre-existing condition and they can no longer afford coverage?

The bill also drastically slashes monies for Medicaid, once again targeting our most vulnerable population. I have read that as many as thirty million people could lose healthcare coverage if this bill passes!

I know that the ACA is far from perfect, but this bill is so ugly no healthcare organization has come out in support of this bill. Please do what you can to prevent it's passage!

Thank you,  
Connie McDowell  
[REDACTED]  
West Linn, Oregon. 97068

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robin M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments about the ACA from 97239

Dear Finance Committee

I am a constituent from 97239. I have health insurance from an employer it is subsidized by medicare as I am 66 years old. I have a sister who is disabled on medicaid. She is incapable of working. She has been on SSI since she was a young adult. She has no money and our parents have died.

She needs medicaid for healthcare. I cannot afford to pay her bills. She will be completely dependent on food banks and charity if medicaid is cut.

She will die.

I am only one person, and there are literally millions like me.

I am living on a pension, and there is no leeway to pick up the slack for our relatives who lose benefits. There is no slack. We have no protections. Everyone will be showing up at emergency rooms for care. It is well known that is the most expensive way to manage health care. It makes no economic sense to cut medicaid.

Robin Miller

[REDACTED]  
Portland, Oregon 97239

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Angela Michtom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please vote no on the Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members -

I am writing to submit my testimony on the Graham Cassidy bill. Please vote NO on this bill. Everything about this bill is wrong. The manner in which it is being presented, the lack of public hearings and the devastating impact it will have on all Americans.

My daughter, a high school senior, was diagnosed three years ago with Type I diabetes. An incurable, chronic autoimmune disease that will require her to take insulin everyday for the rest of her life. Without health insurance, I don't know how we would afford to pay for the medication she needs. And once she is on her own, I am afraid that she will not be able to get insurance because she had a pre-existing condition. By giving control to the states, where she lives may well be determined not by a job, or a desire to live in one particular place, but by where she can get insurance.

It feels like our representatives care nothing about the American people. They only care about the pledge they made years ago that is no longer valid. The ACA may not be perfect, but it has improved the lives of millions. Please don't pass this bill. Please don't pass anything this important without a complete hearing and discussion about the consequences and financial impacts on all Americans.

Senators, please do the right thing. Work together to build on the Affordable Care Act, and provide a health insurance system that works to lift people up, rather than drag them down. Vote No on the Graham Cassidy bill, because it doesn't provide that.

Thank you for your time

Angela Michtom  
Lake Oswego OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kristina Hess [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello

Now that we all have seen how many organizations and experts on healthcare have come out against the bill, you should be aware that the bill is not going to be good for the American people.

Please do what you can to stop this bill Kristina Hess Ashland OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Peter Buckley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am absolutely, 100% opposed to the Graham-Cassiday bill. I worked on legislation in Oregon to help develop our Medicaid program's Coordinated Care Organization model. It is working, and over 95% of Oregonians now have access to quality health care.

We need to do more on affordability, but your bill takes us in the absolute wrong direction. You will dismantle much of what we have built, and you will take away health care from hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, and millions of Americans. Is this truly what you want to do?

Please do not pass this harmful, misguided and cruel legislation. We can do much, much better. The CCO model in Oregon was passed by a bipartisan vote. If we can do that, so can you. Please put the ideology away and work to help, not hurt, the American people.

Sincerely,  
Peter Buckley  
former State Representative  
Oregon House of Representatives  
home address: [REDACTED], Ashland, OR 97520  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Elizabeth Fairchild [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families. Mitch McConnell is trying to hide the true measure of harm from the American people. The Committee needs to step up and stop these maneuvers.

Please stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. For Congress to radically restructure one sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham-Cassidy cannot be passed into law without a full and thorough CBO analysis. The Leader may think he can hide the truth for now, but the impact of this law will be revealed. And the American people will not accept this charade.

Elizabeth Fairchild  
Ashland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Chris Wisehart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments for the hearing record on #GrahamCassidy.

The GOP last ditch efforts to kill the ACA is pure sloop thrown out of desperation. Get behind Medicare for all and purpose a plan that has value.

Sincerely  
Christopher B. Wisehart MGysgt USMC Retired

[REDACTED]  
Beaverton, Or  
[REDACTED]

Constituent of Senators Wyden and Merkley

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barb Dyess [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Dear Senators:

I am writing this for my barely 7 year old granddaughter.

In January of 2017 she was diagnosed with Morphea Profunda .

<https://www.sclero.org/scleroderma/types/localized/morphea/rare-types/a-to-z.html>

A relatively rare and disfiguring autoimmune disorder.

She is currently taking a 2 year course of chemo therapy drugs with regular check ups and labs drawn.

If her mother had not had access to medical care my granddaughter would be facing a future of a debilitating, crippling, disfiguring illness.

If left untreated it won't go into remission. It will continue to grow and travel throughout her body. It can even attack her internal organs and her ability to perform normal bodily functions, i.e. using the restroom for both urination and defecation.

No parent wants to have to tell their child there is nothing they can do to make the pain stop. To make the disease process stop and go away.

We live in the United States of America.

No child should have to grow up with treatable conditions that go untreated due to no affordable access to medical care.

No child should have to face an uncertain future, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and beyond with a scarring disease that could have been stopped in its tracks the year before.

Please, vote no on the Repeal – Replace debacle called a replacement plan for the ACA. It is a death sentence for children and adults all across the US.

I love my grandchildren I want them to have healthy bright futures

Barbara Dyess, Oregon

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jackie Markin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't do it! Comments of latest healthcare bill

Hello, I am a voter in the state of Oregon where both of my senators thankfully oppose the latest efforts to repeal the ACA. Please work to improve it, not repeal it! This latest effort will hurt millions of people and is not a sound plan. Doctors, healthcare providers and many, many governors are warning about the dangers of this approach.

I am asking you to put the people of this country first, not an unrealistic concept-- or pure stubbornness to just do something -- even if it deeply hurts the people you have been elected to serve. Please just think before you move forward. This is just bad politics, bad faith leadership, and an embarrassment.

I am 61 years old, so if this poor approach somehow becomes law in 2020, I will be affected for a year. But, then I will have Medicare. Millions of others will not have that choice. Please work to make healthcare better for all-- not much, much worse. I can only ask in bewilderment why? Why? Why?

Jacqueline Markin  
Ashland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy in the Willows [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; Kathy In the Willows  
**Subject:** regarding cost:benefits Graham-Cassidy bill, and options

Dear members of the Finance Committee of the Senate

As a significant portion of the duties of this committee related to Medicaid/Care funding, I strongly propose that you look into the bipartisan efforts of Alexander and Cantwell et al to make reasoned decisions to make healthcare more affordable.

Graham-Cassidy is being rushed through without a CBO score, just to meet a deadline and to unlock the pockets of the Koch Brothers, who are not - last time I checked - powerful members of Congress.

Graham-Cassidy in short appears to be an effort to solicit bribery on the backs of 32 million Americans who won't be able to afford health care insurance if it passes. \$2000 a month may be peanuts to you, but its most of my income, and more than most people in my county have.

Graham Cassidy may line some pockets, but it will destroy small businesses that rely on the low income and rural Americans who provide your food and service work, and will cause inflation on an Italian scale if it passes.

You may not care if we live or die - Graham and Cassidy don't seem to - half the Senate doesn't seem to. But if you kill the goose... no golden eggs for anyone. Not even Trump or Senators who receive Koch donations. I'm sure that's not any of you on the committee. You're better than THAT.

Therefore, don't recommend or pass Graham-Cassidy. It's not the last car in town, it's the last car that locks out 100% of the duly elected Senate from doing its job for America. Do look at Alexander/Cantwell or any other bipartisan effort. Look at Medicare for All which costs 1/3 of the current system and saves households \$4000/year, according to implementation elsewhere and other estimates. But for god's sake... don't pass a publicity stunt that will harm Americans, just to give some people access to the cookie jar.

Thank you.

Kathy Bowman, [REDACTED], Joseph, Oregon, 97486, [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Staugas Bray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on this bill.

It is heartless, cruel and will throw millions of people off of healthcare.

It will cause premiums to go up and more people will die as a result.

Every health care organization in the country has said this is NOT the solution.

I entreat you to do the PEOPLE'S WORK and not the bidding of wealthy billionaires.

Do the right thing - VOTE NO!

Sincerely,

Jane Staugas  
Portland OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ali King [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a financially comfortable, educated white woman. If the health care system in this country is destroyed, I'll probably be okay.

Yet, I still feel compelled to fight for it because it's not about ME. We all heard the saying in school: "There's no 'i' in team." We need to embrace that as a country (like every other industrialized country in the world has). When my fellow Americans are healthy, they can work, support themselves, pay taxes, contribute to society, etc. It makes our whole country stronger.

I don't deserve health care just because I can afford it, while someone else is forced into bankruptcy or, even worse, sickness or death.  
Health care is a basic RIGHT of ALL citizens.

Please consider this when making your decision. Medical experts have determined that this bill will harm millions of people. Do you really want that on your conscience?

Don't pass this just to make a political move.

People's lives are at stake.

Thanks,  
Allison King  
Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathy in the Wallowas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; Kathy In the Wallowas  
**Subject:** regarding cost:benefits Graham-Cassidy bill, and options

Dear members of the Finance Committee of the Senate

As a significant portion of the duties of this committee related to Medicaid/Care funding, I strongly propose that you look into the bipartisan efforts of Alexander and Cantwell et al to make reasoned decisions to make healthcare more affordable.

Graham-Cassidy is being rushed through without a CBO score, just to meet a deadline and to unlock the pockets of the Koch Brothers, who are not - last time I checked - powerful members of Congress.

Graham-Cassidy in short appears to be an effort to solicit bribery on the backs of 32 million Americans who won't be able to afford health care insurance if it passes. \$2000 a month may be peanuts to you, but its most of my income, and more than most people in my county have.

Graham Cassidy may line some pockets, but it will destroy small businesses that rely on the low income and rural Americans who provide your food and service work, and will cause inflation on an Italian scale if it passes.

You may not care if we live or die - Graham and Cassidy don't seem to - half the Senate doesn't seem to. But if you kill the goose... no golden eggs for anyone. Not even Trump or Senators who receive Koch donations. I'm sure that's not any of you on the committee. You're better than THAT.

Therefore, don't recommend or pass Graham-Cassidy. It's not the last car in town, it's the last car that locks out 100% of the duly elected Senate from doing its job for America. Do look at Alexander/Cantwell or any other bipartisan effort. Look at Medicare for All which costs 1/3 of the current system and saves households \$4000/year, according to implementation elsewhere and other estimates. But for god's sake... don't pass a publicity stunt that will harm Americans, just to give some people access to the cookie jar.

Thank you.

Kathy Bowman, box 945, Joseph, Oregon, 97486, [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jane Staugas Bray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

Please vote NO on this bill.

It is heartless, cruel and will throw millions of people off of healthcare.

It will cause premiums to go up and more people will die as a result.

Every health care organization in the country has said this is NOT the solution.

I entreat you to do the PEOPLE'S WORK and not the bidding of wealthy billionaires.

Do the right thing - VOTE NO!

Sincerely,

Jane Staugas  
Portland OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ali King [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care bill

To the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a financially comfortable, educated white woman. If the health care system in this country is destroyed, I'll probably be okay.

Yet, I still feel compelled to fight for it because it's not about ME. We all heard the saying in school: "There's no 'i' in team." We need to embrace that as a country (like every other industrialized country in the world has). When my fellow Americans are healthy, they can work, support themselves, pay taxes, contribute to society, etc. It makes our whole country stronger.

I don't deserve health care just because I can afford it, while someone else is forced into bankruptcy or, even worse, sickness or death.  
Health care is a basic RIGHT of ALL citizens.

Please consider this when making your decision. Medical experts have determined that this bill will harm millions of people. Do you really want that on your conscience?

Don't pass this just to make a political move.

People's lives are at stake.

Thanks,  
Allison King  
Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Doug Viner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony re. Graham-Cassidy-Heller amendment

**Importance:** High

Dear Senator Hatch, Senator Wyden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

I strongly support guaranteed health care (not merely “access to” health care) for everyone – and, from what I can tell, Graham-Cassidy-Heller would lay waste to that. Please let me share two personal stories with you. They illustrate how I came to this opinion.

First, a quick story about my oldest friend, a guy I met in Kindergarten. Frankly, I became a socialist on this issue when he kept ending up in an emergency room because, despite working two full-time jobs, he could not afford health insurance for all four members of his family. So, instead, he bought health insurance for his wife and two daughters, foregoing health insurance for himself. Consequently he was unable to afford his blood pressure medications. This won him multiple trips to an emergency room. One reason for this is that it is very difficult to raise a family on minimum wage. Another is that he lived in Virginia, one of the states that opted out of the Medicare extension (possibly just because President Obama was associated with it). I can’t even bring myself to tell you how he met his end.

Please remember: Though he was not “book smart,” this was no lazy slacker. This was a very hardworking, honest, dedicated man who worked six or seven days each week, often 16 hours a day.

I draw two conclusions from this:

1. On a fundamental level, the fact that he could not afford basic health care is *morally wrong*.
2. On a practical level, the fact that he consequentially ended up in his local emergency room – multiple times – is *fiscally irresponsible*.

My second story is quicker. My wife and I are lucky enough to be able to afford decent health insurance, but we are frustrated with the byzantine web of health care providers, customers, and, between them, insurance companies – let alone how much our health care costs us per person, compared with how much it would cost us in most other fully developed countries.

In short, I seek:

A. Cost control...

- To enable everyone a reasonable measure of **affordable preventative care** (including hospitalization that would not have been needed if preventative care had been a viable option)
- To provide to our citizens the **bang-per-buck** enjoyed by those who live in almost any other developed country

B. Simplification...

- To enable the average customer to do **meaningful comparison shopping** (Have you tried to compare health insurance plans? Looked into what each one does and doesn’t cover? Good luck!)
- To **reduce paperwork**



**If we personally have to pay more in taxes so that, in return, we would pay a lot less in health insurance, we would consider that to be a bargain. Political theory be hanged. We care about results.**

Whatever political theory you personally espouse, can we at least agree that this is not a good way of ensuring that our fellow citizens do not make repeat trips to emergency rooms for absolutely stupid reasons? That, especially as a developed country, ours is a very poor system of health care – one that doesn't provide enough "bang/buck"?

Sincerely,  
- Doug Viner  
Ashland, Oregon  
[REDACTED]

(Sent via e-mail to [REDACTED] on 22 Sep 2017)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michele Sharpy: [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Please do not let this health care fiasco pass. We are fighting stage 4 cancer vet at our house and my sweet Bubba will die without his immuno-therapy. Thank you.  
Michele Sharpy, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amanda Carey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator, noreply (Merkley); wydenzzwebrespond99 (Wyden)  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

Hello Finance Committee and Senator Merkley and Wyden,

My name is Amanda and I am a Licensed Massage Therapist and Personal Trainer in Portland, Oregon. I want to write to urge you to oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill. Having subsidies for healthcare for all Americans is vital for our health as a nation. This bill would take the requirement for subsidies away, leaving many Americans with less access to the healthcare they need. It is already tragic how so many Americans are left without access to healthcare. Their health suffers and consequently so does their productivity and our economy. Let's invest in and take care of the health of our people.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue, and all the work that you do for our country!

-Amanda

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Currie, Charles S. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator, noreply (Merkley); jim.winkler@nationalcouncilofchurches.us; Jennifer Butler; Stratton, Grace (Wyden); Nagra, Jagjit (Merkley)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir / Madam:

As a minister in the United Church of Christ who has been involved with working to find solutions to end homelessness for thirty years, I joined with the National Council of Churches and others to support adoption of the Affordable Care Act.

Too many people I worked with became homeless after being forced into making difficult decisions regarding paying rent or medical treatment. Many of my elderly parishioners had to make difficult choices between paying for food or medicine. As the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities notes, the ACA has helped reduce poverty and with it the chance to become homeless. Graham-Cassidy would strip away that progress and rip healthcare away for tens of millions.

The young students that I now care for and teach at Pacific University will be at risk for losing coverage as federal policy shifts away from recognizing that young people should be covered to protect them from the unknown - from illness or accident - to a policy of indifference regarding the health of young Americans.

I'm also a cancer survivor who lives with psoriatic arthritis and other difficult health conditions. Recent tests show that I am at risk for other cancers. I will require major surgery this winter to stop recurrent pancreatitis. However, I will require certain care and medications the rest of my life. Those, like me, with pre-existing conditions will be at risk for losing coverage now protected by the ACA if Graham-Cassidy is adopted. This puts my entire family in jeopardy.

Part of what makes America a great nation is that when we are at our best we look out for one another. As a Christian, I recognize that we have a moral obligation - regardless of our faith - to help heal the sick and free people from oppression. I've felt oppression before in the form of medical bills and debt which I could not pay. For many, that oppression has come in the form of homelessness as medical bills devour rent money.

I strongly urge the Senate to reject Graham-Cassidy and improve on the already successful ACA.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie

Rev. Dr. Charles S. Currie, Jr.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Pacific University | UC A-118 | [REDACTED] | Forest Grove, Oregon 97116 | e-mail: [REDACTED] | o [REDACTED] | c [REDACTED] | office [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Students can click below to schedule an appointment with Dr. Currie:

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the sole use of the individual(s) and entities to whom it is addressed, and it may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this email message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete the message. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Lou Ritter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 8:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My Family Opposes the Graham Cassidy repeal

Here are some of the pre-existing conditions in our family: diabetes, heart defect at birth, kidney stones, sleep apnea, arthritis, high blood pressure and cholesterol.

ACA close the 'doughnut hole' in my Medicare drug coverage and pays for my preventive services.

The Medicaid program with its expansion is vital to my grandson who was born with a defective heart valve.

It is totally irresponsible for the GOP Congress to end these vital services and put these programs on a slow starvation diet by block granting them or allowing states to create a patch quilt of healthcare systems across our nation.

NO! No! and NO!

Mary Lou Ritter  
Portland, OR

*Compassion is a verb.*

"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain,  
and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Risser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** opposition to graham-cassidy

To The Senate Finance Committee:

Attempting to pass a bill of this magnitude and with such sweeping and disastrous changes without a full Congressional Budget Office analysis is an outrage.

This bill, if enacted, will devastate American families. Mitch McConnell is trying to hide the true measure of harm from the American people. The Committee needs to step up and stop these maneuvers.

Please stop trying to destroy our healthcare system. For Congress to radically restructure one sixth of the economy without even knowing the financial impact is completely inconsistent with the supposed Republican commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Graham-Cassidy cannot be passed into law without a full and thorough CBO analysis. The Leader may think he can hide the truth for now, but the impact of this law will be revealed. And the American people will not accept this charade.

Yours truly,  
John Risser  
Ashland, OR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Andi Caswell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill

My name is Andi. I live in Oregon now, but lived most of my life in Texas. Most of my friends and all of my family are still in Texas. I moved because I needed health care. I was dying in Texas because they rejected the Medicaid expansion and I couldn't get insurance or proper medical care. I couldn't get treatment for my disabilities, I couldn't work because I couldn't get treatment, but my disabilities also left me unable to handle the process of applying for disability. Plus with only a record of sporadic medical care, I would not have qualified for SSI benefits anyway. They require more records and doctor notes than I had access to.

I moved to Oregon so I could qualify for OHP. This was available for someone like me because Oregon accepted the Medicaid expansion. After only a few months of getting proper medical care through OHP, I was able to go back to work. Then I was able to get caught up on bills, return to old hobbies, take care of myself and my living space. I could live independently in a way I never could have before.

I'm currently seeing a specialist at least twice a month, my GP about once a month, I'm on 3 daily medications, one weekly medication and one emergency medication, I was able to get glasses so I can see clearly for the first time in 10 years. I was supposed to start physical therapy for an undiagnosed problem with my joints/muscles, but I started Aikido with a friend and it is doing the work of physical therapy. However, without the other medical care, I would not be able to continue with Aikido. And without insurance, I also wouldn't be able to go back to physical therapy.

I want to be absolutely clear about what happens to me without proper medical care. So here is a time line of what will happen over the course of about 6 months if I lose access to health care. It is not pretty.

1st month:

I will run out of medication within a month of losing health insurance. My medication currently helps me sleep, regulate my mood, control panic attacks, and control symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder. If I run out of my medication then my executive functioning will decline, insomnia will return, my mood will destabilize.

In practical terms, this means I will begin having trouble with concentration. My insomnia will return. My mood will bottom out, leading to severe depression, anhedonia (inability to feel pleasure, loss of interest in things I used to enjoy), my appetite will decrease, and I won't have the energy to work and complete daily household chores. The first chore to fall behind will be laundry. Inability to fall asleep and stay asleep means that I won't be able to get up in time for work. Too many late days will cause me to be written up, possibly even suspended. Not enough sleep will also heighten my irritability and concentration problems.

2nd month:

By the second month off of medication and not seeing my specialists, whatever lasting effects my medication had will begin to fade completely out of my system. Without medication to control anxiety and depression, my PTSD symptoms will resurface. Dissociation as a response to stress will occur more frequently (once a week, as opposed to once a month). Increased irritability and fatigue will affect my sensory problems. I will experience sensory overload more often, which will lead to full melt downs in which I lose the ability to speak or think



straight. This will have an adverse effect on my job because I work in a warehouse where there are a million sounds happening all at once. It's hard to deal with that even on a good day.

Increased irritability can also lead to me losing my temper more often. This will definitely cause problems at work, with friends, family and my romantic partner. I will have to spend so much time dealing with sensory overload, fatigue, and controlling my temper, that I will lose all ability to focus. It will be difficult to start and continue doing any task. Multi-tasking is right out.

My nightmares will also return, which will only make insomnia worse. I will have to call out from work more often, and my carefully scheduled routine will be ruined. I won't be able to go to aikido anymore. Laundry will fall further and further behind, I'll also get behind on taking out trash and recycling and other household chores.

Suicidal ideation will also increase during this time.

### 3rd Month

After 3 months of being off my weekly medication, my period will come back. This is bad. I tend to develop cysts when I have periods. I bleed so much I develop anemia. Coupled with a decrease in appetite as well as loss of blood, this leads to me being at risk of fainting and dizzy spells for at least a week out of every month. I also experience severe abdominal pain, ranked around 5 or 6 on a 10 point pain scale. Periods also cause intense feelings of dysphoria. During my period, my suicidal ideation moves closer to suicidal intent. That means for about a week out of every month I'm in extreme pain, in danger of fainting, can't eat, and I'm a danger to myself if left alone.

Being unable to attend aikido or physical therapy means certain muscles that hold in joints will begin to deteriorate. This will cause pain and stiffness in the affected joints, and will lead to inflammation. I will be unable to keep up at work.

While work life will suffer, my home life will also suffer. By the 3rd month, I will no longer be able to do full loads of laundry at a time. Trash will pile up, and other cleaning chores will be almost completely neglected. I will be unable to shower or brush my teeth, and my appetite will decrease even more. Cooking will become extremely difficult.

Nightmares and sleep paralysis will begin in earnest. I'll also begin grinding my teeth and chewing the inside of my mouth while I sleep. This will exacerbate my lock jaw problems and make eating very difficult. Lock jaw will contribute to malnourishment of decreased appetite.

### 4th month:

By this time if I haven't been fired already for chronic lateness, sick days, or problems working with coworkers, then I will be forced to quit or take a leave of absence.

Cooking will become almost impossible. I won't be able to concentrate well enough to do everything in the right order. Only food I will be able to cook will be ramen or microwaveable food. This will make malnourishment and appetite loss even worse.

Even not working, I still won't be able to keep up with household chores. I will cycle between sleeping all the time and never sleeping. Chronic fatigue will set in. Anxiety and irritability will be heightened, and I risk dissociating on a daily basis. Dissociation can cause memory impairments, confusion, impaired judgement. It won't be safe for me to leave the house alone. Suicidal ideation and suicidal intent increase, especially during my period.

5th month:

Not having a job, I will face possible eviction. Sleep deprivation will set in. I won't be able to cook for myself at all. I won't be able to do my own laundry, take care of my cat, take a shower, or do dishes. Daily severe suicidal ideation and intent will set in. Affected joints from lack of aikido and/or physical therapy will cause more painful inflammation. It will be difficult and hard to walk. Agoraphobia will be easily triggered, such that I can't leave the apartment at all (if I still have an apartment). Suicide attempt is very likely to occur.

6th month:

By this month, I will have lot a dangerous amount of weight. Possibly sleeping on a friend's couch. Every problem listed above becomes severe on a daily basis. At this point, if I can't get help, I risk dying from self-injury/injuries caused by confusion and dissociation, or I could be institutionalized.

None of this is an exaggeration. I have experienced all of these symptoms, and the effects on my day to day life back when I was not receiving medical care. This is what the Graham-Cassidy bill will do to my life. I'm only alive today and not institutionalized because I am lucky I had friends and family who dropped their own life to take care of me and because of the ACA. With proper medical care, I thrive. 3 years ago I could barely leave the house. Now I have a good job, I just got promoted, I do aikido 3 days a week, I go hiking on the weekends, and I'm even playing in a drum line again. I have worked hard to recover from years of medical neglect. I don't know if I could dig myself out of that hole again. I was only able to do this because of the ACA. There are millions more with similar stories.

The Graham-Cassidy bill threatens my life, my liberty, and my pursuit of happiness. The Republicans have not even stopped to get a CBO report for this bill. This is irresponsible gambling on the health care, and lives, of millions of people. Millions could lose health care if this bill passes. When millions don't have health care, they suffer and die. This is an assault on every single demographic of the United States, but it is especially dangerous for other disabled people such as myself. We fall through the cracks and we die. Please, I'm begging for my life, and the lives of many others, do not let this bill pass.

Thank you  
Andi

(please use only my first name)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maria Theresa Maggi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing  
September 25, 2017

Maria Theresa Maggi  
[REDACTED]  
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Ed I am writing to voice my opposition to the Graha Cassidy Health Care Bill. I am a 61 year old woman who lives with some very serious pre-existing conditions. I was born with mild cerebral palsy and 21 years ago I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Because of not teaching in the university system long enough to qualify for retirement insurance benefits due to disability, many years ago, while still raising my son, I fell through the cracks when it came to medical care. Were it not for Social Security Medical Disability, which I paid into for decades while I taught and worked in other capacities, I would have had no medical insurance for over 20 years. I still have no dental or vision insurance, since medicare doesn't cover those, and I live on a fixed income.

I live simply, and follow a diet which helps me maintain my mobility. A large part of my savings is now going to dental work that is the result of large metal fillings put in when I was a child and had no say about it, that were too big and are now cracking my teeth. So my savings and significant parts of my disabled teacher's retirement will go to the expense of keeping my teeth in my mouth so I can eat the food that helps me keep moving.

Unlike some people with MS, I am lucky that lifestyle decisions like diet have helped me stay off of the very expensive medications some with MS need to take in order to stave off progression that would rob them of basic functions. But I also know how expensive it is to need to get a swallow study or an MRI or any of the other things required just to keep tabs on how things are going. A famous MS clinic in the Northwest I went to with high hopes even charged me for use of the building my appointment took place in. Medicare simply doesn't cover such egregious charges.

I am right on the edge of what I can afford each month to keep my home and meet my basic monthly expenses. If my Medicare premium were to rise suddenly, or if I were to become ineligible for supplemental insurance, I could lose my home or go broke trying to pay the bills. This is not how we should be treating each other.

The right to care health care should be a right; it should not be subject to market preferences or to savailable to serve only those "customers" who meet the right criteria or are financially able to pay exorbitant rates if they don't. Worse still, it's unclear whether tbill will simply shut out those of us born with disabilities, or who have bravely fought a life threatening illness. Those things should be rewarded and supported; people should not be punished for the illnesses they have endured and what it takes to stay afloat financially and to maintain health or get needed treatment that keeps them alive..

I understand that there are problems with the insurance exchanges in the Affordable Care Act. But the Senate should be working in a bi-partisan manner to fix those shortcomings, not heading blindly into a situation in which millions of people lose health care they literally need to stay alive. Doctors, many governors (and not just Democratic ones) and even the insurance industry itself are all opposed to this bill.

I have a very dear friend who has lived through Hodgkin's lymphoma and many rounds of chemotherapy. He now has a compromised immune system because of the aggressive treatment needed to save his life and requires a blood transfusion and steroid once a month to keep his immune system functioning. Otherwise it would collapse all together. He eats right, he walks miles every day, he holds one of the most positive outlooks on life of anyone I know. But if he and his wife were not able to afford the premiums she pays through the insurance he is covered on, or if he were to suddenly be removed from the roles, his life would basically be over. Are you all as a committee willing to sentence people like him and so many others, to death, because they can no longer afford premiums or are no longer qualified?

We need to do far better than this. There are plenty of smart people in the Senate and the insurance industry. I am a believer that Medicare for All is on the horizon—it's time to treat everyone fairly—we all deserve the right to care when we are fighting for our lives, the same kind of care you all as members of the Senate are entitled to.. But until that Medicare for All day comes—and it may come faster in a backlash if you allow this cruel bill to become law—the Senate should be doing its job to work together to make the Affordable Care Act better—not to ram through legislation without due process that threatens to collapse the industry and shove all the people who need it out into the street.

This hearing asking for public comment is a small start in getting back to the way things should be done. I can hardly believe, though, that I'm writing a letter to a Senate Committee, begging for my right to the health care I need, and for the health care so many of my friends and family need. My sister would be homeless in about 5 minutes without her health care benefits. I shouldn't have to beg you to have common human decency when it comes to providing affordable health care to our fellow Americans. But that's what this boils down to.

Please, do the right thing. The people who are in the know all oppose this bill. Listen to the real experts, which are those in the field, and above all, those who have worked hard to keep themselves alive and to pay their medical bills and living expenses. Be on the right side of history, and find a creative and humane way to make the money needed for health care serve more people more fairly. Make it MORE affordable for more, not less affordable in the name of a false sense of efficiency. Make it more available and affordable to all who have it and those who don't yet have it. Because that's genuine fiscal responsibility, and it's what we all deserve. It's our right as Americans.

Sincerely,

Maria Theresa Maggi

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shawn Irvin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** regular order, diverse and expert testimony

Why not put the Graham-Cassidy bill through regular order to elicit testimony from individuals and organizations with expertise in the area of healthcare, including the positive and negative impacts of the ACA and what might be done to improve it in a bipartisan manner?

-- Shawn Irvin, Eugene, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** jennifer Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care plan

I am writing to express to you the grave consequences the passage of the Graham Cassidy bill would have in my life. I am employed as a nurse navigator in oncology. I help people with cancer get the resources they need to make their treatment go as smoothly as possible, and help remove barriers to their care. Many, many people I interact with daily are the beneficiaries of the ACA. They are able to be insured at a cost they can afford, and get needed care without the fear of going bankrupt. They have benefited from the Medicaid expansion, and can now get care that was previously unavailable to them. Cancer can destroy your finances, and before the ACA, it usually did. In the days before the ACA, people would not go to the doctor even when they suspected something was very, very wrong, because they couldn't afford the visit, or the tests, or the possibility of high-cost treatments. People died. Many people died. Sometimes they died because they had waited too long and their cancer was at a terminal stage. Sometimes, their insurance disqualified their expenses, or wouldn't cover necessary treatments. And so they died. Young, old, poor, middle-class, it didn't matter. Insurers (or lack of insurance) ruled what care you could get, unless you were rich enough to pay for it, or you got lucky enough to qualify for charity care, where it was available.

The times before the ACA were dark times in cancer care. We cannot, CANNOT go back to that. People will die. Many people.

On a personal note, I am also an American with pre-existing conditions. I struggle with mental illness, and require several medications to remain functional, as well as care from a specialist. At one point, I was suicidal and required intensive care. But I am fortunate. My health insurer covers mental health care.

Without the guarantee that I can't be discriminated against for a pre-existing condition, I would never be able to change jobs, because I cannot live without coverage. Without the protections of the ACA, my insurer may decide it won't cover mental health care anymore. I need that care. It keeps me well enough to work, to be a mother to my children, to be a contributing member of society. It keeps me alive.

I work in Catholic health care. Our mission statement calls for us to care for everyone, but most especially the poor and vulnerable. This mission, and our core values of justice, respect, and compassion, give my work meaning. The Graham Cassidy bill is at cross purposes with that work, and with those values.

I urge you to consider the pain and suffering the passage of this bill would cause to millions of people. The America that thinks it's ok to take away health care from millions is not my America. We are better than that.

Most sincerely,  
Jennifer Moore  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joseph Jordan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

I wish to register my strenuous objection to the completely irresponsible approach the Senate has taken to its most recent attempt to repeal Obamacare. I thought previous attempts at "skinny repeal", done late at night without any public debate, were the bottom of the barrel. But this is a new low. This is not the Senate I was raised to respect and revere. This is a disaster of secrecy and stupidity.

Beyond that, inasmuch as it's possible to digest the details of the bill, it is clearly a disaster for the American people. Massive cuts to Medicaid. Further experimentation with block grants, which have been proven not to work. Transfer of money from states that have been responsible about healthcare to those that have been irresponsible. Make no mistake: a bill like this \*will kill people\*. Some of them will be your constituents. That's what happens when people can't afford doctors and medicine.

I am begging you, please, stop embarrassing yourselves. The last two years of American government have been a frightening and ugly period, one of a sort that I had thought I would never witness. This bill is just another example of why Americans -- liberal, conservative, or otherwise -- have lost all faith in our institutions. It's why we're ashamed of those who govern us. Please, for the good of the country. Whether or not you think Medicaid cuts are a good idea or Obamacare repeal is essential to your political appeal: do not do this. It benefits none and harms all.

Yours,  
Joseph Jordan  
Bend, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** leah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Senate Committee on Finance  
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern:

As a person who cares about the health and well being of myself and others, I urge you to toss the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. Nothing in the materials I've read has shown how this proposal will actually improve our healthcare system by making it more affordable or accessible to more people. In fact, major health insurers are saying that this legislation would increase premiums and uncertainty in the market, and medical associations are unanimous in their assessment that this bill will hurt Americans. Furthermore, as a resident of Oregon, an early Medicaid expansion state, I'm gravely concerned that we have so much to lose should this bill become law. Not only would a Medicaid retraction result in people losing their life-saving care, but it would also gravely affect the economy of our state: in Oregon alone, 45,000 people would lose their jobs. I urge you to leave this harmful proposal behind and instead get to work finding ways to actually improve the healthcare access that the Affordable Care Act has provided.

Thank you,  
Leah Plack  
Portland, OR



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Saul Chasin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy is revolting

The latest Obamacare repeal would leave tens of millions uninsured, destroy the health care market, and unfairly target those with preexisting conditions. I expect better than this from the committee, and I expect you to refuse to send this monstrosity of a bill to the floor.

Sincerely, Saul Chasin, of Portland, OR 97206.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** CenturyLink Customer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,  
The American public has let you know, in no uncertain terms that we do not want ACA repealed and replaced with a bill that will knock millions of people off of insurance, that will no longer protect people with pre existing conditions and that will raise the rates of middle class Americans. Yet you persist in trying to force this bill, which is very similar to the previous failures. I have to ask myself why your agenda seems to be a determined effort to hurt me, and others in my socio economic group. I have to wonder why you refuse to listen to what the American public has clearly communicated to you and choose instead to bulldoze a bill that is beneficial to the insurance and big pharma industries. We are not fools. If you persist in forcing this bill on us, we will not just accept it and forget it. You will have proven to us where your loyalties are, and that you are unconcerned with the well being of the middle and lower income groups. It is something that we are unlikely to forget when it is once again time to vote. For the Democrat and Republican leaders who are brave enough to stand for their constituents, rather than blindly obeying the will of a few Republican officials, I am proud of who you are. You define what being a patriot truly means. You are acting with honor and integrity and fulfilling what you were voted into office to do, represent the public.  
Thank you,

**Catherine Straus**

[REDACTED]  
Salem, OR 97306

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Melissa McFarland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Insurance.Care

I don't think the GC Healthcare bill is a good idea. Here's why:

1. We need to have a bipartisan solution. This bill is not that and has not included democrats at all.
2. We need protections AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL for folks to have AFFORDABLE care with pre-existing conditions. The GCH does not do this.
3. I do not think we should take healthcare away from 32 million people. We should provide MORE healthcare.

Healthcare is a human right.

Melissa McFarland  
Portland, OR 97209

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Caleb Kenison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill Will Cause Death





Here are two photos that illustrate two different points in my life. The first one is from after surgery that I fought really hard to obtain, and was only able to get because I live in Oregon where we get proper transgender healthcare through Medicaid. I need Medicaid to survive. The second photo is of me when I was still in the midst of recovery after a series of suicide attempts. Treatment for it, such as Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Intensive Outpatient, Inpatient, Outpatient Therapy/Counseling, Psychiatric Medication, etc, would not be possible if I was deemed "too sick" or if I was deemed to have a "prior health condition".

See, I have Bipolar type 2, Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, an Eating Disorder, and Gender Dysphoria. I would be dead if it wasn't for Medicaid in this state. I also consider myself an empath and I feel incredible pain at the idea of others being rejected from needed healthcare just because conservatives think that healthcare is not a human right. It IS a human right.

Without healthcare, people like me die. We die. Would you rather require that we have fair healthcare coverage or do you want to pay to scrape my body off a sidewalk? Without Medicaid coverage that is likely where I would be. Dead on the sidewalk.

And so will millions of others if the assault against our healthcare doesn't stop.

Thank you for your time.

-Caleb Kenison  
Clackamas County Oregon Resident

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** tina montag [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

The Graham-Cassidy bill would take the US backwards on health care. Every civilized nation has better health care than we do, can we please keep up with the best of the world? This Republican sponsored bill will destroy many lives if passed, please do not allow that to happen.

Christine Montag  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** MJ Caswell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Please do not repeal the ACA. I have numerous family members who depend on the provisions of the ACA to receive healthcare. This is an important issue to many people and we will watch your actions carefully.

Thank you for your attention,

MJ Caswell

[REDACTED]  
Mosier, OR 97040

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michelle Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

To whom it may concern,  
I am ill. I have been ill for more than 10 years. I am lucky to have private insurance, but not everyone is. And because I do today, does not mean I always will. It is inhuman to ask those of us in the most need, to go without those things that make our lives possible because of a campaign promise from someone who thought health care would be simple.

To line the pockets of those who are already rich beyond measure off the backs of those in the most need is the end of what is decent in America.

Please DO NOT vote In favor of the Graham- Cassidy bill.

Thank you,  
Michelle Jones  
Oregon

On Sep 21, 2017 11:41 PM, "Michelle Jones" [REDACTED] wrote:  
To whom it may concern,

I am ill. I have been ill for more than 10 years. I am lucky to have private insurance, but not everyone is. And because I do today, does not mean I always will. It is inhuman to ask those of us in the most need, to go without those things that make our lives possible because of a campaign promise from someone who thought health care would be simple.

To line the pockets of those who are already rich beyond measure off the backs of those in the most need is the end of what is decent in America.

Please DO NOT vote In favor of the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Thank you,  
Michelle Jones  
Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Evans [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:47 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing

- Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
- Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017

Dear Committe

I am writing in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. This bill would result in the deaths and bankruptcies of countless Americans. On a personal level, my family would be subject to pre-existing condition exclusions or greatly unaffordable premiums with deductibles.

Please consider the horrendous and heartless damage the passage of this bill would allow. What we have now protects so just improve it.

Thank You,

Susan Evans, Psy.D  
[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR 97214

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily von W. Gilbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I frankly can't believe the nerve of suggesting FEWER people should have access to health care, when there is a bill that solves the entire problem by covering ALL residents. Is the issue, possibly, that the Republicans' main motivation is a tax break for the rich, and not anything to do with healthcare at all?

Defeat this bill.

/Emily von W Gilbert  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Emily Matasar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing to ask that you oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I was a healthy, athletic kid until middle school when I got a cough that just wouldn't go away. It just kept getting worse and worse until I vomited phlegm and stopped breathing multiple times per day. It turned out it was severe asthma, induced by allergies to everything: pollen, grass, weeds, trees, pets, mold, etc. etc. Once we got a diagnosis, although it took a while, I got my severe asthma under control with regular visits to a local allergy-asthma specialist and trying different combinations of medications (one such medication caused a mild heart murmur which was detected through wearing a heart monitor all day every day). But eventually I was able to cautiously return to athletics. I'm 35 now, and although I still have severe asthma, I'm still able to control it with medication. I seldom use my rescue inhaler, and I'm very active.

But I am very privileged. I've always been able to get health insurance through my parents, my job, or the affordable care act. Even if I couldn't, I'm a successful professional with successful professional parents who would step in financially if necessary. So I'm not telling you about my pre-existing condition because I'm afraid of what will happen to me - I'm telling you because we owe it to our country to allow everyone with severe asthma access to the same care I received: the same specialists, the same medications, the same help when those medications end up doing more harm than good, and the same opportunity to live and breathe and thrive. Asthma kills Americans every single day. I did nothing to develop this "pre-existing condition," why should I be punished for having it? Trust me, not being able to breathe is punishment enough.

Please don't pass the abomination that is Graham-Cassidy. If you do, you will force people to choose between putting food on the table, buying diapers for their children, and being able to breathe, and you have to face the fact that some of those people will die. You can prevent that. Leave the ACA alone.

Thanks,  
Emily Matasar  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Andrew Wonser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment - Graham / Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am writing about the proposed Cassidy/Graham bill for changes to the ACA. Which by any measure is not a good bill.

Forthwith, I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 16% of the American economy without a CBO score. How can one accurately vote on proposed legislation without full understanding how will impact the American people.

As written it will allow states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. Which will affect many families by pricing them out of having healthcare.

Money directed toward Medicaid will also be reduced by a large amount, making costs for the disabled and seniors shoot up.

This bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans - to that point the prediction is that a possible 30 million Americans will lose their coverage. Much like before the ACA, many Americans will have to choose between eating and healthcare. With inevitable results.

As it reads this proposal is nothing more than a tax cut for the most wealthy at the expense of the middle class and most especially the poor and vulnerable.

I urge you not to pass the Cassidy/Graham bill. Instead work with all members of Congress to improve the Affordable Care Act. With something as important as our nations healthcare it deserves nothing less than the best our country can produce.

Thank You,  
Andrew Wonser  
Oregon 2nd District

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nicole Cleary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Senator, noreply (Merkley); wydenzzwebrespond99 (Wyden)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Testimony: Portland, OR  
**Attachments:** Corrina&Mom.jpg

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Nicole Cleary and I live with my family in Portland, OR. I am the parent of a young woman with a rare disease called dup15q syndrome which causes autism, epilepsy, and other health issues. I am calling to ask you to **oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill** as it includes provisions that could have potentially devastating impacts on people with dup15q syndrome and their families. Our daughter gets her health care through Medicaid, and the personal supports she requires for all activities of daily living are paid through Oregon's K Plan, funded through the Medicaid expansion. The K Plan would be slashed under Graham-Cassidy. Passage of Graham-Cassidy would require me to quit my job and become my daughter's full time caregiver, causing a significant financial impact on our family and a hardship on my employer.

In order to support of people with dup15q syndrome and their caregivers, we want you to **strongly opposes any effort to cut or cap Medicaid**, a program that provides vital services to children and adults with dup15q syndrome. Without sufficient Medicaid funding for home and community-based services, institutionalization would be the only viable option available to many of our loved ones with dup15q syndrome.

Thank you for taking testimony on this important piece of legislation. We strongly urge you to reject it.

Regards,

--

*Nicole Cleary*

[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR 97215  
[REDACTED]

~ Find your calm. Move forward from this place. ~

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carrie King [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:35 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

- Title Of Hearing: Graham-Cassidy Bill Hearing
  - Date of the Hearing: September 25, 2017
  - Carrie King
  - [REDACTED]
- Finance Committee,

My name is Carrie King, and I want to state my opposition to repealing the Affordable Care Act for the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill.

I am a woman, a mother, and a breast cancer survivor, which makes me a pre-existing condition on all three counts. I remember life before the ACA. I was denied health insurance in 2010 due to fertility issues. I was a stay-at-home mom, and my husband could not add me to his health insurance policy at work. After an appeal, I was given an individual insurance policy with a \$5000 deductible.

In December 2011, I was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer. It was towards the end of my plan year, so I had to pay my deductible not once in 2011, but again in 2012 to cover the cost of surgeries, treatment, and tests. That was over \$10,000 out of my own pocket, most of which I had to pay using credit cards. I could not afford to pay otherwise. Not only was I emotionally devastated, I was also financially devastated. I am still recovering financially over 5 years later.

The ACA is not perfect, but it has vastly improved healthcare coverage for millions of Americans. No one is denied coverage or put in expensive high-risk pools for having pre-existing conditions. Let's face it, most people have at least one pre-existing condition, especially if you are female. It is crucial to keep these protections in place, as well as preserving Medicare, Medicaid, and women's access to healthcare. The ACA is not perfect, but to repeal it for the Graham-Cassidy bill would be a disastrous mistake which could literally be a death sentence to many American lives. Please consider this.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie King

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisanne Pearcy [REDACTED] on behalf of Lisanne Pearcy  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA - Do not repeal!

Why do law-makers want to repeal and defund the most successful advance in American health care in generations? I and many people I know have pre-existing conditions which force us to live in poverty. So we will be devastated by both cuts to Medicaid and by re-instatement of insurance denials based on "pre-existing conditions."

Why do lawmakers want more Americans to DIE ?????? ...if not from illness and accident, then from starvation??

I do not understand this. While at the same time increasing corporate welfare to CEO's who don't need it and haven't earned it, either.

This makes no sense. Do the right thing and make America great the right way. Take care of people!

*Lisanne*

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Lisanne Pearcy

[REDACTED]  
Dallas, OR 97338  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Bridget McGinn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 3:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO Graham/Cassidy

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I've never written to a Congressional committee before, but I feel deeply compelled to write to you now, days before the hearing on the Graham/Cassidy bill.

Please do not vote on any bill that has not been fully and properly reviewed by the CBO. That is a basic, fundamental step in due diligence that Americans expect from our elected officials. This bill would affect a huge portion of our economy. To vote on it without a comprehensive understanding of its impact is negligent.

I'm concerned about the numbers of people who would lose insurance if this bill passes (estimated at 32 million), those families and individuals who would be harmed through the loss of coverage of pre-existing conditions (including myself and my son due to injuries suffered during his birth), those who will suffer with the loss of Medicaid, and the negative financial impact on states like Oregon, where I live in a rural area.

This bill is a disaster, as evidenced by the overwhelming number of healthcare organizations and professionals, plus organizations such as AARP, who have strongly and clearly spoken out against it. If experts in the healthcare field are overwhelming in their opposition, why wouldn't you heed their warnings?

This bill is nothing more than a giant tax cut for the extremely wealthy at the expense of those most vulnerable. I cannot imagine how an elected official could support this awful, harmful bill with a clear conscience. I urge you to do the right thing and kill this bill, and seek to move forward in a BIPARTISAN manner to fix Obamacare.

Americans are watching our elected officials as we never have before, we are watching you now as you decide to protect Americans or pander to money. I pray you choose to protect lives and stand up for your constituents versus bowing to the pressure of dark money that comes with strings attached.

Sincerely,  
Bridget McGinn  
Bend, OR



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Mary Doyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 4:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My Father

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Mary Doyle and I am a graduate student in Portland, Oregon. I am writing because I have been affected deeply by people I love not having access to healthcare. I would like to share my story and I hope that you can find it in your heart to truly hear and feel my story.

My father was diagnosed with Hepatitis C only nine months before he died from it. At the time, he was a woodworker for a company in Livingston, Montana, before that he was a cook, before that he was the mayor of our small town, and before that he worked many years at the local railroad before it closed down. He never missed a day of work in his life. He was the hardest worker I have ever known. We don't know how he contracted Hepatitis C but we do know from the doctor that he contracted it over 30 years ago.

He was diagnosed in May and died in January. I appeal to you because he could have lived longer if he had access to healthcare. He could have caught it sooner. Once caught, he could have afforded the special treatments and expensive tests required to get him on a protocol. Because he didn't have health insurance, he wasn't able to afford medications or treatments. Instead, he did what he could. He went home and ate as healthy as he could and prayed every day. He said goodbye to his family. He died a horrible death outside of a hospital in the arms of my mother. With health insurance, he could have caught this quicker. He could have been in less pain. Maybe he could have gotten a little better. But instead, he was sick for ten years before his diagnosis, never having gone to a doctor because he couldn't afford it. He had no choice between life and death, or prolonged life or death, his only option was death. That seems cruel to me. And so he died a cruel death on January 3rd, 2006.

I beg you to find it in your heart to utilize your unique positions of power to offer health and healing - and life - to your fellow human beings. Life and death should not be decided based on what money can buy. In a decent society, the richest in the world, we should be able to provide basic access to healthcare.

Please, I beg you, offer basic healthcare to all. This current GHC bill will not do that.

--  
Mary Doyle  
MSW Portland State '19

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margaret Trenchard-Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham/Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

What is being attempted with this bill is apparent, and it is contrary to citizens' will and interests. This is an attempt to transfer wealth from the middle and lower classes to the already wealthy, to get a run on the board for the Republican Party, and to expunge the legacy of President Barack Obama. It is estimated that over 30 million people (myself included) will lose healthcare, which will result in needless suffering and thousands--perhaps millions--of premature deaths. It is barbaric. The GOP will be permanently tainted by this. Our nation's reputation will be permanently tainted by this.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Margaret Trenchard-Smith

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scappoose, OR

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Eric Felberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** OPPOSE this corrupt and mean-spirited legislation!

To Whom It May Concern,

Graham-Cassidy is nothing more than a blatant bid to coddle big business at the expense of our nation's health and well-being.

I utterly oppose this legislation. I utterly SUPPORT the Medicare for All bill.

Respectfully,

**Eric Felberg**  
**Portland, OR**

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To: the Senate Finance Committee

It's hard to even articulate how sad and frightening it is to contemplate what life will be for our adult son if he loses his Medicaid. He is autistic and has received much needed assistance through the ACA.

My husband and I run a small business and we have also been helped hugely by the ACA.

All three us would be uninsurable due to pre-existing conditions if it weren't for the protections built into the ACA.

Trump care would be a disaster for people with disabilities and for our country.

Please vote no on this inhumane bill.

Sincerely,

Joan Findlay  
Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** M Scott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 6:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senators,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment.

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. It is another piece of partisan legislation conceived and born in a backroom with no bipartisan or public input. There is no CBO Score. There is no time for consideration, no time for a transparent process. Frankly, if a party feels they can only pass a bill of this import, this magnitude, this impact, with a simple majority then I suggest that the party in question should start over and do it right.

From the limited information available to the public, GCH appears to be very cruel to the citizens it claims to protect. There is no mandate in the bill to include "essential benefits", no prohibition on lifetime coverage caps, no mandate to require coverage for pre-existing conditions. It appears that it may be so poorly conceived that an insurance company could legally increase a policyholder's premium midterm if the policyholder became ill. Medicaid is slashed--and it appears that blue states have been singled out for more slashing than red states. Premiums skyrocket. Women are once again left to do without. If you folks feel that prenatal care and giving birth are not medical issues, I suggest you talk to your mothers.

The loss of the employer mandate to provide employee health care plans is staggering. Millions of Americans don't yet realize that GCH will apply to them, too. Tax cuts for the wealthy, and eliminating healthcare taxes, are fiscally irresponsible.

I see this bill as a knee-jerk reaction by Senators who would rather keep campaign promises than protect their constituents.

Why does a health insurance have to be so reactionary? Why can't our Senators sit down together, and develop a healthcare program for the decades? If we have to make cuts, let's work out reasonable ways to do that without immediately jerking the rug out from our poor, our Vets, our kids and our elderly.

If it is the will of Congress that States should bear the burden of health insurance, work with them. Don't toss this at states already struggling to budget essential services. They don't have the infrastructure or the resources to handle this bill. Your minute Federal tax cuts will not counterbalance the fact that states will have to greatly increase their tax rates, or waive benefits for residents. Americans will see taxes go up as well as premiums.

I saw comments that if Senators stay with their party line and vote Yes on Graham-Cassidy-Heller, it can be fixed down the road. Why can't you just develop a good program to start with? Why make people live in fear? They are terrified for their families right now, and this bill is the reason why.

Thank you for the means to tell you how I see this bill, and what my reaction is. Sit down, Senators. Pull out your pens and write us a healthcare plan that helps more than it hurts.

Yours truly,  
Mary Scott  
[REDACTED]

Eugene OR 97402

Cc Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Terry Canavello [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to the latest health care scam

Please, do not allow this travesty of legislation to embarrass the Senate again. Please kill this zombie....which like its mates in film and fiction is only interested in creating more dead people, has no intelligent purpose and is an abomination of nature.

Sincerely, Terry Canavello, an older middle-class white woman from Oregon who is wondering how to vote Republican ever again in her lifetime.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dave Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill

I think that it would be extremely cruel and irresponsible to pass the Graham-Cassidy health care bill, particularly without having the Congressional Budget Office score it for economic feasibility. This bill is being presented in a shady and dishonest manner.

David A. Lewis

Tigard, OR



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Nora Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** How Graham-Cassidy threatens the well-being of elderly Americans

Hello. I am a caregiver and medical power of attorney for a 78 year old Arizona man who has had to move into assisted living because I can no longer care for him. His only source of income is Social Security, and a very small amount at that. He was able to qualify for help from the Arizona Long Term Care System, so most of his rent and care is paid for by Medicaid. Arizona is one of the states that will take a huge cut in federal support under Graham-Cassidy. My friend in assisted living could very possibly lose his coverage. What happens to him? How could he find a place to live and someone to care for him, when his total income is under \$1,000 a month? He has cognitive issues. He takes many medications and could not manage them himself, and he needs assistance with food preparation and all housekeeping activities. Who will do that for him if Medicaid can no longer cover him? This isn't a story of huge financial loss or dire medical vulnerability. It is a story of daily living threatened by loss of support. It is a story that will likely be repeated thousands or millions of times among the vulnerable elderly in states like Arizona, which are being penalized for having taken the ACA Medicaid expansion. This "repeal without replacement" is entirely unnecessary and inhumane and un-American. Please reject this ridiculous continued effort to repeal the ACA and get on with making it better!

Thank you.  
Nora Miller  
Portland OR  
(medical POA for resident of Arizona)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Denis McCarthy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy!

I am physician and this Repeal/Replace is the WORST proposal so far! Please vote against this destructive and dangerous bill. Voting yes will be signing the death warrant of millions of hard-working Americans. This will completely disrupt the health care system nationwide.

Please vote no.

Sincerely,

Denis McCarthy, MD  
Eugene, OR

This message is intended solely for the use of the individual and entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable state and federal laws. If you are not the addressee, or are not authorized to receive for the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, distribute, or disclose to anyone this message or the information contained herein. If you have received this message in error, immediately advise the sender by reply email and destroy this message.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Aiyana Cunningham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No thanks: Graham-Cassidy

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to proposed revisions to national healthcare laid out in the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My step-mother is disabled after injuring herself on the job. She is in constant pain and requires therapeutic treatments. Unfortunately she must rely on medicaid for all her care as she is unable to work.

Elements in this bill would jeopardize her care and our families stability.

This bill is not strong enough. We're a country that has everything. We can do better for ALL of our citizens.

Reject this bill!!

Aiyana Cunningham  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kenan Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE NO ON GRAHAM CASSIDY

The Graham Cassidy Bill is not the answer to replacing our Nation's current health care plan. I live in the state of Oregon and understand we will suffer the largest financial consequences if this were to pass. Both my husband and I are self employed, raise 2 children, and pay our fair share of state and federal taxes. I am politically active and have fought every health care proposal the Republicans have put forth this year, because they are all terribly flawed and would leave millions of Americans struggling. We are deeply concerned about what the rising costs to purchase our health care coverage would look like under this latest proposal. I am deeply concerned for friends who have significant pre-existing conditions, and for my parents and their friends who rely on a medicare or medicaid. The Republicans are so desperately trying to replace Obama care and this proposal is the worst we have seen yet. Please vote this down.

Thank you,  
Kenan Smith  
Portland OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tamara Rousso [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:21 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham Cassidy Bill. I support the Affordable Care Act.

Tamara Rousso  
Albany, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brenda Fuquay Chappell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Our family of three does not qualify for subsidies, but we are not rich. My husband is sixty years old and I'm fifty two. Our son is nineteen and attending college. We live a middle class lifestyle in the state of Oregon. We operate a small business in this state.

We have no major health problems and at the beginning of Obamacare we had an affordable bronze plan that costs us \$3,600 per year with an approximate five thousand dollar deductible. This past year for a bronze plan we are paying over \$13,000 dollars per year with a fourteen thousand five hundred dollar deductible. Our insurer Providence Health out of Portland, Oregon has requested a 20 percent increase for next year. If approved, this will put us at over fifteen thousand dollars per year for a third-rate plan. When will these 20-30 percent increases every year end? How is this even sustainable?

Unlike other business that are able to pass it onto the consumer, our quote-based business is so competitive that a dollar difference could lose us a contract.

There isn't extra money for college expenses, savings or retirement. I am just baffled on why the insurance companies in this state have BILLIONS in cash, get federal subsidies, but also needed to quadrupled our families premium.

ObamaCare was put on the backs of the middle class. This should have never happened. I beg of the senate to vote Yes on the Graham-Cassidy Bill.

Thank you,

Brenda Fuquay Chappell

[REDACTED] Oregon 97358  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** NW Citizen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Repeal Bill

Hello - Once again the American people are having to fight for our healthcare because our own elected officials are threatening to take it away from thousands of Americans. I thought you were there to listen to the American people...obviously that is NOT correct so here we are.

The provision that resides within this bill removes protections for pre-existing conditions. This directly affects my family and will put us at risk of worsening health because of a lack of medical care.

I don't understand how you can, in good conscience, reduce financial support for Medicaid so drastically that costs will skyrocket for those who desperately need Medicaid - seniors and the disabled. This bill is horrible!

This bill does NOT bring healthcare to more Americans. In fact, what I understand is that up to 30 million more Americans will be without health insurance due to rising costs. People will have to choose between feeding themselves and having medical care. Who will care for those who do not have insurance? You?

There is no doubt that the ACA needs to be fine tuned. But can you not find a true bipartisan answer and work TOGETHER to make the ACA better for all of us? Please. I am asking you not to vote for the Graham Cassidy bill. It is once more, a bad bill created only to remove Barack Obamas name and success. We know it and so do you. Stop acting like jealous school yard bullies and act like adults. WORK TOGETHER AND FIND A REASONABLE ANSWER!

MM  
A Registered Voter in Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am an American Citizen (fortunate to have been born here to American parents who were also born here to American parents). I was raised by my father who is an Army Veteran and General Surgeon, and my mother, a Registered Nurse, who died in 2007 from breast cancer. I currently reside in Oregon where my husband and I are raising two children whom we adopted via America's foster care system. I earned a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology, worked as a counselor, social worker, and currently have a Life Coaching practice. I'm also struggling with the effects of chronic Lyme Disease and am currently undergoing what is nearly certain to be a lengthy course of treatment in an effort to combat this bacteria that is causing my body so much distress. My husband works for a telecom company and we are grateful for his employ as well as the health care benefits that we acquired through his job. We are the fortunate ones.

I ask of you, please, show my husband and I, and all Americans that you are UNWILLING to play politics with the health and lives of Americans, and that you are WILLING to be fiscally responsible by voting NO on the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill.

Thank You,

Dana Lucas  
Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** DeeAnn Grimes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please VOTE NO!

My family and I reside in rural Oregon along the Northern coast. My spouse and I are self employed. I have skin cancer and he has hep c. We are currently receiving state insurance due to our income level. We are both undergoing treatment which is life saving. If the new bill the recent version would take out medical away. I'm could die, my spouse could die. We have Grandchildren, a son and an elderly Mother that this would go affect and have a impact on their lives and well being. This is a plea for your immediate refusal of this devastating bill for American's health coverage I explore you to return to the table and come together for the American people and not your party.

We want d a change and this isn't it. The swamp is fuller and the destruction of our well being is on your shoulders.

God Help Us All

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cyrus Heiduska [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy comments

To whom it may concern,

The Graham-Cassidy bill is the worst in a string of bad bills proposed by a cohort of politicians whose sole mission is to keep a collective campaign promise that was made in bad faith in the first place. We cannot allow the health and lives of millions of Americans to be thrown into jeopardy just to score partisan points.

Many attempts have been made to create bipartisan improvements to the existing laws, and every one of these efforts have been shut down by that cohort that values party (and donors) over country. We need our representatives to actually represent the people, not just the biggest campaign donors.

Additionally these partisans have blocked any consideration of the system that the majority of Americans actually want, which is affordable healthcare for all, which has been achieved by many other first world nations through some version of socialized medicine such as single-payer, called by some in the US as "Medicare for all".

In short, Graham-Cassidy must not be allowed to pass. It must be defeated, and its supporters rebuked for their abandonment of, and injury to, their constituents.

Sincerely,  
Cyrus J. Heiduska  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jan Brady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Have Republicans become so jaded that they will pass a bill causing untold suffering just to give Trump a win? It is hard to believe our senators are so uncaring. Please stop this bill that everyone will regret.

Janice Brady  
Tigard, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Jolley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal the ACA!

Dear Senators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband uses Medicare for his health coverage, and he desperately needs a knee replaced. He has gone from being able to dance to barely being able to walk after an injury that intensified the effects of osteo-arthritis. Without the coverage he is getting now, we will not be able to afford his bills. I have had fibromyalgia for over 20 years, and need coverage for my pre-existing condition. My mother moved in with us two years ago to save money in case she needs more expensive care as she ages--she is now 84. Medicaid ending means a much more uncertain future for her, even after she has saved money as much as she could through her entire life. Please don't take away our financial security.

I would very much like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. It is crucial that you choose to provide care for all, not a tax break to only the very wealthiest in our nation.

--

Elizabeth R. Jolley  
[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR 97229

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill and any other bill that repeals the existing health care system without a thoughtful replacement. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Amber buhl  
Portland, or

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I desperately need quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I got cancer at the end of my career and had to retire early. I am not eligible for Medicare for another 10 months. I cannot afford health insurance on the private market, given my pre-existing condition.

Please made a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Laura Hanks  
Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Toni Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham cassidy bill

**ALL** Americans deserve quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Note: coverage for pre-existing conditions is needed. Please protect this!!!!

Sincerely, Toni Smith

Portland OR 97239

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Harmony Quiroz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have chronic epilepsy that went undiagnosed for six years while I was in high school and college. Unbeknownst to me, my mother's husband removed me from their health insurance so when I ended up in the emergency room with an unconfirmed seizure, I also ended up with thousands of dollars of medical bills heading into my last quarter of college. I was lucky to have a friend that gifted me enough money to pay those bills so that I could finish college. No one should have to choose between health care and their education or health care and housing or health care and their future. Health care is a human right. would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Harmony Quiroz  
[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR 97206  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"The gift of who you are can only enter the world when you are strong enough to own it."



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lonnie Shumaker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. There are millions of individuals that are now insured that have for years have had to go without. Too not continue that coverage is criminal. With all the other countries that acknowledge that healthcare is a right not a privilege, it is embarrassing to see the United States fighting over it. All people deserve a right to health care.

Sincerely, Lonnie shumaker

West Linn, Oregon

ldldld

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kristin L. Fisher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern--

I am an average 32 year old woman. I'm in good health, with a head injury that I have to watch out for. I've worked hard. I've been fortunate enough to go to college and to earn a masters degree. I am fortunate enough to have a family that supports me emotionally (and sometimes financially) while I teach in some of the lowest opportunity schools in the country. I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. I can't afford to pay \$200 to \$300 of even more dollars a month to ensure myself protection from an emergency, or the onset of genetics or environmental conditions that will kick in as I get older. I tried to do that. I did. I did it for 2 years. I was told it was the best and that was the best way to do it. But, I couldn't afford it. I had to stop. I had to look elsewhere and seek protection from private institutions like university health-care systems and medi-care.

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare when I need to take care of my health and my body as a woman, that even I can't ensure will stay healthy no matter what preventive care I do each day. I want to start a family and I want my children to have the same choices that I have, but I won't be able to give them that if Graham-Cassidy is approved. I won't be able to afford health-care for myself or them, because when I truly need it, systems and procedures of what state will cover what, who will ensure what can get covered with pre-existing conditions, etc. won't be solved. Are you asking me to move? Are you asking me to work somewhere else? Or you saying because I chose to be a teacher, to save, to spend wisely, to work hard, that I can't be near my family because I can't afford to not be healthy or even use preventive medicine in that state? Is that what being an American is?

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

Sincerely,

Kristin L. Fisher  
Eugene, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ana Sayavedra [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I am an American who is troubled by the Graham-Cassidy proposal. As an Oregonian, I am deeply distressed by how much Oregon would suffer beneath the proposed bill. We would lose \$13 billion in funding over the next ten years - funding that is helping save children, the disabled, and our seniors. This would be a tragedy for our state. We cannot let this happen to our society. Health care must be affordable and accessible to all. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Ana Sayavedra  
[REDACTED]  
Eugene, OR, 97402

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** PDX B [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT

Senators:

I'll keep it short and sweet: this bill will be a disaster for my two children who rely upon subsidies to afford healthcare, and my 90 year old elderly parent who will suffer from the gutting of Medicare.

This is not the path forward.

I want you top go back to the table, listen to Sen. McCain, and work in a bipartisan way to improve the ACA. Stop sabotaging it for your political purposes.

Thom Bray  
Portland, OR.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura Davison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I depend on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am 63, in fairly good health up to this year but have recently been diagnosed with a rare lung condition. I am also very concerned for my friends, neighbors, and relatives with pre-existing conditions.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is too important to our American quality of life to push through something which will impact every American and yet not have had time to even study the ramifications. The ACA has greatly benefited me, and I know it can be improved if that were truly the goal of Congress. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,  
Laura Davison  
Beaverton, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda McGavin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Linda McGavin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Misty Wegman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Misty Wegman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Murray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

We are a very healthy, active family of four. Our 6-year old daughter is vibrant and intelligent, and was also recently diagnosed with a developmental disability. We rely on our healthcare care coverage to promote and support her healthy development. Eliminating coverage for pre-existing conditions would be disastrous for our family.

This bill is unethical and inhumane. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Emily Ludwig  
Portland, Oregon



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Annelise Heitman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Graham Cassidy hearing

Please hear my voice!

As a psychotherapist in private practice I rely on the ACA to be able to qualify for and afford health insurance. Before the ACA I was denied health insurance by multiple companies because I was honest about getting common stress headaches on their application. Who in the world hasn't had a headache? So for years, as a hard working, masters degree holding professional woman with my own successful business, I had to go without health insurance.

I was simply lucky that no serious medical problems arose during that time that could have easily bankrupted me, ruined my credit and thus my ability to buy a home and secure my future. I would frequently wonder why my country would provide emergency assistance if my house were burning down but would totally leave me to my own resources if it were my body that was being destroyed. Does our government really value material possessions over human lives and the family members who rely on them?

Because of all this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Ideally I would like to see our country move toward Medicare for all system as so many other countries have done successfully before us.

Sincerely,

Annelise Heitman, LMFT  
Eugene, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fern Wilgus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I reject proposed health care coverage proposal!

I personally am 75 yrs old, have had 2 strokes and 2 heart attacks. We off of my SSS and my savings. I'm tapped out of on resources from which to draw more monies. I need medication for my health and welfare—— I need to dip deeper each yr to pay for them...even w/good medical insurance. I know my fears and my pains with the current health care act.....others, far less fortunate than I are suffering with **fear** let a lone their medical and financial struggles. Fear of not being able to afford medical insurance under the the current proposal & those especially with pre-existing medical challenges. PLEASE get out of your suites and go visit others in the **real America**. No fancy homes, cars, boats, airplanes; no wardrobe that cost far exceeds total income of **oh so many** Americans (to include our protectorates P.R./Virgin Islands....)

I'm describing the plight of many peoples, I'm also talking about **peoples with disabilities and particularly those with brain injuries** (concussions, t.b.i., strokes [yep, that is also happens to young persons too], chemo-brain, brain bleeds, etc).

The people in the white house NEED TO KNOW who elected them and gave them the honor to serve our country. It sure enough was not just the wealthy.

Doctors took a Hippocratic oath re their patients well being; Govt officials take a oath to protect the USA constitution for its people and country! They equate with the same goals in mind to include human senses.

Fern Wilgus

PS: I'm volunteer for a non-profit in Portland, Oregon titled "Brain Injury Connections-Northwest". We are a grass-roots organization that works with and serves many brain injury and their families from ALL walks of life to include refugees and English second language speaking peoples, Native Americans, African Americans, LGBTQA.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Moses Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

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

Sincerely,

Moses Jones  
Salem, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ross Youngblood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

As a resident of the great state of Oregon, I have heard via NPR that this bill will impact our state more than any other state. I also understand that the state of Texas stands to gain a significant amount of Federal tax dollars as a result of this bill. How can you justify this lack of parity between states?

-Ross Youngblood  
Hillsboro Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathleen Bauer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Graham-Cassidy Bill to Repeal and Replace the ACA

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

The GOP promised that any effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act would cover more people, not fewer; it promised that health care would cost less, not more; that it would be guaranteed to cover pre-existing conditions, which it does not; that it would only be passed after full and open hearings and debate, which it has not.

This bill would damage so many lives, including members of my own family and many of our friends. Estimates say that it would cost Oregon more to manage its own health care system than any other state in the Union, at a time when Oregon is struggling to meet the financial obligations it already has, much less to do the additional work required to shore up our infrastructure.

Please shut down this disastrous bill. It would not be worth the cost on any front.

Yours,

Kathleen Bauer  
[REDACTED]

Portland, OR 97212

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Valerie Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** do not pass Graham-Cassidy

I have many friends who rely on Medicaid for their health care, and they are suffering from chronic and serious health conditions. Without this health care, the quality of their lives would be much reduced. I also suffer from a pre-existing condition (breast cancer) that might make it difficult for me to acquire insurance without certain protections. For these reasons, I strongly oppose passage of the Graham-Cassidy health care legislation. I would like to see a serious and bi-partisan discussion of how to improve the ACA, not a repeal of this important legislation.

Sincerely, Valerie Kelly Portland Oregon

Our wild apple is wild only like myself,  
perchance,  
who belong not to the aboriginal race here,  
but have strayed into the woods from cultivated stock.

--Henry David Thoreau

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beth Levin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

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

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

Sincerely, Beth Levin  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Handler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** In opposition of the Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son is on medication due to his ADHD, and it helps him thrive in school and life. Without it life would be more challenging. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Amy Handler

Portland, OR



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Johanna Mercier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

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

Sincerely,

Johanna Mercier

Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Patricia ~ Bonnet Millinery  
<patricia@bonnetmillinery.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill please

Senators,

My family and many of my friends rely on having quality, affordable, accessible healthcare.

Because of the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill's criteria around preexisting conditions, prenatal and reproductive care, I oppose this bill and I ask that you do as well.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the existing ACA, which offers more healthcare to more Americans rather than less.

Thank you,

Patricia Zanger

Portland, Oregon



[REDACTED] Oregon 97210  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Merry Ann Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham-Cassidy!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I currently pay \$619 a month in insurance premium just for myself as a self-employed person. My ex has lost his job and beginning in October, I will also be paying for half of my two children's insurance (a cost of approximately \$600 per month). So before I even incur any costs to see a doctor or get prescriptions, my cost for annual coverage is over \$11,000. Even if Graham-Cassidy does not pass, my insurance broker says that my premiums will be going up an estimated 8%. If Obamacare is repealed, I am not sure I can afford to keep coverage. My income will not keep pace with the hundreds of dollars in premium increases that are expected as a result of this bill. Don't shove this down our throats! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Merry Ann Moore

Portland, OR

Merry Ann Moore  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Howard Moran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to you today as an attorney who practices juvenile law (i.e., matters in which children have been removed from their families as a result of abuse, neglect, abandonment, etc.). In the course of my practice, I've been involved in many interstate cases, so my experience extends beyond Oregon. One issue I've not seen discussed as relates to the Graham-Cassidy bill is the impact it will have on children and families involved in the juvenile justice system.

When children are removed from their parents, they are placed in the legal custody of the State and the State then becomes responsible for obtaining and funding all necessary care for the children. This care ranges from well-child medical services to intensive services such as mental health treatment and treatment for chronic (sometimes terminal) diseases. In addition, the parents of these children also receive services in an effort to reunify the family. These services include, but are not limited to, drug/alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, domestic violence resources, etc.

These services are paid for using insurance developed by the states after passage of the Affordable Care Act (in Oregon it is called the Oregon Health Plan), and that insurance is primarily funded with federal Medicaid dollars. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, states will not be able to fund this insurance absent drastic cuts to others necessary services (i.e., education, law enforcement, etc.), and will face the alternative of either slashing budgets for other necessary services or removing hundreds of thousands of people from the state insurance rolls.

What would be the impact on children and families of the Graham-Cassidy bill passes? Parents will not receive the services necessary for them to be reunified with their children, resulting in children remaining in foster care for extended periods of time (not an inexpensive proposition in its own right), and the likelihood of successful reunification will be greatly diminished. Children, in addition to remaining in foster care, will not receive the services they need and deserve to recover from abuse and neglect. There is a wealth of scientific studies that show children who have been abused will, absent necessary treatment services, grow into adults who are abusive. Surely we can all agree this scenario is tragic on every level and certainly not in the best interests of this country, or its citizens.

I urge you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Howard L. Moran  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tigard, OR 97281  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Howard Moran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to you today as an attorney who practices juvenile law (i.e., matters in which children have been removed from their families as a result of abuse, neglect, abandonment, etc.). In the course of my practice, I've been involved in many interstate cases, so my experience extends beyond Oregon. One issue I've not seen discussed as relates to the Graham-Cassidy bill is the impact it will have on children and families involved in the juvenile justice system.

When children are removed from their parents, they are placed in the legal custody of the State and the State then becomes responsible for obtaining and funding all necessary care for the children. This care ranges from well-child medical services to intensive services such as mental health treatment and treatment for chronic (sometimes terminal) diseases. In addition, the parents of these children also receive services in an effort to reunify the family. These services include, but are not limited to, drug/alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, domestic violence resources, etc.

These services are paid for using insurance developed by the states after passage of the Affordable Care Act (in Oregon it is called the Oregon Health Plan), and that insurance is primarily funded with federal Medicaid dollars. If the Graham-Cassidy bill passes, states will not be able to fund this insurance absent drastic cuts to others necessary services (i.e., education, law enforcement, etc.), and will face the alternative of either slashing budgets for other necessary services or removing hundreds of thousands of people from the state insurance rolls.

What would be the impact on children and families if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes? Parents will not receive the services necessary for them to be reunified with their children, resulting in children remaining in foster care for extended periods of time (not an inexpensive proposition in its own right), and the likelihood of successful reunification will be greatly diminished. Children, in addition to remaining in foster care, will not receive the services they need and deserve to recover from abuse and neglect. There is a wealth of scientific studies that show children who have been abused will, absent necessary treatment services, grow into adults who are abusive. Surely we can all agree this scenario is tragic on every level and certainly not in the best interests of this country or its citizens.

I urge you to vote no on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Howard L. Moran  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tigard, OR 97281  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Lara Dunn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:31 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

As speech-language pathologists, my husband and I both serve adults and children with disabilities. Many families we serve would not be able to afford this care without health insurance. Many families we work with now could not access this service before Medicaid expansion under the ACA. For many of our clients, speech therapy is critical to their ability to communicate and become contributing members of society.

In addition, we each have pre-existing conditions which are well-managed while we can afford quality care. Without a guarantee of coverage at an affordable rate, our health would be at risk as we would be forced to forgo some of the preventive care and prescription medications that keep us healthy. This is a gamble I hope we will not be faced with, as it would be likely to be more costly to ourselves and our country in the long run.

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

Sincerely,

Lara Dunn

[REDACTED]  
Hood River, OR 97031

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Melissa Wheeler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I am a public school teacher, and I'm grateful for the health insurance that my job provides. I have many friends who are not so lucky.

One friend, a small business owner, is a breast cancer survivor. She relies on quality, affordable healthcare to prevent a relapse and get checkups for peace of mind. That gives her a preexisting condition. Additionally, as a teacher, I work with many young people who need medicaid and struggle with things like diabetes. Many of my students are in poverty. For my friends and students, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

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

Sincerely, Melissa Wheeler

Madras, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Rohrs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill comments

Finance Senate - I and my partner rely on quality, affordable health care to live without constant fear of homelessness, and destitution. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that without affordable health care I would be homeless and without any treatment for my anxiety and thyroid issues. My partner would be in living hell as he would not have access to pain relief. He has untreatable, inoperable degenerative disc disease. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Rohrs

Salem, Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joanna Fleşkes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Graham-Cassidy bill

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

Sincerely,

Joanna Fleşkes

Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Caroloden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassady

The stories are legion of how the ACA has been an asset and a salvation to the majority of Americans. We all know someone whose health has been dependent upon being able to access the necessary healthcare to keep them alive and healthy. What needs to be clearly addressed is the reason for the hysterical rush to pass something, anything, to get rid of the ACA. For eight years we have heard Republican's endless chant of 'repeal, repeal, repeal'. They have burned up hundreds of hours of the peoples' time (and how much of our money?) chasing this lost cause, taking over 60 votes in the House to this end, all in vain. It was nothing more than a political ploy created to placate their biggest donors, the richest 1%, who are the only ones who would profit by repealing the ACA. More money for the pockets that overflow with money already. Now the 1%ers have turned up the pressure on Republicans, threatening them with loss of political donations unless they get this done. The Koch's, the Mercer's have had enough. They've said 'no more access to our pockets unless you decimate healthcare access to millions of vulnerable Americans, your constituents. We have OUR priorities.' Rank greed, obviously. Also obviously, Republicans have THEIR priorities, which is to cave to billionaires so they can stay on the contribution dole, no matter the impact it has on millions of Americans. Each version of their No-healthcare bill is worse than the last, this one the most egregious yet.

There is no adequate reason to repeal the ACA. Just making it a campaign promise doesn't justify it. Many campaign promises are little more than fantasies, and most are not kept. It is a poor excuse with which to justify ending a mostly successful program. The ACA needs some work, and it definitely needs less undermining, but it is a good program. Just because you have a tire with a slow leak doesn't mean you go out and re-invent the wheel.

Sincerely,  
Carol Odenweller  
Salem, OR 97302

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Cannon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save Obamacare

Hello,  
My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. So do millions of Americans. That's why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Last year when both my husband and I were unemployed, the ACA was the only reason we could get affordable health insurance coverage. He needed surgery to repair his shoulder so he could work again, and thanks to the ACA we were able to make it through the tough times. Now we are both working . For us and for so many others, it was a real lifesaver. It's also good for the economy.

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

Sincerely,  
Lisa Cannon  
Portland, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kathleen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:28 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Kathleen  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality/affordable healthcare. I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I live in Oregon and this bill would have devastating consequences for our citizens. My family has been covered by ACA for the past 4 years. We would not have been able to afford the premiums without the tax credits. With a common pre-existing thyroid condition, it would be even more expensive to afford coverage under the Graham-Cassidy bill. MOC have healthcare coverage that benefits you and your family, don't take our coverage away. I would like to see bi-partisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Many Oregon citizens lives count on you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Macdonald  
Seaside, Oregon 97138

Sent from thin air!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators,

I am one of the fortunate people to receive health care (medical, vision, dental, etc.) through my employer. As the director of implementation and training of an evidence-based parenting program for community mental health care and child welfare workers who provide essential services to parents, children and families, I see first-hand the need for quality health care coverage. So many parents in our country struggle to make ends meet and they deserve affordable health care so that they can do the important task of raising healthy children who will prosper and thrive and contribute to our great society. Please, take the ethical high ground and improve the ACA. Families depend on it and we are all counting on you.

Respectfully,  
Laura Rains  
Yachats, Oregon

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Katie Haraguchi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

As an elder law attorney in Portland, Oregon, I work with vulnerable seniors in my community who rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have done volunteer legal work for senior citizens who rely on Medicaid for their long-term care needs. Without Medicaid, these members of our community would be facing financial ruin as well as being barred from appropriate medical treatment.

I see many families whose elderly members are requiring so much care--because of complicated, long-lasting conditions like Alzheimer's, dementia, and cancer--that adult children face an impossible trade-off between quitting a paying job OR caring for their elderly parent. This should be an embarrassment to the United States government.

Healthcare and aging in America is a major social challenge of our time, not the result of an individual's poor planning. Many of my clients are conservative Americans who have spent their entire lives working. Now, their physical care needs overwhelm their financial resources and threaten the financial stability of their extended families. Most of them are shocked to find themselves in the situation of being near bankruptcy, but still ineligible for Medicaid. With recent political developments--including the GOP's last three proposals for healthcare in America--many of them are afraid that their access to medical care will become even more restricted.

Senior citizens should not be left with inadequate care and resources in their declining years. I am heartbroken and appalled when I talk to my clients and their families about their stress, fear, and the choices they are having to make.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We should be expanding health insurance coverage in America, ideally to a program that provides universal health insurance. Providing for the health of individual Americans will benefit us all economically, physically, and emotionally.

Sincerely,

Katie H. Haraguchi, Esquire

Portland, Oregon

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Katie H. Haraguchi  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Portland, OR 97232  
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
Website: [REDACTED]

\*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandy Reeves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on GC health bill

To the US Senate Finance

I am against the Graham Cassidy health care bill. Why take away health care from millions of people?. It unfairly punishes states like Oregon who take care of their residents residents.

Thank you. Sandy Reeves, Portland, OR

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**Sandy Reeves**

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**Sandy Reeves**



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Meg Cotner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. As someone who is a woman and heading in my older years, I do not want to be penalized for my gender and my ability to have lived almost 50 years. My state, Oregon, will be one of the worst off under Graham-Cassidy. On top of it all, I do not want to see my fellow Americans have their insurance ripped out of their fingers and possibly face a death sentence without access to good health care.

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

Sincerely,  
Meg Cotner

Portland, OR

--  
Meg Cotner  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nanci Nowlen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Strengthen ACA

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

Sincerely, Nanci Nowlen  
Keizer, OR 97303

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** scott reeves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GC health care bill  
**Attachments:** icon.png

To the US Senate

I am writing in opposition to the Graham Cassidy health care bill. It will cause millions to lose health care. It unfairly punishes states like Oregon. I am proud that Oregon covers 95% of it's residents.  
Thank you. Scott Reeves, Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marian Grebanier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

Dear Senators:

My family and most of my friends' families rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. This bill will make it almost impossible to get good healthcare and will demolish, over a not very long time period, Medicaid, which millions depend on. Health care is something all Americans should have available to them at affordable prices and this bill would make that impossible for millions. Sen. Cassidy has not spoke truly about this bill nor has Pres. Trump. The health care industry doesn't want this bill either. This bill would adversely my state particularly hard.

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

Sincerely,

Marian Grebanier

☛ Corbett, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Good afternoon

Please accept this email as my comment on the above-referenced bill. I cannot believe how mean spirited this bill is. It devastates health care for millions of people. Especially heartbreaking is the writers' decision to punish states that expanded their healthcare in the last few years.

Please join with senator John McCain in rejecting this bad legislation.

Thank you,

Megge Van Valkenburg

[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR 97202

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Steve & Jane P [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

To all those holding the quality of my life in their hands:

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

I have chronic medical conditions that will require monitoring and treatment for the rest of my life, and by receiving quality, affordable care not only will my life be extended but the cost will be reduced by working on prevention of problems rather than waiting for additional problems to arise. These conditions are due to no fault of my own. It is up to the government to take care of all of it's citizens' basic needs.

Ultimately, I believe that Single-payer Universal Coverage is the answer. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA (not repeal it) that works toward this goal.

Sincerely,

Steve Poisson

Stayton, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Danielle Mason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record, RE: Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

This bill will put millions of people at risk. Not only does this bill take away so many things that are working well for the ACA, it doesn't fix any of the issues that it has. We need to move away from thinking that healthcare is not a right, and that letting people suffer and die is acceptable.

I would love to see a single payer/universal healthcare system that we all pay into, (like Medicare/Medicaid) and that we all get the same benefits and treated as equals. Healthcare should cover preexisting conditions, mental, emotional, physical, dental and eye care, etc. People should not go without coverage due to living in a impoverished area, or because their employer refuses to have it available.

We require people to have insurance to drive, to protect them and others. Yet we do not require or regulate the astronomical prices for mental/emotional/physical healthcare, dental care, or eye care. We call ourselves the greatest country in the world, yet we have one of the highest infant mortality rate. We have millions of military veterans on the streets because they can not get the help needed to be able to hold down a job after their time served. We have millions of school age children who are on school lunch programs because their families are not paid enough to get by, let alone pick up the cost of purchasing healthcare out right.

Our people should not die, because someone else doesn't deem them worthy or a higher wage, better living situation, etc.

Please, for the love of America vote NO on Graham-Cassidy Bill. Work to make the ACA better, and push for single payer/universal healthcare

Thank you for your time,  
Danielle Mason  
Gresham Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gwendolyn White [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I grew up with Medicaid as the only healthcare available to my family, and I knew and know many other families in poverty that are in the same situation. Because of Medicaid, I was able to receive preventative care, dental healthcare, and vision care - care that I would have gone without otherwise to the detriment of my health, my happiness, and my education. Sick children can't go to school. Children with vision problems who don't have vision care can't see the blackboard. Children with toothaches can't focus on schoolwork.

This care is vital to millions of people. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Gwendolyn White

Portland, Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Stefanie Buck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

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. Thousands of people rely on this act for health care.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Buck

Corvallis, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Katie Songer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote "no" on Graham-Cassidy

Senators:

At age 35, after an active lifetime of excellent health, I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis. My disease affects around a million Americans; its cause is unknown, there is no known way to prevent it, and it usually strikes in the prime of life. For me, it has been debilitating, often preventing me from working full time due to extreme fatigue, pain, and bouts of diarrhea.

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. My diagnosis came shortly after Obamacare was implemented, and if it had not been implemented, my care would have cost me up to \$200,000 over the last three years. I now have a preexisting condition that is expensive, and I am terrified of the repeal of Obamacare or any measures that would make my health care more expensive, such as state waiver or lifetime coverage caps.

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

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Shame on every Republican who has voted "yes" on repeal bills that will strip millions of Americans of their health insurance. Shame on this bill's sponsors and supporters, who have abandoned morality by pushing for legislation whose effects they cannot yet know, and thus endangering the lives of millions of Americans. We deserve better: We deserve a Congress who has our interests in mind, not their own reelection prospects and not the interests of Big Pharma and for-profit insurers.

Please implement a bipartisan health care reform effort, and please read [T.R. Reid's The Healing of America](#), which contains the blueprints for health care that would actually cover all Americans, with higher-quality and lower-cost care than we have today.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Songer  
Portland, Oregon 97219



Virus-free [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ginney Etherton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Senate Finance Committee:

This is a bad bill. It will not help the financial situation in the long run and will only make matters worse for a majority of citizens. You know, every one of you, that if states have the right to cut ACA, they will, leaving many without health care. That's immoral representation, not what you as elected legislators pledged to do in office.

Please get to work on fixing the Affordable Care Act problems and keep moving forward.

Ginney Etherton

Langlois, OR 97450

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tina Westerlund Matheis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My son has an on-going issue with his ear, requires speech therapy, and has had 5 surgeries in the past 3 years.

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

Sincerely,

Tina Matheis

Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diane Randgaard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to the Graham-Cassidy bill

To Whom This Concerns,

Citizens in the United States need quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, NOT repeal it.

Sincerely,

Diane Randgaard

Terrebonne, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marie Biondolillo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony for Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Hi,

My name is Marie Biondolillo. My sister, who has moderate autism, depends on the ACA for quality, affordable healthcare. Like millions of Americans with disabilities, she will be negatively impacted if the Graham-Cassidy bill passes. We have to protect society's most vulnerable people. Please reject Graham-Cassidy and work for a better ACA, not a repealed ACA.

Sincerely,

Marie Biondolillo  
Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jan Molinaro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Submitting public testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

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

**Thank you.**

Jan S Molinaro  
Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Campbell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:10 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. My story is not so unfamiliar from others – I am self-employed and have to provide my own healthcare. I do not have a corporate employer who provides me with healthcare. I need affordable choices in order to protect what assets I have in the event that I have a major illness. I have gone without healthcare before the ACA – I do not want to experience that nightmare again.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Campbell

Gresham, Oregon



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable health care

My husband and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. While we have employer health insurance at this moment, it will not continue into retirement and pre-existing conditions for my husband will make it impossible to acquire adequate and affordable health care in the next few years. We cannot even begin to plan for retirement for both of us while our health care system is in upheaval, and we have many friends who will lose their health care if this bill passes. We want to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it, for the sake of all people in our country.

Sincerely, Karen Nelson

Portland, Oregon

Rev. Karen Nelson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Edward Lake [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Edward Lake  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Eugene, Oregon 97405

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Judith Lienhard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Judith Lienhard  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon 97225

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deborah Ainza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Deborah Ainza  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon 97223

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Leslie Peterson Sapp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Hello,

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,  
Leslie Sapp

Lake Oswego, Oregon.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Susan Jenkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My Mom has passed away, but prior to her passing we relied on Medicaid for her long-term care, which was necessary because she was quite frail, and due to a broken hip was unable to walk in her last three years of life. I would most of all like to see Health Care for All, which is what the country needs. If that is not possible yet (its coming, "believe me"), I would certainly like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Most sincerely,  
Susan M. Jenkins  
Milwaukie OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Verelle Tomford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Only because of the Affordable Care Act, was I able to afford insurance through coverage on my parents insurance, where I could not have been covered prior to the ACA. I received treatments that otherwise would have bankrupt me, and forced me to be a less productive part of society. Now that I have a family, I rely on affordable health care to ensure that our family stays healthy. No family should have to choose between their health and putting food on the table.

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

Sincerely,  
Verelle Tomford  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Weinstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject Graham-Cassidy bill on Healthcare

My extended family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with my (&my family's) pre-existing condition of diabetes is that we would likely be dropped from coverage. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is so very important. PLEASE vote AGAINST it. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Susan W. Weinstein  
Fairview, Oregon 97024



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nicole Antoinette Armstrong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare.

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

My mother has both emphysema and severe clinical depression, and it is only since the implementation of the ACA that she has been able to afford proper treatment.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Armstrong

Bend, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon Findling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Sharon Findling  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Newport, Oregon 97365

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Talbot [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Keep my Health Care

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

My story with affordability is that my spouse is 62 and had to retire early, so she does not benefit from Medicare. Her health care costs were prohibitive with our limited retirement budget before the ACA was in place. She also has a pre-existing condition, as she had to deal with a melanoma. Without the ACA, she would not be able to have her current, quality plan, which is affordable.

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

Sincerely, Susan Talbot

Portland, OR

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Rossella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act

I have several friends and family members who rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

My dear friend is ill with PPMS (Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis) a disabling disease of the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system). Without good affordable care she would not be able to spend any money to eat or pay her mortgage, let alone afford the medication she needs. If she were to lose her job, the new insurance could potentially deny her coverage due to her pre-existing condition. Being ill is not a choice and it shouldn't be treated like a crime we need to pay for.

Affordable health care is a right.

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

Sincerely,  
Rossella Mariotti-Jones  
Salem, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Francesca Monga [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

My family relies on affordable, quality healthcare. My husband and I are both highly educated, but I left the work force to take care of our two young children. He works for a non-profit and we would not have been able to afford healthcare for the four of us. When my son came down with strep throat, we almost missed it, and would not have gone to a doctor if we did not have Obamacare. Thankfully, we did, and he was able to get the simple antibiotics that cure it. If we hadn't, it could have turned into something much more dangerous and costly to fix.

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

Sincerely,  
Francesca Monga  
Portland, OR

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Val Blaha [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments re: Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to express my thoughts about the Graham-Cassidy Bill which is scheduled for a vote next week. I encourage all Senators to vote no on this bill.

Let's start at the point that everyone can agree on... health insurance in our country doesn't work as well as it should. The ACA was designed to increase the number of insured people, and it has succeeded in doing so, but many people have found that their health insurance premiums have risen, and that their coverage isn't what they would like. We could debate whether this is the fault of the ACA directly, or perhaps of the failure of the federal government to make payments that were originally promised to insurance companies to offset some of the losses incurred for participating in the ACA. Either way, the solution is not this one-sided, drastic measure that will make millions of people lose their health insurance and destroy the federal Medicaid program. The solution is not to toss the ball to the states, who, before the ACA, already demonstrated that they were mostly incapable of addressing the issue of affordable health care. The solution is not to hand tax cuts to the wealthy at the expense of the working poor. And the solution is certainly not to hand the reins of our government over to the Koch brothers.

"Access" to health care is not the same as being able to pay for healthcare. My husband has access to neurologists and medications, but without our current coverage under the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid), we would not be able to pay to see those doctors or receive his medications (which cost \$1000 or more per month). We are in our mid 40s and have both worked steadily since we were 16. The company my husband worked for for 20 years closed last year, and he spent the rest of the year building a new business. He became ill in spring of this year and was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The illness prevented him from working for some months, and since we've been living primarily on my income as a private music instructor, we now qualify for Medicaid.

Our lives, and the lives of our 10 year old son are important. We work hard at our businesses (which also include a small farm which provides grass-fed meat for several families for a year at a time). We've made smart financial decisions, and we've given back to our community in many ways, yet due to larger economic factors, we find ourselves needing government assistance for our health insurance. We shouldn't have to worry that my husband may not longer be able to get the medication he needs to keep his condition at bay. I shouldn't have to be considering giving up my work (which I love and at which I excel, having positively impacted the lives of hundreds of students over the past 16 years) in order to find a job with insurance. No one should have to worry about being one illness or accident away from bankruptcy. A "GoFundMe" campaign is not an acceptable replacement for affordable health insurance coverage.

People who are self-employed, or work several part-time jobs, should have access to affordable and comprehensive health insurance. This is what the ACA provided, and it did a great service to the millions of hard-working Americans who don't receive insurance through an employer.

Insurance companies should not be able to charge higher premiums based on pre-existing conditions like m.s., or new conditions such as pregnancy. And the insurance coverage for Americans shouldn't depend on what state you live in... the Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) covered by insurance should be the same in all states.

The obsession with "repeal and replace" needs to end now. How about replacing it with "repair and renew"? Or "work together and improve"?

Let's stop making this about politics and power plays and start making it about human beings and health. I implore all Senators to come together with real people in mind (or better yet, at the table) to craft a bipartisan measure that directly addresses specific problems within the ACA, bring that measure out into the light of day for analysis and discussion, and take the time and care necessary so that families do not need to live in fear of having to choose between paying for medication or paying for a mortgage.

Sincerely,

Valerie Blaha  
Yamhill, Oregon

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Gary DeCamp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Instead of trying to undermine Obama, and live up to crazy campaign promises, lets' work to make healthcare better for all Americans, not worse for many.

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Gary DeCamp  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Eugene, Oregon 97405



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** DT [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the ACA repeal bill

I am self employed and I rely on the ACA for affordable healthcare that does not exclude me because of health issues. I strongly opposed the proposed ACA repeal, which hurts working families and entrepreneurs who want to start new ventures.

Sincerely,

Daveena Tauber  
Portland, OR



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** LINDA [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy-Heller Bill

I am writing to ask you to represent all American citizens and vote no on this terrible bill. It will deprive millions of people of healthcare insurance/healthcare by being unaffordable or not eligible due to pre-existing conditions. No matter which state you were elected from, you represent all of us and should have our best interests at heart. Do not cave in to the bribery of the Kochs and the bellicosity of Trump. Do what is right and do your job for us.

Thank you.  
Linda Kroeger  
Coburg, Oregon 97408

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA repeal

Hi,  
I am a physician at a safety net hospital and repeal of the ACA would drastically affect coverage for my patients. The new plan would surely lead to people unable to afford medical care and ultimately death. Please do not pass this bill.

Sarah Moore, MD/MPH  
Legacy Health  
Portland, OR

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Deborah England <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Committee Members,

In 2002, my mother was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She had been aware of the tumor for a long time but didn't tell anyone or see a doctor because (unbeknownst to me and my siblings) she and my father could not afford health insurance. They had not been covered for many years, as we came to find out, and she knew that her cancer would make obtaining insurance even more difficult, costly, and out of reach. The cancer killed her 11 months after her diagnosis. If the ACA had existed a decade earlier, my mother would have had health insurance, would have been able to see a doctor, would have been diagnosed much earlier, and may have been alive to meet her granddaughter Olivia, who was born a few years after she died. Our family was emotionally and financially traumatized by my mother's illness but the enduring horror for me is that she lived with the knowledge that she had a tumor growing in her body and likely to kill her, and she could not seek treatment or even tell anyone. This will haunt me to the end of my days.

The ACA is not a political issue. It is a life and death issue. It is an issue of morality over cruelty. The ACA saves lives and prevents unending pain and suffering, not only to those who can finally get health care but also to those who love them and may be spared watching them die. As servants of the citizens of this country who enjoy sterling health care coverage at taxpayer expense, the members of this committee and the Senate and House at large have a professional, ethical, and moral duty to reject the repeal of the ACA.

Do the right thing.

Do the right thing.

Just do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Deborah England

Deborah C. England, Esq.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Hugh Williams <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don not repeal the ACA

Please do not take away my healthcare. I'm a small businessman, sole proprietor. The ACA allows my business to cash flow. Weasel words like "access" mean nothing, FIX THE SYSTEM WE HAVE.

Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Patrick Gray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Todd Medicaid recipient

PS Roman is also blind

On Sep 21, 2017 1:40 PM, "Patrick Gray" [REDACTED] wrote:  
Roman is currently back in the hospital for the second time this month due to breathing complications. If Medicaid is cut and capped he will die and his parents will go bankrupt.

On Sep 21, 2017 1:35 PM, "Patrick Gray" [REDACTED] wrote:

On Jun 27, 2017 1:25 PM, "Patrick Gray" [REDACTED] wrote:

This is our grandson Roman Rhett Todd. He was born February 29, 2016 at only 24 weeks gestation . He was in the neonatal ICU for the first 6 months of his life and has been hospitalized 4 more times since. Earlier this month he was having severe breathing troubles and his parents took him to the Little Rock, Arkansas Children's Hospital. While he was there the doctors did a follow up CAT scan on his brain to check on the shunt in his head for severe brain bleeds. They found the shunt had malfunctioned and he was rushed into operation. Afterward his breathing got much worse and his status declined rapidly. At one point his carbon dioxide levels reached 98% and he nearly died. He was in the hospital for two weeks recovering.

Roman is severely developmentally delayed. Sixteen months have gone by since he was born and he is still physically and mentally like a newborn. He can't sit up on his own, he can't even hold his head up straight for more than a few seconds. He doesn't crawl or even have the ability to roll from his stomach to his back. Though being disabled Roman is the happiest little boy, he wins over the hearts of all around him in moments.

Because of Medicaid Roman is still alive and thriving. He receives physical, occupational, and speech therapies from a Medicaid funded program for disabled children locally in Cabot, Arkansas.

Roman's father works for a Wal-Mart distribution center out of Searcy, Arkansas. Roman's mother is a stay at home mom taking care of Roman and taking him to doctor appointments.

My wife, Andrea, and I have Roman over on the weekends and sometimes during the week to give our daughter some rest from taking care of him. Roman is the love of our lives. He is sweet and loves to be held and even kisses back when kissed. Roman's laughter is contagious when you tickle him.

Even with Medicaid, Andrea and I help our daughter and son-in-law with paying for medication and medical supplies as Medicaid only provides a limited amount each month. This 800 billion dollar cut and caps on Medicaid will send our family into bankruptcy and possibly Roman's death.

Please vote against this horrible and immoral bill.

Sincerely,  
Patrick and Andrea Gray

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa Gorove [REDACTED]@m>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My daughter died of anorexia - pre-existing; I had breast cancer

Good Afternoon,

My 21 year old daughter died of anorexia nervosa one year ago. Even with Federal BCBS, we could not get residential treatment; only hospital based. With the new legislation, we would go broke very quickly (I am a Federal employee with a decent salary).

I had breast cancer, and had a double mastectomy. I needed physical therapy after the surgery. Based on my reading of the draft, again many costs would not be covered.

Finally, my son receives Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); he had a suicide attempt in 2014. It would be limited under the new law. I could lost a second child.

Please think very carefully about my family.

Lisa Gorove  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lesli Suggs <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

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

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's successful Medicaid expansion, which has extended coverage to nearly 12 million newly eligible low-income adults. It also eliminates the ACA tax credits that 10 million low- and moderate-income people rely on to afford coverage in the individual market. Although it replaces this funding with a block grant to states, the proposal offers no guarantee that states will provide an alternative affordable coverage option to former enrollees - and indeed the block grant is inadequate to pay for comparable benefits. From 2020 through 2026, block grant funding would be at least 7% (\$95 billion) below projected spending under current law, including a \$5-\$8 billion loss in federal funding to Massachusetts.<sup>[2]</sup> Regardless, the

block grant ends in 2027, leaving states and former enrollees with no help whatsoever. We do not believe it is likely that Congress would reauthorize additional funds for these programs at a later date, because the funds would no longer be in the baseline of the federal budget. Congress would therefore have to identify and reauthorize a new funding stream – something that would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

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

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

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

**Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders, if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

### **Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.**

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

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

Sincerely,

Lesli Suggs

Lesli Suggs 

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane McGowan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because the passage of this bill will result in loss of health care coverage for millions of children and will ultimately reduce US productivity and fiscal growth. If each state has different levels of coverage this will ultimately limit productivity as some families will not be able to take advantage of job opportunities if that would mean having less coverage for health care. This in turn limits productivity and therefore would have a significant impact on overall GDP.

Jane McGowan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 4

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Margareta Noonan <[REDACTED]@com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I am an entrepreneur. I provide great service to my clients. I support my family. I pay taxes. I'm pretty healthy but I'm also almost 60 and so have had enough years to accumulate assorted "pre-existing conditions".

Before the ACA, I couldn't have gotten good health care. Now I can. Which means I can go on serving my clients, supporting my family and paying my taxes. Our economy is fueled by small business owners like me.

Aside from how you feel morally about denying access to healthcare for millions, think about the economic impact if people like me are forced to give up our businesses in order to seek employer-provided health insurance. It's just not good business.

Margareta Noonan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** srobbins2188 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

The American people do not want this bill. What the people want is a bipartisan fix for the problems of the ACA. The protections of the ACA are vital to so many of us. As a 63yo with a history of breast cancer (even though I am in excellent health at present), I would be unable to afford healthcare insurance under your proposed bill. Please do NOT pass this monstrosity of a bill that would hurt the most vulnerable of Americans!

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patricia Buckley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** STOP TRYING TO KILL US

My husband was diagnosed last year with Stage IV melanoma. His treatments were \$20K each (and that was just for 1 of 3 treatments).

The exchanges saved his life.

Please stop trying to kill us with this horrible Graham/Cassidy bill. If you think the American people are stupid, think again. We know exactly what you are trying to do.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Buckley

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joan Seder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

I understand wanting to take care of your party, reelections, and base BUT it should not come at the expense of the American public. Having just returned from Europe, people there are incredulous that we don't want to/ or already take care of our own people. I may be fine but millions of others won't be. Please put politics aside, go back to working together both Republicans and Democrats, and don't make politics and party more important than the welfare of our citizens. Be the role models you can be and put ethics and values over just having a "win"...

Thank you.  
JS



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Doucet <[REDACTED]> on behalf of JOHN DOUCET  
<johndoucet@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:15 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** JOHN DOUCET  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy "Healthcare" bill

To Whom, etc.,

It is truly shocking to me that it is 2017 and we are actually still debating about healthcare, and whether we should have a system that is at least equal in quality to that of, say, Costa Rica - which, according to the World Health Organization, ranks above the USA (which ranks 37th).

The Graham Cassidy bill does nothing to improve our system, as measured by number of people covered or by affordability, and therefore needs to be rejected.

To waste the time and money to even put forth this cruel and inhumane bill shocks me.

Please reject this bill, and do what needs to be done to get more (if not all) people covered at an affordable rate.

Thank you,

John Doucet  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]net

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** DEAN ROSKOSZ <roskosz@roskosz.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I am an independent voter from Phoenix, Arizona, and my wife is 52, a diabetic, and kidney/pancreas transplant survivor. She needs quality, affordable healthcare- the kind of healthcare mandated by the Essential Benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Annual and/or lifetime caps on coverage could mean financial ruin for us.

The state waivers allowed under Graham-Cassidy significantly impact the prohibition against charging more for preexisting conditions (the requirement states provide "affordable access" to healthcare for patients with preexisting conditions is not defined and offers no meaningful protection).

I am adamantly opposed to Graham-Cassidy, and I urge Congress to work, in a bipartisan fashion, to strengthen our current healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Dean Roskosz  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** anne gustafson <ir[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

anne gustafson

[REDACTED] m  
[REDACTED]  
b[REDACTED] 01701

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Good Morning Senators:

I am a public health nurse in California. In the years since the ACA was enacted I have personally seen how affordable healthcare has made a difference for hundreds of families with whom I work. They have been able to access healthcare when needed. In many cases this has included preventative care. Emergency room visits are no longer used for primary care.

Because of this, and many other reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Lori Berlin, RN, PHN

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Johnsen <ir[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jennifer Johnsen

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** john eder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families. This is a bad bill that would harm millions of people. They just want to get rid of Obamacare at any cost. They do not care for they get good insurance from the government that tax payers pay for.

john eder  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Joos [mailto:barbarajoos@johannes.com] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. My employer-paid insurance will expire soon and my husband and I both have pre-existing conditions: he takes medication for DVT and I have high blood pressure. We need a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Barbara Joos

Campbell, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Rookey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill (and I support ACA improvement, not repeal)

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a married, working mother of two children. I have asthma, and without the ACA's guarantee that pre-existing conditions be covered, I would not be able to afford the health care I need in order to work productively, care for my family, and raise my children. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Anne Rookey  
Framingham, MA

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Anne Rookey  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
<http://www.annerookey.com>  
she/her/hers



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** hwolf123 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I can think of no moral reason why anyone in our wealthy country can be denied affordable quality health care. It was a relief for me to reach 65 and qualify for medicare. Until then, because of my preexisting condition (sleep apnea), the only health insurance I could obtain was prohibitively expensive. Because of this experience, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Harriet Wolf, San Jose CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Marilyn Centoni <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

How can anyone believe in Trump. He is a liar and cheater. Trumpcare will destroy America. Trump is also destroying America. All he cares about is his money and his stupid dick. Cut it off and remove both him and Pence from Office. They act like cavemen. Stupid pricks.

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Marilyn Centoni  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 61

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Steve Van Gorder Van Gorder [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Steve Van Gorder Van Gorder

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Christine Ayres [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Christine Ayres

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] t

[REDACTED] 1

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jessica Goldberg <jessg@██████████>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony submission

Hello,

I believe in the importance of quality, affordable healthcare and my family relies on it. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My mother has walked around on an injured ankle for more than two years because she couldn't afford her employer's health care package. I'd like to spare countless other Americans from the pain of watching someone they love live in pain. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,

Jessica Goldberg

Brighton, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** steve baringer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

steve baringer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dr

Of [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lowell Carpenter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:26 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Lowell Carpenter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Minnesota 55337

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** kevin leveret <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare (Graham-Cassidy, AKA "Death March 2017") would kick 32 million people off of healthcare. The worst of all previous versions! Devastating for working families, it rolls back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Hidden in this bill is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

Smart Senators must convince the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

kevin leveret

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
w [REDACTED] 5001



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Megan Williamson <megan.williamson@chicagofund.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have two family members who were almost bankrupt by medical bills - and these people **had** insurance! This bill is not in the best interests of the American people. One of the most important things our government should do is care for those in need. Who are we as a people if we can't do that?

This bill is rushed, unconsidered, unpopular, irresponsible and dangerous.

Sincerely,

Megan Williamson  
Chicago, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Ben Eisenberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Ben Eisenberg

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Anne Diskin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy Bill

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

I am self-employed and my business completely went away by 2010. After going through my savings, I could no longer afford my extremely high premiums (\$700 per month just for me with a \$5,000 deductible). I was unable to afford health insurance until I received a subsidized plan through Covered California. Fortunately I turned 65 in 2014 so that I can now get great coverage under Medicare!

It makes me crazy to think that my daughter and ALL Americans have to worry about the affordability and availability of decent health care!

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

Sincerely,

Anne Diskin

[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jennifer Loftus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject the Graham-Cassidy bill

In this amazing country we live in, every American should be able to count on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is imperative as a moral issue that we take care of our young, our old, and our sick and dying. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Jennifer Loftus  
San Jose, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Laura Dobson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Laura Dobson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** David Cameron <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

David Cameron

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Nina Sandlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** McNiece, Jessica (Durbin); Villanueva, Josie (Duckworth)  
**Subject:** Re: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Honorable Members, thank you for the opportunity to address this email to you.

Like so many others, I humbly seek to draw your attention to the ways the bill before you falls short of the needs of our nation vis-a-vis healthcare. The need to ensure that all Americans have access to medical care has been recognized for many decades, including by Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon. Our great nation is the only one in the developed world where this has not been achieved.

As you know, even the greatest advocates for the Affordable Care Act recognize the many ways it falls short of the goal, including perhaps most prominently, the instability of the marketplace. There is virtually unanimous opinion by those familiar with insurance and the health care industry that the insurance markets require a stable landscape to function properly, and to be able to prevent spiraling premium costs. The current bill does not do that - just the opposite. It also restores the ability of insurers to sell junk policies, and takes away the requirement that essential health benefits are covered. And it drastically reduces the total resources available to states for Medicaid, as well as throwing many citizens off the rolls altogether.

Sadly, this bill - even despite its favoring non-expansion states - will still disproportionately hurt those of your constituents who are most depending on this Administration - those who voted for the President, those in rural areas, those who have nowhere else to turn. For thousands who will no longer have healthcare, it will literally be a matter of life and death. But beyond the human factor, it will damage the economy of the nation, and undermine the economies of the states, by trashing the healthcare sector, which is rapidly approaching one-fifth of total US GDP. It is often ignored that this will even hurt business.

I will keep it brief. I know that it is galling not to achieve a campaign promise. But keep in mind there were other promises that you still have an opportunity to keep. The President promised that "No one will lose coverage," "No one will be worse off financially," and "Everybody's going to be taken care off." Please step up and help him keep those promises.

Respectfully,  
Nina Sandlin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Joyce Lynch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Joyce Lynch

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Anna Shepard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** harmful Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My family and I are in sincere need of and rely heavily upon affordable, quality healthcare and have benefitted from the coverage that the ACA has provided. Because of our need and the needs of many others across the nation, I believe that the Graham-Cassidy bill would be a huge step backwards and would continue to limit access to affordable healthcare for those who need it most. For these reasons, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I hope that Congress can improve the ACA, not do further damage by repealing it.

Sincerely,

Anna Shepard  
Minneapolis, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Stevenson [mailto:susan.stevenson@stevenson.com] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** DON'T REPEAL THE ACA, IMPROVE IT!

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a breast cancer survivor. I owe my life to the wonderful care I received from all my doctors who were there to help me because of the ACA. I would not be here today without the great coverage I got from the ACA. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
*Susan Stevenson*  
*Julian, CA*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julie Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comment on Graham-Cassidy bill

I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband and I have multiple pre-existing conditions, type 1 diabetes, genetic heart disease, and asthma among them.

The ACA has issues. But Congress must work in a bi-partisan manner to improve it, and not repeal it. Repealing it would be life threatening to both me and my husband.

Thank you for your time.

Julie K. Rose  
San José, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Betsy & Jerry Wilcox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am opposed.

Vote "no".

Betsy Wilcox  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Frey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I, my family, and many of my friends rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. If not for the ACA, my brother and three of my closest friends, along with many more Americans, would be denied coverage or forced to pay much more than they could possibly afford. All have disabilities or pre-existing conditions that would impact their coverage. Without daily medication, my friend with MS would very likely not be alive today. As a very healthy person in my thirties, prior to the passage of the ACA, I was denied coverage due to a very minor health condition that posed no long term risk. Even a letter from my doctor stating this fact to the insurance company made no difference. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please do the right thing for Americans and refuse to pass this terrible bill.

Sincerely,  
Amy Frey

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], California [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** David Kerr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

David Kerr

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Crescent Dragonwagon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose Graham-Cassidy. Here's why:

It is bad, hastily made legislation, pushed through under a deadline that exists only to increase partisan control, instead of the healthy give and take that is part of democracy.

It leaves 32 MILLION Americans uninsured.

It is cruel to seniors.

It discriminates against women's health issues.

It is shockingly tilted against those with pre-existing conditions.

It is not sound fiscally.

It ends all funding for Planned Parenthood.

Thank you,

Crescent Dragonwagon



**Crescent Dragonwagon, writer / workshop leader**

culinary memoir / children's books / fiction / Fearless Writing

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: c[REDACTED]

Website: [REDACTED]

Address: 1 [REDACTED] 105016



Get a signature like this: [Click here!](#)



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Beverly Burk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Beverly Burk  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Deborah Carroll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Deborah Carroll

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Street  
[REDACTED]  
New York, New York [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bridget Blair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My pre-existing condition will exclude me from being able to afford health insurance if this bill passes. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Bridget Blair

Atlanta, [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Autumn Ryan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy  
**Attachments:** image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

My name is Autumn Ryan and I live in Tulsa, Ok. I have a college degree & my husband has his masters. We've both always worked and had insurance until our sons, Charlie and Beau came along. My husband's employer provides our family's insurance and we've even purchased individual marketplace plans on top of our family insurance for our son Charlie, who has a genetic condition making his tumor suppressor not work, along with severe non-verbal autism. For the record, my husband has never attended public school, nor did his siblings. His father, Charles Barbour Ryan, was a pillar in the community before his untimely death. We belong to the same country club as Senator Inhofe. Our kids do not attend public schools either. This bill is not only devastating to the families who rely on Medicaid, but to all families with children-especially medically complex family members. Our state was one of the last in the country to mandate Autism Coverage. Our future insurance commissioner compared autism to obesity and fountain drinks to therapy. If the state gets the power to mandate care, we will lose coverage. Charlie has to have cancer screenings at least annually. He has to go to the hospital and be sedated for even dental cleaning, he goes to therapy 40 hours a week to teach him to brush his teeth and eat with utensils, maybe Potty training and hopefully communication. He works very hard at therapy and deserves every chance for happiness and self-reliance in life. His therapy is expensive. ER visits are expensive. Making sure he doesn't have a cancerous tumor is expensive. Radiology is expensive. So are adult diapers, adaptive clothing and psychiatric care to get Charlie's seven medications he takes a day. We are very fortunate that we can provide these things for him. But, this "healthcare" bill would end all of our family's hard work. Lifetime caps could be met in less than a year-or sooner. Pre existing conditions would preclude Charlie from anything related to autism or cancer. Removal of mental health parity would mean two deductibles to meet even if your policy covered it. I brought up private schools because I don't understand why it's perfectly acceptable to use our work product for public education we don't use but people say our child doesn't deserve their work product. My point is, this bill will eliminate access to care-it will restrict what we can pay for our children. Just because we care about healthcare does not mean we are asking for handouts. Everyone against this bill is not a "freeloader"-we are average people who own homes, take care of our families, pay our bills and support the community. This bill is reprehensible and absolutely cruel. Please don't take away our son's life. Please realize this is more than repealing the policy of a man you hate-it is bolstering the idea of selfishness and it is repealing the humanity of America.

Autumn B. Ryan  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bonnie Sample [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy bill

The impact of this latest desperate effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act would be to reduce access to health care for vulnerable Americans, price the care for existing conditions out of reach, and destabilize the health insurance industry. And thank you, John McCain, for insisting on proper procedures for creating legislation. Finally - most Americans are against this bill. I oppose this bill as well.

*-Bonita Sample  
Minneapolis, MN*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ira Kriston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Ira Kriston

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] #712  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kamens, Edward <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on Graham Cassidy Health Care proposal

Edward Kamens, New Haven, Connecticut

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catherine Butterfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

To Whom It May Concern,  
Graham Cassidy is unconscionable and wrong. I know you know it. Do the right thing.

Catherine Butterfield  
Santa Monica,CA

Sent from phone  
For more about my work go to  
[www.CatherineButterfield.com](http://www.CatherineButterfield.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Suzanne Harkness-Wood <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Suzanne Harkness-Wood

wo [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] Rd.,

[REDACTED] 12074



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jody Reiss <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:23 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments on affordable care

Before ACA I was paying over \$1000 a month for care since I was a self-employed social worker. With ACA I was able to get affordable care even with my preexisting conditions. I've now retired, am coping with Stage 4 chronic kidney disease, and am using expanded MediCal for coverage.

Please don't take away healthcare for tens of millions of people with the cruel Graham-Cassidy bill. Instead, work together for a bipartisan bill that extends health coverage to those who need it. Better yet, support Medicare for all.

Thank you  
Jody Reiss  
California

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erika Sward [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:23 PM  
**To:** Jurinka, Elizabeth (Finance); Dwyer, Anne (Finance); Woronoff, Arielle (Finance)  
**Cc:** Wright, Kevin (Finance); gchcomments  
**Subject:** American Lung Association - SFR  
**Attachments:** American Lung Association Statement for the Record - Graham-Cassidy 9-25-17.pdf

Liz, Anne & Arielle –

Attached is the American Lung Association's statement for the record for Monday's hearing. The document contains:

- A statement from our National President and CEO Harold P. Wimmer,
- The patient groups' consensus principles for healthcare reform
- A partner sign on letter the American Lung Association organized in February about healthcare for lung cancer patients.

I am sharing this tonight with all Senate Dems and we'll send it around to Republican offices on Monday as well as submit it officially for the record.

Please let me know if anything else would be helpful. I really cannot thank you enough for everything you all are doing. We're gonna get it done.

Erika

Erika Sward | Assistant Vice President, National Advocacy

American Lung Association  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

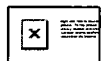
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**From:** Dee Dee Catalano <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save and improve the ACA

My son has autism/Aspergers and relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with disabilities and affordability is as follows: I worked part time as a grocery store clerk from age 56 to 67 so that we had healthcare and could keep my son covered. We had a small business so I worked there too. Blessedly, the union coverage would have kept him on as long as I worked. I finally applied for disability and medical coverage for him so that I could retire. At that time, he was 28 years old. I felt we should cover him and pay all of his expenses as long as we could. Now we have a modest retirement and are relieved that

he stays covered.... I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. Please consider the many people who need this coverage.

Sincerely, Deirdre Catalano  
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:25 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators:

Please vote NO on this bill! It will cause millions of Americans to lose coverage, raise premiums and out of pocket costs for millions of others, cap and cut Medicaid, and undercut protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Please don't be fooled into thinking otherwise.

Plus, you will be voting without waiting for an analysis from the Congressional Budget Office, which is shameful - just pushing this bill through to get a win, without regard for the harm it will cause millions.

The country is so tired of the divide in our government; we just want you to work together to come up with truly better solutions for all Americans' health care. Please don't let us down,

Sincerely,

Deborah A Karel  
San Francisco, California  
Voter

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** CenturyLink Customer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My son had multiple sclerosis -MS- a debilitating disease that has a wide range of symptoms, often leading to severe disability. It's cause is unknown and it has no cure. Since my son had signed up for long term disability and health insurance long before he had any symptoms. He just knew it was the right thing to do. Because he had planned ahead, and had an understanding employer, he was able to work for 9 more years. He needed expensive medication and went from being fully mobile to using a cane, then a walker, a manual wheelchair, finally a power wheelchair. Nevertheless, he worked fulltime, participated in the community and became a homeowner. He was responsible and hardworking, but became too handicapped to do the job, having lost a great part of his vision and manual dexterity as well. He could no longer safely live alone, so he sold his home and bought a house with his sister and brother-in-law. He qualified for disability insurance benefits, Medicare disability, and for Medicaid. If he had not had access to these programs, he would have been absolutely bedridden within a year or two. Because he was able to get the wide range of care he needed, his rate of decline was slowed, giving him another ten years. He remained active in the community to the best of his ability. He passed away in 2015 from lung complications brought on by the MS. I want everyone with a horrid disease to be able to get the care they need. We should retain the access to care provisions in Obamacare. Nothing should stand between a patient and their doctor. If Medicaid is cut as proposed in Graham-Cassidy, or if one's state chooses to do longer require coverage of pre-existing conditions, millions of people with MS & other diseases will suffer greatly and have to quit working much earlier than they should. Allowing health insurance companies to add a surcharge for pre-existing conditions will mean that most people with serious diseases will be unable to afford the level of insurance they need. This plan simply does not make sense. We need to keep people healthy as far as possible, and to be compassionate when tragedy strikes. Let's put this flawed bill aside and examine the problem with an emphasis on treating the populace while providing fair business opportunities in the insurance field. Right now health insurers are extremely concerned about having to provide a different structure for each of the 50 states. Cut the red tape that insurers face by simplifying the range of policies. Thank you for your attention, Mary Robert, 5721 Alegria Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Aaron Rubin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

My Aunt lives in Florida and has a number of pre-existing conditions and Obamacare saved her life. Without the protections enacted by ACA she would go bankrupt. Please don't repeal protections for pre-existing conditions. Please don't vote to kill my aunt.

Thank you,

Aaron Rubin

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cindy Harrington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please listen to us!!

My husband died two years ago of pancreatic cancer and the ONLY reason we got four months from diagnosis was wonderful care through mass health which is in fact Medicaid. This paid for fluid infusion and medicine to relieve his pain. He was mostly pain free as soon as he got his medication up until his death. He died of cardiac arrest. One worry we didn't have was medical expense because of the ACA. Please reconsider and find a solution to health care that allows all to be covered when in need.

Sincerely

Mrs. Cindy Harrington

Burlington Ma.

Registered Unenrolled Voter

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** C. R. Resetarits [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Effects of Graham-Cassidy Mississippi

Please help us. Don't hurt us.

C. R. Resetarits

[REDACTED]  
Oxford, MS 38655

From our regional paper

<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2017/06/28/who-medicaid-mississippi-recipients/418347001/>



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** John Ferrone [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

To the Esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opinion that the passage of the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill will result in catastrophic negative impact to the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

There are so many reasons to object to the proposed bill, and I will not repeat what many other more qualified people will report to you. But I will say this: **Taking away from those who are already challenged is not the American way.** Instead, please revisit health care holistically and figure out a way to serve Americans in a way that does not hurt us. I know you can figure it out on our behalf—that's why you were elected.

Thank you for your consideration.

John M. Ferrone

[REDACTED]  
Hastings, NE 68901  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ilene Schafer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it does not adequately protect people with preexisting conditions or Medicaid recipients. We need to protect all americans

Ilene Schafer  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Glycer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

I would ask members of Congress not to pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. I am the wife of a survivor of a traumatic brain injury and I know first hand the need for families to have access to Medicaid when necessary. I am also a Support Group Leader for the Alzheimer's Association and see frequently the need for financial support when caring for a loved one with this dreaded disease.

Please, please do not pass this bill that could have disastrous consequences for those already suffering.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Glycer

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rosemary Rawlins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** From a Caregiver

I am the wife of a survivor of traumatic brain injury, and I am currently insured under the ACA. The insurance my husband and I now receive has helped us both to continue to afford the medications we need, (I take medication for asthma) and to stay on top of developing chronic conditions. After my husband's TBI, he underwent a full year of rehabilitation and then continued cognitive rehabilitation, and this treatment allowed him to work an executive job for twelve more years...years in which he contributed taxes and worked to better the community. Without insurance, we would never have been able to afford the rehab he received. He still has a seizure disorder that is controlled with medication, but if he were to lose his insurance, the out of pocket expense may be too much for us, and this medication helps him to drive and be a contributing member of the community.

Please work to strengthen the ACA, not repeal it. This is too important to be a partisan issue. Undermining the insurance programs of families like ours hurts individuals and the economy.

VOTE NO on this bill.

Thank you,  
Rosemary and Hugh Rawlins

--  
Rosemary Rawlins  
Author, Editor, Speaker, Blogger  
Editor, BrainLine.org Blogs

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Terry Sperlich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care legislation

One hurricane and you wipe out all the money allotted to Florida or Texas.  
One opiod epidemic and you wipe out states like Ohio and North Carolina.

Medicaid, pre-existing conditions, foreclosures etc.. These things are real issues. If you really want to fire up your opposition come election time, vote for this bill. People don't want it. Those who support Republicans will be some of those hit hardest.

Please have mercy.  
Terry Sperlich

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sasha Stewart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal

Alexandra Stewart  
[REDACTED]

New York, NY 10023

Statement to be entered into the record for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal on September 25, 2017.

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote "No" on the Graham-Cassidy bill. When I was a senior in college, I was diagnosed with a genetic condition that caused my kidneys to fail rapidly. There was nothing I could do to prevent it or slow its progression. Out of the goodness of her heart, my aunt volunteered to give me one of her kidneys, and I had the transplant a few months later. I recovered and even graduated from college on time with honors. The surgery was covered through Medicare (Medicare covers End-Stage Renal Disease, thanks to a bill signed by a Republican, President Nixon), which also covered three years of post-transplant medications to keep my kidney and me healthy. Thankfully, after that, the Affordable Care Act was passed, and I was able to stay on my parents' insurance until I was twenty-six, ensuring I was always able to pay for my medications even when I was between jobs or at jobs that didn't offer insurance. After I turned twenty-six, insurers couldn't deny me based on my transplant (a pre-existing condition), and I was able to receive the essential health benefits from insurance, like prescription drug coverage, that I needed to stay healthy. Without those protections, I could lose my coverage or receive inadequate coverage and no longer be able to pay for my medications (which cost thousands of dollars a month without insurance). Without my medications, I would lose my kidney and die, and my aunt's precious gift of life would be lost. There are millions of stories like mine, and this Graham-Cassidy bill would hurt them all.

Thirty-two million Americans will likely lose coverage because of this bill. That's more than any of the previous GOP healthcare bills. Because of the \$4.1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and ending the ACA expansion and tax credits, it will cause at least a 20% increase in premiums. That's not just premiums for people in the marketplace, it's for everyone - people who get their insurance through their employer and people who aren't currently sick. It strips protections away from people with pre-existing conditions. It takes away the essential health benefits. It defunds Planned Parenthood and strips away protections for women, something Senators Collins and Murkowski promised to vote against. It punishes states that expanded Medicaid and bought into the ACA marketplace. It creates an age tax and punishes people for the mere act of getting older. It would allow insurers to charge you \$17 thousand more for coverage, and \$144 thousand more if you or a loved one gets cancer. Vote "No" on Graham-Cassidy and allow the Affordable Care Act to continue saving lives like mine every day.

Thank you,  
Alexandra Stewart

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julie Holloway <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham senate

Cassidy Graham senate finance committee Hearing 9/25/2017. 2pm

Julie Holloway  
[REDACTED]

Brookfield, wi. 53045

Dear Senate

The piece of legislation you are considering is very important. This is actually a life and death decision for my son. He needs health care coverage but has been battling stage IV lymphoma for two years and has recently had a bone marrow transplant. He is only 25 years old. Every day he fights for his life. What a terrible tragic worry to add concern about not having adequate or any health coverage while battling through chemo and unbearable discomfort.

Please think of yourself at 25!

What if you got cancer?

What if you were so sick you couldn't work but if you don't work you don't have health coverage?

Can you imagine how frightened you would be?

My son deserves to have health care. Every American does.

As I watched people being rescued via helicopters in Houston I was struck by the public service that was provided these needy people. They weren't asked for an insurance card or sent a bill after being rescued? Our firefighters don't bill families if their home burns down, why in the world don't we have an equally compassionate health care system. People don't choose to be sick. They would much prefer to be well. Please don't take away their dignity as they battle for health care to stay alive.

It's tragic. YOU CAN VOTE NO TO Cassidy Graham. Please ask yourself what if it's you, what if it's your child, your grandchild.

Any plan that is put forth to the American people should be the same plan our congress and senate have. You have the power to enhance lives. Please vote NO!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Repealing the ACA

Throwing millions of Americans off health insurance plans is deadly plan that benefits only those who are already rich. It is as stupid as denying the climate crisis. America will not be able to cope with the masses of deaths and degree of destruction from ignoring the reality of human needs. The rich will also suffer, though first they will watch while the rest of us who cannot afford to buy protection from the corrupt system established by those delusional few who think their money makes them more worthy.

Sheila Smith  
Salinas, CA

Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Matt Stafford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Greetings, distinguished committee and Senators I am also e-mailing. My name is Matt Stafford. I am from High Point North Carolina. I work at the High Point YMCA as a volunteer and I'm a freelance. I'm a graduate of Cleveland State University. I'm also a member of ADAPT of North Carolina. And I am on Medicaid. It is thanks to Medicaid that I can live on my own apart from my parents. This a luxury that the vast majority of disabled people do not have. If we gut Medicaid, they will likely never have it.

I have cerebral palsy and epilepsy. I was born with the first and developed the latter when I was 16. I have to take medicine that costs roughly \$500 a month last I checked when I called the pharmacy (for the purpose of writing a letter on the subject. No private insurance company would cover me unless they were legally forced to by law. In fact, almost every disability is a pre-existing condition (including your son's autism Sen. Tillis). Before the ACA, flawed though it was, it was nearly impossible for the disabled to get health insurance.

The high-risk pools were a joke. You'll note that the only people cheering for their return are people who have never been in them. Only two states had a measure of success Minnesota, a deep blue state fully funded their high-risk pool. Alaska, though a deep red state, was able to fund theirs because the disabled population is substantially smaller and their revenues are supplemented by oil companies. There is no intellectually honest way to compare it to the other states. Getting into the high-risk pools in the other states was like pulling teeth while simultaneously being on fire. And the high-risk pools were so expensive, they were almost useless.

Voluntary charity, another common conservative proposal, is a bigger joke. Don't believe me? Go on GoFundMe for more than 5 minutes. Most healthcare related fundraisers fail and fail hard. Unless you're white, adorable, and have stories aired on two or three TV news outlets, chances are your attempt to crowdsource your medical bills will fail.

Most other charities do very little for the day-to-day lives of the disabled. And the few that do, require you to enter some contest to prove you're "worthy" of a new wheelchair van or some other such medical equipment.

That's what I like about Medicaid. It's not a competition to see who is more worthy of life.

But getting back to Graham Cassidy. The main idea, letting individual states decide whether or not insurance companies will have to cover disabled people, is a nice idea on paper. But much like invading Russia in winter, is not a good idea in reality. Put simply, what will happen is that the disabled will flee for the states that make it reasonably easy to get healthcare. Those that can anyway. Moving while disabled, even a few cities over, is a logistical nightmare. Moving to a different state entirely is an exercise in giving yourself a bad case of insanity. My family did it. It took literal years to pull off that miracle.

But when there is a mass exodus of at least 10% (disabled people are roughly 20% of the population of most states) from roughly 25-30 states, there's going to be problems. Insurance companies and Medicaid systems will not be able to handle the large-scale influx of sick people. This will cause a systemic breakdown.

Block-granting Medicaid and giving more "flexibility" to states won't work either. What you'll get is states using "flexibility" to raid Medicaid funds for pet projects like tourist traps. It would be just like the way they do education lottery money. Only instead of Little Johnny not having the most up to date textbook, Little Johnny does not get treatment if he gets childhood cancer.

There may be a way to ensure that sick people are given actual coverage and make sure that insurance companies have their needs met. And even they say is a bad idea.

And when disability rights groups and the health insurance industry agree on something, you need to reconsider your course of action.

-Matt Stafford.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Gemma Wilson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because 32 million people will be forced off of health insurance. Those with preexisting conditions will be priced out of coverage, and many people will go bankrupt and lose everything.

This bill is as cruel as other similar bills. Taking away people's health insurance is not a pro-life stance.

PLEASE vote no on this bill!

Gemma Wilson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Kathleen Sharp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

My name is Kathleen Sharp and as of this month, I have health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The Graham-Cassidy bill will make a big change to so many people's lives-for the worse. This bill is another attempt to pretend they are helping people with healthcare when they are not. Giving healthcare to the states is a terrible idea when we have governors in many states who need help and refused to allow Medicare expansion. The states that need the help will not get it and this bill will ensure the failure of our current healthcare system.

Kathleen Sharp

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Sandra Devine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:37 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it strips millions of people of care and robs families of basic protections.

Sandra Devine

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Allison Uhl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Hello,

I am the manager of the Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program and Loyola University Medical Center outside of Chicago. I can't emphasize enough the importance of medicare and medicaid for our populations. I have, in my 7 years as a heart failure nurse, had the heart wrenching experience of explaining to a patient why a heart transplant is not an option for them due to their lack of insurance (or lack of *good* insurance, which is just as problematic). The alternative to heart transplant is death.

My patients die without extremely expensive treatments. These are preventable deaths. Heart failure is the number 1 killer in the United States. We cannot say that we think all US citizen deserve health care while removing the option of medicaid and medicare, and other affordable care options to these same citizens. I recognize that the GOP feels medicaid is too expensive, and that it is abused. Like all good laws, I'm sure it sometimes is. However the vast majority of my patients *want* to work, they *want* to support their families, but their doctors prohibit them from working. These are not lazy people just looking for a payout. They are patients with constant shortness of breath, at high risk of sudden death, who have no option outside of advanced medical treatment. Taking away the public option for these low income individuals is cruel. You will see deaths as a result of this. And until Senators are the ones having these tearful discussions with these patients, explaining to them they will die in the next 6 months, that we will make it as painless as possible, I do not want to hear that this is the best option. We can do better and we should do better.

It is also worth mentioning that I am a 30 year old married woman who is considering having children soon. I have been intentional with my plans not to have children until this time, as I worked on my career. I am absolutely horrified to see the price tag that Graham-Cassidy feels is acceptable for prenatal and postnatal care. It is absolutely shameful. Seeing as the United States has one of the worst maternal mortality rates in *any* developed country, I would think our leaders would want to do all they can to improve maternal access to prenatal care.

I have yet to hear a Republican Senator state the benefits of this bill. The fact that it "repeals Obamacare" is not a benefit in the eyes of the American people. Repealing a less than perfect bill with a horrific bill is not an improvement. I demand that the Senate places *people over party*, and perhaps begin utilizing the Golden Rule we all learned in preschool "treat others as you want to be treated". I would like to see our Senators put their families on these bare-bones insurance plans that will be the standard if this bill is passed.

I welcome you to contact me at any time to expand on my thoughts. I write as a fierce patient advocate and as a patient myself. My patients trust me to fight for them.

**Allison Uhl, RN, BSN**

**Heart Transplant & Heart Failure Program Administrator**

Loyola University Medical Center

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** William Schmitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Support This Bill

Senators,

I beg you to please block the Graham-Cassidy bill that will soon come up for a vote. This bill will certainly do harm to millions of US Citizens and should not be considered for any reason. We cannot count on individual states to provide the basic protections that the Affordable Care Act provides so it is necessary to make this a national law.

Please put the citizens of this country first. A healthy country is a more productive country. Increased tax base, fewer overall health costs, and less dependency on government programs as a result.

Thank you,

William J. Schmitt  
[REDACTED]  
Naperville, IL 60565

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Elizabeth Vasil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it puts the most vulnerable at the mercy of conglomerates. Think about the people who desperately need to be protected and do not vote for this heartless dangerous bill. We need a bipartisan approach with open and transparent back and forth. The shadiness of this backroom deal is deplorable and should not be tolerated by ANY member of the senate or congress. Let's have due process for a bill that could negatively affect millions of people. This is not a bill for the people. It is an act of pettiness. Don't be a part of validating playground tactics. Vote against this bill and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Elizabeth Vasil  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Lindsey Buck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To whom it may concern,

The Graham Cassidy Bill is a bad deal for Americans. It exposes our most vulnerable people and hurts those who need it most. Health care is a right, not a privilege for the rich. Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you,  
Lindsey Buck  
Bozeman, MT 59718



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Joseph Hedden Jr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because .... It will essentially destabilize the health care economy. Hospitals will lose out as will doctors and insurers. Patients will fare the worst. Especially poor patients and those without full time employment and those with expensive health conditions. Please vote no.

Joseph Hedden Jr

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Itamar Ben-Porath [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I would like to share with you some personal stories.

A close family friend of mine had a daughter recently who was born with a serious heart condition. She required multiple open-heart surgeries in the first few weeks of her life. Were it not for the ACA, she would have hit her lifetime cap and had no healthcare coverage for the rest of her life. Under Graham-Cassidy, infants in her position would not be so lucky.

Another family friend of mine suffered a stroke in 2004. She was stuck in a job she hated for years because nobody else would insure her. As soon as the ACA passed, she went and started a small business. Graham-Cassidy would force her to go hunting for desk jobs again.

I am 19 years old. I have a disability known as POTS. Under Graham-Cassidy, my access to affordable health insurance would be at the mercy of my state government.

Please stop this bill before it can hurt millions of Pennsylvanians and tens of millions of Americans.

Thank you very much,  
Itamar Ben-Porath

Itamar Ben-Porath  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laurie Shook [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** jguerney@familyvoices.org  
**Subject:** GCH Bill

Hello,

My name is Laurene Shook and we live in Tempe, AZ. My child is Adilynn and she is an amazingly beautiful medically complex 4 year old girl who we adopted. Addie loves to go to the park, play board games, and listen to music. She is smart, loving, and confident. All of these things are how she should be described, not by her diagnosis. In this case, it is important to point out the other side of her life. Days and even weeks in the hospital, chronic infections, plasma infusions ever three weeks, feeding therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, tons of doctor appointments, machines that help to keep her alive, and so much more. You see, Addie was born with a genetic condition that has never been noted before. She has a combined immune deficiency, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Holes in her heart, spinal and brain tumors, slow stomach motility, and eye issues. The list could go on and on but I think you get the point.

I had planned on returning to work in July 2013 after taking a six week leave to bond with our beautiful baby. That wasn't in the cards. I had to quit my well paying job that I had been at for 5 years to care for our medically fragile child who required numerous surgeries throughout the first year of life and many after that year. We are well aware of the rising cost for insurance, because we pay them through my husbands employer. We thankfully have Medicaid for our daughter who is deemed medically disabled, and that covers much of our out of pocket. Adilynns treatments alone are over \$20,000 every three weeks. They give her an immune system that helps her to live a "normal" life. This doesn't include our doctors co-payments, hundreds of thousands of dollars in hospital admissions, therapy costs, machine rentals, specialty formulas, and medicines. We struggle enough to pay all of our bills on one income. If this bill passes, it would devastate us financially, emotionally, and would most likely impact her medical care drastically. SO many families would be impacted by this. Medical care shouldn't just be an option for the rich. These kids didn't choose to be born with issues, they didn't cause this to happen to themselves, it was the cards they were dealt. We are so truly blessed to have our special, wonderful, and beautiful daughter. We need to do what we can to protect and fight for her and all of the other children who don't have the voices to stand up to this bill.

Medical issues can happen to ANYONE. Everyone is one illness, one car accident, one newborn family member away from it being you. Please help to say no to congress and vote no on this bill. Please help our family and so many others who rely on the services to survive. Help save these children and their families. I am happy to meet with you in person and let you talk with her and see that SHE matters. I know many families would do this. Please hear our stories and know that this is our entire world and it is in your hands.

Thank you,  
Laurie Shook

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Marianne Roken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Healthcare Bill

Delivery of health care in the US needs a fix but the Graham- Cassidy Bill is not it. Republicans are trying to jam through a disappointing bill in total darkness. Every patient and health organization warns that this bill is a disaster.

Millions of Americans' healthcare, including tens of thousands of Delawareans, is at stake. This is the most important thing right now and the issue you need to be focusing on. I don't think anything else is worth healthcare getting ripped away from millions of Americans.

Americans want affordable insurance with essential benefits, without lifetime caps, and without higher rates for preexisting conditions. Every other developed country manages to provide this for their citizens.

Very truly yours,

Marianne Roken

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Theresa Donnelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because ....  
I am worried about people I know and love and frankly all Americans who will lose access to vital health care. Don't let this happen.

Theresa Donnelly

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Theresa Donnelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because ....  
I am worried about people I know and love and frankly all Americans who will lose access to vital health care. Don't let this happen.

Theresa Donnelly

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Wayne Jenness [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please reject Graham Cassidy

Hello,

This bill has no business being entertained by the Senate.

The cuts to Medicaid are draconian, immoral, and downright dangerous.

People WILL be hurt and killed by this legislation.

Instead of tearing down the healthcare system, please listen to the many medical organizations who oppose this bill:

The American Medical Association  
The American Psychiatric Association  
The American Public Health Association  
The National Institute for Reproductive Health  
The Federation of American Hospitals  
The American Academy of Pediatrics  
The Association of American Medical Colleges  
The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

and many more.

This bill is bad for the poor.  
This bill is bad for the elderly.  
This bill is bad for sick.  
This bill is bad for women.

This bill is bad for America.

Instead, PLEASE work in a bi-partisan way to strengthen the ACA's individual markets, find ways to increase competition among insurers across the country, and fix the problems with the ACA. Do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Essential health benefits should be just that, ESSENTIAL. They shouldn't be able to be disposed of with a waiver.

Medicaid is at the foundation of the social contract this country has operated on. Don't renege on that contract. Your responsibility is to the most vulnerable among us. Not the most valuable.

Changing Medicaid from its current form into a block-grant system takes the power away from the end user and the doctor, and instead gives it to the politicians in every state. The way to smaller government is not to create 50 different ways of doing things and ways to pay for things. That is creating a bureaucratic nightmare the likes of which this country may never recover from.

The ACA has allowed many of my friends to have access to health care for the first time in their lives. Don't rip healthcare away from them. Don't rip their lives away from them.

Please use your positions on the committee to send a message to the country that you will fight for everyone in this country, and tear up Graham Cassidy. Move forward in a fully bi-partisan way, get buy in from everyone, and pass something that can meet the 60 vote threshold of regular legislation.

Using reconciliation to hammer this through in short order is gutless, conniving, and immoral.

Anything that impacts the lives of so many millions of Americans should be able to garner at least sixty votes in the world's greatest deliberative body.

Work to find a consensus that will improve the lives of Americans. Do not hammer through a partisan sham that will ruin lives.

Thank you for your time and your service to the country.

Sincerely,

Wayne Jenness  
Lowell, MA 01852



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Monica McCurdy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators:

I am opposed the Graham-Cassidy Bill currently being pushed through the Senate because it will result in people with pre existing conditions to be charged premiums they may not be able to afford and because Medicaid block grants to the state will result in sick children, elderly and the poor to be denied insurance when block grant funds run out. The bill is not a solution to our healthcare crisis. It is simply a lame attempt for senators and congressmen to hang on for dear life to their jobs. For those senators who vote for this bill and God forbid it is signed into law, I hope you are haunted by the thousands of people who will die for your selfishness.

Dissent is patriotic.

Monica Medina McCurdy  
Physician Assistant

Monica McCurdy  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Christi Flor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill  
**Attachments:** IMG\_20170818\_085032.jpg; 2017-08-24-20-41-16.jpg; FB\_IMG\_1497792169806.jpg

Do you have children? My first born was born with a very severe congenital heart defect and has endured three MAJOR open heart surgeries. She is four years old and she has hit what her 'lifetime cap' would be. Mia has fought so hard to be where we are and she will always need to fight. With this new health bill Mia's chances of survival will be cut down to almost nothing. We need daily medications, regular appointments and the chance of surgeries in the future is VERY likely. Please do not allow this bill to take effect! Please do not reduce my child's chance of survival by taking on a health bill that will minimize those with Pre-Existing Conditions. We rely on Medicaid so my daughter can survive and so do millions of other families!

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Susan Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH Comment

- People with disabilities rely on Medicaid, and the per capita caps and cuts included in Graham-Cassidy will jeopardize our health, threaten our independence, and put lives at risk.
- The Medicaid cuts in Graham-Cassidy will limit access to home and community-based services, which will result in more disabled people and older adults being forced into costly institutions.
- Allowing states to waive protections for people with pre-existing conditions will make coverage unaffordable for many - and many of those are people with disabilities.
- **Please oppose Graham-Cassidy and any other bill that cuts, caps, or imposes block grants or per capita caps on Medicaid**

*Susan Lewis, LLC*

Independent Living Coordinator  
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.

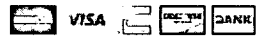
[REDACTED]  
Cortland, NY 13045

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Web site: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** John Sitter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill is bad for America

If the Graham-Cassidy bill is as benign as its sponsors insist, let's have a full impact analysis by the Congressional Budget Office before a vote. Otherwise, we must assume it will hurt millions of our fellow citizens.

John Sitter  
[REDACTED]  
South Bend, IN 46617

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My objection to repealing and replacing existing Obamacare legislation

Dear Senators,

In my opinion as a American citizen, the Graham Cassidy bill would be much less effective than the existing Obamacare legislation for moving toward meeting the health care needs of all Americans in an economically fair way.

Obamacare as it exists today meets this goal much, much better than the proposed legislation.

- 1) Many more Americans including those with preexisting conditions have and are able to afford comprehensive health insurance.
- 2) Individuals and families are required to pay as much as they can afford for their own insurance, thus minimizing the subsidies that are met by the taxpayers.
- 3) Requiring health insurance recognizes the reality in our society that uninsured individuals will nevertheless be treated at public expense. Therefore society has a right to force people to share in paying for their own care.
- 4) Obamacare is proving effective in reducing personal bankruptcies from large, unanticipated medical expenses.

For these and other reasons, please do NOT pass the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Sincerely,

Robert W Row

[REDACTED]  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
[REDACTED]

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Chad Costello [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Greetings from a blue state that stands to lose \$78 billion dollars in healthcare funding if you pass this horrible piece of legislation.

A vote in favor of this bill is a vote in favor of killing people. That is not hyperbole – that is what will happen.

You're voting for a bill that only 12%-15% of people in this country support (that number would probably drop if folks had more time to read and understand it).

If you are a Republican and you are voting for this, your future Democratic opponent thanks you for supplying wonderful material for their future attack ads against you. If you are in a contest that is anywhere close to being close, you will lose, and you will forever be known as a heartless human being.

If you vote no against this, maybe your Republican colleagues would publicly denounce you – privately however, I think they would probably thank you for saving the country's soul.

Sincerely,

Chad Costello

Someone who works with homeless folks whose lives have been saved because of having coverage under the ACA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** James Hesky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Don't Take Away Healthcare

As someone who works with special needs adults and relies on the essential health benefits in order to maintain health insurance, I am begging you not to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. It will destroy individuals, families, communities, and entire industries who rely on Medicaid funding.

If my client loses services, that will not only affect him, but also take money from all the people who work to help him become more independent. If we lose our income, then we won't be able to be contributing members of the economy with a disposable income, and that will hurt small businesses. If 2008 didn't teach us that the financial collapse of one sector of the economy impacts everything else, then we're screwed.

This bill is immoral, unjust, and awful for the economy. I urge every senator to vote against it.

Sincerely,  
James Hesky

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Na Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Do not pass this bill unless it guarantees health care for women (including maternity care), basic pediatric care, and mandates that no one with pre-existing conditions has to pay more for a policy. Since the current bill does not, don't pass it.

Nancy Brown  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** wanda sgro <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham

You will take away millions of people's healthcare just to say you have a win!  
You may have a short term win but in the long run you will pay dearly!  
There is a reason more people are in favor of the Dems. controlling Congress.. They have heart.  
Let's rip your insurance away from you and see how you like it!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cindy Deming [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA repeal bill

This bill is horrible. I have a daughter who is a single parent with a chronic condition. And a son who works hard, is raising a daughter and depends on his ACA insurance. Neither will be able to have coverage if this bill is passed. It is simply cruel.

Cindy Deming  
Solana beach Ca

/c

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Holly Keltner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham-Cassidy

I am a woman. My gender should not make me a preexisting condition. My husband has a heart issue and before the ACA, we couldn't get coverage when we had to move and before he found a job. Stop making your constituents live in fear. Stabilize the markets and fix what's wrong with the ACA. Find a way to work across the aisle. This is what you were all hired to do.

Holly Keltner  
Batavia, IL

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Lawrence Becker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Congress needs to be covered under EXACTLY the the same health plans as all other Americans in the individual market.

Congress MUST prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions. Everyone's destiny is healthcare.

Congress cannot be allowed to reduce Medicaid as tens of millions in nursing homes rely on it and will rely on it as everyone's destiny is aging.

Children who rely on Medicaid cannot denied, restricted or reduced in their coverage.

Who are we if we don't take care of our children, our elderly and our sick?

Thank you  
Larry Becker  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Wendy Fritz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Senators,

I am writing as a very concerned citizen, appalled at what appears to be yet another attempt by the GOP to strip healthcare from millions and financially benefit the rich and the few, simply to say that they repealed the ACA.

I am confident that if you are thinking people who have actually studied the bill and thought through the likely outcomes, you realize that this will return us to the days of unaffordable coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, and for certain types of services. It will certainly devastate LTC programs for disabled and frail elderly that are dependent on Medicaid funding. Furthermore complete disregard, even disdain, for women's health issues comes through loud and clear in GC.

Across party lines, voters reject these measures. Stop wasting our time and money on this garbage. Stop trying to limit how much the gov't spends on INSURANCE , and get serious about legislation that controls the cost of healthcare provision, so that everyone can afford to take adequately take care of their health.

We demand a bipartisan solution to affordable health care.

Wendy

[REDACTED]  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jonathan Mellor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposed to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Bill. The bill has not yet received a CBO score, but could result in 30 million Americans losing their health coverage. Trying to upend 1/6 of the American economy with a rushed bill that is opposed by basically all of the relevant stakeholders is irresponsible and morally wrong.

Congress should work through the normal committee system to devise a bi-partisan solution to the ACA's many deficiencies.

Best Regards,  
Jonathan Mellor, PhD  
New Haven, CT

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Becky Marshall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not pass Graham Cassidy; fix the ACA

Please do not pass this harmful bill. Please instead work to improve the ACA. Listen to your constituents.

Passing this legislation would be devastating for every American across the country, young, old, healthy, and not. It is unfathomable that people would be this cruel to others.

My father has Parkinson's disease and passing this bill would be a death sentence. Why would you be ok with killing my father? My mother has health issues as well; this bill could kill her too. Further, they are both seniors with minimal income. Forcing them to pay more for health care, if they could get any because of their pre-existing conditions, would be obscene.

All to what end? To be that heartless? To keep a campaign promise? No one keeps campaign promises, do not keep this one. For tax cuts to people who don't need them? Just stop.

I know many people who have relied upon the ACA who would have died or gone broke without it. Every human being has a pre-existing condition. I'm sure you all know people, friends or family, that have made use of the program and it has helped them. Why would you purposefully do them harm?

If you pass this bill, you should be required to visit hospitals daily, look dying people in the eye because you took away their health care when they otherwise could have survived.

Do not pass Graham Cassidy. Stop this destructiveness.

Thank you,  
Becky Marshall  
Chicago, Illinois

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michael Graziano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because of the cuts to Medicaid funding which be detrimental to children with disabilities throughout the commonwealth. I am asking that all efforts be made by our legislators to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

Michael Graziano

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Janice Nathan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I had a kidney transplant and am self-employed. Access to comprehensive healthcare I can afford is not a choice for me. I will die without it. I also have an adult brother with autism and an 85-year-old father. My entire family will be severely affected by this bill. Please consider the millions of us who will be hurt by this horrible bill.

I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to hear me.

Janice Nathan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kit Zupan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham

Dear Senate,

How on earth could you do this to us - your fellow Americans ?!?! Are you completely unaware of how cruel and unchristian this bill is or

is it always "all about those who bribe me by 'donating' to my campaign" with you? Enough with the corporate welfare. Enough with the bribery!

Stop selling your souls, and our lives, for a buck. This bill will kill thousands outright as they lose their health insurance. This bill will bankrupt

millions of already struggling Americans. The question is NOT one of access, it is a question of VALUE FOR MONEY. Buying cheap insurance

that covers nothing is a complete waste of time and money and you know this - so, why are you seeking to this except for the money being shoved

into your pockets by the health insurance CEOs who are already being paid obscene salaries and by the Koch brothers who are so unpatriotic

that they are willing to kill their fellow Americans just to make a point? My point is quite easy to understand.

Stop trying to kill us.

The Affordable Care Act might not be flawless but it works and works well. Your constituents, many with chronic health problems already, are

enjoying effective medical care for the first time. Think of how they will feel when lose that care. Even defunding Planned Parenthood will not save

you if their loved ones die. How would you feel if your senators turned away while your loved ones died because they couldn't get the care they

needed because they didn't have insurance and/or didn't have the money to pay for it. Would you be rejoicing? I would not. Why would they

continue to vote for you or for your party once they feel the full impact of this disgusting 'death-care' you and your party are trying to promulgate -

they wouldn't. Republicans used to be the Grand Old Party but now, they are nothing but Greed Over People, the party of the rich 1% and no one

else. Wreck the ACA - go right on ahead- do it. We all know why you want to - a black man did it - and you are doing this for the bribe money.

We will be sure to tell everyone that you, personally, have their blood on your hands. We won't let them ever forget it. And as the economy tanks

due to the tax cuts to the rich you included in the bill, we won't let your constituents forget that too. They'll lose their jobs and then their homes.

Then you will never win another election ever.

You can't burn down the house and live in it too.

Sincerely,  
Kit Zupan

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Eileen Radcliffe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy  
**Attachments:** Vote NO on Graham Cassidy.docx

Dear Senators,

My name is Eileen Radcliffe and I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill. There are so many reasons why this is wrong, including the fact that it is a straight political, partisan move, being rushed through without the benefit of review and debate. It is so disheartening that this is what our government has come to.

In addition, it is wrong because of the content of the bill, the actual policy itself. The fact that protections offered under ACA are removed is wrong. The fact that states can remove protections for those with pre-existing conditions by allowing insurers to charge whatever they want, is wrong. The fact that "adequate and affordable" is so vague and subjective that it does not offer any guarantees to anyone, is wrong. The fact that Medicaid directors in all 50 states are against this, as well as every major medical organization, and yet you are proceeding, is wrong. All of this serves as proof that those that vote for this bill do not care at all about their constituents or the health of the people of the US.

I am a 47-year-old woman, married to a US Army Veteran, and we have four children under the age of 18. My husband retired honorably from the Army, and our health insurance is provided through the government. Of the six of us, five have what would definitely be considered pre-existing conditions. These pre-existing conditions include asthma, food allergies, seasonal allergies, and ADHD. We also have a son with Down syndrome who has a mild hearing loss that requires him to have tubes placed in his ears. He's on his 8<sup>th</sup> set of tubes, at 9 years old. He needs Speech Therapy services outside of school, and routine checkups with a handful of specialists. None of us has or has had a devastating illness, thankfully, and all of our pre-existing conditions are controlled through routine checkups and having excellent medical care and attention available to us. We are, I believe, a "typical" American family in terms of our health care needs, and yet all of that may go away due to this new bill. We may face financial hardship due to this new bill. We may have to question whether we can seek treatment and/or fill necessary prescriptions due to this new bill.

I challenge any member of Congress who plans to vote for this to find a family that does not have any member who may suffer under this bill. Any family without a grandparent that needed nursing home care, an aging parent nearing retirement, a young mother, a child with special needs. I challenge you to find that within your own families. Your self-serving, partisan efforts are hurting your constituents and all Americans. At best, you are rushing this through to "get a win" or "follow through on a campaign promise" to repeal and replace Obamacare. At worst, you are knowingly supporting a bill that will hurt Americans because of the demands of your biggest, wealthiest donors, you don't want to lose those future campaign funds and you owe them on the promise of a big tax cut. Both are despicable reasons.

Please put the interests of the American people ahead of your own agenda. Please work together in bi-partisan committees to improve the ACA and provide the basic necessity of health care to all Americans.

Respectfully,  
Eileen Radcliffe

[REDACTED]  
Holliston MA 01746

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy

I gave birth to a healthy baby; fourteen hours later, she had a stroke. She spent her first twelve days in NICU, which was the most terrifying, agonizing time in my life. I cannot fathom what it would have been like for a family to go through that under the conditions of the Graham-Cassidy bill made into law. She would have exceeded the lifetime caps for insurance *before she left the hospital*. It would have bankrupted my family to bring our baby home.

Say no to destroying the health, finances, and lives of tens of millions of Americans in exchange for \$400 million dollars of Koch campaign donations. Say no to Graham-Cassidy.

Colleen Campbell, Somerville, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lorna <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Damage to economy by Graham Cassidy healthcare repeal bill in senate

How dare Mitch McConnell and his band of dreary men attempt to affect 1/6 of the US Economy in such a haphazard way. McConnell and his buddies are fiscally IRRESPONSIBLE. I suggest to you that this Graham Cassidy healthcare bill "repeal" attempt be condemned due to the lack of "regular order" in the US senate." Please find any way possible to stop the vote. The senate has not had the CBO estimate the potential cost or effect on our country. How can the senate vote for something that could destroy 1/6 of our economy?

Thanks,  
Lorna

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Barbara Clark <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

To the Senate Finance Committee

I am a 54 year old woman with a pre-existing condition and I have a 15 year old son with a pre-existing condition. If the Graham-Cassidy bill goes through I will no longer be able to afford the health care we need to manage our illnesses, and our lives will be in jeopardy. I am not speaking lightly: OUR ILLNESSES ARE LIFE THREATENING WITHOUT PROPER HEALTH CARE.

In addition to considering all the lives that may and will be lost, I beg you to consider these KEY POINTS when considering the GrahamCassidy Repeal and Replace Act.

This is a vote to reorder one-sixth of the US economy without a CBO score. The bare minimum required for beginning consideration on this bill should be a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score.

All 50 Medicaid Directors have come out against this bill. "Taken together, the per-capita caps and the envisioned block grant would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history," NAMD's board of directors wrote in a statement Thursday.

The bill contains provisions that would allow states to waive key consumer protections and undermine safeguards for those with pre-existing condition.

The bill reduces funding for many states significantly and would increase uncertainty in the marketplace, making coverage more expensive and jeopardizing Americans' choice of health plans.

The bill does not ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable Americans.

With only a few legislative days left for there clearly is not sufficient time for policymakers, Governors, Medicaid Directors, or other critical stakeholders to engage in the thoughtful deliberation necessary to ensure successful long-term reforms.

Please use a bipartisan approach to improve and mend the ACA for the sake of all in need and many hardworking average Americans like myself who will be gravely harmed.

Thank you for considering the views of The People who do not want you to destroy their opportunity to have healthcare.

Sincerely,

Barbara Clark

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hallett, Timothy Paul <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comment on Cassidy/Graham

To the members of the committee,

As a concerned citizen I have one simple comment on the Cassidy/Graham Healthcare bill:

Are we really going to pass a bill that reorganizes 1/6th of our economy without so much as a CBO evaluation? This is madness. Please don't do this.

Tim Hallett

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** wamakajina [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I hope you are overwhelmed with emails, letters and phone calls from voters and healthcare professionals opposing the Graham-Cassidy bill. I hope you are receiving so many messages that you don't have time to read mine. But just in case, I would like to focus on one aspect of the ACA: the individual mandate.

I am an American who lived and worked for many years in Germany, where what we in the US refer to as an "individual mandate" is a key component of a system in which nearly everyone (99.9%, according to an October 2016 study) has health insurance. Individuals can choose between publicly-subsidized insurance (Krankenkasse) and private insurance, but, with few exceptions, they cannot choose to be uninsured. This greatly reduces or eliminates (1) high costs arising from lack of preventive care and (2) personal bankruptcy (and the related costs to the economy) as a result of medical bills.

As I'm sure you know, Germany spends significantly less per capita on healthcare than the United States, but enjoys better public health outcomes (life expectancy, maternal mortality, infant mortality, etc.). I am convinced the legal requirement for health insurance is one main reason.

Here in the United States, some people (maybe even some of you) regard the individual mandate as an affront to American values, freedom, individual liberty. Well, what about my freedom, as a responsible, insured citizen not to foot the bill (in the form of higher costs) for someone who thought he was invincible but got hit by a truck? Tell me whose individual liberty is furthered when a baby ends up in the NICU because the mother had no access to basic, cheap prenatal care? I would much rather contribute to a stable, compassionate system that insures everyone than continue to watch my costs escalate out of control.

I have heard that some Senators believe they need to repeal the ACA because the repeal was a campaign promise. News flash: no one, really no one, expects a politician to keep a campaign promise. What we do expect is for you, with all the resources available to you, to make decisions that will improve American lives today and in the future. Please do not hide behind a guise of this foolish campaign promise and deny Americans the economic benefits and human compassion of the ACA.

You have an opportunity to be great. You have an opportunity to soar above those who merely regurgitate political mantras. Make American healthcare the envy of all the world and VOTE NO to Graham-Cassidy.

Sincerely,

Marlene Greenberg



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't repeal ACA until you have something better

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please do not repeal the ACA for the sake of repealing it.  
Peoples' lives are at stake. Health care is a complicated topic.  
Let's do this right or not do it at all.

The American people want health coverage. The ACA does not cost much, when considered in the overall budget. Obviously a failed jet plane design or two could pay for more than the ACA. Meanwhile, people are counting on coverage.

The ACA was an attempt to join the rest of the developed world and provide basic health care to our people. If you can come up with a better way to provide as much or more coverage that is affordable for all, great. If not, please let go of this unproductive, inefficient, expensive publicity stunt.

Thank you,

Seth Katz  
Oakland, California

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Renee Wsol [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Villanueva, Josie (Duckworth); Kanner, Max (Durbin)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Graham-Cassidy Bill

I am getting so very tired of this desperate attempt to reverse everything Obama did during his terms.

This new bill is disastrous and everyone knows it. The only reason it has any traction is because it's a last ditch effort to repeal and replace. Not because it actually helps Americans.

As a single mother on Medicaid, with a child that has special needs and utilizes the public school system for special education services, I am kept up at night wondering what our future would be like if this bill became law.

1). It 'defunds' Planned Parenthood. I use Planned Parenthood as my source of reproductive health care. I trust them, I feel safe there, I believe in their care and mission so much that I lobbied in DC with them, I have done media pieces I never wanted to do because I don't like the limelight, because I do not particularly enjoy being trolled by people who don't care to understand their mission, or because they disagree with abortion services. But I did it because I am NOT the only low-income single mother who is a Medicaid recipient that utilizes Planned Parenthood, and before I found my own voice, someone was mine. We are shamed into silence, we are stigmatized. I won't stand for that. And I won't stand for a bill that takes away my ability to choose a care provider I trust.

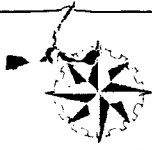
2). I already face a lot of difficulties navigating the school system when it comes to special education. They can't ever say it's a funding issue, but the run arounds I get make it clear that it is. And schools can easily take advantage of that fact - That IDEA and special ed laws are difficult to understand. Trying to get the help of a free advocacy agency involves long wait times. You either put out the money for a private advocate or you figure it out by yourself. The caps and cuts are going to further hurt my child and others like him by making funding scarce. Living in Illinois, I already dealt with this monstrosity due to not having a budget for so long. I almost moved. But there's no place safe to go any more.

3). How can I, as an unemployed mother of a child with special needs, potentially be forced to have a requirement to work if the state decides to implement in (and thus far, our Governor hasn't said a word about this so I don't know)? How can I do that when my son requires therapies and other appointments which are the reason I'm not even working to begin with? There is no time, there is limited child care.

Medicaid directors from every state made a statement about the harm of this bill. There's so much uncertainty about who would actually be covered giving power to the states. There's no CBO analysis. This is a sick, sick thing to do to America just because the administration campaigned on a repeal and replace. My own Congressman was on a problem solvers caucus. And although I'm not particularly fond of him when it comes to issues of health care, it was a bipartisan effort and no one took it up.

As Obama said, it IS frustrating to mobilize every couple of months to prevent harm from being done to us. I don't think I've even made complete sense in this e-mail, but I don't care. Every couple of months I am on the phone daily with people in swing states trying to get them to call their senators. Losing my voice, talking to strangers who are just as scared as I am.

There are people in far more dire situations than my family is in. This is not a health care bill.



# ICIRR

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

228 S. Wabash Avenue  
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Chicago, IL 60604  
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September 22, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
US Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans, including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers and will likely result in at least 965,000 Illinoisans losing coverage by 2027 and will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget. Below we describe in more detail our concerns with this proposal and the devastating impact it will have on consumers.

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

This proposal takes away secure coverage from millions, and replaces it only with the possibility of inadequate and temporary coverage. It ends the ACA's

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

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

This proposal also threatens the care of millions of low-income seniors, children and people living with disabilities who relied on the Medicaid program even before enactment of the ACA. By capping and slashing funding for the traditional Medicaid program by 12% (\$1.079 trillion) between 2020 and 2036, the per capita cap will force Illinois to cut payments to health care providers and health plans, eliminate optional services, and restrict eligibility for enrollment - all of which could restrict access to important health care services for Medicaid enrollees.

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

**Pushes massive new costs onto states.**

All states, including Illinois, would take on new risks and costs because this proposal converts the overall Medicaid program into a per capita cap. Under this proposal, the federal government would cap its payments to states for most enrollees, and those caps would grow more slowly than actual Medicaid expenditures, leaving Illinois with insufficient funding to meet its current obligations. In addition, states would be fully exposed to any unexpected health care cost increases, such as from a natural disaster, an aging population or medical innovations. The per capita cap alone would reduce federal Medicaid spending by 12% (\$1.079 trillion) by 2036.

On top of those cost shifts, the 31 states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act will be at risk for far deeper cuts. This proposal ends all federal matching funds for the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Some of the funds that the federal government would have spent on Medicaid

expansion get rolled into the block grant, but the block grant will not make up for Illinois' losses because the block grant is inadequate overall, the formula favors non-expansion states (by redistributing funding from expansion to non-expansion states), and the grants end entirely in 2026, leaving states with no funding to replace the lost expansion funds.

Because federal dollars for Medicaid account for about 20% of state budgets, FitchRatings "believes substantial Medicaid cuts would require states to make material budget adjustments over the next decade and beyond."<sup>1</sup> And by pulling coverage from so many, this proposal would drive up uncompensated care costs on local communities, state budgets, safety net providers, and hospitals.

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

By repealing the individual mandate and eliminating advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions, this proposal would drive up premiums and cause insurers to exit the ACA's marketplaces. As we know from previous CBO projections, repealing the individual mandate alone would increase the number of uninsured individuals by 15 million and cause premiums to increase by 20 percent. Furthermore, by replacing the financing of the ACA's financial assistance with a block grant without any guarantee that states would direct their temporary block grant funds toward financial assistance, this proposal puts the 253,542 Illinoisans who currently rely on financial assistance at risk for sharply higher out-of-pocket costs and coverage loss.

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

### **Eliminates critical consumer protections.**

This proposal allows states to eliminate one of the most popular and important consumer protections under the ACA - the prohibition on charging higher premiums based on a person's health status or a preexisting condition. This means that in states that choose to eliminate this requirement, insurers could charge individuals with even relatively mild pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars above standard rates to obtain the same coverage as someone without a preexisting condition. Additionally, this proposal allows states to waive the requirement that insurers cover essential health benefits including mental health services, substance abuse treatments and maternity care. This could lead to discrimination against segments of the population (e.g., older adults, LGBT community) or consumers with specific chronic conditions (e.g. mental health or substance use disorders). For example, this could return us to a time when insurers only covered short-term, minimal treatment for mental health or substance use disorders,

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<sup>1</sup> "Fitch: Latest ACA Bill Includes Medicaid Repeal and Replace Provisions for States," <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/pr/1029238>.

if they covered it at all. Before the ACA, almost half of plans in the individual market excluded addiction treatment.

**Lacks transparency and opportunity for meaningful input.**

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



Luvia Quiñones  
Health Policy Director  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

## Why Medicaid Matters

Ken Capone



My name is Ken Capone and I have overcome quite a few barriers in my life that range from infancy to today. But these barriers gave me strength, determination and made me the person I am today. Yes, I have failed in some things that I have attempted. My mother said it's ok to fail, because we all fail at one point or another, just as long as you learn something from your failure and don't make the same mistake twice.

I feel like I have achieved a lot and made a difference in other people's life.

I am an advocate and I am a high school graduate, I'm employed and I was able to overcome barriers to buy an accessible home. I also had the privilege of being appointed by President Barack Obama to sit on The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Like many people with disabilities who were born 40 or 50 years ago the doctors told parents to put their child in an institution because they wouldn't be able to function in society. I, along with millions of people with disabilities have proven the doctors wrong! We can be employed, we can have relationships and families, we can own a house, we can live in the community, we can live the lives we want to live. None of this would be possible if I did not have Medicaid funding to pay for the staff I need to help me with all my daily living activities.

For me this means having people there to support me in my daily needs such as getting me dressed in the morning, assisting with personal hygiene, assisting with meal preparation, feeding me and driving me to work. As you can see, I need assistance with all aspects of my life. None of this would be possible for me before applying for Medicaid. Medicaid gave me the opportunity to apply for the waiver program that keeps me out of institutions even though I am deemed to need institutional level of care.

It's scary to think what my life would look like if Medicaid was cut or a cap to states. Will I have to pick what services I need the most, or even worse, would I have to go into a state residential center or a nursing facility to get the essential daily living supports that I need?



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Honorable Senators,

With all due respect I implore you to reject the Graham/Cassidy bill.

As a great nation I know that we can do better to make sure all of us have access to quality affordable healthcare. Please just do some adjustments to the ACA. Pre existing conditions is a major concern for me. As a mother with a beautiful 28 year old daughter that has already had melanoma, I am so fearful of the thought that she will lose coverage because either the insurance company could drop her or just make it too expensive to even afford.

I am counting on you to do the "right" thing for the country, not just for the party.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Vickery

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nicole Teeters <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill [REDACTED]

To all concerned:

I'm not only 100 percent AGAINST the Graham-Cassidy bill, I'm frankly shocked that a pair of United States Senators could propose such a monstrosity.

That so MANY Republican Senators could support a bill that's so obviously harmful to so many people, and would strip healthcare away from millions—and likely bankrupt thousands (if not millions) more when they need life-saving treatments—saddens me beyond words.

I support single-payer healthcare legislation. If I can't have that, I'd settle for a responsible bipartisan compromise. But the Graham-Cassidy bill, if passed, will kill people. If you're trying to fix the Affordable Care Act, please remember the spirit of the Hippocratic Oath: "First, do no harm."

Thank you for considering my opinion.

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**Nicole Teeters** *strategist*  
[m] [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Gardner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Comments On Graham Cassidy

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am grateful that our so-called democracy is still functional enough that I get an opportunity to comment on this wretched piece of filth called a "healthcare" bill. I am completely and utterly perplexed and appalled that any human being could contemplate passing this bill that would result in so much pain and suffering and ultimately lead directly to the deaths of countless American citizens. The only conclusion that I can draw is that power has corrupted so many of the elected officials of our country that they completely lack any sense of empathy for their fellow citizens.

In case any of you need reminding, you were elected to office to serve your constituents. Your constituents need affordable health insurance. Want to repeal Obamacare? Fine. Do your work and come up with a real solution, instead of voting for the suffering and death for the poor, the sick, and the helpless.

2018 is just around the corner. You are all replaceable.

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisa Goodfriend <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill Graham-Cassidy!!!

This bill his horrible and would have a direct, negative impact on many of my friends and family. This latest attempt to recklessly repeal The Affordable Care Act is the worst yet. Without a doubt it will make our nation sicker and poorer and give us some of the worst healthcare in the developing world. Healthcare is not a privilege, it is a right. A human right.

Please kill this bill immediately before millions of Americans will lose health insurance.

This is just an excuse to give the riches Americans and big corporations tax breaks at the expense of the health of millions of people.

Lisa Goodfriend

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Boddam [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record - Graham-Cassidy Bill

I can't believe you all actually want to take away health care from people in your country. Why would that ever be a good thing? Why do you think you have a right to tell women what they can and get do with their bodies? You are slowly digging the grave of your country. I feel sorry for the people who live there and are screaming at you to not kill them or to not bankrupt them for trying to save loved ones lives.

I am a Canadian and I will give you an outsiders perspective on the U.S right now. We feel sorry for you, we feel ashamed for you. We sit on and watch helplessly as you drown yourselves with all of your choices you are making, and this "health care" bill would be one of the worst ones.

I hope you all stop and think as an actual human person for once and ask yourselves what the hell you are doing, at the end of the day who owns you? yourselves or some money machine behind you.

good-luck,

Jennifer

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** shelly Gmail [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

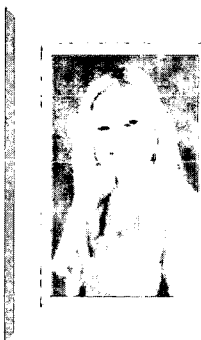
**Importance:** High

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a terrible bill. If you actually were stuck with healthcare that we are you wouldn't vote for it. If your families could be subject to pre-existing conditions or extremely high premiums, you would not vote for this bill. If your lives depended upon it, like so many of our lives do, you wouldn't vote for this bill.

If you actually cared about us the American People, you would not vote for this bill.

SAVE LIVES – JUST SAY NO TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY DEATHCARE BILL.



**Shelly A Mabey Agent /Owner**  
Mabey Insurance Agency

[REDACTED]  
Phoenix AZ [REDACTED]

Office [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** bill

This will cause untold harm to Americans. Getting sick is not always a life style choice.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

Senators and Congressmen, please heed the call...

You should be required to have the exact same health insurance options as the rest of us! You should face the same financial healthcare burdens as most us do.

Your new PLAN is a slap in the face to the hardworking Americans who voted your butts into office!

Your plan to throw healthcare responsibility back to the states is COWARDLY at best. You should be working with Democrats to FIX the errors of the ACA. Instead, you're obliterating the most important benefits before you wash your hands of it by passing it off to the states; an act of weakness and failure. Another failure.

I suggest you take your time passing a smart, well-analyzed bill. Get it right this time. Think long and hard about the legacy you will leave behind. Many of you will be voted out because of the lack of compassion for constituents.

Reconsider. Please. For the good of our nation.

Sincerely,

RMZS



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** lisa manuel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017, 3:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to this bill!

Please think of all of the families and children this bill ( if passed) would hurt. My son was born with a rare medical condition. He also has autism and a host of other medical/ developmental problems. Passing this bill would crush our family. Please think of everyone this bill would devastate. It affects babies, children, adults AND seniors. Please vote NO!!!

Lisa Manuel  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Becky Huber <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

It's terrible, awful and very bad. I seriously can't believe there's any a discussion about this bill. When as many medical experts and associations come out against it, then it's a no brainer that it needs to go away.

Rebecca Huber

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cara Alessandrini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Is Irresponsible

To Whom It May Concern:

As a well educated, hard working and productive member of the Middle Class, I am insulted by the vile and contempt filled Graham-Cassidy Bill that is currently being jammed through at breakneck speed, on party lines, without "regular order."

This is terrifying because The Graham-Cassidy Bill is, in no particular order:

A) **Classist** - American citizens will literally be priced out of health insurance. It will cost them more than half of what they make a year to purchase. It will not be a simple decision between purchasing a new iphone or being able to pay for a visit to the doctor. It will literally be making the impossible decision of paying a multitude of bills such as your car bill, electricity bill, water bill and groceries **or** have health care and not become destitute **if** something goes wrong. (And it would be a *small* something, as its shifting burden will still end in many becoming destitute). That is class warfare. As a woman who works 2 jobs a week, 60+ hours, 7 days a week, I assure you I am earning my keep. I do not expect to be handed anything without earning it. However, I do expect my government to value my life, and give me a fighting chance, regardless of whether or not my name is plastered on a building in DC.

B) **Sexist** - There is nothing more egregious than watching a bunch of old white men condescendingly telling women what to do with their bodies. Except for this Bill, which tells me I'm on my own when I'm pregnant or that my newborn baby does not deserve the right to live. I am merely a second class citizen, because you do not deign to acknowledge the female body and its capabilities. Please explain to me, when each and every single one of us has spent time in the womb, or as a baby, how we **do not all benefit** from doing our fair share in aiding them via health care. Don't worry though, you don't see a need to help me when I'm pregnant, but I'll still find a way to pick up the tab for your Viagra- which is apparently far more important.

C) **Self-Serving** - Yes, we the people are very aware that our hard earned money and tax dollars go to providing you the best health care in our country. We know that you are legislating this ad libbed monstrosity knowing very well it does not directly affect you. We know the kickbacks you get to agree to bills like this. We see the smiles. You are elected to represent the people. When less than a quarter of the entire country's population backs this and you do it anyway, you're not doing the job we elected you to do.

D) **Demeaning** - Watching a bunch of entitled "law makers" in expensive suits telling me that it is unfair for healthy people to pay for sick people (which is the **exact** definition of insurance) shows how lowly you think of my intelligence level. FYI we know what the definition of insurance is as it is something the average American can gleam from a simple Geico commercial. Sick people cannot afford to pay. Why, you ask? Simple. They're sick so they cannot work twice as hard to make the money it takes to pay for care. So while they're receiving the care they need, and recouping and

getting better, we pick up the tab. That's common sense and human decency. The rest of the world has figured it out, we should probably too.

E) **Detrimental** - To re-distribute 1/6 of our entire country's wealth without a basic CBO score is deranged. It is not conservative. It is irresponsible to the highest degree. It will effect our nation for generations to come.

F) **DEADLY** - It will literally kill people, and unnecessarily so. People who are currently fighting for their lives will be cut off in the middle of their treatments. Treatments which have been the single line between them and death. Graham-Cassidy will force many individuals to stop where they are because of lifetime caps, affordability and pre-existing conditions. It could also leave newborn babies capping out of their life-time allotment before they have even left the hospital for the first time. How is that even remotely helpful?

G) **Vindictive**- The way it specifically goes after blue states that expanded the Medicare program is questionable at best. Way to be mature adults.

I could continue on, but we both know you're not going to read it/take it seriously.

You are all Lady Macbeth right now, so drawn to power and vaulting ambition that you are blinded by your actions. These actions will kill people. It will kick millions off of insurance. It will overflow Emergency Rooms. It will dangerously under staff hospitals. It will remove aid to addicts during an opioid crisis. It will leave Veterans, who have given their all to this flag, high and dry. It will keep grandma from nursing home care that she desperately needs. It will cost more. It will irreparably damage our country... the list goes on and on.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is far from perfect. It needs work. But this work must come from **both** sides of the aisle. A partisan show of bulldozing the entire health care system just to repeal it in this current fashion is akin to domestic terrorism - you are willing to murder individuals in cold blood on your misguided ideologies. It. Is. Unamerican.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cara Alessandrini, a concerned and proud American

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Luke Behrens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

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

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

Sincerely,  
Luke Behrens

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Ruth Cutts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for Graham-Cassidy hearing

**Dear GC comments,**

My children depend on and rely on good, affordable healthcare of the highest quality. Both my son and son-in-law have ACA and have been grateful to this coverage after major accidents that would have been disastrous financially. Because of this I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA which is not perfect—not repeal it.

I am encouraged by John McCain and others who I feel are seeing clearly and compassionately.

Sincerely,

Rev.Linda Ruth Cutts Weintraub

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol Ewan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:09 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

In 2005 I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, the cancer was also found in my bones. 2 years and 2 rounds of chemo and what seemed like endless radiation treatments I was able to start taking an oral chemo, Tykerb, which at the moment costs right around \$6500.00 a month. Oh, and the medications I was taking for the cancer damaged a heart valve that I had to have replaced. Without ACA I will not be able to afford my meds and will no doubt have a recurrence of the cancer, so you can pass the bill and sign my death warrant or try to find a better solution. This bill is not right for anyone.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sue Devenny <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I'm asking for you to not repeal the ACA & replace with the Graham Cassidy Heller bill. I find it to be incredibly cruel to the American people. We are the richest country in the world and we can't figure out affordable health care for everyone? This bill will strip away insurance from millions. These are our veterans, our grandparents, our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. We are more than tax breaks. We matter. As a Catholic, I'm horrified that our representatives do not seem to care about us at all. I was taught to love and respect each other. That does not seem to be the case with some of our representatives.

On a personal note, I'm a woman and this bill will make me and millions of other women uninsurable. This is cruel. This is unacceptable.

I know that the ACA has problems. I also know that those problems can be fixed. Work together to fix the problems with the ACA. The other options that the GOP have come up with are inhumane. The GCH is the worst so far. We demand better. We deserve better.

Regards,  
Sue Devenny



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jean Durning <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT vote for Graham-Cassidy bill

Dear Senators Graham, Cassidy and other members of the Committee,  
It is crucial that we do not change the Affordable Care Act until ANY amendments to it have been thoroughly analyzed by everyone who will be affected, and by the Congressional Budget Office. We must not leave people with current medical problems without real assurance they will continue to have insurance as good as now. Leaving everything up to separate states' decisions would bring havoc.  
Two of my adult grandchildren dealing with serious mental illness. This is not their fault. Right now one is doing OK with the help of his doctor and medication, but would be in deep trouble without them. The other is definitely needing more help. DO NOT LEAVE THEM IN THE LURCH.

Please slow down the process until a constructive proposal can be put together by members both Republicans and Democrats, that meets basic requirements of doctors, hospitals, patients and everyone involved in health care. Everyone must contribute to get a real solution.  
Thank you,  
Jean Durning

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Kantor, Rebecca <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** <no subject>

Dear Senators Graham and Cassidy,

Am writing to you as a healthy three time cancer survivor who would lose everything under your bill — I have worked so hard each time to get back to health and at 63, I am healthy, strong and looking forward to my children getting married and having my grandchildren.

If your bill goes through, I will be in that “pre-existing conditions” hole, out of luck. No-one would have me.

On the other hand, I think you should write a bill that ends heroic end-of –life maneuvers. The I an within a month of dying, I do not think spending crazy amounts of money to keep me alive one more month makes any sense. Nor do I think the folks who won't disconnect life support in the face of tiny chances that their loved one will revive makes sense. I also think if you make a life choice llke not wearing seat belt and you show up for care, you should have to pay out of pocket until you have nothing left, then medicaid would pick you up.

These are the ideas I have for big money saving changes. But not insuring me when I had breast cancer 20 users ago, thyroid cancer 6 years ago and just came successfully thru a stem cell transplant for MDS, is wrong ad lacks compassion.

Thank you for considering.

Rebecca Kantor

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robin LaSota [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy health care bill is not an improvement over Affordable Care Act; do not vote for it!

This new health care legislation is completely insufficient to provide effective and cost-conscious health coverage to the American people.

As eloquently stated by the American College of Physicians and many other professional organizations, this bill would cut Medicaid substantially and would increase the number of uninsured Americans.

See: [https://www.acponline.org/acp\\_policy/letters/acp\\_letter\\_to\\_sens\\_graham\\_and\\_cassidy\\_opposing\\_aca\\_repeal\\_bill\\_2017.pdf](https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/letters/acp_letter_to_sens_graham_and_cassidy_opposing_aca_repeal_bill_2017.pdf)

I have health insurance with my job, however, I think it is important that every American have good affordable options when it comes to health care and a single-payer system. Good health insurance is not even a guarantee with a job, and disability can come at any time.

Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be following this vote.

--  
Robin R. LaSota, PhD

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** sharon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. I do not feel this bill is an improvement on the ACA; on the contrary, it phases out some of the best parts.

I would like to see both parties work together to strengthen the ACA and stabilize it. As someone with a fairly serious pre-existing condition, I might have found myself uninsurable under the pre-ACA rules. Now I can get the treatment I need to continue to be a productive member of society.

Please work to strengthen and improve the ACA. Do not repeal it!

Sent from my Sprint Phone.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jessica Pisano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

To anyone who supports this bill:

This is not what our country does. This is wrong and despicable in every way.. You should all be ashamed of your punitive treatment of equals while you bask in unlimited health care paid for by those who are choosing to run over with your vile power hungry self righteousess. Be ashamed.

Jessica Pisano, PhD

In science we trust...

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tami Osborne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Reject graham cassidy bill

I can not believe i even have to say this but please reject the proposed graham cassidy healthcare plan. The draft legislation doesn't overtly repeal the Affordable Care Act's ban on insurers denying coverage to people with preëxisting conditions, and it doesn't explicitly abandon the A.C.A.'s community-rating regulations that prohibit insurers from charging people with serious illnesses much higher premiums. This is cruel and inhumane, especially proposed under the guise of so called Christian men, not sure they really understand anything that is supposed to mean. That you are willing to let thousands of good people go bankrupt and most likely die just to try and remove any accomplishments of the former president. Shame on anyone who votes for this egregious monstrosity of cruelty, you bring shame on yourself and your country to prey on the weak for what gain?

Tami Osborne

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** David Mittermaier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

This bill is disgusting and should not have even been considered, let alone seriously. Polls all show that the American people want a bi-partisan fix to ACA, not a repeal/replace ram job.

Please listen to Senator McCain and return to regular order. We want debate, careful consideration, and bi-partisan policy.

Thank you,

David Mittermaier, M.A., BCBA, L-BA  
Owner, Behavior Analyst  
Capital ABA, LLC

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** cynthia haviland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Good Morning,

I want to send my opposition to the Graham Cassidy Bill. I am continuously discouraged by this Congress attempting to pass bills without due oversight by budget committees, etc. I do not think states should be able to dictate one to the next who will have access to what kinds of insurance. I don't care for how it sounds like monies will be defunded after a certain amount of years. Please register that this is NOT what I want. This whole Affordable Care Act repeal and replace situation seems shady and not well thought out. An attempt at this point to scrap it and start anew? what a waste of my taxpayer money.

Get rid of this hopefully last attempt to weasel out of getting the American people some help with the rising, ridiculous cost of health care.

Most Sincerely,

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



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laura Fortner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

I'm 63 years old and looking at an old age with not much more than my Social Security. Please don't make it harder for me. Should people have to choose between feeding themselves and needed medication?

Are your families secure? Did you get where you are on skill alone? Do you deserve, truly deserve, what you have? Do you think the "have-nots" are less-than? Shame on you all.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catherine Ann Nemecek [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

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

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

Sincerely,  
Catherine Watanabe

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** R Stamey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

This bill is disastrous and monumentally cruel. Millions of Americans will LITERALLY die because they will no longer be able to afford healthcare or insurance. Where is your humanity? Do you even have any humanity left anymore? It seems that the GOP has become the party of obstruction, cruelty, and division and has no purpose except to attempt to destroy all of President Barack Obama's accomplishments. I guess that has to be your goal since you failed to make him a one term President. The American people are not going to sit by quietly and let you destroy not only healthcare but our entire country. We need healthcare, we need clean air, we need clean water, we need equality and justice for all. Most of all we need our elected officials to stop being puppets for rich corporations and special interests and find a shred of decency and get back to doing the job you were elected to do which is to represent the people who elected you, not the people who line your pockets. Most of you are afraid to even meet with your constituents. I don't know how anyone can live with themselves KNOWING they are voting to harm and yes, KILL millions of Americans with ridiculous partisan bills such as this. It must be nice to earn over \$100,000 per year for basically NOT WORKING and have great health benefits while millions of your fellow countrymen struggle to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads often working 2 or more jobs. It is a disgrace that some of you are urging war and calling for rights to be stripped from certain classes of people and smirking while taking HUGE sums of money from rich special interest groups. We will not forget that you have allowed a moral degenerate to remain in the Oval Office and endanger not only our country but the entire world while you sat quietly by and allowed it to happen. Do you want a nuclear war? Do you want the United States to be the laughingstock of the world? Well we are in danger of nuclear war and the laughingstock of the world and in large part it is the fault of Congress for refusing to do their jobs for the past nine years. WE THE PEOPLE are going to vote all of you out of office. Do your jobs and stop acting like petulant children and dotards!

Sincerely and with no respect,  
Dr. Robin T. Stamey

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharp1009 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

To put a limitation on anyone's health is inhumane. It saddens me that you are trying to pass a bill that will not only cost Americans more money, but their lives as well. You should be ashamed that you cannot work together to make the Affordable Care Act better.

We teach our children to share, work hard and to be kind to one another. I have more faith in our children than I do Congress. You were elected to help, protect and represent all Americans not your corporate donors.

It is disappointing that you feel that this is the best you can do.

Please do not pass this bill as is.

Thank you!

Sent from Cindy's iPhone  
Cindy Sharp 🐾

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tallulah Behrens <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

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

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

Sincerely,  
Tally Behrens

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carolyn Duffy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Dear Committee Members,

If this bill is truly great for all Americans, as you say, why aren't you trying to pass it with regular hearings, committee deliberation, and a CBO score?

What is the rush?

This bill is said to have many of the same flaws as the original one did. My governor says it is bad for my state. Millions of people will lose coverage and coverage for pre-existing conditions is not guaranteed. The effect this bill will have on our health care is quite clear to your constituents.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Duffy

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy graham bill

Please do not let this bill pass. I am disabled and can still work part time because of the support services i receive through medicaid and medicare!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rebecça Harris <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do NOT repeal the ACA say NO to Graham Cassidy

There is every indication it will be disastrous.  
It has not been vetted or debated. There is no CBO score.  
Medical professionals have said it will be ruinous.

Please reject this bill.

R.

Rebecca Harris  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rebecca Landau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** GCH citizen comment

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA.  
By every measure this is NOT a good bill.

First, I ask that Congress not hold a vote on this bill which will effect 1/6 of the American economy without CBO score.

I am extremely concerned with language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions.

I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced drastically causing costs for Seniors and the disabled to skyrocket.

This bill will not bring healthcare to more American.

This bill is estimated to cause close to 30 million Americans to lose healthcare. And, like before the ACA, people will have to choose between covering basic needs, like eating, or getting healthcare. People will die.

Rebecca Landau  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ellen Cardoso <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No to Graham Cassidy

**Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:**

**The Graham/Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act is an insult to every American. All Americans deserve quality healthcare. This bill makes it very likely that won't be available to the most vulnerable of us.**

**I respectfully ask you to vote no, America will remember this moment.**

Thank you,  
Ellen Cardoso

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** heather gardner-madras [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** totally irresponsible and undemocratic!

Dear Committee,

As you may already know the vast majority of Americans in both parties are alarmed by the complete breakdown of regular order in the Senate and the Graham-Cassidy bill in particular. You must reject this bill and return to a bipartisan and normal legislation process. This bill is not fiscally responsible and will hurt not only your constituents but all of the country.

Do the right thing. Stop this now.

thank you for your time

--  
heather

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pam Hawes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Please do not rush this bill through without due process – from both sides of the aisle. This is too important to all citizens to have adequate health coverage. The details need to be open to all so that good judgement can prevail. Let's improve the ACA, not kill it.

Sincerely  
Pam Hawes

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Char <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

From a procedural perspective, this bill is a disaster. Without having data from the OMB, how can you possibly measure the impact. This issue is far too important to just let it slide through without a debate and analysis.

Please consider how many people will be adversely affected by the Graham-Cassidy bill. The lack of protections for those with pre-existing conditions is frightening. Consider the new baby of friends who was born with SMA . Her life and the lives of those who love her will always be a struggle. With no regulation on the limits of health insurance coverage because of her pre-existing condition, it will be almost unbearable.

Then there is our 10 year old neighbor who was born with a heart defect. She's fine now, but will she ever be able to afford health insurance with her pre-existing condition? Before the passage of the ACA, her parents couldn't.

We are in our mid-70's. Should the unthinkable happen and one of us needs to go into a nursing home, without Medicaid assistance that wouldn't be possible. Our only option would be to die! What about you: what would/could you do?

Please think of the lives you will be destroying if you vote for Graham-Cassidy. I hope you are not that uncaring. These are real people's lives for whom you are responsible. This bill should not even come to the Senate floor, let alone be passed.

Charlene McAulay

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** eselem13 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy bill

I rely on quality, affordable health care. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have multiple health problems including rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and thyroid problems which have left me disabled. Without Medicaid, I would not be able to afford the healthcare benefits I receive that help me function on a daily basis.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not REPEAL it.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Massaro

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth Otto <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

I am a retiree on Medicare (over 65) and am quite please with my health care coverage. Please do not pass this bill which would cut Medicare, Medicaid, and other crucial programs for the United States citizens.

Isn't it time we came up to speed with the rest of the developed world and recognized that health care is a right, not a privilege? Medicare coverage for all.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Otto  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Porter Dianne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:02 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "tRump care bill"

IF this is passed, voters will NEVER FORGET those who allowed this to happen. I am sick of Repugs reaping the benefits of taxpayers funding....LOSE YOUR BENEFITS BEFORE you rape the American people. Sickening, disgusting DEATH bill MUST NOT BE PASSED.

YOUR LIFE IS AN OCCASION.....RISE TO IT.

Horse... if God made anything more beautiful, he kept it for himself.

Horseback riding is life, the rest is just details.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Pam Russell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare, so I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My daughter has lupus, MS, and amyloidosis, which are all auto immune disorders. She has been on chemotherapy for 22 months now. She has these diseases through no fault of her own.

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

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Rochelle Rannow <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Health Plan

I am appalled that anyone would ever consider voting for this bill. I have two family members with cancer (one being my 88 year old mother) and two on disability with health issues. What are they to do when if this passes. I live in Wisconsin and if anyone thinks Governor Walker is going to be any more compassionate, they are crazy. I can't even imagine what the parents with a child born with health issues will do.

When did the government forget that they represent human beings? When did they stop listening to their constituency...the people that pay their salaries? This should not be a world that is lived in by only the rich.

If you have any influence with this bill, please help stop it.

Thanks.  
Rochelle Rannow  
A very concerned citizen

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rachel Strivelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Affordability is critical to my family and always has been. Until the ACA we were not even covered. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you,  
Rachel Strivelli

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon Kraus <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:59 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Improve the ACA and forget repeal please

To Whom it may Concern:

Due to a preexisting condition and limited finances that made healthcare out of reach for me, this is the first time in my adult life I have had healthcare. I am 55 years old. Never someone to rely heavily on the medical system, I take excellent care of myself. Even still, it's been extremely supportive having health care.

I also work in healthcare. Because of the ACA and Medicaide expansion, I see many clients in my work who rely on the ACA for quality health care, or any health care at all. If the ACA is repealed, I stand to lose much of my business as well as coverage for myself.

It simply is untrue that money trickles down from the top. Those of us with less money, hardworking people though we are, begin to thrive when there is some infusion into our businesses that allow us to participate more fully and thus put more back into the economy.

For so many reasons, I implore you to improve the ACA through bipartisan efforts. Leave it in place! And allow Medicaide to continue to be funded!

Thank you,

Sharon Kraus, L.Ac.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** R.KATZMAN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:00 PM  
**To:** gchcòmments

I am writing to you to tell you that everyone deserves health coverage and your bill will not insure pre-existing conditions. If you care about this country, veto this bill

R.KATZMAN  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My ACA Story

*ACA kept our 30 year old son alive for 6 years who had brain cancer. His work insurance covered the first year then had it not been for the ACA he would have been turned down for insurance. Ironically Tom was diagnosed 10 days before Senator Ted Kennedy. We all lived in the greater Boston area. Tom and the Senator had the same amazing Doctors. Tom died 7 years later at age 37. Ironically again, he died right after Beau Biden. I thank God every day for Tom having a chance. People are so short sighted. Until you need insurance you have no clue how important it is. Yes my healthy 30 year old son who just got married, inoperable malignant brain cancer.*

*Ed and Patti Wallace*

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patti Ialongo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

I oppose the current Republican proposed healthcare bill. It would make it difficult for a lot of people to obtain quality healthcare insurance. A better solution would be to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you, Patti Ialongo

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** timandpennie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy comments

Please consider carefully and take to heart the following cogent words from Senator McCain:



"As I have repeatedly stressed, health care reform legislation ought to be the product of regular order in the Senate. Committees of jurisdiction should mark up legislation with input from all committee members, and send their bill to the floor for debate and amendment. That is the only way we might achieve bipartisan consensus on lasting reform, without which a policy that affects one-fifth of our economy and every single American family will be subject to reversal with every change of administration and congressional majority.

"I would consider supporting legislation similar to that offered by my friends Senators Graham and Cassidy were it the product of extensive hearings, debate and amendment. But that has not been the case. Instead, the specter of September 30th budget reconciliation deadline has hung over this entire process.

"We should not be content to pass health care legislation on a party-line basis, as Democrats did when they rammed Obamacare through Congress in 2009. If we do so, our success could be as short-lived as theirs when the political winds shift, as they regularly do. The issue is too important, and too many lives are at risk, for us to leave the American people guessing from one election to the next whether and how they will acquire health insurance. A bill of this impact requires a bipartisan approach.

"Senators Alexander and Murray have been negotiating in good faith to fix some of the problems with Obamacare. But I fear that the prospect of one last attempt at a strictly Republican bill has left the impression that their efforts cannot succeed. I hope they will resume their work should this last attempt at a partisan solution fail.

"I cannot in good conscience vote for the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I believe we could do better working together, Republicans and Democrats, and have not yet really tried. Nor could I support it without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it. Without a full CBO score, which won't be available by the end of the month, we won't have reliable answers to any of those questions.

"I take no pleasure in announcing my opposition. Far from it. The bill's authors are my dear friends, and I think the world of them. I know they are acting consistently with their beliefs and sense of what is best for the country. So am I.

"I hope that in the months ahead, we can join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to arrive at a compromise solution that is acceptable to most of us, and serves the interests of Americans as best we can."

Thank you for your attention to this matter  
Pennie Leachman



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Erin Hart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Reject

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I'm writing in an appeal to you all... Please return to regular order of legislation with bipartisan cooperation!  
This bill coming forth, will ruin the lives of many in an inhuman attack on the sick, elderly and poor!

While we're far from rich my family too will suffer!

My son has autism which he can't help. I was hit by a distracted driver who was texting! Neither of us asked to be "preexisting conditions".

I already was driven to near bankruptcy for medical bills prior to ACA. Please don't do this. We MUST start working together as fellow American citizens instead of all the partisan and class war attacks!

I'm still fighting this!

Don't forget how we all are connected... Whether it's rebuilding after hurricane, aiding vets and honoring their service, or simply the respect one human being has to offer another!

We're proud Americans TOGETHER. United We Stand,

Erin Hart

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Myers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I staunchly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill, and indeed any health care legislation that does not provide all Americans with access to quality health care. Acceptable legislation must provide an assurance that there will be no lifetime caps on insurance, a guarantee that no one will be denied coverage because of "pre-existing conditions," and a promise that people of all income levels can receive coverage.

Insurance companies exist not to ensure Americans that we will receive health care; rather, they exist to make money for themselves. In my family, an insurance company broke the law by ignoring the Supreme Court decision of *Jimmo vs. Sabelius* and the requirement that insurance companies must provide the same benefits (in Medicare Advantage programs) that Medicare does. This was costly and caused my elderly mother great distress. No insurance company should have that power.

We need government health care that forces insurance companies to cover patients, or else we need to get rid of health insurance companies, which exist only to serve themselves, not the public good.

For all of these reasons, I am strongly opposed to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I am far from alone in this: the vast majority of health care providers and organizations oppose this draconian attempt to bankrupt sick Americans.

Sincerely,  
Susan Myers

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** debra lannon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:49 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017" Debra Lannon

Please do not pass this Bill. It will leave millions of America's most vulnerable citizens without healthcare, and ultimately to their death. This is a cold and heartless bill. WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO VOTE "YES" TO THIS CALLOUS, UNCARING MONSTROSITY AT THE POLLS ! DO YOUR JOB, AND REPRESENT YOUR CONSTITUENTS !

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** jen powrie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** For heavens sake... make the states who are refusing to allow the ACA to function

STOP PREVENTING IT FROM WORKING~!!! we have many many people without jobs here in Oregon because, in case you have not noticed, we are in an electronic renaissance and many people are not capable of learning the new skills or have no way to increase their skills.

ACA make it work.. (and stop blaming mexico for causing unemployment)

THANK YOU >>> start acting like statesmen and women PLEASE

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sasha NursePractitioner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:50 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I do not support Graham Cassidy

As a Family Nurse Practitioner and a compassionate person I believe health care is a human right. We cannot continue to put the financial burden of health care onto the sick, poor, & disabled and act as if it's their fault they can't afford their care.

Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,  
Sasha Haarhoff APRN, FNP

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Liza Cohen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill. My grand daughter has type 1 diabetes and at the age of eleven will be devastated financially by the elimination of ACA just at a time when new treatments--all expensive-- are coming in line. My grown children are healthy but have had conditions in the past that would qualify as 'pre-existing conditions' making the purchase of health care difficult or impossible without the ACA rules.

We are upper middle class with good jobs but would be financially ruined if this bill eliminating ACA goes through. Please don't take away our health care!!

Susan Finkel  
Seattle WA

From Susan's cellphone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nancy Fleming [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I and my husband rely on quality health care. My experience with several pre-existing conditions requires a health care system that does not discriminate against me. This bill will rescind qualify, affordable health care. I am overwhelmingly against it.

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Douglas Barasch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

The Graham Cassidy Bill is a heartless travesty less concerned with actually improving the healthcare of Americans than settling political scores. Congress should in a careful, thoughtful, deliberative, bipartisan manner work to improve our nation's healthcare system.

Sent from my iPhone



 Notes

September 21, 2017, 5:46 PM

Hello,

I am writing about the proposed Graham/Cassidy bill for changes to the ACA. Surely by every measure, this is not a good bill.

Firstly, I ask Congress not to hold a vote on this bill that will affect 1/6 of the American economy without a CBO score. How can you vote on proposed legislation without fully understanding how it will impact the lives of Americans?

Secondly, I am very concerned about language in the bill that allows states to loosen protections for pre-existing conditions. My family will be directly affected by this provision, as my husband is in remission from stage 4 cancer. We will not be able to afford the extra costs being predicted for his care, and will be effectively priced out of healthcare. In fact, our effort to keep him well, will no doubt bankrupt us.

Thirdly, I am distressed that monies to Medicaid will be reduced so drastically, making costs for seniors and the disabled skyrocket.

From what I read, this bill does not bring healthcare to more Americans - in fact, it is predicted that upwards of 30 million will lose their existing coverage. And, like before the ACA, people have to choose between eating and getting healthcare. People will die.

In conclusion, I find this proposed bill to be heartless and mean. It really is just a way for the GOP to pay for tax cuts. Rather than helping our fellow man, it is a bill that will hurt the most vulnerable in our population.

Please do not pass the Graham/Cassidy bill. Instead, please return to regular order. Let's work on improving the existing law with bipartisan committees, and a vote that requires all of Congress to work together for a solution.

Thank you.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** dawn duffy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy "Healthcare" bill

I am so sick and tired of the republicans trying to take healthcare away from the people of the united states in order to please their corporate overlords!! this latest iteration of cruelty to the masses is abhorrent, to say the least. it is time for republicans to STOP trying to get rid of Obamacare and come together with democrats to IMPROVE the ACA. it is obvious that the majority of our country does NOT want Obamacare repealed and replaced. we the people DEMAND that you think of us FIRST and give us the healthcare we deserve and have a RIGHT to have.

stop with these silly, destructive games.

Sincerely,

*Dawn Duffy*  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Catherine Nemec <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

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

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

Sincerely,  
Cathy Nemec

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nicki Cermak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:18 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please think!

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

Sincerely

Nicki Cermak

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Teresa Barger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Don't pass Graham-Cassidy!

I have strong objections to Graham-Cassidy. Please listen to the pleas of so many in my extended family who depend on ACA. Please act as Christ would have ( or Buddha or any other religious figure). This is a travesty.

Teresa Barger

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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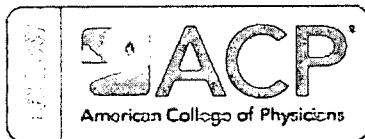
**From:** Eduardo Haddad MD <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** New ACA repeal effort

*Members of the Senate Finance Committee,*

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

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

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



*Eduardo Haddad MD*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** CC Events [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:22 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Let's be Frank. Americans are tired of this healthcare battle. Every few months Republicans have tried (and failed) to repeal ACA. What does that tell you? I won't go on about my disappointment in our current Govt or how Deeply ashamed I feel to be American right now but what I will tell you is we are sick and tired of what has been taking place the last 9 months.

The ACA is flawed, we know that, but maybe get your head out of your arses and stop being greedy and heartless people (more directed towards the GOP members of our Govt) and reach across the aisle and work with Democrats to fix healthcare. I bet we have a lot of great ideas that would benefit ALL Americans.

I know I live in a blue state and our current Govt hates liberals and progressive values but aren't you supposed to be working for All Americans? Well then DO IT.

Kill this terrible bill bc if you don't you will be killing thousands of people- on both sides.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cynthia Williams <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass the bill!

This is a death sentence for so many with pre-existing conditions and financial ruin for most everyone else. It is a cruel, heartless bill. This is NOT the answer

From Cyndi Bramblett Williams iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** anastasia may <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Concerned citizen

To whom it may concern:

I am very worried about this new bill and what that may mean for both me and my husband. We both have preexisting conditions. We both have full time jobs, work hard, and pay our bills on time. Yet I worry about not having adequate or affordable coverage. I have seen the impact of medical bankruptcies. I have seen people die sooner because they are unable to afford proper healthcare. I worry about a bill that's again being forced through without full analysis. I am going to write again before the Monday deadline. But for now I want to express concern. I do not think our leaders are truly thinking about anyone except those that are wealthy. If doctors, medical experts, etc are worried doesn't that mean anything?

Very Sincerely,

Stasi

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** KD Crotwell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy will take away health care which is proven to cause people to die sooner

This bill is a ridiculous farce. It has not gone through any process and most people don't even know what's in it. Those who do, from Medicaid directors of all fifty states to actuaries to the AARP, say it will hurt people and not increase care.

Thank you.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Tanya Brice <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

In 2011 I was told that I would be receiving a very special gift. I was pregnant with twins after several years of miscarriages & pain. I was very worried throughout my pregnancy, had a few scares when they were almost born early but I was able to hold on. I have birth to two babies both weighing around 5lbs each. They seemed healthy even though they were 6 weeks premature.

Mason and Morgan were born in February & brought so much joy to my family. Things were going great until I started to notice little things about Mason. See I'm a social worker & have worked with vulnerable children in the foster care system for 12 years. I am pretty versed in childhood development & my mom/social work senses were alerted. At 9 months Mason was not hitting any developmental milestones but hey he's 9 months, he'll catch up right? Well by the time they hit 2 Mason hadn't caught up... he was almost completely non-verbal, almost impossible to soothe, no ability to self regulate & not hitting any major milestone outside of holding his cup. After tests they announced he had an intellectual disability/developmental delay & would possibly be nonverbal for a long time.

The services that the doctors suggested were all fought tooth and nail by Aetna. Every evaluation, every visit to the speech therapist, occupational therapist & physical therapist was contested. Monthly I was spending money to access services that would help him but on \$40,000 a year there was no wiggle room. After a lot of consideration I applied for SSI with the hopes that Mason could access Medicaid & we could finally get the services that he needs. He was deemed disable & with mental retardation & autistic.

These diagnoses weren't easy to hear. I felt like I failed him. Maybe I should have worked to keep them in my body to grow more. Maybe because I didn't breast feed. I wanted to give him a fighting chance. Medicaid literally increased his quality of life. The services that he received through EPSDT & Medicaid have been life changing for him. If this bill is passed he could lose all this progress. Assisting him now & closing his deficits means he can be a productive member of society. He didn't ask for this, he deserves a chance to thrive in our community. Without Medicaid I can't afford the services that have helped him so much. I work, I pay into the system, I give back to my community. I am hoping that Congress can understand the devastating impact this could have on children like Mason. I know that there are children in much more dire situations & I want to fight for them too. Our kids, elderly & most vulnerable among us deserve to access healthcare.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tanya Brice

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bennett, Malissa <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:26 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

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

My step-son has celiac disease and is working as an independent contractor. He is too old to be on his parent's employer-sponsored health insurance coverage and so he needs affordable coverage that does not have preexisting condition clauses that will prevent him from receiving coverage.

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

Sincerely,  
Malissa Bennett

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Teri Hart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Do NOT pass this new bill it is disgraceful and will cripple millions of people and millions of healthcare workers and institutions! You will cause great disruption to the nations health and well being as well as create financial collapse and recession.... and YOUR name will be attached!!!! I am a nurse and am well aware of the severely negative impact this has as a whole on an entire industry and nation of people. Please CARE. Think of your Responsibility and forgo any antiquated or greedy predilection !!! Begging of you and thank you!!!!  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathy Togni [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** info@pahealthaccess.org  
**Subject:** No on Graham Cassidy

Dear Senators,

I would like to express my dismay at the process you have employed in your latest version of repeal Obamacare. The process of healthcare for Americans needs to be a bipartisan effort that results in health care for all. I am a medicare recipient and it is working well. Everyone should have this access. While you are so opposed to "socialism" (all other major western countries have it and it works fine) when it comes to our healthcare, you do not give a hoot about the **corporate socialism** enjoyed by the pharmaceutical companies and other corporations which are benefiting from the transfer of US taxpayers dollars due to unconscionable drug prices and other inefficient practices. The problem is not the amount spent, it is how our tax dollars allocated to healthcare are distributed. You need to figure this out and start behaving like adults. Any senator that votes for this bill is a disgrace to his or her office. Do the real work of the American people.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Togni

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anita Weiss <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I count on good health care

And this new plan seems very bleak for Americans. Pre-existing conditions will be back for insurance companies to rip off people. I oppose this plan. What did they do, pull it out of the swamp? There was no careful investigation and plan to bring this crap to Americans.

Just work with the Dems and give us something that has been well thought out....improve Obamacare.

Anita Weiss

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Our Story

I am writing you today to ask that you please vote NO on G-C bill. This bill, as it is written, would be devastating to our country, to my family, and more importantly to my son who was born w/ autism, MR, and extensive medical needs that continue to this day. Matthew is now 24 and was most recently hospitalized with sepsis, pneumonia, pleural effusion and empyema all stemming from aspirating on a piece of food. You see, Matthew was born with the inability to suck, swallow and breathe at the same time. This has presented a lifelong challenge for him when it comes to eating; he will always be at risk for choking. It's not going away. My options have been to continue to let him enjoy his food, purée the food or place a feeding tube in him. I should add that the feeding tube is not an option because he is also autistic, extremely violent and would rip the tube out causing infection after infection. Additionally, he was born with a hole in his heart, 3 choroid plexus cysts in his brain, a dilated renal bladder collecting system, and asthma. He was also born with moderate mental retardation.



Without insurance upon insurance, I would be devastated financially, emotionally and physically. I more than likely would have taken my life. Truth be told, I've thought about this on a daily basis.

After endless attempts and hospitalizations to get my son's behaviors under control, and being physically assaulted by him every hour of every day, the only option I had was to place him in a group home at the age of 17 for kids/adults with severe autism. The domestic violence I was living through daily was at the hands of my 6'4" son who did not have the ability to control his behaviors due to his autism. This placement was only made possible by a high priority Medicaid ID waiver slot. I was once again faced with a scenario that would totally devastate me emotionally and financially. My son receives Medicaid and SSI for these conditions and living arrangements. His needs will be lifelong. The medical conditions on top of his behavioral needs creates a situation that I dare to say most people could not endure. But I have. I have because of the services that have been available to me and because of the insurance and Medicaid waiver. I could not do it without them.

When you talk about the high numbers of people dying as a result of losing benefits/insurance/Medicaid, I'd raise that number because I would add in numbers for the

caregivers who would have to endure the unimaginable situation - many would not make it.

Now 7 years into this residential placement, I can tell you that my son is doing amazingly well in his 24/7 group home where he receives the direct supervision, case manager, behavioral treatment and skilled nursing/medical care he needs. We, as a family, are thriving and are able to bring him home for a night every two weeks. Any longer than that and he starts regressing. I have worked for over 35 years as a government employee, federal and local government, and I have maintained health insurance for him for 24 years through my employer. My insurance, coupled with his Medicaid make this all possible. I will be retiring next year and am nauseated to think of what I will do as Medicaid alone does not meet his extensive list of needs. I will be forced to get additional coverage and with all of the pre-existing conditions he has will most likely be unable to afford anything. With the impending cuts to Medicaid, what in the heck will happen. I cry daily just thinking about it. I've become an isolated, depressed shell of a person because all of this is before me, once again. The life of special needs individuals is a life long challenge. It does not end. It is daunting. This bill, as it is written, will cause irreparable harm to so many people. This bill, as written, will cause deaths. This bill as written

will increase the suicide rate amongst caregivers who cannot see the light. This bill, as written is inhumane.

Please vote no.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cindy spieker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** graham/cassidy bill

To say this bill is a travesty would not come close to how I am MOST feel. Sad day when politics over people is on the agenda. Please listen to what MOST of all America wants- work together, and do not vote for the monstrosity.

Thank you

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Zannie Gunn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy

I rely on the ACA for my healthcare. I am happily self-employed. I do not want people in my community to lose access to health care.

MAJORITY of Americans support bipartisan fixes to the health care system.

Health care is 1/6th of our economy. It's too big, too complex and touches too many people's lives to be reformed by one party alone.

The best and most durable solutions to big problems are always found with both parties at the table. Health care is a big problem but there are bipartisan solutions available.

Thank you,  
Zannie Gunn

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** M. Neill Meehan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Maureen Meehan-Hearing: The GrahamCassidyHellerJohnson Proposal, 9/25/17

Dear Senators,

I am writing to implore you....beg you, to vote NO on this Bill. It is immoral bill set up to benefit only healthy, wealthy Americans, as well as the greedy insurance companies. While I am concerned about my entire family and the repercussions of the bill passing, I am most concerned on the effects it would have on my youngest daughter's life. Her name is Olivia, we call her Livi.

Livi was diagnosed with a rare genetic, hemolytic anemia at birth called Glucose Phosphate Isomerase Deficiency. She is only one of 75 ever diagnosed cases of this Syndrome, so you can imagine, there was no way to give us any prognosis, as there are few recorded instances. So in 2006, we began a lie of prayer warriors, and getting her the best medical care we possibly could. At that time, the ACA was not in effect, so we faced constant fears of those times....lapses in coverage, denials, and caps on her benefits, as well as financial burdens leading to such financial disarray, so much that we are still very much in debt, these years later. Those financial, healthcare coverage fears pales in comparison to the worry of her well being. It's traumatic, not knowing if your child will live, watching her go through the trauma of IVs and treatments, anesthesia, etc.

And then, at age 4, she had her first mini-stroke (aka TIA for Transient Ischemic Attack), which was also the second, scariest day of my life (the first being the evening of her birth, following the ambulance as they took my 7 hour old daughter to a close Children's Hospital, after having a vaginal birth). On this day, she fell down, cried for me, and when I found her, her whole left side was limp, flaccid. I'm an Occupational Therapist, so I knew what I was looking at, but it was difficult to accept that what I had witnessed so many times in my career, was a stroke, and it was happening to my little girl. She was then diagnosed with Moya Moya Disease. She has two rare conditions, that would of course be considered pre-existing conditions. She has undergone countless blood checks, countless blood transfusions, countless hospitalizations, countless MRIs/MRAs, multiple surgeries, including a brain surgery called Pial Synangiosis by Dr Scott at Boston Children's Hospital (if you want to speak to one of the most intelligent, wonderful practitioners in this country, and get his take on this bill, you should look him up....he's Harvard Chair of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and he invented the surgery that was performed on Livi), a splenectomy, tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy due to severe sleep apnea. Every time she has a fever greater than 101, she must be hospitalized. Every time she has a fever, she is at risk of dehydration, which leads to more TIA's, and hospitalizations. She had a TIA just this month. Sitting at her lunch at school, her Roght hand went numb. She ran to the water fountain, to try to hydrate, and then knew she had to go to the school nurse. She is so brave.

If not for the ACA, she would have most likely already reached her lifetime cap. She has a long life to live, and she can have a wonderful life, with good medical care. She will die without it. Do not kill my child, and many others. That is what you are doing, when you leave the option open to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps.

I hope you make a decision based on humanity, rather than ANY other reason, so that you may sleep at night (the only other reasons would be selfish, based on pleasing a base of supporters that are either too wealthy to care about my Livi, or not knowledgeable of the true impact this bill will have on them, wishing only to fulfill a campaign promise, of "REPEALING THE ACA!").

Ithis bill passes, and something happens to my child, it will be on your conscience. This country is made up of a majority of people that want to help one another, not the rich people that you want to stay in your pocket. DO YOUR JOB. HELP PEOPLE!!!

We have been through too much, SHE has been through too much, to have to now worry about getting the care she needs. I am attaching pictures of her beautiful, brave face, so that you can think of her, when you make your decisions.

If she can be brave enough to fight through needles, scalpels, weakness, fatigue, and continue to smile and thrive, so can you, in making this, the most important decision of your career. It's not about you. It's about US, the average American.

It's about Livi.

Go do good. It's why you are there.

Neill, OT

M. Neill Meehan, OTR/L

Be kind, ALWAYS.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Deborah Kerr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 7:57 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy ....

The latest version of Trumpcare—AKA Graham-Cassidy—is the worst one yet. In short, it will:

- Cost 32 million their healthcare coverage
- Defund Planned Parenthood
- End Medicaid as we know it
- Eliminate federal protections for people with pre-existing conditions

Please fix the ACA ; stop sabotaging it.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sherry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

Please do not change our health care bill. Much of my family is on Medicaid, two have had cancer, one is a type one diabetic, I have three joint replacements and two immune system diseases and my granddaughter has Turner syndrome. These are just to name a few health problems, all are pre existing conditions. All of us are on multiple prescriptions. We can't afford to pay for our own health care expenses so no health care equals literal death for some of us. Please don't do this to my family. Please leave America's health care extended Medicaid system in place.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Randy and Sabrina Wilburn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee: Healthcare

Dear Senators.. Once again I feel the Earth tremble beneath people like my (now late) husband. He had nothing but ACA (NOT OBAMACARE as I consider this inaccurate, prejudicial and more vindictive). It is sad that people view the first attempt of our country to provide a healthcare program for anyone who needs or wants it with so much narrow minded avarice! This program should be considered "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" and there ought to be Senators working from both sides of politics to repair and to persevere! Had we not had this coverage there would be nothing left in anyone's pocket and there are others in the family to consider in the future... please convince others that ACA needs some TLC and WE, this nation can hold our heads up and feel an ecstatic sensation of SUCCESS for the AMERICAN people from rich to poor! PLEASE SENATORS ... put all your brains and hearts together to not placate these "haters" who just seem to want to destroy ANYTHING that President Obama did during his terms! This is not reasonable or acceptable.. it is pure disdain and destruction of hours and years of work!

S. Wilburn

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sarah Fritschner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care -- Graham Cassidy

I am against the Graham Cassidy bill.

I don't believe that 50 different governors can provide good guidance on helping people with pre-existing conditions. Especially if \$200 billion is cut from insurance. I like that the ACA removes lifetime caps.

Writing this bill in secret, as the previous bills have been written, is a travesty to democracy. I, like Senator John McCain, oppose it on that reason alone.

I am not the only one who opposes this bill. I can take guidance from the American Medical Association, the American Diabetes Assn (who knows a thing or two about pre-existing conditions), and many, many other healthcare-related groups oppose this bill.

--

Sarah Fritschner  
Coordinator, Louisville Farm to Table  
Louisville Forward  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Frank Warninsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

Please do NOT repeal or replace Obamacare. Improve it.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hollylangewisch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Where is your integrity?

I ask you to reconsider and do not continue to move forward with this I'll considered Bill. Governments primary function is to protect it's people, not your donors. I ask that you fully realize obligation as a congressmen and reach across the aisle and work with each other to repair(you can claim the victory) the Affordable Care Act, rather than being negative and destructive. We can rename it The Republican Repair. Come on do you really want to look in the mirror each morning knowing you caused such harm?

With hope for the rise of your conscience,  
Holly Langewisch

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

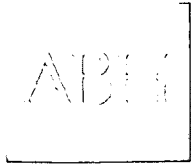
**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tina Ghosh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy Bill

I am a U.S. citizen and I oppose the Graham Cassidy healthcare bill because it would be harmful to Americans.

S. Tina Ghosh



ASSOCIATION  
FOR BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTHCARE

251 West Central Street  
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www.ABHmass.org

Vicker V. DiGravio III PRESIDENT / CEO  
Karin Jeffers, LMHC CHAIR

September 22, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

We write today to voice our strongest opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal.

The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) is a Massachusetts based association representing more than eighty community-based mental health and addiction treatment provider organizations. Our members are the primary providers of publicly-funded behavioral healthcare services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, serving approximately 81,000 Massachusetts residents daily, 1.5 million residents annually, and employing over 46,500 people.

We are very discouraged that instead of continuing down a bipartisan path and working on issues to improve the strength and stability of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) marketplaces, the sponsors of this legislation have put forward a proposal that will have catastrophic outcomes for the millions of Americans living with addiction and/or mental illness. Among our concerns with this proposed legislation are the following:

- It caps federal Medicaid spending at a rate designed to grow more slowly than inflation, shifting costs to states and forcing them into difficult decisions about which populations and services to cut.
- It repeals the Medicaid expansion, taking away states' number one tool in fighting the opioid epidemic. Medicaid pays for 35-50% of all medication-assisted opioid treatment in states that have been hit hardest by the opioid epidemic.
- It eliminates subsidies that keep insurance affordable, stripping people with complex conditions like addiction or mental illness of the support they need to afford coverage.
- It sets states up for future budget shortfalls, replacing the Medicaid expansion and insurance subsidies with block grants that would not grow in response to increased enrollment or costs.
- It allows states to opt out of pre-existing coverage protections and essential health benefits, returning us to the days when people with addiction or mental illness could not get coverage for their conditions.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers, and will likely result in approximately 665,000

Massachusetts residents losing coverage by 2027. It will undermine the financial stability of our health care system and place additional fiscal strains on our state budget.<sup>1</sup>

### **Medicaid Coverage is Essential to those living with Behavioral Health Disorders.**

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

A study done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) concluded that one in five Americans experience a mental illness or addiction in any given year.<sup>2</sup> The number of adults and children in the Commonwealth who need behavioral health care services is staggering. In 2015 in Massachusetts, about 4.2% of all adults aged 18 or older had a serious mental illness within the year prior to being surveyed; 46.2% of these individuals did not receive any mental health treatment or counseling during that time period.<sup>3</sup>

Massachusetts and the United States as a whole are in the midst of an **unprecedented opioid epidemic**. In Massachusetts, an estimated 1,475 individuals died from overdose between January 2016 and September 2016. The first nine months of 2016 saw a higher opioid overdose rate than the same time period in 2015.<sup>4</sup> Nationwide, more people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record, and the majority of drug overdose deaths (more than six out of ten) involved an opioid.<sup>5</sup>

**We know that recovery is possible for these individuals with effective treatment and supports, which is why preserving Medicaid funding for vital treatment services is so important.**

In 2014, spending by Medicaid accounted for 25% of all mental health spending in the U.S. and 21% of all substance use disorder expenditures in the nation.<sup>6</sup> People with behavioral health conditions are nearly one-third of the ACA expansion population.<sup>7</sup>

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal drastically restructures Medicaid and will shift costs onto states and enrollees, restrict access to care, and increase the number of uninsured and underinsured. **The ultimate goal of re-financing Medicaid into block grants/per capita caps is to massively cut the amount of federal spending for Medicaid.**

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

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Mental Health Findings, NSDUH Series H-42, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 11-4667. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Behavioral Health Barometer: Massachusetts, 2015. HHS Publication No. SMA-16-Baro-2015-MA. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Public Health Data Brief: *Opioid-related Overdose Deaths Among Massachusetts Residents*. November 2016.

<sup>5</sup> CDC, MMWR, 2015; 64; 1-5.

<sup>6</sup> *Insurance Financing Increased for Mental Health Conditions, But Not Substance Use Disorders*, Health Affairs, June 2016

<sup>7</sup> *The CBHQS Report*, SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health, November 18, 2015



Proponents of the block grant/per capita cap approach have argued that states would gain greater flexibility in designing and managing their Medicaid programs. **However, block grants/per capita caps will not provide any greater programmatic flexibility to states than they have under current law.** States currently work with CMS through the section 1115 waiver process to tailor their Medicaid program to fit the needs of their specific state.

The National Association of Medicaid Directors, which represents Medicaid Directors from all 50 states, has said “We are concerned that this legislation would undermine (efforts to improve health outcomes while being fiscally responsible)... and fail to deliver on our collective goal of an improved health care system.”<sup>8</sup>

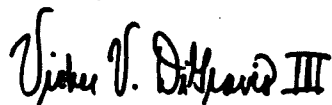
If this proposal becomes law, the pressure on state Medicaid programs and the corresponding efforts to reduce funding and eligibility will put **mental health and substance use disorder services at significant risk.** The risk to behavioral health services is so high because **Massachusetts, like the rest of the nation, is not required to cover mental health and addiction treatment services** as part of our state Medicaid program.

Over the past decade, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has implemented many reforms to improve health care delivery in the Massachusetts. Despite these efforts, access to a robust continuum of behavioral health services continues to be a challenge for individuals living with a mental health and/or addiction disorder. Any changes that result in reduced funding for Massachusetts’ Medicaid program will only exacerbate this problem as Medicaid continues to be the largest payer of these services across the Commonwealth.

It is imperative that adults, children and families be able to access the services they need, when they need them and where they need them. These services should be person-centered, outcome-oriented and clinically and cost effective. Massive cuts to Medicaid funding will make the provisions of such services almost impossible.

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

Sincerely,



Vicker V. DiGravio  
President/CEO

CC: Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Senator Edward Markey

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<sup>8</sup> [http://medicaiddirectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NAMD-Statement-on-Graham-Cassidy9\\_21\\_17.pdf](http://medicaiddirectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NAMD-Statement-on-Graham-Cassidy9_21_17.pdf)



**Statement of  
Max Richtman  
President and CEO  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare**

**Committee on Finance, United States Senate  
Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
Monday, September 25, 2017, 2:00 P.M.  
Washington, DC**

Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am Max Richtman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. With millions of members and supporters across America, the National Committee is a grassroots advocacy and education organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening safety net programs, including Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provide health insurance to millions of older and disabled Americans – Americans who would be greatly harmed by passage of the Graham-Cassidy amendment to the House-passed American Health Care Act.

Like the House-passed ACA repeal legislation, the Graham-Cassidy bill would leave millions of Americans uninsured and would be particularly harmful to older and disabled Americans.

Americans have a right to know how this bill would impact them. Regretfully, the Majority Leadership is rushing the Senate to blindly consider Graham-Cassidy without fully vetting this proposal in committee hearings and mark-up, where amendments could be considered, and without a full Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score. CBO previously estimated that repeal-without-replace would cause 32 million people to lose health coverage. Senate consideration of any bill that would change the accessibility and affordability of essential health care for millions of Americans without a complete CBO analysis and committee debate would be the height of legislative malpractice.

This bill is particularly objectionable because it would:

- Jeopardize long-term care and other supportive services by restructuring Medicaid into per capita caps or block grants. Middle-class Americans often rely on Medicaid for long-term services and supports when they exhaust their savings. Nearly two-thirds of all nursing home residents' care is financed in part by Medicaid. In addition, Medicaid provides home and community-based services that allow seniors to stay in their homes. According to an analysis by the health consulting firm Avalere, reductions to the traditional Medicaid program by Graham-Cassidy compared to current law would exceed \$1 trillion by 2036.
- End Medicaid expansion, which would take away health coverage from 11 million Americans, including low-income older adults under the age of 65. Through 2036, Avalere projects the reduction in federal funding to expansion states relative to current law would be \$3 trillion.
- Drive up out-of-pocket costs for the six million seniors, 50- to 64-year olds, who purchase insurance in the individual market by repealing the ACA's premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.
- States could allow insurance carriers to:
  - ✓ Charge older adults age 50 to 64 higher premiums based on their age by waiving federal protections that limit age rating.
  - ✓ Charge certain enrollees with pre-existing conditions thousands of dollars more than healthier individuals. This proposal would be particularly harmful to the 40 percent of enrollees age 50 to 64 who have one or more pre-existing condition.
  - ✓ Pick and choose which essential health benefits – such as prescription drugs, chronic disease management and maternity care – their plans will cover. Without the essential benefits requirement, health plans may not cover chemotherapy for cancer patients or

insulin for diabetics. In a health insurance market without risk sharing, comprehensive coverage would be unaffordable because most plan enrollees would have pre-existing conditions.

CBO has previously estimated that this flexibility for insurance carriers will substantially increase costs for older and sicker individuals.

The National Committee believes this legislation is so deeply flawed that Congress should instead recommit to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray's bipartisan effort to strengthen the ACA's individual health insurance market reforms. In that spirit, we believe Congress should prioritize lowering costs for all Americans regardless of health status and age and protecting existing programs like Medicaid, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act.

But first, we urge Senators to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill which would put seniors and people with disabilities at significant risk of ending up uninsured and losing access to needed care.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share the National Committee's opposition to the Graham-Cassidy proposal.



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New York, New York 10271  
tel 212.337.5600  
www.villagecare.org

David H. Sidwell      Emma DeVito  
Chairman              President & CEO

FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Statement for the Record  
Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee**

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

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

VillageCare is submitting for the record its opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal, the amendments H.R.1628, the American Health Care Act. Given the potential impact of this bill on New York State, its health care providers and residents, and its virtual end to guaranteed protections and coverage for many individuals living with chronic health care conditions, VillageCare strongly opposes the bill's passage. New York State alone would face a reduction in funds of more than \$18 billion or 25% over the 2020 to 2026 period; this is totally unacceptable.

VillageCare is a highly regarded, not-for-profit provider of high quality care for people with chronic diseases, as well as older adults and individuals in need of continuing care, rehabilitation and medical services. What started as one nursing home in the West Village in 1977 has grown into a network of services addressing the City's frail and vulnerable population, with VillageCare serving over 25,000 individuals in 2016.

VillageCare is particularly troubled that the Graham-Cassidy proposal would:

- Cause millions to lose health insurance coverage by eliminating tax credits that help families pay for health care;
- Eliminate the Medicaid expansion and gut Medicaid, causing massive disruptions to the health care delivery system in New York that so many individuals rely on;
- End protections for people with pre-existing conditions, including HIV, cancer, and many chronic conditions;
- Eliminate the guarantees provided in the minimum essential health coverage criteria, putting at risk coverage of prescription drugs, labs, hospitalization, contraception, and many other services vital to millions of Americans;

- Block millions of people from going to Planned Parenthood for preventive and reproductive health care, including birth control, cancer screenings, and STD testing and treatment;
- Eliminate health insurance coverage for untold millions of people.

Additionally, VillageCare is troubled by the incredibly rushed process that is being used to pass legislation that would have major, drastic and far reaching consequences on millions of Americans and a substantial portion of the entire U.S. economy. Furthermore, there will not be a full CBO score before this legislation is considered; we will not know the full impact of the changes proposed. There is no reasonable justification for putting this bill to a vote on the floor of the United States Senate without reasonable time for hearings, public discourse, thorough review of the bill, and a CBO score.

VillageCare urges all Senators to reject efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. We urge members from both parties to work together and craft bipartisan legislation to improve the Affordable Care Act and stabilize the health insurance markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma DeVito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emma" and last name "DeVito" clearly distinguishable.

Emma DeVito  
President & CEO



To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Bari Talente, Executive Vice President, Advocacy  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
[REDACTED]

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

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has urged all members of Congress to work towards bipartisan solutions to strengthen access to comprehensive and more affordable health coverage and care so people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) can live their best lives. The proposal put forth by Senators Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson (Graham-Cassidy) is neither bipartisan nor a solution, and we urge all to oppose it. The voices of people living with the disease must not be left out of the decisions that determine their ability to secure the care they need and deserve.

Graham-Cassidy would repeal current protections for people with pre-existing and high-cost conditions like MS. It would end Medicaid expansion coverage and federal subsidies for health insurance, leaving over 23 million currently insured people in jeopardy of losing their access to health care altogether.<sup>1</sup>

***“As a Texan living with Multiple Sclerosis, the Graham-Cassidy bill keeps me awake with worry each night. . . It took \$170,000 to keep me, the vegan triathlete who happens to have an incurable neurodegenerative disease, healthy and able-bodied for one year.”***

***~ Jennifer Kiser, Roanoke, TX***

The proposal would give states wide latitude to waive current insurance benefit requirements and other standards of fairness for people with pre-existing conditions. People with MS in states that waive these protections could face substantially higher premiums or find themselves in plans without coverage for the medications, rehabilitation benefits, MRIs or other services that help them remain healthy, productive and independent.

***“Any legislation, such as Graham-Cassidy, that will allow states to set their own rules and offer low-quality insurance policies, will have life and death consequences for millions of people across the country, and could be financially devastating for people with MS like me and families that have had a loved one fall ill.”***

***~ Bob Finkelstein, Philadelphia, PA***

If enacted, Graham-Cassidy would dramatically cut and redistribute federal funds to states, with some states seeing reductions of up to 50% or more in support of care for low-income individuals.<sup>11</sup> People living with MS know the current system is far from perfect, but are fearful of measures that would erode improvements in access to quality MS care they have witnessed in recent years.

***“When diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1999, I became a medical hostage. Since this was pre-Affordable Care Act, my same insurance company could refuse coverage, slot me into a high-risk pool, or keep me from receiving the “too new” disease stalling medications debuting at that time, which have since become the standard of care. It’s not ok to gamble with our health. I don’t want to return to the days when we lacked protections and access. Please don’t gamble with our health. Reject Graham-Cassidy.”***

***~ Vivian Leal, Reno, NV***

In addition to the dangerous policies contained in Graham-Cassidy, the Society is dismayed that only one hearing is being held on the proposal, and by the absence of regular order. Legislation that impacts one sixth of the U.S. economy and the wellbeing of millions requires thoughtful consideration and debate. It is also reckless to vote on such significant legislation without a comprehensive score from the Congressional Budget Office that provides data on its impact on premiums and coverage. *The Society implores Congress to reject Graham-Cassidy and return to bipartisan work that will improve access to affordable, quality health coverage and care for people with MS.*

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<sup>1</sup> Manatt Health, State Policy and Budget Impacts of New Graham-Cassidy Repeal and Replace Proposal, September 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gerald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

I don't understand why the GOP blindly supports bills that they admit to not reading. Cassidy blatantly lies about coverage for pre-existing conditions. Graham keeps parroting Trump's bashing of Obamacare. Why not try to fix what we have? Why not act in the interest of the people for a change?

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Angela Sivilli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

This bill, at least from what I have been able to read about it, is a nightmare. I have matched up the amendments to the prior bill and what I have found is that this bill redistributes wealth from blue states to red states, and from states that accepted the Medicaid expansion to those that did not. Over the next 20 years, it completely does away with any federal funding for ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid. If that is wrong, it is only because this bill is being shoved through so fast that we don't get enough information. But that's how I read it. This is completely unacceptable. You are doing away with social safety nets that we paid for and relied upon. People will die. People will go bankrupt.

The right thing to do is to reverse the law that prevents the government from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies. Add a public option to ACA so more people can get added onto Medicare and give them a bigger negotiating base with doctors, hospitals and big pharma.

Work together in a bipartisan manner to fix the ACA, which admittedly has flaws, rather than destroying a social safety net that prevents people from dying.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Suzanne Decker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

Affordable healthcare is a human rights issue. The essential benefits covered by the Affordable Care Act truly are essential: mental health, substance use, and maternity care are vital to protecting all of our citizens and protecting public health. I want to see the Affordable Care Act improved, not repealed without protections for people with preexisting conditions or without essential benefits. Please vote NO on Graham Cassidy.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Decker  
US citizen

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 5:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Assault on the poor!

This latest attempt to strip many of health care benefits which are clearly misogynist and targeted at those least able to afford high insurance premiums is outrageous.

Leaving out maternity benefits and access to affordable birth control is a step back to, the fifties, where women are not willing to go.

Universal health care is finally being brought to, the table. In this country it is time to step up, to, the plate and not allow medical decisions to be made by insurance and pharmaceutical companies who get richer while millions lose access to preventative health care!

Sincerely,

Anne Smiley

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tara Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:28 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Please don't put those that need health care and rely on Medicaid and have cancer or other life threatening illnesses at risk. The Graham Cassidy healthcare bill needs to be voted against. It is not in any Americans best interest to have this plan or to make such cuts to healthcare that puts people's life on the line. It's cruel and most oppose it.....it only is being put in place for the rich to get richer and the poor get poorer. Don't let people die, have services taken away, go in debt, make people choose between life and death for their family members because of greed. How wrong.

Tara Whitford

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Robin Fragner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:31 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on Obama care repeal

I urge you to vote NO on the latest proposed Obama care repeal efforts. The health and safety of millions of vulnerable Americans is in your hands.

Thank you,  
Robin Fragner

--

Robin Fragner, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist PSY6818

As part of the federal HIPAA regulations, I must remind you that email is not a secure means of electronic communication.

This E-mail (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510 2521, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Please reply to the sender that you have received the message in error, then delete it.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Julia Martinelli <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy/Graham Healthcare Bill

As the Director of a nonprofit focused on life skills coaching programs for people with disabilities we cannot offer support to your Healthcare Bill. Senator Graham should understand how poor his home state is. He has been a Senator long enough to see what happens when you hand blocks of money earmarked for one thing quickly become something else. This bill will hurt the most vulnerable populations in South Carolina already hurting from a system that holds them down. As the mother of an adult child with profound disabilities I have spent my child's life advocating on behalf of him. I have witnessed through no fault of their own what happens when someone makes arbitrary decisions on behalf of others without adequate information. This bill will have unintended consequences for people like my son. It does not encourage equal healthcare among all states but rather will punish poor states, further dividing an already divided country. People's healthcare quality will now depend where you happen to live. People with disabilities are still fighting for equality that was afforded them over 25 years ago under the ADA. They watch as people like you Mr. Graham and Cassidy make decisions about their lives without ever understanding their world. They are forced into a world of poverty just to keep what measly healthcare they have doled out to them now. Can you imagine what happens when a state notoriously known for poor ethics and corrupt politicians gets their hands on the healthcare money? It is very easy to make decisions for other people when they have no effect on you personally. You both have access to the best healthcare there is, how can you possibly know what it is like for the people I serve? I encourage both of you to not put forth this bill until you are willing to insist the whole country including yourselves participate.

Sincerely,  
Julia Barrett-Martinelli  
Executive Director  
AccesAbility

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sandra Falcon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 5:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO NO NO REPEAL OF ACA

We need bipartisan support to refine ACA or go to single payer.

Do not repeal and replace ACA. Trump is nuts and only interested in obliterating and retaliating against Obama. We have a man baby in the WH.

STAND UP TO HIM AND STOP TRYING TO REPEAL ACA. IN 8 YEARS OF GOP BITCHING YOU CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT REPEAL OR REPLACE ACA.

GIVE IT UP AND TELL THE KOCH BROTHERS TO GO TO HELL!!!!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Terrance Moe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

"Repeal and replace" with a bill you truly know nothing about other than that millions will lose coverage, and you may be pleasing your benefactors but losing the electorate.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Laura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save the ACA- do not pass the Cassidy-Graham bill

Good morning. I am a lucky person- except for having a slightly slow thyroid, I am in good health. But the ACA helps so many important people in my life, and I am happy for my tax dollars to be spent on keeping my fellow Americans healthy.

My godson and his twin were born with hypospadias. They both had surgeries to correct this when they were babies, but because of this will always have a pre-existing condition. They are both 7 years old, and will be productive members of society one day, so long as they can continue to access well-child care and treatments as needed. He needs the protections of the ACA.

My father is a prostate cancer survivor. He is a very healthy retired man who walks a lot, volunteers for the symphony, and sings in the church choir. As a cancer survivor on Medicare, he needs access to treatments if he has a remission. He needs the protections of the ACA.

One of my best friends is a survivor of sexual assault. She has been through counseling and used anti-depressants to help her recover from the trauma. She was suicidal for a while, and the treatment she received saved her life. Although the incident happened almost twenty years ago, she could be denied coverage under Graham-Cassidy because of the treatment plan to recover from an attack inflicted by a vicious man at her university. She needs the protections of the ACA.

My cousin is a very hardworking blue collar guy in Florida. He is a responsible father, trustworthy churchgoer, and beloved by all of his bosses at the car dealership. However, his salary, while enough to keep him in a middle class lifestyle, could not handle any emergency medical bills. He is the hardworking american who would be financially destroyed by an unexpected accident. He needs the protections of the ACA.

Please, do not pass this bill. Reps and Dems need to work together to create a health care system for all Americans. It is a waste of your time and my tax paying dollars to continue to pursue this partisan legislation which will hurt many, many, many Americans.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** richard yoder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Fellow Americans,

I strongly encourage you to vote against the Graham Cassidy bill. I just have too many friends who will lose health insurance coverage if this bill passes and I find that immoral.

Thank you,

rick

Richard Yoder  
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Chawn Whitsitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Human

Decency. Integrity. States varying needs for constituents will never be a "one size fits all." Allocation and distribution of Health services is essential to Quality of Life:"Make America Great Again!" Numerous flaws in Graham-Cassidy Bill. Improve the ACA by ethical and overall logical additions to existing Healthcare Bill.

📱 Chawn's iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Audrey Wottrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Healthcare bill

To the members of the US Senate,  
How many more of these cruel healthcare bills are you going to force on the people? We've spoken, previous attempts have failed, so please move onto something else that will benefit the people that pay your salaries.

AJ Regan  
Sent from my iPad

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Penny Daniels <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:19 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Access for ALL Americans

Hello. I am writing as a concerned citizen about the Graham/Cassidy bill. As someone who has had their taxes increased due to the ACA, I want you to know that I STILL STRONGLY SUPPORT HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS. I am willing to pay my part to make sure that people don't die because of lack of access or overwhelming financial burdens. For me, it is part of the social contract to help those less fortunate than myself.

Furthermore, I find it reckless and irresponsible to force a vote on this bill before a complete CBO analysis has been completed and shared with the American people. Decisions that affect millions and one sixth of our economy should not be politically motivated. We are talking about people's lives and livelihoods. When every major medical group comes out in opposition to a bill, shouldn't we listen? We need public hearings, town halls and information campaigns, not back channel deal making.

I know people personally that are living in fear. Fear that they won't be able to afford the care that literally keeps them alive.

Now is the time for people of conscious to do the right thing. Not the politically convenient thing.

Thank you,

Penny Daniels

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*Penny*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Cathy Vinčević [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:23 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My thoughts on the Graham-Cassidy Horror.

How dare you, Republicans, try to foist this abomination on the American People yet again!  
What is wrong with you that you would take away the protections that would keep people from losing their homes and their lives because their insurance will not cover their health issues?

What planet do you come from that makes that okay?  
You would let people die on the streets to you and your rich friends a tax break.

SHAME ON YOU FOREVER!

You know this is wrong, but you don't seem to care.

EVERY other advanced country in the WORLD has single payer, and it works.  
Don't even try to spread the lie that people don't get taken care of in those countries.

What is so stupid about your ideas is that you are going to bring us to single payer before you know it and you could have saved a plan that is based on supporting the insurance industry.

We are on to your lies.

While you are at it---impeach the dotard already.

Sincerely,

Cathy Vincevic

“Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.”  
— Dr. Seuss

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Schwendener-Holt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I am a psychologist. Virtually all of my clients have pre-existing conditions. Most are seriously disabled by mental illness. These are the folks who will be most harmed by the Graham Cassidy bill. Please vote no!

Thank you for thinking of the most vulnerable among us and protecting them.

Sincerely,

Mary Schwendener Holt. PhD HSPP MDiv

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dianne Gorsline [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Graham/Cassidy repeal of the Affordable Care Act is an insult to every American. All Americans deserve quality healthcare. This bill makes it very likely that won't be available to the most vulnerable of us.

I respectfully ask you to vote no, America will remember this moment.

Thank you,

Dianne Gorsline

*Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID*

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Karrie Kreuziger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Universal Healthcare For All

Good Day,

As an American I see the total disgrace on what you are doing to my country. Yes you are a disgrace simple and easy this is a horrid bill. All human beings deserve healthcare no matter race, color, creed , or status. I could go into specifics on how you are hurting the American people, but you already not that. You know exactly how evil you are and the you are only creating bills like this to line your own pockets that will only give you money. You have made other countries mock us and laugh at us and you have way to much to learn. But this bill is nothing more than you being a disgrace. Telling you exactly how I feel will only bring me to you level so here it is. America will only become its strongest when we help its weakest. We will only become a country of unity when we learn to love all human. Therefore every human is a preexisting condition every human deserves healthcare no mater what. I do wish you well because I do believe that you yourself for creating this bill has a preexisting condition and hope you get proper mental care.

Here are two things you need to remember

One: We are only the strongest when we help the weakest yes that does mean universal healthcare for all

Two: America needs to have free education, YES FREE COLLEGE so America could be once again a nation self reliant on farmers, craftsman, ranchers , hunters, artists, environmentalists, so all Americans can have the American dream

Remember all the American People need and deserve Universal healthcare for all with no limitations or hidden agendas, and you know exactly what I mean

Stop being greedy stop lying and do the right thing for once in your lifetime

kate

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** raido9808 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill is a travesty. According to CBPP it will cut Medicaid by Hundreds of Billions of dollars. At least \$243B until 2026. Then in 2027 \$299B in that year alone! It gets worse from there.

It is cruel and unusual punishment for the crime of being underpaid by your boss!

Hello!

Plus it will allow states to eliminate standards of care, remove protections for those with pre-existing conditions, jack up premiums for private insurance holders and put lifetime and annual caps on care. It sentences all preemies to death because they will hit cap within days!

It is draconian. It is Evil. It is Satanic. Literally, I am sure Satan loves it. People suffering is his favorite thing.

Y'all need to get a clue,  
Lana Leifheit  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Tablet

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Attachments:** text\_1506163774236.txt

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Please do not support the ACA repeal

**T-Mobile**

This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dianne Gorsline [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

**Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:**

**The Graham/Cassidy legislation cannot guarantee protection for those with pre-existing conditions, it is more expensive and fewer will be covered and is not a viable replacement for the Affordable Care Act.**

**The Graham/Cassidy repeal has not been properly vetted, nor has it been through the proper procedures to be considered at this time.**

**Please vote no on this legislation and save American lives.**

Thank you.

Dianne and Douglas Gorsline

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 AM

gchcomments

All medical organizations are against this bill. Some insurances are. I am. It effects 20% of the economy. Let's go to regular order with hears and CBO report. Don't pass this bill. Thank you.

Elizabeth Lynn hardiman

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Joan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:32 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy!

Please oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My spouse and I are in our sixties, on a fixed income, with many pre-existing conditions and outrageously expensive medication. Before being eligible for Medicare, we relied on the Affordable Care Act to help us with our medical expenses. We have both worked all our lives and are not asking for a handout. It's just that we were both self-employed at the time, and insurance was unaffordable because of out-of-control health care costs. If the Affordable Care Act is flawed, then fix it, don't toss it out. Let's get Congress to work together, in a bipartisan manner, to come up with an even better plan!

Joan Wikler

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[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mickey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:33 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy bill

By voting for this bill, members of Congress have now decreed themselves government assassins. Don't do it. You will be killing many innocent children to defeat something only because it was something a real President did, unlike the child in the oval.

Sent from my iPhone



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** thomas cornfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** don't betray your oath

Uphold your oath to the Constitution Senators!  
Do not betray your fellow citizens who are counting on you to look out for them!  
Reject this cynical and meaningless Koch brothers partisan health care bill; find a meaningful bi-partisan solution(like Tip O'Neill and Reagan would have!)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ellen Bridle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:39 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Graham-Cassidy

DO NOT pass Graham-Cassidy; this 'health' bill would be a disaster. It would cut \$1 Trillion off of Medicaid over time - how are all those people supposed to get health coverage? It will reduce total funding, and remove protections, eg against lifetime caps. This would make things \*much worse\* than before the ACA. Do you think people are really ready to give up affordable insurance, once they have finally gotten it, in order to 'fulfil a campaign promise' or secure lots of money in donations from the Koch brothers?

This bill has not even been scored by the CBO, or had hearings. How can you responsibly reorganize 1/6 of the US economy without having examined the bill in any way?

If you have a bill that will address problems in the ACA - and there are some - that is great. If you don't have a solution to any problems, but are passing a bill for the sake of it, DO NOT REPEAL. NO GRAHAM - CASSIDY!

Thank you.

Ellen Bridle

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ken Potter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:42 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Sir or Madam,

The proposed structure of healthcare in the Graham-Cassidy bill is heartless and impractical in the extreme. Our courts are already overwhelmed with bankruptcies caused by medical expenses. This bill would increase those bankruptcies beyond comprehension. Let's face facts. This ill-conceived piece of legislation was designed for one reason only: To strip away governmental protections from the people that need them. The first of the "unalienable rights" in The Declaration of Independence is LIFE. Graham-Cassidy is designed to void that statement.

Let's examine Health Insurance Companies. They are not in the business of compassion, they are operated strictly for profit. *Even they* denounce this ridiculous bill, saying "Legislation must also ensure adequate funding for Medicaid to protect the most vulnerable".

The Health Insurance Industry takes in 1.2 *Trillion* dollars per year, of which a very small fraction is used to pay actual medical expenses. Why our healthcare expenses should include exorbitant profits to insurance companies is beyond me. Why those same companies are permitted to run roughshod over the medical profession is another mystery. Address those issues, as many other governments have done, and this crisis will disappear.

In the short term, Graham-Cassidy belongs in the shredder. Instead, let's look for solutions that don't destroy lives.

Ken Potter

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** A Mc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Statement for the record for the Senate Finance Committee Graham-Cassidy hearing

What have you guys been smoking or are you drinking the coolaid? This is poison to America and its Peoples. You are violating every moral virtue you have.

Im an Independent voter and this thing makes me want to treat and R's like a scarlet letter. If you force me to I will - cause Ill be damned if Ill let you try and stab our country in the back!

\*Hugs\*

Adm

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Norene Sandifer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:27 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Bill

Huge mistake to pass this bill to save face. I realized after watching Ken Burns Vietnam that over 55k servicemen died because people in power wanted to save face. How many need to die from lack of health insurance?

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Aaron Pankonin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:24 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy health bill

For once do the right thing. Create a bipartisan health care and model it after the care you senators enjoy.

After 8 years of absolutely little ideas except everything President Obama did was bad, it's disappointing that there hasn't been a a real solution from the Republicans.

The ACA has good things for people:

1. No lifetime limits
2. Coverage of existing conditions (stop using pre-existing, that doesn't make sense)
3. Extended coverage for children
4. Fair coverage for women
5. Preventative care

I know it's not perfect, make it better.

Thanks

Aaron Pankonin

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Naomi Chambers [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:03 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Just Say No!

No CBO score NO vote!

So far no GOP bill is better than what we have now, 23 million losing healthcare is not a solution. Do your Homework!

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Tomasz Dabrowski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Obamacare is NOT broke but CAN be improved.  
Dems and Repubs should WORK together to give ALL American people BETTER Healthcare NOT worse



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** (no subject)

Please vote NO on the Graham Cassidy bill. This is not the right way to go. We need better real reform on health care. Arlene Samek [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** chronicshawni <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself. Since we have been insured due to the ACA, our family has been able to stabilize economically. My asthma medications would cost \$300 a month. I would often suffer asthma attacks because I couldn't afford my inhalers. Now that my children are adults, all four of them need medical insurance because they inherited my medical issues (definitely not their fault). At this moment, we are eating healthier food and living a better quality of life, because we can afford to buy insurance through ACA. Please keep Obamacare for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you

Shawnette Lauenroth

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Donna Starr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:03 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Block Grant Bill

This will be a huge mistake. If insurance rates have gone up now, how about when 50 states try to re-juggle! States that chose to NOT take the Medicaid extension will unfairly get more money because of their derelict action. States who were concerned enough to build infrastructure will be penalized. We will lose huge numbers of insured. This is America, not Corporica. Medical care for insurance profit is NOT the American way. NO NO NO No

Donna Starr

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dorothy Day [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:06 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Healthcare for American citizens must not be decided in this fashion. The Senate needs to return to regular order, work with both parties, deliberate and come to a compromise that will benefit, not harm, the people of this country. That is the way the ACA was passed and that is the way it should be improved.

Thank you,  
Dorothy Day

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kelli Cardiff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments †  
**Subject:** Healthcare

PLEASE create a bill that doesn't penalize people for being women or pregnant or sick. WTF Congress. We should all get the same health insurance they get...or vice versa.

Sincerely frustrated and disheartened,  
Kelli Cardiff

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Diane Tegtmeier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:07 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham=Cassidy-Heller Amendment.

Dear Senate Finance Committee,  
I'm writing to ask that you abandon the Graham-Cassidy-Heller Amendment as irresponsible as it is. Moreover, a comprehensive health care program cannot be a political football, but and bi-partisan, open hearings process just as Sen. McCain is calling for.

**THIS AMENDMENT MUST BE STOPPED!**

Thank you, Diane Tegtmeier

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Shelton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:08 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

This bill is an obscenity. Taking health insurance away from citizens is unconscionable. It should not pass.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bob [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Obamacare repeal

I am opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. Any change to the ACA should be a bi-partisan, public process.



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amber Stavros [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** My reaction to 'Trumpcare'

I am sickened in a personal and professional level I am a single woman living in the Bay Area with MS. I have previously been denied coverage due to much lesser 'pre-existing' conditions and was so relieved that although I eventually obtained insurance through my employer, it was of great comfort to know if I was ever rendered unable to work, I'd never again be denied the coverage I so desperately need thanks to the ACA!! My mom is now fighting cancer and her meds are \$33,000/month. Luckily her insurance is saying they will cover it. Which we have yet to see whether or not they actually are going to. She almost denied treatment due to her lack of confidence that her meds that she needs every three weeks for the next three years. If this abomination of a bill is allowed to pass cutting Medicare coverage I might end up losing my mom due to her inability to afford her treatments!! These are just a couple of examples in my life that would be so incredibly negatively impacted by this 'healthcare bill.'

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** ikenko [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

Please vote against this bill, which will harm many Americans.  
--Susanna Siegel

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marie Shryock <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** #GrahamCassidyBill

I beseech you to ban this bill, to vote against it and vote for human life!!!! You know, each and every one of you in your heart of hearts that this bill will kill millions, make an already very hard and stressfull life for most, even more terrible. It will create an over whelming burden on hospitals, as everyone will turn to them as doctors. I know some people are scared of trump, but please take a stand for whats right! Stand up to him, speak up for the american people, as we are desperate for our voices to be heard, and our lives to be cared about. Please, please think of all of US rather than some of us.

Stephanie Shryock

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gayle Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham - Cassidy Bill is Horrendous!

This bill is terrible, not to mention cruel and ineffective. This bill cannot pass!

Sincerely,  
Gayle Lewis

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Tarlow <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save The ACA

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly oppose the proposed legislation that purports to replace the current ACA. Our nation has so many problems we can work on instead of destroying the best plan to provide medical for the most people at the lowest cost.

Please think about the people who will suffer if this legislation is passed. Please do the right thing for our country.

Best,  
Linda J Tarlow  
Concerned American

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Candy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Insurance and the selling of out of our country for the almighty dollar!

Senators are elected to serve the citizens of the USA! They are not to serve a party and donors to the election campaign. The USA is suppose to be a democracy! It isn't! It is a country run by the rich! The rich want to take insurance away from millions of people to lower their taxes! Selfish rich assholes!  
We the people need to take our country back!

Candella Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer Otto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I am a resident of Lansing, Michigan. My husband and I have worked hard to provide for our family, including our elder son who suffers from chronic intractable migraine headaches and has done since he was 8 years old. He is now 36. Please imagine for a moment living a life where you have a migraine headache every day for an entire year, or where having only ten migraine headaches in a month is wonderful, or where yet another neurological medicine reacts badly with your system sending you into a tailspin. This spring, an interaction of medications sent our son to the hospital in a psychotic state. He spent a month hospitalized, including a week in the ICU in an induced coma while his doctors sorted him out. The outcome was better than we ever hoped for – he came back with his mind, body and personality intact because he had wonderful medical care. The Affordable Care Act has allowed us to provide our son with the kind of complicated and intensive care that he needs. This episode alone could have nakrupted us. Our son is the perfect example of someone with a pre-existing condition. Once more, we are trying to make out voices heard. People with pre-existing conditions, people without the financial resources to buy medical care on the free market, people with jobs that don't provide adequate medical insurance, the unemployed, the underemployed, the homeless – these people must all be guaranteed proper medical care. The Graham Cassidy bill will not protect the most vulnerable of our citizens. Including my son.

Jennifer Otto

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Candice Sanders <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:16 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am a pre-existing condition

Hello, my name is Candice Sanders from Tulsa, Ok. I am writing on the behalf of myself and others who really need mental health care. It affects me and others in my family. To end this program is a major set back for recovery!!! It will cost more in the long run to end mental health coverage. The rise in violence and crime will surge, due to people who cannot nor afford mental health care. So this will actually cost more than you think. And not to mention, do you guys really want a whole lot of crazies off of their medications?!?!?! I sure don't. This will affect million's across this great nation. Please I beg of you keep mental health care coverage!



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jessica McGovern [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:17 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do you even read these?

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Jess McGovern and I am a 24 year old American citizen. Growing up I was taught by older Americans and my history teachers that our government was by the people and for the people. That every member of congress is suppose to be the voice of the American public. So why does the GOP continue to vote on these healthcares bills when

- 1) they are extremely unpopular
- 2) they bypass bipartisan debate and input
- 3) The CPO is not allow enough time to give proper information on the bills

And finally

- 4) 21 million people will be without insurance

Not to mention the countless unable to afford insurance because this Specific graham-Cassidy bill doesn't help out those with pre-existing conditions such as CANCER or ASTHMA.

I'm sure many are emailing you listing the faults in this bill such as,

- 1) massive state funding cuts
- 2) No official CPO score
- 3) loophole that allows hikes for people with pre-existing conditions
- 4) leads to massive amounts of uninsured veterans
- 5) no large health organization approval ( the AARP, American Cancer network and VA all disapprove)
- 6) a so called "age tax"
- 7) little public debate and discussion

I just want to be one more voice that urges you to rethink this process. Healthcare is too important to dismantle in less then a month with no real plan to help the people this bill will leave in the dust.

I'm disgusted that the GOP continues to ram a bill that AMERICA does not want. I hope you re-evaluate your positions and your jobs. Are you here for the right reasons? My generation will remember, as we get older our voices get stronger and the type of politicians who do not care about our voice will no longer be able to speak for us. This version of america is dying, the people are rising.

Thank you,

Jess McGovern

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

I am a physician, a woman and a mother of 3 dependent daughters, one of whom is disabled. The ACA is essential to our family due to my being self-employed and in private practice. Before the ACA our family could not get insurance due to various pre-existing conditions. Although I pay \$2300 a month for premiums plus co-pays, I am glad that our family can get insurance. Without the ACA, we would be out of luck.

In my practice, 2/3 of the patients in my office and in the hospital in which I work have insurance through the ACA. I am afraid that's many clinics, practices and hospitals would not be able to stay open, if the ACA were repealed. This would have devastating effects on the health of patients, and on the economy.

Please, do not repeal this bill. Please work in a bipartisan manner to fix the flaws of the ACA.

Thank you

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** mdonovan5199 . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Here are my thoughts:

First, I'm an unaffiliated voter so this is NOT a left nor right leaning or driven comment.

At the end of the day, most all of us knew that healthcare is indeed hard to figure out. It was a battle to get the ACA passed and into play. The GOP spent the ensuing 7+ years trying to kill it and teed up the branding of it as "Obamacare" in an effort to tie any angst about Obama himself towards negativity towards the ACA. Throughout, they could not and still have not come up with a workable replacement.

They made "repeal and replace" a centerpiece of their 2016 election campaigns and ultimately, won control of the executive and legislative branches.

A funny thing happened enroute to trying to govern, the sheer lunacy of their proposals coupled with their own internal warring factions shone a huge light on healthcare to the American people. Once the nation figured out that Obamacare was the ACA ("you can take away Obamacare, but don't take away my ACA"), they became wary and weary of the GOP's efforts. Add in the secrecy (13 white guys in a locked room, middle of the night voting, etc.) and the American people have become educated themselves that healthcare is indeed hard.

Meanwhile, the GOP in their quest for a political win have gone completely tone deaf to what has happened over these past months in the nation. They still believe that they made this "promise" to repeal and replace and must keep it, but continue to not understand that passing any one of these proposed measures including Graham-Cassidy will actually not get them any accolades. In fact, it will do just the opposite at least with the American people. It may endear them with the likes of the Koch brothers.

As the tide continues to turn against the leader of the party (Trump) as evidenced by the majority of polls out there, their continued support of him and their manic obsession with repeal and replace may turn into historic blunders for the party.

Again, as an unaffiliated voter, I would state that the ACA exists. It has done some very good things and as with all major legislation, it has it's areas that need improvement. The GOP would do themselves well by working across the aisle and doing the 3rd "r" which is to repair the ACA. If they do this, they can claim the "high road" even amidst their 7-8 year "low road" activities.

The 2016 election proved that the voting base can be easily fooled and manipulated. It won the power for the GOP. They should recognize this and use it to their advantage here while, maybe, just maybe, delivering quality healthcare to the American people.

--  
Mark Donovan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Yeomans <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** DO NOT THROW 32 MILLION AMERICANS OFF OF HEALTHCARE

SHAME on the GOP! DEPLORABLE does not even begin to describe them. The GOP is the single biggest threat to our nation today! This is not about health POLICY--this is about MONEY! The GOP is brazenly lying about the impact of this bill--ramming it through without hearings so the KOCH brothers will open their piggy banks and pay for the GOP reelection campaigns. It is disgusting that you were elected to SERVE your constituents and are now serving YOURSELF. This silver lining is that once people lose their healthcare they will turn on the GOP and that will be the end of your greedy narcissistic party. Even the Koch brothers will not be able to save you. Shame on you all. Karma's a bitch and I hope you find yourself staring into the eyes of someone you love who is dying because YOU took away their healthcare. We are watching --all of you and are looking forward to #2018--

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Magaret Leschinski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Senators,

Please vote NO, and work with the democrats to fix Obama care.

I fear the Cut and cap the traditional Medicaid program that covers long-term services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities beginning in 2020, cutting \$175 billion between 2020 and 2026 is heartless. To end Medicaid expansion beginning in 2020, and replace that funding with a block grant to all states ending in 2026, cutting \$239 billion in federal support is wrong. Some of the 19 non-expansion states would get additional funds during the life of the block grant. The 31 Medicaid expansion states like Ohio, however, would see their funds cut substantially. As a constituent of Ohio, our state cannot survive.

Of critical importance, the permanent change to a per capita cap formula ends the federal guarantee of paying for Medicaid's health and long-term care costs. I have worked as an RN in long term care over 3 decades. I have a speciality in gerontology. Our elderly need your assistance.

Federal support would no longer increase to account for economic downturns, new treatments, increasing prescription drug prices, the aging of the older adult population from the "young-old" to the "old-old," or other considerations.

This would put enormous pressure on state budgets, forcing states to consider raising taxes, cutting spending on other essential programs, or reducing Medicaid enrollment.

I am a person with existing conditions and can't afford what you are proposing.  
Please vote No!

Margaret Leschinski

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rosie Flanigan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't kill my daughter

My daughter had breast cancer surgery in October last year, but had her ovaries removed today for medical, possibility-of-cancer-spreading reasons. She has ACA coverage and still owes over \$20,000 from all of this. She is self-employed so has been unable to work as much this year, and is under tremendous stress for financial reasons.

Please don't pass this new so-called coverage. If you do, my 47-year-old daughter will not be covered and will not be able to afford insurance completely on her own. Please don't kill my daughter. It would also kill me to lose her. And believe me, I am with many other people who are watching closely how you all vote on this so that we can vote appropriately in the next elections. You have insurance...let the people of the United States have decent insurance, too.

Rosie Flanigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Roger Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

Probably only the very young don't have pre-existing conditions and that isn't a given. Our health care must be fair, affordable and reasonable. Improving ACA would be preferred to repealing the entire program. Work together, in a bipartisan way, to reach such a bill.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** TrumpCare

Sirs,

Why do we keep Americans in edge over TrumpCare? The answer is because Trump doesn't care and his regime is draining our coffers. The USA has never had such a threat in the White House and the overall administration. Millions being dumped on planes, resort visits, golf carts, fights over Healthcare, for lawyers, for representatives to as they wish with our constitution and democracy.

As an American, I pay taxes and for healthcare. I work in healthcare and I see the costs, the waste, the scaling back of staff to keep ends met.

These crazy inept bills are insane or the everyday American. They are not what we need.

Look into the exorbitant cost of Medication compared to production cost.

Look into the contributions the Pharmaceutical Industry is giving to campaigns and elected officials.

Look into the profits of Insurance Companies and their executive salaries & bonuses.

Hospital executives, as well, are pulling in millions a year. Why?

These are the places Healthcare can

SM Wartinger RT(R)



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:04 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** health care

I am amazed that those who are living in this world do not see how the vote to recall/replace the obamacare health insurance program. I don't think you live in the real world, nor seem to know anyone with any health problems. I am an early childhood educator. We are one of the most needed teaching groups and receive almost no benefits. I could not afford insurance for over ten years until obamacare. I would love to see Congress live by the standards they wish to deal the rest of the nation.

I can't think of one family I know that will not suffer from your current plan.

Please reconsider voting against what we have now. I can see tweaking it in the future, but do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

I also plan to make note of each person who votes for this and will campaign against each one of you. You would be surprised how many teachers influence this world.

Kristina Dalton

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Nikki Conti-Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

I am concerned about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal currently being pushed through the Senate because I think it is important that there is time for a CBO score to be determined and released, and I think there are better solutions to our healthcare problems than pushing this through - bipartisan solutions.

I have a chronic health condition and I am very concerned that I, and others with my condition (as well as other medical issues), could face serious problems with our healthcare under this proposal.

Thank you.

Nikki Conti-Brown

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Anne Ross <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:05 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

To Whom it May Concern:

The Graham Cassidy Bill is akin to declaring war on the American people. The government serves at the pleasure of the people, and we are not pleased. We are the ONLY industrialized country without comprehensive healthcare. Over four million people are bankrupt each year in the United States due to medical bills. The Republicans are both reprehensible and morally bankrupt. It is time to stop this kleptocracy in its tracks. Enough with the pillaging of the lives, and money of the people of this country to fill the pockets of sociopathic, greedy, self-proclaimed overlords. This bill must die, and not the citizens of this once great nation.

Anne Ross

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Debbie M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO on GrahamCassidyHeller Proposal

GrahamCassidyHeller is a disaster for the American people. This proposal undercuts our most vulnerable citizens and will raise rates for most of us, especially older folks. It will be devastating for those with pre-existing conditions as it undermines the protections against exorbitant hikes in premiums. It will cause extreme harm to the disabled and Seniors in nursing homes who depend on Medicaid. This proposal is especially cruel to women. Governors and Medicaid Directors of red and blue states don't support it. Medical groups do not support this. Even the insurance companies are against this, and we all know they are big GOP donors. Wise up & pull the proposal before forcing bad votes.

The GOP should be ashamed of even putting something this draconian measure forward. Once your repeal and replace base finds out how this will affect them, they will turn on you and flip Congress blue because eventually self interest is stronger than any bullshit lies you put out.

It is my fervent hope that every member of Congress who votes for this train wreck or voted for AHCA or BCRA will have these votes hang around your necks like an albatross.

Time to put the health and well being of the people of this country ahead of purely partisan politics. Try some bipartisanship on Healthcare.

See you in 2018 and 2020.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** EarlineThomas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 7:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal  
**Attachments:** 2017-09-22 Graham-Cassidy Finance Committee letter EWT - scanned.pdf

Attached, please find the testimony I wish to submit for the Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, September 25, 2017, 2:00 PM EDT. I would appreciate your entering it into the records of the hearing.

Per your instructions, I am sending hardcopy of this letter via postal mail to the address on your web page; however, I am also submitting this electronic copy, so that it can be considered in time for the hearing and the vote.

Thank you,

Earline Thomas

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alison Luterman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments?  
**Subject:** please save (and fix) the ACA!! NO to Graham Cassidy non-healthcare bill!!

My husband is 61 years old, and he has diabetes. I am 59, and have an auto-immune thyroid disease, easily treatable with medication and regular check-ups. The ACA SAVED OUR LIVES during a period when my husband was unemployed (I am a free-lance writer and writing teacher, my husband is a machinist). We have worked hard all our lives, paid our taxes and own our own home, but as we are growing older we recognize we are vulnerable.

Health care is a right, not a privilege. Every other so-called civilized country in the world guarantees that right to its citizens. We Americans live in terror every time the GOP comes up with a new, more Draconian version of Trumpcare.

Also: the blatant racism of wanting to undo the signature accomplishment of the first African American President is not lost on us. The AMA, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, all 50 Medicaid directors in all 50 states, and scores of other reputable medical directors, and insurance companies have all come out against GrahamCassidy—the consensus is that this is a terrible bill—why is the GOP promoting it? Jeff Flake, what the hell...?

I do not understand why Senators Graham and Cassidy want to throw Americans under the bus. I don't understand why Senator Cassidy lied about this to Jimmy Kimmel on national television. I don't understand why the GOP expects people to fall for their self-serving lies again and again, and I don't understand why it takes a former POW with a BRAIN TUMOR to stand up and speak truth to power, but I can tell you that Americans are awake and we are angry and we're tired of being jerked around by ever more toxic iterations of these non "health care" bills.

Thank you for hearing me out,  
Alison Luterman

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Claire McGillem <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister has a pre-existing condition - she was born with holes in her eardrums and has had numerous surgeries to try and recover some of her hearing loss. You cannot increase her premiums because of this pre-existing condition that she had no control over. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Claire McGillem

Marana, AZ

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Obamacare Repeal Bill

To Whom it May Concern,

My wife and I have been Registered Nurses for twenty years. I have also been a patient with a chronic heart condition for most of that time. We have each experienced healthcare from multiple perspectives, and have watched as it has evolved over time. As an emergency department nurse first in a rural academic medical center and then at urban academic medical centers, I saw first-hand how the uninsured and indigent sought primary care via hospital emergency departments. We did the best we could to take care of them and connect them with follow-up care, but we always knew that our efforts were not going to solve the problem. I recall many, many shifts spent caring for people with diabetic ulcers, uncontrolled congestive heart failure, and all manner of chronic disease complications in between true emergencies, all the while thinking that they didn't need me; they just needed a primary care provider to keep track of them. I watched people fall through the cracks. And then came the opioid crisis...

I left bedside nursing and went to law school because the constant revolving door of human misery was too much. After I changed my specialty to cardiology and my wife transitioned her practice to long term care, I realized that the people showing up in the emergency department for primary care were just one subsection of the people who were being completely failed by the medical system. As time went on, we were all asked to do more with less. And less and less and less. My wife now manages a small suburban nursing home where 65 of the 82 beds are currently occupied by men and women under fifty years old who are some combination of indigent, homeless, mentally ill and/or addicted to drugs and alcohol.

My takeaway from all I have seen and experienced is that the healthcare system is a mess. I look around at the absurd national wealth we have amassed and I am literally disgusted by the old, white, privileged so-called "christian" men who stand in front of both houses of Congress and talk about how it is fiscally irresponsible to provide healthcare to their fellow citizens. The fact that some of them have the audacity to say that some people don't deserve access to healthcare while they themselves are in no danger of ever having to go without their insulin, their blood pressure medication, their cancer screenings, their wives' and daughters' abortions, their Viagra, or their chemotherapy is unconscionable. They will never have to choose between buying their medicine and feeding their families. They will never have to decide between going to the doctor and paying the rent. They either don't know or (more likely) simply don't care that people are literally suffering and dying. It is within their power to fix it, but they would rather allocate more money to a military that is already grotesquely bloated and welfare for corporations that pay employees wages that keep them in poverty and don't even offer them health insurance.

The ACA was a start. It isn't enough, and it leaves too many gaps. But I saw it as a good-faith effort to start working on one of our most shameful societal ills. It needs to be expanded, adjusted, and improved. Eliminating it altogether and replacing it with something that makes things worse than they were before the ACA was enacted is a breathtakingly cruel and irrational idea to even contemplate. The repeal of the ACA is being orchestrated by a group of people who are concerned only with erasing President Obama from history, and with restoring their preferred brand of white supremacy (the rich, male kind) to a country that they believe is being taken away from them. There is no other possible explanation for why the Graham-Cassidy bill even exists.

Respectfully,  
Amy Taylor, RN, JD  
Lori Taylor, RN, BSN



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Maeve S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

I am writing you today to say that the Graham-Cassidy Bill is a death sentence to hundreds of thousands- even millions- of Americans. It is a condemnation heavy on the heads of the disparaged and the vulnerable. It is cruel and unjust, especially upon the seat of privilege the U.S. senate and bipartisan government which this Bill is being viewed on. This bill will truly and undoubtedly harm and result in the untimely and unnecessary deaths of innocent Americans who do not share the same privilege to have a seat in the House, the security of a padded savings account, investments, familial ties, favors, etc. It is a slash on the wrists of millions who are impoverished, who struggle to make do and who can do little more. It is a shove to those with invisible, chronic, and potentially life threatening diseases, disabilities and illnesses, those whom everyone knows. It is a threat and one of the most dangerous ones posed to those who can't defend themselves. There are people who previously burdened by the heavy charges of simple primary care and emergency room visits can now get the adequate care they need when they need it because of the Affordable Care Act. It is disgusting to take that safety net away. It is dishonorable and it is truly deranged. So few people deserve to have their lifeline literally yanked away from them. We deserve better and it is to be on the wrong side of history to repeal the ACA, especially without a plan and little motivation to replace it. It is vitriolic to do something so sheerly out of spite for your opposition. It is cowardly and I hope everyone can see it the way I do. The ACA has saved countless lives, it has relieved the burden and it has truly made all those who need it's lives easier.

-Maeve S.  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Bonnie Girdi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

NO, NO, NO on Graham-Cassidy

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Amy Friedrich-Karnik [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:06 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** testimony from the Center for Reproductive Rights  
**Attachments:** SFC Testimony on Graham-Cassidy\_CRR.pdf

Please let me know if you have any issues accessing this testimony.

Thanks, Amy

-----



**AMY FRIEDRICH-KARNIK**  
*Senior Federal Policy Adviser, U.S. Policy & Advocacy Program*  
[afriedrich@reprorights.org](mailto:afriedrich@reprorights.org)

1634 Eye Street, NW Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel 202 524 5520 Fax 202 568 6510

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

This message may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete this message and any attachments without retaining a copy.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Bob <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Time to stand up and do what's best for the country and not the GOP and send this bill where it belongs: the trash basket. Instead work with the Dems to find an option that really works for Americans and we will be forever grateful if you do. Our country is better than this bill.

Sent from Bob's iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** vanessa steck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

If this bill is passed, I will likely die within a year. I send my strong opposition to a bill that would devastate 1/6th of the economy and uninsure at least 32 million people.

--

**vanessa steck**

"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten." Neil Gaiman

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cynthia Lichtenheld [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:08 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

The latest effort to come up with a health care plan must be stopped! The Graham Cassidy Bill is a poor replacement for the ACA. Pushing this sorry excuse for a bill just to keep a campaign promise is not in the interest of the American people! We stand to lose too much!

Until a complete economic study of the plan can be done, it is an irresponsible move!

Please STOP the process!

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Cyndie Schneider <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill

I hesitate to call this a health "care" bill as it seems more like a don't care bill. This bill would be a horrendous experiment with something that is 1/5 of our economy. Doctors hate it, health insurance companies hate it, health organization hate it. What happens when the block grant funding is cut off as we know it will be? Then what? And how do you propose having 50 states with 50 different health plans? What if my state doesn't cover what ever I may have go wrong? Then I have to find a state that will cover it and move? It isn't that easy for people to pick up their lives and move to another state just to get decent health insurance.

All policy experts agree that the ACA can be fixed by Congress. They need to concentrate on that instead of just trying to repeal this because it came from President Obama.

The Republicans needs to put America and Americans before party, donors, lobbyists, and the Koch Brothers. Healthcare is too important and impacts everyone eventually. We need to do something that brings down the costs and estimates are costs would increase by 20% under this bill. They're too high already.

For the first time, my employer is making me contribute for my Employee Only coverage. With what I am paying for that plus the high deductible, copay's and an outrageous maximum out of pocket, I won't be able to get my knee replacement surgery that I urgently need. We need to bring the deductibles and maximum out of pocket costs down.

This plan will hurt poor people, women, older people and it isn't right or fair.

Thank you,

Cyndie Schneider

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** randy clark <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy you both should be ashamed. You are elected by the people. Not the republican party or Donald Trump. Taxpayers pay your salary and your ungodly benefits package. You work for the people. Not for the government. Do the two of you ever wonder why your states are among the poorest in the country. It's because of people like you. You bring nothing to the citizens of your states and you bring nothing to the country. Your bill reeks of dastardly conservatism. You both are a disgrace to your states and to the country. You both should resign. The taxpaying citizens of your states and this country are poorly represented by you. If citizens united is overturned your lifelong positions in government will end abruptly. You are both liars. You are a disgrace to this once great country that will never be great again as long as people like the two of you are governing. Neither of you have a backbone. You are cowards with a position and a security detail and a waste of taxpayer funds.

PLEASE DO THE COUNTRY AND YOUR STATES A FAVOR AND GET OUT OF POLITICS.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jean Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

I am appalled by the proposed bill and the negative impact it will have on so many Americans. It is unconscionable to price people, with or without pre-existing conditions, out of health insurance. No one should be without all inclusive coverage, and no one should go broke trying to get the health care they or their family needs. It is an embarrassment that the United States stands alone in the developed world in not providing health care to everyone.

I can not believe even the Republican base of working class whites will think it was a good idea when they lose their insurance currently provided by the ACA or expanded Medicaid.

We need to fix the issues with the ACA, or, better still, implement universal coverage.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** shonna snyder <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA Repeal and Replace

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing this email to ask you to stop the nonsense that is going on with the ACA Repeal and Replace effort. It is your job to protect Americans, not to cause further harm. Repealing the ACA will cause further harm. As a Certified Health Education Specialist and a Health Educator, doing no harm is at the core of my being. I wish it was in your's as well.

I understand that many of you have taken money from lobbyist who wish to see the ACA gone. But now is the time for you to do what's right, despite the money you have taken. The American people are tired. Tired of seeing politicians go to D.C. and leave rich. Tired of politicians doing what it takes to stay in their Senate or House seats. Tired of feeling like no one in Washington cares. Tired of fighting for what should be a given. This should not be your career but rather your service to the people who hired you. If it truly was service, the ethical and moral thing that you could do would be to protect "the least of these," the poor, the sick, the displaced, the hungry, and yes, the tired.

Please vote "no" on this awful bill.  
Shonna Snyder, Ph.D., CHES

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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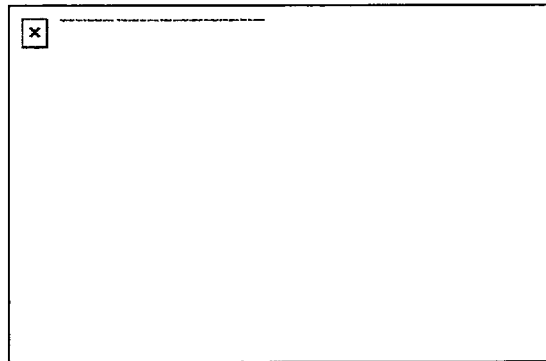
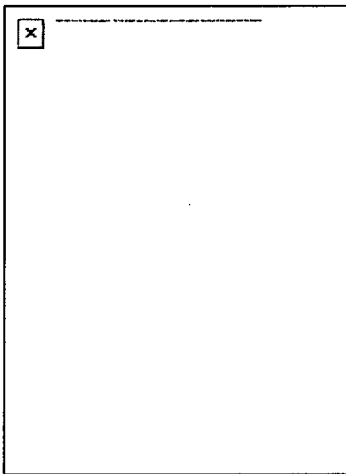
**From:** Google Doc. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

As a citizen of the USA I would love to give my 2 cents about this subject.

I must say that for a bunch of people that have NO idea what the hell us citizens go through when we need medical attention you have the audacity to rape us of what we consider decent health insurance for once! What you need to be doing is asking US the public what needs to change in healthcare and clean up Obamacare because it does need to be tweaked.

Stop trying to stop everything Obama has done, you Republicans have no idea what harm you are doing to us, environment, women and education just to name a few, just STOP RIGHT NOW! 2018 is not looking good for a lot of you!

BTW, IMPEACHMENT IS IN ORDER NOW IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED THE CHAOS HAPPENING AROUND YOU!!



**Patricia "Trish" Blevins**

REALTOR®  
Buyer's Specialist

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## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda Greenstein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 8:00 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Without the affordable care act, my son would have no insurance because of a pre-existing condition. He works with inner-city kids in an after school program while attending community college. Without insurance, he could not afford the prescriptions that keep him from having a seizure. If you take away his insurance that he pays for, then he will end up losing his job and costing the government more money and the good work he does helping kids will not get done.

Is that good for America?

Linda Greenstein

[REDACTED]  
office [REDACTED]  
cell [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Johanna Spencer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. My adult children have preexisting conditions which this bill would cause increases in healthcare costs. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Johanna Spencer  
Albany OR [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ali Rieck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Personal Comments on Graham Cassidy

Hello,

Once again, I am taking time out of my day to address congress's latest attempt at stripping Americans of our healthcare.

I am deeply disappointed that republicans seem hellbent on removing all protections for people with medicaid and medicare, including the elderly, children, the disabled, our veterans, and the poor. The Cassidy Graham bill will create a reckless funding cliff that will cause deaths -- and the sad thing is, you all know this, and you don't care.

In no uncertain terms, you should be ashamed of yourself if you support this bill.

I'm lucky enough to be fully covered through my employer's health insurance but have watched in horror and anger as my friends, family, and loved ones have had to resort to begging online for money to cover their medical bills. The only moral and viable solution to healthcare is a robust medicare system that covers many more low-income and disabled people. Block granting medicaid will NOT do this. You know that, but you don't care.

People will die because of your vote. The idea that an illness or accident can financially ruin a family is wrong. It is morally wrong.

We are the richest nation in the world and yet we are told time and time again that there is no money for healthcare. We see what you're doing -- do you? Do you understand the impact of your vote?

If anyone reads this -- thank you. I want you to think of my Uncle Chuck when you take your vote. He passed away last year of advanced cancer. He never went to the doctor for a checkup when he started experiencing symptoms years ago because he never had healthcare. Can you imagine that? Working your entire life, contributing to your community, and dying in the richest country in the world because you were never able to afford a simple doctor's visit. It's wrong. It's immoral. And we can do better.

Sincerely,

Ali Rieck  
Orlando, FL

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** David Murr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposed to Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

I do not support Graham-Cassidy and would ask each of you to vote against it. It's bad for my Commonwealth and for most Americans.

Graham-Cassidy is not a bill that any Senator should be able to vote for in good conscience, for any number of reasons, including the lack of transparency surrounding the writing and hearings of the bill and the lack of genuine effort by some Senate Republicans to work with Senate Democrats on a legitimate ACA-repair bill. Graham-Cassidy is also

It is increasingly apparent that Senate Republicans (and their counterparts in the House, quite frankly) are interested in little other than fulfilling a campaign promise to "repeal Obamacare," regardless of whether it would actually do that entirely, or what that actually means in terms of the contents of the bill and what it would mean for hundreds of millions of Americans, including the poorest and most vulnerable in our society—but also everyone else, regardless of their socio-economic status, who rely on important protections afforded by the ACA. Federally-mandated affordable coverage for those with pre-existing conditions and coverage for essential health benefits, as well as limits on lifetime caps.

Although I do not believe the ACA is a perfect law by any stretch of the imagination, and would prefer a different path toward universal health insurance coverage—there are many excellent models around the world with varied approaches to borrow from (Canada and Germany, for example)—but tweaking the ACA, at least, would be a good start, rather than scrapping it and replacing it with an ill-thought-out hodgepodge of a bill that actively harms so many Americans.

Let's work together and let's do better for our country. First, we need to be working toward a common goal: making sure every American has access to affordable healthcare coverage. Graham-Cassidy does not do this.

Finally, I want to thank my Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, for opposing to this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Murr  
Louisa, Virginia

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** The Jacksons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** affordable health care

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is my children and nieces in their 20's who are college educated and hard workers need affordable and accessible health care even as they make career changes or return to graduate school. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Jan Jackson

[REDACTED]  
Portland OR [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Thompson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments

Please do not pass this bill. People across America will die from the consequences if you do. Please find the political courage to vote no on this bill. Thank you, Mary Thompson Clarksdale, MS [REDACTED] sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill

We urge Senators Nelson and Rubio to oppose this bill. No CBO score, would end Medicare expansion, cost sharing payments for purchasers on individual markets, and protections for people with pre-existing conditions. NEED COST ANALYSIS!

Dr. Richard Brenner, and Joann Perkins (retired nurse)  
Fernandina Beach, FL [REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Tablet

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carolyn Schulte <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

Dear Senate Budget Committee,

My partner and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill**. As a 30-year old woman, a graduate student in the healthcare field (who is currently working for free as an intern) and someone planning to have a child in the next 2-3 years, I need my healthcare to stay accessible, affordable, and reliable in order to avoid crippling healthcare debt and provide a safe and secure beginning for my family. This is basic. It is in everyone's best interest to support America's growing families, and moving to a state-based policy would produce a risky and inherently unequal system. It would be a huge step backwards and would interfere with the progress the ACA has made toward expanding access to universal, reliable care.

**Please stop playing politics with my healthcare.** Being a woman who has sought preventative care should not disqualify me because of my "pre-existing conditions." That is what healthcare is for! This is not a partisan issue.

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

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Schulte

[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Amara Vear <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please do not pass Graham-Cassidy

My partner relies on the ACA to manage his depression and stay employed. Raising the costs of health insurance will make it impossible for him to see his therapist and afford the medications he needs from day-today. Please do not take actions that will raise the cost of insurance or make it harder to come by.

Please don't pass the Graham-Cassidy Act.

Thank you,  
Amara Vear  
Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** kytten janae <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** For the record

Health care is a human right.

Socialized health care is americas only ethical option.

Graham-Cassidy is toxic and will harm many Americans.

If you love America, do not support this bill.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** lothgc <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

If you fo this i will no longer have heslt2h coverage. I am a 52 year old women with alot of medical conditions. I was just diagnosed with a bad back and my right knee had a torn meniscus and cartilage damage. I go to ofth about every two months. I can not work due to this. So i applied for disability. I got it but i only get so much. To pay for my car,insurance, phone, food. If you take this away i will be screwed

Cindy Plaisted

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jennifer Raulston <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Graham Cassidy bill. Even with the last-minute revisions, approximately 32 million Americans will lose health care, including our most vulnerable, our children, our poor, and our elderly. Furthermore, based on the latest surveys, it is clear that the majority of the country wants to see improvements to the ACA, not a repeal. What American people really want is a bipartisan solution to stabilize the ACA's individual insurance markets and prevent premium increases. I have confidence that our elected representatives can set aside partisan politics and work for the health of all of our citizenry. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Raulston

[REDACTED]  
Sewanee, TN [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy-Graham bill

I do not support this bill. I agree that there are improvements to be made to the ACA but the terms of the C-G bill are not the improvements needed given my experience and expertise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Linda Tamulonis

Lin



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Laurie Flanigan Hegge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No repeal

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

I have two parents with Parkinson's disease. My father died after a brain tumor and a year in hospitals / rehab / long term care. My mother lives with Parkinson's and dementia in assisted living. 20% of the people in her building are low-income, medicaid recipients. I cannot imagine how ANYONE can wish ill on the people who need long term care. We are all going to grow old. We are all human, and are guaranteed the need for health care and assistance at some point.

The United States needs a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not a repeal.

Take care of the elderly. Of the vulnerable. Of the sick. Of the dying. Of the young. Of the cancer victims. Of the people who have had horrible things happen to them.

Sincerely,

Laurie Hegge  
Minneapolis, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Lopez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Save our health care, please!

I'm a school counselor whose young students rely on Medicaid for their health and well being. Please allow for Medicaid expansion. I'm afraid for these children and their families!

Karen Lopez  
Lafayette County, Missouri

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amber Vittoria [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Against Graham Cassidy

Hello,

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,

Amber Vittoria  
Patterson, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amber Kirchhoff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Heather O'Donnell; Amber Kirchhoff  
**Subject:** Testimony to Senate Finance Committee related to Graham-Cassidy Hearing  
**Attachments:** Thresholds Testimony on Graham-Cassidy to US Senate Finance Committee on 09.25.17.pdf

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and Honorable Committee Members,

Please see the attached testimony expressing our opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Amendment of the American Health Care Act.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Amber Kirchhoff**  
Public Policy Associate  
Thresholds

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Melissa Mendes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

To whom it may concern:

I am a 33 year old woman from Massachusetts. In 2010, when I was living in Rhode Island, I experienced a mental health crisis that landed me in the hospital. I happened to be insured at the time, but ended up having to leave my job and move to MA in order to recover.

Without the health care system in MA, as someone who lives below the poverty line, I would not be where I am today. I would not be able to function. With Masshealth, I am able to afford my medication and to continue to see a therapist. I am able to live without the fear that a medical emergency will break me, will put my partner and I so far into debt that we will never be able to start a family, or buy a house.

Graham-Cassidy would bring on nothing less than a humanitarian crisis. Taking away people's healthcare is murder. I have a close friend who is alive today because of the ACA. she needs chemotherapy. If you repeal the ACA, she will die. It's as simple as that.

I have experienced life without health insurance. When I lived in RI in my early 20s, I was in a bicycle accident. It was a hit and run, and I blacked out, and woke up on the curb, bleeding. Many people stopped and tried to be help, but I refused to let them get an ambulance, because I didn't have insurance and I was afraid of the costs. So a woman made me get into her car with my bike and drove me to the hospital.

As I lay there in the ER with a neck brace, tears were streaming down my face. I remember a nurse trying to tell me I was going to be ok, and I told her, I don't have insurance. How was I going to pay for all of this? And I heard her say to another nurse, "This isn't fair. This is not how it should be. She should not have to worry about this."

This is the reality of our country. People lying in the ER, in pain, maybe even close to death, and the first thought they have is, "How will I pay for this". This is not just unfair, it is cruel. It is disgusting. Healthcare is a human right. Wealth should not determine whether you get to live or die.

Please, please, please, look into your hearts. We are all human. Please do not let Graham-Cassidy pass. Please let the people of this country know that their lives are important, that they matter, that they have a right to healthcare.

Thank you,

Melissa Mendes

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lisa Hockstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Earlier this month, the Senate rightly and generously voted to authorize billions of dollars in assistance to residents of the states hit hard by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

How is it that Congress is unable to see how similar illness is to a hurricane? Like floods and high winds, serious illness is personally and financially devastating to its victims. Americans who fall prey to cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and countless other serious illnesses are as much the victims of a natural disaster as are those destroyed by a hurricane. They deserve to be treated with the same consideration and generosity of spirit as the hurricane victims.

This is why I strongly urge all of you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill that would strip away the health insurance of millions of Americans. The United States needs to join the ranks of every other first-world nation in guaranteeing its citizens a right to be protected from the devastating consequences of serious illness.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hockstein

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rachel Druker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Cassidy Graham health care bill

This bill is a horrible idea. I am example of a simple procedure saving my life. I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, **I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.**

As a person with a cancer diagnosis (totally cured at this time, but needing ongoing monitoring) I fear the lack of being able to get coverage should I lose my job, or retire early. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Rachel Druker  
Minneapolis, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Anna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opposing the Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Finance Committee:

I STRONGLY oppose the so-called healthcare bill, for the following reasons

- \* There hasn't been a full analysis of the impacts. How can something is such potential effect be considered without complete investigation?
- \* Today's hearing is not enough. We need a full bipartisan effort, including a full slate of stakeholder meetings, to make improvements to ACA. This is nothing but a repeal without appropriate replacement or adequate analysis
- \* protections against bankruptcy due to medical bills (states having option to waive the out of pocket caps) is like going back for the dark ages.
- \* Lack of adequate protections for those who are older, or have pre-existing conditions.

I could go on, but like the rest of the country and Senators, I haven't been provided with the regular rule of order time period to respond as well as I should have the opportunity to do.

PLEASE OPPOSE THE BILL, FOR THE SAKE OF AMERICA!

Thank you

Anna S King

[REDACTED]  
Portland, OR



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Natalie Buelvas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the Cassidy-Graham Plan!

To Whom It May Concern,

Please vote No on the Cassidy-Graham plan!

My name is Natalie Buelvas and I am a 24 year old woman living in New Hampshire. Although I have private insurance for myself and my husband, I used Medicaid when I was pregnant because I could not afford the high deductibles on my plan. After my baby was born, I relied on Medicaid to provide her with healthcare. Without Medicaid, I would be crushed under a sea of debt. I may never have been able to recover, especially in addition to my student loan debt.

The economy needs people to be healthy. Please make health care in America better, not worse.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Buelvas

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sara Clugage [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** comments on Graham-Cassidy bill

I have a pre-existing condition, and I rely on the ACA for coverage. I am a freelance writer, so I do not have employer-provided insurance, and before the ACA I went 6 years without insurance because there was no way to obtain it on my own. Without a federal mandate to insurance companies to offer plans to people with pre-existing conditions at the same price as everyone else, I will be unable to afford health care.

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

Sincerely,

Sara Clugage  
Brooklyn, NY  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Seymour Pardo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Hearing

Graham-Cassidy Hearing  
September 25, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to convey to you my vehement rejection of the Graham-Cassidy plan, which I believe will be detrimental to the health of millions of Americans. As a psychologist many of my patients depend on insurance in order to seek needed treatment for suicidality, drug use and trauma. The Graham-Cassidy bill makes mental health treatment coverage optional on a state by state basis which makes no sense and puts people lives at risk.

Sincerely, Seymour Pardo, PhD.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Susan Budde [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Susan Budde  
Chicago, Illinois

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Doranna Durgin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote against GCH

Dear Committee--

I have worked all my teen/adult life, in spite of being profoundly ill for most of it. I've always been on the line of poverty, but always managed to just barely avoid signing up for social services.

However, GCH will strip me of my ability to get healthcare. Without healthcare, I will rapidly become even more ill than I am. I probably won't die right away, but I won't be able to work and I won't contribute to society in any way. I not only won't be able to donate to help others, I'll be a heavy drain on society. I'll be a drain on my friends and family, who will contribute less toward society as a result. My life will become something to be endured, not lived.

I have several friends who will, in fact, die if this bill becomes law. They might live a few painful months first.

Please do not pass this bill. I am no less worthy of a decent life than you are.

--Doranna

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lauren Pacini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Subject: Vote NO on Graham-Cassidy: Illness is a Hurricane, Personally and Financially

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Earlier this month, the Senate rightly and generously voted to authorize billions of dollars in assistance to residents of the states hit hard by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

How is it that Congress is unable to see how similar illness is to a hurricane? Like floods and high winds, serious illness is personally and financially devastating to its victims. Americans who fall prey to cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and countless other serious illnesses are as much the victims of a natural disaster as are those whose lives, livelihood and homes are destroyed by a hurricane. They deserve to be treated with the same consideration and generosity of spirit as the hurricane victims.

This is why I strongly urge all of you to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill that would strip away the health insurance of millions of Americans. The United States needs to join the ranks of every other first-world nation in guaranteeing its citizens a right to be protected from the devastating consequences of serious illness.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren R. Pacini

[REDACTED]  
Cleveland, Ohio [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Karen Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** jean.marie; Vicki Scrimger; Kevin Brown; brianflynlion .; Sean Fiil-Flynn; celia ryder  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL THE ACA

Dear Fellow Citizens,

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,

Karen Brown, Professor Emerita  
Northern Illinois University

Visiting Professor of Art  
American University

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Karen Brown, Professor Emerita  
Northern Illinois University  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mauri Lucas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson

Dear Senators,

I oppose the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill and all efforts to destroy the Affordable Care Act and healthcare coverage for millions of people. I urge all to table the current repeal efforts and begin a thoughtful, constructive discussion that will preserve important elements of the ACA and develop a bipartisan solution for healthcare market stabilization.

Any health care bill should ensure covering preexisting conditions, no lifetime limits, support Medicaid and Medicaid expansion, provide full funding of Planned Parenthood, and continue premium and cost-sharing reduction subsidies.

I oppose The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill because it does not support the above stated critical elements of a health care plan. Further, I am opposed to block granting to states because it would cut deeply into federal funding and will likely result in millions of people losing coverage.

Please listen to the majority of people in the US - we do not want the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill. Vote NO!

Best,  
Mauri Lucas  
Houston, TX [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jean Tepperman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy

I oppose Graham-Cassidy because my daughter, along with millions of other parents, relies on the ACA Medicaid expansion to provide health care for her son. Please stop this cruel measure, which would leave many millions suffering without access to health care Jean Tepperman

[REDACTED]  
Berkeley CA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rosanna Armendariz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public comment on Graham-Cassidy

My nine year old son has autism and I oppose Graham-Cassidy. My son has significant developmental disability and depends on Medicaid for his therapies and doctor appointments. Furthermore, because of the severity of his disability he will most likely never be able to earn a living or live independently and will rely on Medicaid programs throughout his lifespan and especially after I am gone from this earth. The proposed cuts and caps to Medicaid are completely lacking in compassion to our most vulnerable citizens. Will the United States become a country that refuses to care for those who through no fault of their own cannot care for themselves? I pray the answer is no and that there is a place in this society for my son. Rosanna Armendariz,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Dana [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 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 would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Dana Phillips

[REDACTED]  
Mt Pleasant, SC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kersti Azar [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Senate Finance Committee,

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

Kersti Azar  
Chicago, Illinois

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** ocean gallery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Aid to Puerto Rico

The people of Puerto Rico are suffering. Financial aid is needed now to rebuild. The hurricane devastated that US possession. We can not ignore our responsibility.

Marguerite Siegel

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amanda Cockrell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

Please do not vote for this bill. It is unconscionable to pass this without even seeing what the CBO has to say about it. Anyone who votes for it is putting party and power before country and the good of its citizens. We will remember who voted for this horrible bill which will take insurance away from millions and leave people with pre-existing condition stranded with no insurance or unaffordable insurance.

We want to see our congress work together, with Democrats and Republicans working out the fix that the ACA does need together. Compromise is what we expect, not a raw power grab.

Amanda Cockrell

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Armani Jocelyn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

HELLO, my name is Armani Jocelyn;

I am a recipient of Medicaid, the bill that is trying to be passed that is cutting Medicaid is causing me and my peers serious Anxiety. We both suffer from general anxiety, as well as other serious mental health symptoms. We both are only able to receive effective treatment due to Medicaid's existence. We are trying our hardest to speak out for other people who are not able to speak with you directly due to not having the same privileges that we do. We as a whole would suffer greatly from Medicaid being cut or eliminated completely.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Idinaustin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:48 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote NO! on the Graham-Cassidy Bill...  
**Attachments:** senate finance committe statement.docx

Senate Committee on Finance

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

September 25, 2017

Vote NO! on the Graham-Cassidy Bill

I will simply state that I don't understand what motivates a human being to seek to deny healthcare to others. These actions kill people. Do the right thing; please keep the ACA and work to make it better for everyone.

I am very grateful for the ACA. I require coverage for a condition that requires maintenance medication. I maintain my good health, but this condition is not something that can be treated without medication. It would also be considered a pre-existing condition, and I could be denied coverage without the ACA. No medication = dire repercussions for me.

In 2014, the ACA gave me the opportunity to leave my low level job and explore another form of employment without fear of losing my health insurance coverage / medication. Although I was unemployed for 4 months, I maintained my health coverage through the ACA while I sought better opportunities. I am a much happier and productive member of society in my new occupation.

Yet the possibility of losing my job without the ACA to protect me from exorbitant, out-of-reach premiums, pre-existing condition coverage denials, impossible COBRA premiums, etc. scares the hell out of me. This society should provide care for all it's citizens, and not leave the poorest and sickest to struggle, suffer, and die. Killing the ACA is threatening our lives.

In 2015, my sister developed breast cancer. She had to undergo a double mastectomy and chemotherapy, and is now in remission, but the threat of cancer's return always looms. She is self-employed. Without the ACA, she



would be “lumped” back into the high-risk pool,that would bar her from having insurance. The PREMIUMS WOULD BE TOO HIGH.

I have many more examples of the positive impacts that the ACA has had on myself and my loved ones. I reiterate that I don't understand what motivates a human being to seek to deny healthcare to others. These actions kill people. Do the right thing; please keep the ACA and work to make it better for everyone.

Thank you,

Laura Decker

[REDACTED]

Austin, Texas [REDACTED]

-Word version also attached.

cc: Senator Ted Cruz

cc: Senator John Cornyn

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Jennifer Tiegs [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill the Graham Cassidy Bill

I'm writing as a concerned citizen. I'm writing to implore you to kill this travesty of a bill commonly being referred to the Graham Cassidy Bill. My concerns are two fold.

First is the lack of amendments, mark ups and hearings being held for a bill that would drastically change 1/6th of our national economy. This level of partisan "push through" congress is not how our government should work. When we stop allowing for open debate we allow for party tyranny. I doubt the framers could have imagined an elected official as unpatriotic and underhanded as Mitch McConnell so it's up to the citizenry and his colleges to demand a return to normal order. A return to reason, a return to the free and open exchange of ideas from both sides of the aisle and a return to the foundation our democracy was built on.

My second concern is the bill itself. Under this bill The most vulnerable of citizenry would be left to die. This bill pushes allows insurance companies to deny coverage for preexisting conditions, of which I have many. It drastically cuts Medicare of which I have family members using. This bill does not include contraceptive coverage. This bill would financially cripple my generation, my parents generation and leave the newest generation with yet another mess to clean up. All in the name of partisan politics that has nothing to do with actually making the lives citizens better. This bill makes me ashamed to live in this country.

I implore you to kill this bill. It's cruel, immoral, and violates an oath that elected officials should have to take as well..."First do no harm".

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tiegs

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carolyn Boydston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:41 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I am vehemently opposed to the Graham/Cassidy act. It is unconscionable to me that our elected officials would even think of killing off the ACA, which has covered so many more Americans and decreased the trajectory of medical costs and imposing this new law which will upend the insurance and medical fields, and throw so many citizens off health insurance. From what I've read, not one industry involved in the medical field is in favor of this law.

What we need is a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion of how to improve the ACA and how to finance it so that as many Americans as possible can have basic, affordable health care.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Boydston  
Blanco, TX [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Larry Jessie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no on the cruel and immoral GCH

The senators supporting this bill should be ashamed of themselves. It's cruel, immoral, and barbaric.

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** trisha ignacio <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing on the Graham Cassidy Bill for Sept. 25, 2017

Hearing on the Graham Cassidy Bill  
Sept. 25, 2017

Submitted by:  
Trisha Ignacio

[REDACTED]  
Bellevue, WA [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of our family, but most importantly my daughter, Grace, 6 years old, who will be most gravely affected if the Graham Cassidy Bill is passed. Grace currently receives healthcare including multiple related therapies through medicaid because of her multiple disabilities. Grace was born with Down syndrome and a permanent hearing loss at birth. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with a progressive form of vision impairment. At one year of age, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and received chemotherapy at that time. All throughout this time, she received physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy for her developmental delays. At age 5, she was diagnosed with autism and is currently on the wait list for ABA therapy.

As you see, my daughter will rely on Medicaid for the rest of her life. She has multiple pre-existing conditions that she has to live with on a daily basis. Passing of the Graham Cassidy Bill will have devastating effects on her present and future well being. Please do not allow this to happen, for my daughter's sake, her life, as well as the lives of millions of people, esp the most vulnerable ones in our society, who will be gravely affected if this bill is passed. We urge you to say NO to this Bill! My daughter's life depends on it!

Thank you,  
Trisha Ignacio

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** SUSAN HODSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:49 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

Dear Senators,

My 28-year-old son, Jamie, has severe cerebral palsy (spastic quadriplegia), epilepsy, and a wicked sense of humor. He has no functional movement and requires 24/7 care. He is nonverbal and fed via g-tube. He also has a vision impairment that we've never really been able to quantify because he can't tell us what he sees. All of this is the result of being a preemie, born at 30 weeks. I received excellent prenatal care, including 6 weeks inpatient care on medications to stop premature labor caused by a twin gestation (his twin sister died the day after they were born). He has been exceptionally healthy the last 10 years, with no illnesses and only 4 seizures (knock wood). We know we are very very lucky.

My husband and I have always taken care of Jamie. I believe in taking care of your own. When my husband left the Navy, we purchased COBRA insurance so that Jamie would have continuous coverage until the new insurance kicked in. We were fortunate that we could afford to pay the premiums. As my husband changed jobs over the years, we were additionally fortunate in that his new employers waived preexisting conditions. We managed to cover co-pays and deductibles through the years, though there were times when it presented an enormous hardship. It is our job to take care of our family, and we've managed..

We are not wealthy people. My husband works for BP as a technician, utilizing skills he learned as a submariner. I have been a stay-at-home mom since Jamie was born, for obvious reasons. We have raised 3 other children. Other than respite care we received in Washington State in the 1990's, we have not utilized state or federal services for Jamie (until this year; see below). We're not asking for a handout, but would appreciate a fighting chance of continuing to provide him with the best care possible.

In the back of my mind, the worry over what we will do in later years has concerned me greatly. How will we get insurance for him? Will we be forced to obtain Medicaid, which, let's face it, is not an insurance plan that is widely accepted by providers (would any of you want to be covered by Medicaid)? Will we be able to continue to provide him with the same excellent medical care he has received thus far?

I was ecstatic when the ACA was passed. After listening for decades to talk about healthcare reform, here was something concrete. No, it's not perfect. But it is a starting place. It provided me with hope that we would be able to continue to provide Jamie with appropriate and accessible medical care.

And then 2017 rolled around, and quite frankly the efforts to repeal and replace ACA have me terrified for Jamie's future. With talks of Medicaid expansion cuts and reinstatement of preexisting condition clauses, I felt it was finally necessary to sign Jamie up for SSI and Medicaid. The SSI funds cover most of the items that we have been taking care of: diapers, formula for feeding, co-pays/deductible, medical supplies, etc. We are saving what we would've spent on his current needs to hopefully pay for his insurance if/when we retire. He is still covered under my husband's insurance so Medicaid is useless right now (because of course the local hospitals do not accept it, nor his physicians), but it is at least a safety net for him in a worst case scenario kind of way. Illinois is consistently one of the worst states in the country in terms of community services for folks with disabilities (*UCP The Case for Inclusion 2016* being the most recent measure, where we ranked 47th). We have never bothered with getting Jamie on the waiting list for services that may or may not materialize, so I have no knowledge of how Graham-Cassidy will affect those who are fortunate enough to actually be receiving them.

I've read many comments over the last several months in support of repeal/replace from people who don't want to have to "shoulder the burden" of other people's illnesses. This logic infuriates me. None of us are immune to genetic predisposition, physiologic aberration, or just plain old bad luck.

I think of Rocky Clark, who was a high school football player in the suburbs of Chicago. In 2000, during a football game, he suffered a broken neck that left him a quadriplegic. Fortunately his school had catastrophic insurance, but it had a lifetime max of \$5 million. Mr. Clark maxed out in 10 years. At that point, he was left only with Medicaid, which provided comparatively minimal services. I remember reading the news articles and the horror I felt. Can you \*imagine\* Mrs. Clark's anguish? I mean, really, truly, embrace the awfulness of being in a situation where you are told that your child will no longer receive all the medical care he needs because he maxed out and is otherwise uninsurable due to a preexisting condition, and you cannot possibly afford to pay for the services yourself? I certainly can.

Yes, there's a lot wrong with the healthcare system right now, but by no means is the ACA the root of all evil. It isn't perfect, but rather than throwing the baby out with the bath water, why not start addressing the ACA's shortcomings? And go beyond the ACA - look at the system as a whole. Costs have gotten completely out of hand, and it's not even real money anymore, unless you're uninsured. As an example, Jamie just recently had a visit for a fitting for a new wheelchair - \$1,360 was the fee, but with our insurance the negotiated rate was \$207.06, and Jamie owed \$162.72 (deductible and co-pay). If Medicaid was his sole carrier, he would not have been able to see this provider because they do not accept Medicaid. If he was uninsured? Well, that's 3 months of SSI payments. He would never be able to afford the \$9000 wheelchair. How does this possibly make sense? We are hurting the people who can least afford it. How about mandating that no

provider who receives Medicare reimbursement can charge uninsured/underinsured folks more than the Medicare reimbursement rate **and** that they must accept Medicaid? Or mandating that insurers who administer Medicare HMOs, and make a tidy little profit from it (Aetna net income 2016 was \$2.271 billion, United Healthcare \$7.3 billion, Cigna \$1.87 billion), offer ACA plans in counties where they administer Medicare HMOs?

Bottom line... Graham-Cassidy will hurt Jamie. It will make him uninsurable because there is zero chance my husband and I could afford premiums with a preexisting condition penalty, if we can even find anyone who would insure him in the first place. It will severely curtail his access to appropriate medical care because we will be dependent on providers who accept Medicaid. At some point, we will become unable to continue to be his sole providers of care and he will become dependent on services funded through Medicaid. Again, I am not informed enough to know what impact Graham-Cassidy will have on those services, so I must ask you to, **please**, contemplate what effect Graham-Cassidy will have and are those effects something you personally could live with if one of your loved ones were dependent solely on Medicaid services.

Respectfully,

Susan Hodson

[REDACTED]  
Steger, IL [REDACTED]

cc: Senator Tammy Duckworth

Senator Dick Durbin



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Julia Wentz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to state my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill. As a grandparent and a person who has dealt with health coverage for a pre-existing condition, I am alarmed at what this bill would do to some of our most vulnerable citizens. Please heed the warnings of major organizations of health care providers, and do not pass this deeply flawed bill.

Julia Wentz

[REDACTED]  
Grand Haven, MI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** t miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

Hello,

I implore you to not pass the Graham Cassidy bill, as it would cruelly hurt too many Americans. Please work across the aisle to fix the ACA and help the poor, the vets, the women and children who will be most hurt by this bill. Ripping health care away and creating more havoc on your constituents is not why we sent you all to DC. Please find it in your hearts to work together to help us. Graham Cassidy is a terrible idea and a death sentence to too many people. Please do something good for your country and do not pass this bill. We are worried sick!

Thank you,

Tracy Miller  
Brooklyn, NY

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lacey Sime <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill

Good Morning,

This email is to encourage you to **Please vote NO** to the new Graham-Cassidy Healthcare reform bill due to be voted on this week. This bill will be devastating to the state of Wisconsin and its weakest and most vulnerable members. This plan will have a 25% cut to Medicaid and will absolutely weaken key health care protections for children and adults with disabilities. When was the last time that any personnel in the state/federal government took a vote and passed a bill that included a 25% cut to their salaries and benefits? Unless these cuts effect the people you care about they are just numbers but these members of our state should mean more to you than just dollars and cents. It is important that we remain loyal to the members of our state and stand united for the good of all especially those that cannot fight for these rights themselves.

With increased diagnosed cases of autism in the state and the rural schools not being able to meet the needs of these children why would any bill even be considered that would cut funding for programs that help these kids with early diagnosis and intervention? This bill will rip funding from much needed programs like Katie Beckett and other autism services. How can these children become successful members of our state/country if we won't help/support them during the years they need the most help? Cutting important therapies like speech, OT and PT for kids that struggle to communicate with parents and teachers will end up costing the state even more money trying to meet the needs of the children with behavioral issues.

I urge you to VOTE NO because you know in your gut that this is not the right bill for the state of Wisconsin or this Country. How about we actually fix it right? Not hurry through garbage just to say that at least we got something to pass.

Sincerely,

*Lacey Sime*, Accounting Department

The Lori Knapp Companies  
Address: [REDACTED] | Prairie du Chien, WI [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED] FAX: [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages to clients of Lori Knapp Companies may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gayle Esterly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** One more time

What GOP senators are doing to destroy healthcare for millions of Americans by trading favors to buy votes is shameful. People's lives are at stake. I am beyond angry. No to Graham-Cassidy. No. No. No!

Gayle Esterly  
Londonderry NH

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Adam Gwon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** NO to Graham-Cassidy

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. So does my family. So do my professional colleagues. That is why I oppose the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. I live in New York and have been self-employed for nearly 10 years; thanks to the Affordable Care Act, health insurance premiums for decent coverage were made affordable. My nephew lives in Maryland and was born with a pre-existing condition that requires medication every day; without insurance that guaranteed his coverage, my sister could not afford his medication. How would you explain to a 9-year-old the heartless consequences of this bill, which would cast his well-being into question for living the only life he's known? My parents are recently retired, enrolling in Medicare/Medicaid for the first time. How can they not be afraid that their coverage will be lacking, their premiums skyrocket, as all evidence suggests they will? My professional colleague lives in Massachusetts and suffered a rare auto-immune complication after a breast cancer diagnosis (her story has been much-publicized by Senator Elizabeth Warren); without Medicaid she would not have been able to afford the treatment that saved her from cancer or the medications and ongoing attention she needs to recover from the complications of those surgeries. I watched my friend as her body gave out on her, as she struggled to walk, as the stress of her illness drained the energy and emotions of her and her family. I cannot begin to imagine what the added stress of this health care bill - the means of her very existence at stake - made her experience like. Watching the creators of this bill bribe Senators by promising that health care will somehow be better in certain states than others. How our own representatives are threatening our well-being without so much as a CBO score or any kind of meaningful debate, directly in the face of the will of the citizens of this country and the experts who across the board have denounced this bill as a disaster. Please vote NO on this bill and get back to working for the safety and well-being of the people of this country.

Sincerely,  
Adam Gwon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Caroline Bailey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. Monday September 25, 2017

Dear Senate Finance Committee-

I am writing to oppose the Graham- Cassidy bill because it reverses the Medicaid expansion which took place in 31 states under both Republican and Democratic governors. As a social worker in Illinois providing mental health rehabilitation services to low income adults I have witnessed the difference that having health care through Medicaid has made. Before the ACA low income adults who were not " disabled" could not often access appropriate care for medical or mental health problems. As a result these problems worsened and clients lost hope of returning to work.

I support the idea of allowing states to be innovative with Medicaid programs. However , the proposed bill cuts Medicaid funding drastically over the next decade and will result in states having to restrict care to vulnerable people.

Caroline J. Bailey

[REDACTED]  
Aurora IL [REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Zuckerberg, Joshua [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Fix ACA don't repeal

Please don't play politics with our health care. There are many viable, bi-partisan approaches to stabilizing markets and driving down premiums. The current effort (Graham-Cassidy) to repeal the ACA is a purely political measure but not sound policy. Stripping the ACA of its fundamental protections and simply block granting money to the states for a period of time is half-baked, simplistic, and mean-spirited approach to a complicated issue. It should be rejected.

Joshua Zuckerberg  
Partner  
Pryor Cashman LLP  
[REDACTED] Times Square Tower)(Broadway between 41 and 42)  
New York, [REDACTED]  
P: [REDACTED] F: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** daphne grab [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, September 25, 2017  
Daphne Benedis-Grab  
[REDACTED]

Trumpcare is morally appalling and fiscally irresponsible. The vast majority of citizens oppose it and will remember those who stood by the people and values of our country and voted NO.



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Elizabeth P. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Considering the Graham-Cassidy-Hellwe-Johnson Proposal

Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

From Elizabeth Pilling, Carmel, IN

Dear Chamber Members,

I am writing to ask you not to support the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. This bill is wrong. It is wrong for America, it is wrong for Americans, and it goes against the basic principles on which this country was founded. What happened to "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses"? What happened to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"? When did our government decide money was more important than people? This is a first world nation. Until recently, we were considered the leader of the free world. We are also the only country in that position without a single payer health care solution. We are going the opposite direction. Our legislators seem to believe that too many people have health care or that life is a privilege for the few. Life is not a privilege for those who have money.

Please do not support the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Disagreement with the Graham-Cassidy Proposal

I am writing to offer this testimony to the Senate hearing on the Graham-Cassidy Bill. My husband and I have a daughter who is 37 years old, who has autism and spinal deformities. She is evaluated every year and her disabilities and needs are severe enough that she meets the "nursing home level of care" criteria, as well as federal and state criteria for Intellectual Disability. Her IQ is 64. Yet because she has staff who are paid through Medicaid dollars, she works and lives in her community. Megan has two part time jobs and pays income tax, and she lives in a condo that she purchased and she pays real estate tax. If the current federal commitment to pay 60% of Medicaid costs is changed, through cutbacks or block grants, Megan will be forced to move into a nursing home or other institution at much greater cost. If even one hour of support services is cut, due to cuts in Medicaid, the resulting cut to her staff support will mean that she will not have help to dress, eat, bath, and get to and from her jobs.

I strongly disagree with attacks on Medicaid, that supports frail elders and people with disabilities, the most vulnerable citizens. Research has determined that cuts will result in deaths of people who are living in the community, at much lower cost than institutions, with feeding tubes, breathing tubes, and reliance upon wheelchairs for their mobility. America is watching the Republican party's repeated attack on Medicaid, as they look to offset tax breaks to their rich benefactors. We see that Republicans consider the lives of their own states' constituents as expendable, as they seek only to please contributors to their future campaigns. This behavior is Shameful!

Both parties must work across party lines, to shore up the health care market place and reduce costs of care and medicine, while preserving all that is great about Obamacare. Male egos that are wanting a Republican's name on a health care bill rather than a Democrat's name is a sad comedy playing out for America and the world to see. All Senators must refocus on people who rely upon elected officials to care about them and not the wealthiest 1%. Do not cut Medicaid. Do not block grant Medicaid. Preserve Medicaid, maintain the 60% federal commitment, keep Medicaid funding based upon need. Don't forget Megan and the millions of other people who will either die or be forced into institutions if there are cuts. If you choose harmful cuts to Medicaid, the resulting harm to people will play out for all the world to see, and those who attacked Medicaid will be held accountable!

Laurine Lusk

[REDACTED]  
Belleville, WI [REDACTED]  
phone: [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fenton, Marc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

The Graham Cassidy bill is disaster for the US health care system and should be rejected. It will eliminate coverage for up to 30 million people, place disability groups at odds with each other for a reducing amount of Medicaid coverage and undermine essential coverage for women. Paying off Sens. Murkowski and Collins with small amounts of money is a disgrace to the process.

Please reject it.

Marc Fenton,  
Brookline, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Todebush [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham - Cassidy - Heller - Johnson Testimony - Emily E. Todebush

Senate Committee on Finance

Attn: Editorial and Document Section

Rm. SD-219

Dirken Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-6200

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the other distinguished members of this committee:

It is with heavy heart that I submit my testimony in opposition of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal. I would like my written testimony to be included in the hearing record.

Birthdays, phone numbers, addresses. Our lives are oftentimes summed up by a series of numbers that help tell the story of where we came from and where we're going. On February 26, 2013, I added another number to my collection: 340, the international diagnostic code for multiple sclerosis. I was 27-years-old.

Let me back up.

In early October 2012, I was experiencing a very specific pain behind my right eye. The pain was excruciating and hurt every time I moved my eye. Have you ever wondered how much you move your eye in a 10-minute span? Spoiler alert: It's a lot.

I had started a new job just 60 days earlier and for 30 more days, I was only covered by a "catastrophic" insurance plan, which meant I could only see a doctor in the ER and my deductible was \$10,000. No other doctor's visits were covered. Not exactly generous, but I was a healthy twenty-something. What could go wrong?

Because I am not rich, I had to wait until my new insurance kicked in before I could see a doctor. Once I was finally covered and finally seeking help, I spent months dealing with neurological symptoms that evolved from eye pain to total numbness and tingling along the right side of my body to difficulty walking. I would

oftentimes lay awake at night thinking how in the world I would get to work if I couldn't walk reliably. My life was changing in front of me, but I wasn't in control of any of it.

My experience is no different than anyone else with a pre-existing condition. Whether it's MS or cancer, the reality is the same; you are completely at the mercy of your insurance provider. That's only a portion of what makes Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson so terrifying.

Here's why it matters to me and everyone else with a pre-existing condition.

Before implementation of the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies were allowed to impose a "lifetime maximum" to your policy. Those lifetime maximums were oftentimes \$1,000,000, which is a number big enough that it seems unlikely you'll ever reach it. Unlikely unless you've experienced a serious health episode, that is. The Affordable Care Act outlawed lifetime maximums, but this bill reinstates that lifetime maximum provision.

Why does that matter?

Take me for example. My health insurance policy is charged more than \$100,000 a year for my cost of care. Of that \$100,000 a year, \$81,600 of that goes to pay for my disease-modifying drug, whose sole purpose is to slow and delay the ability for MS to destroy my central nervous system. If you are unfamiliar with the disease, I should tell you that the unpredictable way this disease attacks makes it very complicated for me to plan my future. This disease in its progression will deteriorate my brain and spinal cord, potentially causing paralysis and a whole host of other disabilities. Without my medication, MS would attack my body at will, and I would be a prisoner in my own body. And, if you used \$100,000 as an annual benchmark, I would exceed my insurance benefits in 10 years, when I will be just 42-years-old.

At that time, my insurance company will be allowed drop me. That would force me to look for a new insurance plan. Because I have a pre-existing condition, insurance companies could deny me coverage outright or they would be able to charge me unaffordable insurance premiums, forcing me to go without. So, to those of you who roll your eyes when you hear someone on the news saying that there are people who might die without the Affordable Care Act: please, remember this story. MS does not provide a quick death, instead causing a slow breakdown of function and body processes that is both heartbreaking to watch and agonizing to experience.

In addition to removing protections for pre-existing conditions, this bill strips what are considered "essential health benefits," which means that my insurance carrier wouldn't have to cover any of my doctor's visits, lab tests, MRIs, or prescription drugs that are critical to my care.

You see, my life is all about numbers. I am now part of an exclusive club; just one of the tens of millions of Americans who could lose their insurance coverage if you pass this disastrous legislation.

How a country cares for its most vulnerable population says a lot about who we are as a nation, about our character. The healthcare debate has always been about something more than politics. It's about doing what's right for the people who don't have a voice. I choose to speak out about healthcare not to point out how sick I am, but to illustrate how sick I am not, and that is in large part thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

Since I was a very little girl, I have had a tremendous and overwhelming love for my country. I believe that while our union is not perfect, when we gather to debate, we bear witness to the enduring strength of our constitution. We affirm the promise of democracy. We are celebrating that our nation is truly an idea that is unique; carefully thought out and a masterpiece in the making. It demonstrates that what makes this country exceptional is our allegiance to an idea, a constitution, which our founders articulated many centuries ago. Our government was carefully designed as a government for, by, and of the people. It is all our call to duty to bridge the meaning of the words written as a Declaration of Independence with the realities of our time; for history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they've never been self-executing.

I am among the 32 million Americans who will be hurt by this bill. Because I live in Washington, DC, I do not have a Senator to call. I don't have representation in my own government; someone to plead my case to. Instead, I am writing you a letter, to be submitted into the record of a hearing that I am not allowed to attend, much less testify in person.

I have a face. I am a person. I am someone's daughter, sister, grand-daughter, niece, aunt, significant other, and friend. I want to live a full and prosperous life. I want to grow old. I want to feel the sun on my face and breathe a sigh of relief that the Congress in which I have no say in electing, is somehow remembering that I am a person too. Someone whose health hangs in the balance of this hearing, this vote, and this Congress.

I respectfully ask that this bill be pulled from consideration and that both parties work together to fix the flaws in the Affordable Care Act.

In good health,

Emily E. Todebush

Washington, DC, by way of the great State of Michigan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Amy Handelsman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA vs. Graham/Cassidy bill

Dear Committee:

I strongly oppose the Graham/Cassidy bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Prior to ACA, the cost of insurance was prohibitive for me. In many cases, I could not get health insurance because of a (minor) pre-existing condition: asthma. There is no one alive (with the exception of small children) who does not have some kind of pre-existing condition.

Millions upon millions of people will lose their coverage without ACA, including me.

I support improving but not repealing ACA.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Amy Handelsman

--

Amy Handelsman  
[REDACTED]

(c) [REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Patrick Keenan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Antoinette Kraus  
**Subject:** Please Reject Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson  
**Attachments:** Hatch Wyden Letter PHAN 9-22-17.pdf

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network, please accept the following comments on the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal. This proposal would cause incredible disruption in Pennsylvania, and jeopardize the coverage and benefits over a million Pennsylvanians rely on to stay healthy. Additionally, over half our state has a pre-existing condition and this proposal would almost end their ability to access health coverage when they need it.

Please reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Patrick Keenan  
Director, Consumer Protections & Policy  
Direct: [REDACTED]

**PA HEALTH ACCESS NETWORK**

Helpline: [REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Athima Chansanchai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 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.

Athima Chansanchai  
Seattle WA

Sent from my iPhone.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Naomi Drew <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

I urge you, beg you to NOT pass this cruel bill. The revised bill will harm millions. It will reduce federal funds to states by \$120 billion between 2020 and 2026 -- and by more than \$1 trillion through 2036, according to a recent study from Avalere Health. The Journal of American Medicine says. "There can be no doubt that Graham-Cassidy would boost the number of people without health insurance . . . It would immediately reduce the number of people with health insurance coverage by 15 million -- a figure that would grow by millions over time."

This bill will direly harm people with pre-existing conditions. According to CNN people with pre-existing conditions "could find themselves unable to afford insurance or to only buy bare bones policies that don't cover the treatments they need."

As I write these words, my young grandchildren are sitting by my side. They and their parents all have pre-existing conditions. What will they do if my grand-daughter needs another surgery to correct a malformation of her inner ear? What happens when my grandson's respiratory disease recurs? What if he has to be hospitalized again? Will my son lose his house to pay for his children's medical bills?

As a breast cancer survivor, I am at risk of going bankrupt if I have a recurrence -- this, after a lifetime of being a teacher, paying taxes, and supporting my community. I am not alone. My friends, family, and neighbors are wracked with fear about what this bill will do to them.

How can you sleep at night knowing what you are doing to innocent people? Innocent children? I beg you to do whatever you can to prevent the passage of this morally abhorrent bill.

Please.

Naomi Drew  
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jan Dilg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

My husband has two pre-existing conditions: he is a 15-year survivor of prostate cancer and survived cardiac arrest repaired by double by-pass surgery 8 years ago. He just retired in 2016 and went on Medicare when he turned 65. Since his retirement from his job in manufacturing, I have had to buy my own health care for about \$900/month. I won't be able to afford much more than that when rates rise under Graham-Cassidy.

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

Sincerely,  
Janice Dilg  
Portland, Oregon

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Linda Parsel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy death plan

Block grant formulas in #GrahamCassidy violate Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution Not just a bad bill, an unconstitutional one.

Sent from my iPad Linda Parsel

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Carroll Ray Steiner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do not repeal Affordable Care Act

Finance Committee:

I want Democrats and Republicans to get together and improve the Affordable Care Act...assuring coverage of "pre-existing conditions" and "Medicare coverage for Elders, disabled citizens, and children".

Carroll Ray Steiner

[REDACTED]  
Puyallup, WA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jim Kaldy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy bill

This bill effectively guts healthcare for ordinary people while giving a tax cut to the rich. Despicable! Ripping healthcare from children, removing protections for pre existing conditions. Making pregnancy a pre existing condition. I thought republicans were pro life? This bill will kill people. I am concerned that as someone who has a pre existing condition that I will be hung out to die when I need healthcare later in life. If you do take away our healthcare then you DAMN WELL better have the SAME healthcare that we do. Congress ought to have same healthcare as the rest of us.

Jim Kaldy  
Newport OR.

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lisadna4n6 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Griffin, Morgan (Murkowski); Bennett, David (McCain); Heiden, Helen (Flake); Swager, Curtis (Gardner); Allen, Elizabeth (Aging); Schmidt, Sarah (Portman); Owens, Arne (Corker); Heimbach, Joel (Cruz); Paulos, Lauren (Hatch); Richter, Dana (Capito)  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I am adding my voice to the deluge of emails you have received from our countrymen across the nation who have cited their concern and disgust about the impact the Graham-Cassidy bill would have on insurance for those with pre-existing conditions, life-time caps and the economic efficiency of the American health care system.

I'm sure those concerns have been amply articulated by many citizens and I urge you read about the personal hardships passing this bill would cause. But I raise these lesser-heard concerns for your consideration:

Besides the fact that we would - again - become the only country of leadership without a National Health Care system, creating a state-by-state health care system is a form of gerrymandering that will keep the inequalities of health insurance plans in full force. Block grants are horribly inefficient. Each agency tasked with some aspect of health care implementation will be taking a cut for their administration efforts and will further syphon health care dollars away from those who need it most. Economies of scale work best at the federal level if you really want a fair universal Health Care system.

After years in the federal government overseeing a billion dollar program on forensic DNA development at the State and Local level, I know that ACA is "failing" because our politicians have failed to provide support for its implementation. You have the bones of a program that has demonstrated it can work. If you let the experts you already have on the federal payroll work on fixing the issues you could have a first class National Health System, just like the rest of the industrialized world. The ACA is being killed by political smoke and mirrors.

Instead you are playing "Sharks" against the "Jets" for no particular reason except politics. We are not a confused bunch of Officer Krupkes. We can see what you are doing. The people you are supposed to serve will be the losers if you permit this bill to pass.

There has been chatter about the "Jimmy Kimmel Test", especially by the Bill's promoters. There is a simpler test: The Golden Rule. If the members of the House and Senate would not be using the health care provided under Graham-Cassidy, Senators and Congressmen should not do unto others what they would not do unto themselves.

Sincerely,

Lisa Forman Neall, Ph.D.  
Retired

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Moore, Sarah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Opinion on GCH bill

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sarah Moore and I am a resident of North Carolina. I am writing to you today to urge you not to vote for the Graham-Cassidy bill.

As an elected public official, it is your duty and responsibility to represent your constituents and enact policy that will make our lives easier and safer. If you vote for this bill, you are failing to do so. You are actively working against the goodwill of the people that chose you to serve their best interests on a legislative level. You are sending a strong message to us: that you do not care whether we live or die. You do not care if we suffer under the policies that you hastily slap together. You will never have to face the same repercussions that we do, so therefore it does not matter to you.

If you vote for this bill, you are telling the citizens of your respective states with pre-existing conditions, disabilities, mental health issues, and Medicaid coverage, that they do not deserve accessible and affordable health care. You are insulting women, veterans, and people in poverty. If you vote for this bill, you are punishing people for their health status. Medical experts have spoken out in opposition of this bill. It has been estimated to leave hundreds of millions of Americans without adequate health care coverage. Above all, this bill is perilous and cruel.

Health care should not be your political experiment attempting to determine how much power your greedy hands can grab. Real people with real health issues should not be used as bargaining chips in your petty games. It is blatantly clear that the Republican Party is willing to push any bill, no matter how harmful it may be, so long as it does away with the Affordable Care Act. The Republican party is so hell-bent on proving how much they hate former President Obama that they will let people die before actually working on a true comprehensive replacement to the ACA. The Republican Party campaigned on removing the ACA for seven years, and it will be a massive embarrassment to them if they fail to deliver on that promise. But what is more embarrassing is the prioritizing of pandering to their base over actual human lives. What is more embarrassing is that they are motivated more by their paychecks and votes than by the voices of the people they are supposedly representing. But I have to wonder, what is the purpose of staying in power if you don't do your job? Is having a desk in the Senate really that more valuable than the safety and security of the American people? Is it more valuable than going to sleep at night knowing that you bear the moral responsibility of actively harming your country?

I know that I have a pre-existing condition. I also know that I cannot count on one hand the number of members of my extended family that also have pre-existing conditions. Therefore, I am incredulous to believe that there is not someone you love that has one as well. While I am hesitant to use personal impact to get you to care about this issue, as it should only take basic human decency, after a certain point I am at a loss as to how to get other people to matter to other people. That being said, I have one final proposal for you. If you sincerely believe the Graham-Cassidy bill will be beneficial to your constituents, then you should drop the health care you receive with your six figure salary. By doing so you prove to the public that you genuinely believe in the potential of this bill. By not doing so you prove to the public that you know in the depths of your conscience that this bill will not work, but you simply do not care about the ramifications that we will face. I know how to get you to care about other people without relating it back to your own lives.



I am not naïve enough to think that any of what I have to say will truly matter to anyone who reads this. Most of you are so deeply entrenched in your partisan ways that you may as well not even have constituents anymore. But I cannot let the opportunity to have my dissent for this bill in writing. I cannot sit idly by as the people in power express an utter lack of empathy for the people of their country and aim to pass dangerous policies. I, along with the rest of the country, will be paying attention to who votes for this bill. I can only hope that while you may not face the consequences of this bill, you will face the consequences of being voted out of office in 2018.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Moore

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Brandi Andrade [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

Hi,

Please do not pass this Graham-Cassidy bill behind closed doors without allowing for a good chance to really understand its ramifications. My concerns are that cutting Medicare and Medicaid will shift the burden of people with serious needs to states which are struggling financially; it cuts thousands of folks away from drug addiction programs WHEN WE HAVE AN EPIDEMIC in our country; it has been shown to more negatively impact communities of color than white communities; and the whole cutting Planned Parenthood out of the Medicare loop affects thousands of women in rural communities and poor women in cities who really depend on PP's healthcare offerings. If part of your problem with the ACA was the way it was passed, then don't make the same stupid mistake. If you all could actually try to do something in a bipartisan way right now, I really think it would help the country emotionally and spiritually. At least try not to be irresponsible with people's lives, please.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Brandi Andrade  
Austin, TX

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Yasmine Hung [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** gchcomments; Pearson, Beth (Warren); Hurt, Nikki (Markey)  
**Subject:** VOTE no on Graham-Cassidy - Protect Medicaid

Dear US Senate,

The Graham-Cassidy proposal is an egregious attempt to take away health care from children and adults with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. I have been a community health worker for 8 years in Chelsea, MA. I have worked with breast cancer patients, newly-arrived immigrant families, and I currently assist pediatric patients with multiple, complex medical and social issues. These are hardworking, resilient families who contribute a great deal to our communities. It would devastate the state budget for health care in Massachusetts, and it would impact directly many low-income, vulnerable families. I strongly urge you to oppose this proposal.

Thank you,  
Yasmine Hung

cc Senator Warren ([Beth\\_Pearson@warren.senate.gov](mailto:Beth_Pearson@warren.senate.gov)) and Senator Markey ([Nikki\\_Hurt@markey.senate.gov](mailto:Nikki_Hurt@markey.senate.gov))

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carol McCullough [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Lindsay Graham Cassidy HealthCare Bill

Please vote no and stop this Lindsay Graham Cassidy DeathCare Bill. My mother receives Obamacare she would have died without Obamacare insurance. My mother had a stroke and was rushed to the hospital with out insurance she would not have gotten the follow up care, medication for her heart and therapy for recovery. My father has worked hard all of his life for his family and simply could not afford the high health care premiums for her through his job.

I have disabled twin boys age 6 one of the boys was born with a Heart Defect in addition to his other disabilities. He would have died with out medicaid insurance to cover his Open Heart Surgery at 5months old, and future required surgeries requiring recovery. He will require Cardiology follow up for the rest of his life. I'm a hardworking American also. Everyone deserves the right to live and live healthy in America we are not a 3rd world country but our Healthcare system will be with this Bill. The Bill would eventually kill millions of children like my child, disabled people, and elderly patients will suffer the most. The AARP has stated that elderly patients especially in nursing homes will suffer the most. Why would a group of people in America want to slowly kill millions of innocent people to keep the rich rich. America is better than this-Please don't Make America Sick Again! Please Don't Kill Our Children Again! We can not afford to go backwards and become a 3rd world country!

Stop the Madness!  
Ms.McCullough

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mary Beth Debus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy hearing, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017

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

My daughter has extensive disabilities, and the plan to take money from my state to distribute to others will leave her in great jeopardy. Medicaid for those with disabilities is already insufficient. It is frightening to think of the conditions later. Additionally, my parents are in their mid-80s and health is failing. I know that nursing homes are likely in their/my future. Additionally, I do not have employer-sponsored health care because I am an entrepreneur. I use the exchanges without subsidy, but the proposed plan will leave me vulnerable according to everything I have read.

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

Sincerely,  
Mary Beth Debus  
Buffalo, New York

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No Cassidy bill

Please have a conscience and work to care for our citizens, not punish them

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Scott Lundgren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Scott Lundgren

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chicago, Illinois 60614

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Ann Spearing [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Ann Spearing  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hyde Park, Vermont 05655



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jennifer Baratta <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jennifer Baratta  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Bellerose, New York 11426-1139

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Martha Carrington [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Martha Carrington  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, California 95062-4025

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** michael stocker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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michael stocker  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ny, New York 10024

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Tom Gauer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Tom Gauer  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

West Hills, California 91307

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Barbara Bailly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Barbara Bailly  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Madison, Wisconsin 53715-2176

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Ronit Corry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Ronit Corry

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Santa Barbara, California 93101

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jeffrey Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jeffrey Brown

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Wickenburg , Arizona 85390

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ruth Dennis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Ruth Dennis  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Santa Fe New Mexico, New Mexico 87507



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Brian Sheppard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Brian Sheppard  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

LYNBROOK, New York 11563

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** PETER RIPPA <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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PETER RIPPA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BRANDON, Mississippi 39043

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Glenn Mooney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Glenn Mooney  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Debbie Stephenson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Debbie Stephenson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tucson , Arizona 85710

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Marilyn Waltasti <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Marilyn Waltasti

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Maricopa, Arizona 85138

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** matthew recksieck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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matthew recksieck

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
san diego, California 92117

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Glenda Ganis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Glenda Ganis  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Los Angeles, California 90036

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Debra Kern [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Debra Kern  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Cary, Illinois 60013



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jacqui Skill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jacqui Skill  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lahaina, Hawaii 96761

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** MaryAnna Foskett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:11 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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MaryAnna Foskett  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Kathy Hahn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Kathy Hahn  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Slingerlands, New York 12159

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sharon Warren [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do the right thing! Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I think one of the top priorities is to keep this in front of the public with people like Jimmy Kimmel and others who have a TV platform. It is a heartless bill as you all well know. Thank heavens for John McCain who cares more about his constituents than being a lemming like Chuck Grassley and following the party line. The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Sharon Warren  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chandler, Arizona 85249

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Martha Anna Vinson Feldman [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Martha Anna Vinson Feldman

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Davis, California 95616

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Barbara Goren <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** bg  
**Subject:** Cancer survivor opposes Graham-Cassidy

Dear Friends,

I am a cancer survivor - just as I hope some day Senator McCain will be. My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I am now a person with a serious pre-existing condition. When I first had cancer, health insurance paid for my treatment, including, surgery and high-dose interferon treatment. The treatments were successful and the cancer went away, to the great relief of my children, my husband, and of course myself. But this kind of cancer can recur. Should that happen, I would need another surgery and more immunotherapy to save my life. Paying for that treatment out-of-pocket would be an extreme hardship for my family. And many people in my situation would not be able to afford it, period.

Please oppose this bill that is being rushed through Congress before its impact on the public and the economy can be evaluated. Healthcare is too important. Congress should take the time for a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Goren  
New Haven CT

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Charlotte Podolsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Charlotte Podolsky  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Roslyn, New York 11576

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** ivan horn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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ivan horn

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Waterloo, Illinois 62298



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy must be defeated

I am a healthcare consumer from New York State and I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill to 'repeal and replace' the Affordable Care Act.

I have spent my life working hard to maintain my overall good health. I have both medical and mental health diagnoses that require regular monitoring and medication. Thankfully, my employer understood the importance of proactive, preventative healthcare and, as a result, I was able to remain healthy and productive throughout my thirty-plus year career.

My point is this: if healthcare is cut off we wind up with a much sicker population that is unable and unprepared to work. Aging care become much more expense and the population becomes increasingly dependent on social services. Cutting off healthcare from millions is a really bad idea. Or, YOU can work toward a plan to make insurance available to all, which keeps us healthy, working, and paying taxes.

It's not rocket science.

**SAVE MY LIFE. DEFEAT GRAHAM-CASSIDY**

Sincerely,

Linda Katzman  
Delmar, NY 12054

[REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** yVONNE EWALD-WADE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I am angry to think that the people who are trying to take health care away from millions while it is our tax money that gives them the opportunity to have the best health care and pension plan in the country. If the people proposing this did not get ...

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

yVONNE EWALD-WADE

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

sun city.ca, California 92586

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Shoshana Rosenberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** ACA

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

Sincerely,

Shoshana Rosenberg  
Richmond, California

Sent from my iPhone

Best,

Shoshana

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Mandy Mastrovita [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Re: I urge you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello:

I am a constituent from Athens, Georgia urging you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill currently in the Senate. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a disaster for anyone with pre-existing medical conditions, even for those who have health insurance through their employers. Stop subsidizing the corrupt health insurance industry and do more to make decent health insurance available for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Mandy Mastrovita  
[REDACTED]  
Athens, GA 30606

On Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 12:23 PM, Mandy Mastrovita [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello:

I am a constituent from Athens, Georgia urging you to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill currently in the Senate. The Graham-Cassidy bill is a disaster for anyone with pre-existing medical conditions, even for those who have health insurance through their employers. Stop subsidizing the corrupt health insurance industry and do more to make decent health insurance available for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Mandy Mastrovita  
[REDACTED]  
Athens, GA 30606

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** elizabeth hegeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

elizabeth hegeman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ny, New York 10024

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Robert Gall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Robert Gall  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable Care Act/Graham-Cassidy Hearing

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham Cassidy proposed bill regarding the complete dismantling of the ACA. My story is my husband suffers from advanced dementia and requires constant care. I suffer from severe mental disorder. We both require in home support. Without In Home Support Services through Medicaid, I don't know what would become of us. We have no family or friends that can support us. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Anita Clark  
North Hollywood, CA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sequndina Bennett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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Sequndina Bennett  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Pomona, California 91767



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Eleanor Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Eleanor Thomas  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Needham , Massachusetts 02494

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Diane McKernon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Diane McKernon  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Carmichael, California 95608

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Fred Mead [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Fred Mead  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Warren vt, Vermont 05674

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Kendal Dazey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Kendal Dazey  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Arlington, Massachusetts 02474

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Margot Lenhart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick at least 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. They obviously don't need a tax break.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Margot Lenhart  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Brookline Town of, Massachusetts 02445

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Sonia Goldstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Sonia Goldstein  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

NY, New York 10011

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Eric Steinke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

My family and community 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,

Eric Steinke  
Minneapolis, MN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Anne Ward [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

### Action Checklist for Americans of Conscience

Special message: September 22, 2017

A healthcare-related issue has come up that won't wait until this Sunday when you normally receive the Americans of Conscience Action Checklist.

We are on the home stretch of keeping the Affordable Care Act forever.

Dear Senators,

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with disabilities and pre-existing conditions is that my grandson was born with cerebral palsy, and seems to be very medically fragile. He's had to have operations that a normally abled child would not require. Without the support of the ACA and Medicaid, Sam would be in terrible condition, assuming that he were still alive. All citizens should receive adequate medical care in this, the nation many regard as the greatest nation in the world, the richest nation in the world. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I'm sure that there will be many adjustments to the ACA over the years which would cause much less upheaval to the lives of the Americans dependent upon the ACA for medical care. A gradual, bipartisan approach would be the sane and just thing to pursue.

Sincerely,

Anne Ward

Ukiah, CA



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jennifer Grinberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Jen J J  
**Subject:** Save the ACA - Affordable Care Act

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is close to my heart. As a grandmother I experienced the heart wrenching battle my grandson went through fighting Leukemia at the young age of six. He's now 11 and in remission, thank God. Without the ACA, he would not have been covered by his mother's insurance when she changed jobs because he was considered having a preexisting condition.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We the people, real families, are fighting life and death health challenges. We chose you to represent us and there are millions relying on your good, sound, fair judgment. Please don't disappoint us by adding such a burden.

Sincerely, Jennifer Joseph Grinberg

Seaford, New York

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Linda Brophy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Linda Brophy  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Santa Barbara, California 93105

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Penelope Harms [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Penelope Harms  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Anaheim, California 92801

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Janis Hug [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Janis Hug  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Santa Rosa, California 95405

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** C. H. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

**SUPPORT SINGLE PAYER and TAX the WEALTHY CORPORATIONS WHO DON'T BEGIN TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE!**

C. H.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Albuquerque , New Mexico 87198

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Barbara Rosenkrantz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please help the population of this country with appropriate healthcare for all. Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Barbara Rosenkrantz  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Calabasas, California 91302

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Julie Mock-Linville [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Julie Mock-Linville  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

San Marcos, California 92078

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** JUDITH LOVE [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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JUDITH LOVE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Mary Gardiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Mary Gardiner  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Evanston , Illinois 60201

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jude Brennan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jude Brennan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, California 94116

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** sylvia Hack <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

Trumpcare - result- 32 million people losing healthcare. plus a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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sylvia Hack  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kew Gardens, NY, New York 11415

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Jennifer Bass [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Jennifer Bass  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Windham Town of, Connecticut 06280

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sallie Steele [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Sallie Steele  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Neil O'Laughlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Neil O'Laughlin  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Fridley, Minnesota 55421

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Ralph Privette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Ralph Privette  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Shingletown, California 96088

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Carolyn Griswold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Carolyn Griswold  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37404



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Leslie Goedde [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Leslie Goedde  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Bella Vista, Arkansas 72714

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** james keats [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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james keats  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

springfield ma, Massachusetts 01119

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kelly Luebesmier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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Kelly Luebesmier  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Zimmerman , Minnesota 55398

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Pat Mabooti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Pat Mabooti  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

portland, Oregon 97213

ght, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Mertz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

All,

This nonsense has been going on too long. Republicans have been flailing at Obamacare for years, never offering a better solution.

Stop the grandstanding. How much more resource will we waste on this ridiculous and unfruitful debate which only serves to harm our citizens (and in particular, many who voted for Donald Trump)?

We have larger issues to solve - education, environment, immigration, international relations, and the fact that we have a completely clueless executive government. The latter should have been apparent to the voting public (that Trump never actually wanted to nor was capable of governing), but alas.


Let's get this thing off the table and get down to business with some lawmakers who have the intellect and experience to make informed decisions for policies that impact the USA and the globe.

Our current administration has since the election done nothing but weaken the office of the presidency and position of the US government in the world.

Please to stand against this abomination of a healthcare policy. I hope you actually take this position into account.

Thank you -

Sharon Mertz  
[REDACTED]



Nashua, New Hampshire 03062

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Matthew Barre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:27 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Matthew Barre  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Eva Marks <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Eva Marks  
evamcura@gmail.com  
420 Glen Ave  
Scotia , New York 12302



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** MB Alt <mbny\_alt@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

While I appreciate that the current Affordable Care Act is not perfect, I also recognize that it has saved lives and helped make life better for millions of Americans and their families.

A decent health care system is necessary to maintaining a healthy society. It is therefore imperative that our elected officials act soberly, without consideration of political gain, to craft the best possible solutions for the American people. The sequence of events that has led to the introduction of this hastily and sloppily written bill is scandalous. It's a national disgrace. The sponsors of the bill have shown themselves to be willing to sell out the health of their constituents in exchange for tax cuts that will mostly benefit a few very wealthy donors.

I'm not so much shocked, as I am sad. I had thought more highly of Senator Graham than this. I had not thought him capable of such a craven disregard for his own fellow citizens.

Please withdraw this bill. Then take a deep breath, and try to remember the oaths you took to serve the American people - ALL of them. As Senator McCain urged you before, be better than this.

Thank you,  
Mary Beth Powers  
New York, NY

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Norman Wright <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Norman Wright  
norm.wright31@yahoo.com  
36017 Plumeria Way  
Fremont, California 94536

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** John Chase <jpchase@visible.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

John Chase  
jpchase@visible.edu  
130 South Front Street  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Nancy Richard <nancyrich@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Nancy Richard  
nancyrich@msn.com  
39 Poppasquash Rd.  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Tim Slack <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. But, as you know, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 BILLION tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 BILLION in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

OR

(the sarcastic alternative comment...) Please, give \$20,000,000,000 more of our taxes to already-rich medical device companies - and be sure to destroy the health, ongoing healthcare, and finances of 30,000,000 or so Americans in the process. The fewer people focused on handling their various crises, the more easily Trump and the Republicans can screw over the country. THERE'S a solid conservative goal!!

Tim Slack  
coyotebearlodge@gmail.com  
6316 Perrault  
Indianapolis , Indiana 46227

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Nancy Leifheit <mrsleifheit@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Vote no

Please vote no on the Graham/Cassidy health care bill. It does not protect affordable care for pre-existing conditions and deprives thousand on Medicare of benefits which would likely cause death for some.

Nancy Leifheit  
Sycamore, Illinois

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Judy Ryder <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Judy Ryder  
spirit1ryder@gmail.com  
15 Seward St  
Putnam, Connecticut 06260

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Sarah McKee <smckee@post.harvard.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect Americans' health! Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans.

Americans -- lots of Americans -- will die because they can't afford to see a doctor when they're sick. It's like shooting a rifle into a crowd blindfolded. You know that some will die. You just don't know who.

Also, hidden in Graham-Cassidy is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

These guys do NOT need this tax break!

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees. It received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration.

This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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

It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Sarah McKee  
smckee@post.harvard.edu  
9 Chadwick CT  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-2825



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Pamylye Greinke <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Pamylye Greinke  
pamylye1@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 456  
Peconic, New York 11958

## **Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Gloria Mattson <gmattson13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Trumpcare

I oppose the Graham Cassidy version of Trumpcare because it will likely cause 32 million Americans to lose their health care. For people who still have health insurance coverage, Trumpcare will make it much less adequate and much more expensive.

The latest version of Trumpcare repeals Medicaid and replaces it with cash to states to do with what they want, as long as the money is spent on health care in some way. Medicaid insures 69 million Americans and represents three percent of the nation's gross domestic product.

The National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), which represents the front-line Medicaid administrators from red states and blue states alike, has come out against this latest version of Trumpcare. Under Medicaid, all individuals who meet the criteria are guaranteed that their doctor's visits, hospital stays, nursing home costs, and other insurance-covered expenses will be paid as a matter of right. The more people in a state who qualify for Medicaid and the larger their costs, the more the federal government provides. In contrast, under Trumpcare, every state would simply be given a specific, capped amount of money to spend as it sees fit. If the amount is insufficient or the state chooses to spend the money differently, too bad for those Americans left out in the cold.

The dozens of groups fighting deadly diseases — including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, the Alzheimer's Association, American Diabetes Association, Easter Seals, and the March of Dimes — oppose Trumpcare.

The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Nurses Association, the American Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and America's Health Insurance Plans — oppose Trumpcare.

The AARP and other groups representing seniors, working families, women, people with disabilities, and virtually all other demographics are against Trumpcare.

We need a bipartisan effort to make healthcare available and affordable for all.

Gloria Mattson  
8031 W. Knightsbridge Drive  
Mequon, WI 53097

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Carol Bennett <camelot@uslink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick about 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the great progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes. What are we doing wrong?? I find it hard to believe that you would consider passing this whether you are Republican or Democrat.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families. Please get it right and reject this unbelievable bill!

Carol Bennett  
camelot@uslink.net  
3544 4th st NW  
Backus, Minnesota 56435

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** peasencarrots@roadrunner.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** "No" on Graham-Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story involves pre-existing conditions. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2000. I am one of the lucky ones. For years now, I have been flare-up free and have been able to stop my daily injections. However, should the flare-ups begin again, I will need medication that costs over \$1,000/month. As I said, I am one of the lucky ones. My nephew, Ryan, is 27 years old and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis while in high school. Ryan has had a much more aggressive form of MS and has suffered from occasional severe seizures. Ryan tried several of the medications without much success until Tysabri, a monthly IV infusion. Ryan was on his parent's insurance until he turned 26. Then, the Affordable Care Act gave him access to insurance, with his pre-existing condition, that he could afford. What will happen to Ryan and the millions like him, should Graham-Cassidy become law? I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Julie Pease  
Danville, KY

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ina Doyle <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Ina Doyle  
ivdoyle1@gmail.com  
3010 Bronson Hill Road, Apt. B, Livonia, NY  
Livonia, New York 14487

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** brian hauprich <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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brian hauprich  
cprbrian@gmail.com  
Pob 322  
Islesboro , Maine 04848

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** carole mckinzie <cmac1933@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

carole mckinzie  
cmac1933@msn.com  
1194 pondview lane  
st paul, Minnesota 55110

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** RUTH BIEBER <RLBEEB@AOL.COM>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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RUTH BIEBER  
RLBEEB@AOL.COM  
75-423 STARDUST LANE  
INDIAN WELLS,, California 92210



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Ken Grzesiak <kengrz921@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Ken Grzesiak  
kengrz921@charter.net  
4767 Emerald lane  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54482

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Kerri Bisner <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Kerri Bisner  
kbisner@yahoo.com  
5 Big Rock Road  
Manchester, Massachusetts 01944

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Mary Chapman <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

Government is, above all, supposed to support and help people, not just elected officials....it would seem we have lost our way and forgotten what we are about and especially those elected to positions of authority. Please keep in mind your sworn duty and act accordingly. I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Mary Chapman  
mollychapman@hotmail.com  
40 Perry Ln  
Eastham, Massachusetts 02642

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** George Ackley <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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George Ackley  
gaackley@gmail.com  
Macintyre Rd.  
Caledonia, New York 14423

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** S. Velez <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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S. Velez  
svfl251@aol.com  
P.O.Box 140545  
Brooklyn, New York 10019

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Mariano Svidler <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Mariano Svidler  
msvidler@gmail.com  
517 29th Avenue  
San Mateo, California 94403

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Lisa Ristorucci <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Lisa Ristorucci  
lisaristorucci@gmail.com  
312 Poplar St  
Mill Valley, California 94941

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Laurie Jacobson <lanijacobson@att.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I'm literally sick over this process. This flagrant disregard for the well-being of ordinary people (vs. more money in the pockets of the already-bloated corporate elite) can not go on. It is NOT sustainable. There will be a price to pay ... even among those who extract from the rest of us.

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

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Laurie Jacobson  
lanijacobson@att.net  
540 Teresa Ct.  
Sebastopol, California 95472



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** DANIEL O'GRADY <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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DANIEL O'GRADY  
dogrady9@gmail.com  
1440 RIDGE ROAD  
TEMPLETON, California 93465

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Harold Robinson <vtyankee@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Harold Robinson  
vtyankee@charter.net  
110 Winston Drive, Building  
Talladega, Alabama 35160

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Martha Booz <mlbooz@calnatives.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

I support Medicare for all. The current version of Trumpcare goes against all my principles.

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

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Martha Booz  
mlbooz@calnatives.com  
3823 Valley Lane  
El Sobrante, California 94803

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** LUCIE BARBEAU <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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LUCIE BARBEAU  
luciolebarbeau@gmail.com  
2367 Woolsey st  
Berkeley, California 94705

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Virginia Euwer Wolff <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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Virginia Euwer Wolff  
veuwerwolff@gmail.com  
405 Sepasco Center St  
Rhinebeck Town of, New York 12572-2240

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** William Guion <bguion@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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William Guion  
bguion@comcast.net  
604 Redcoat Circle  
Canton, Georgia 30114

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Diane Serafini <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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Diane Serafini  
dserafini12@gmail.com  
86 Coleridge  
San Francisco, California 94110

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** libby esther berman <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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libby esther berman  
bermanlibby11@gmail.com  
40202  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Rhoda Levine <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

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Rhoda Levine  
rhodadir@gmail.com  
18 E 8th St Apt 2A  
New York, New York 10003

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** George Fleck <gfleck@smith.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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George Fleck  
gfleck@smith.edu  
P. O. Box 301  
Williamsburg, Massachusetts 01096

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Eva Thomas <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Eva Thomas  
allanandeva@gmail.com  
100 Laughing Cow Road  
Woodside, California 94062

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Carol Haber <carol@habers.us>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

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Carol Haber  
carol@habers.us  
South Road  
Salisbury, New Hampshire 03268

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

---

**From:** Jennifer Briney <jenbriney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:48 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy: No!

I hate everything about this bill. Count this email in the "against" column.

Thank you.

Jennifer Briney  
Alameda, CA

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Anika Solveig <anika.solveig@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** re: ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My wife was born with a very common abnormality: two vertebrae in her spine are fused together on one side. It has almost no effect on her quality of life but before the ACA she was frequently refused insurance coverage because it was considered a pre-existing condition. She has had a full-time job since the day she graduated college, pays taxes and volunteers to help inner-city kids with writing and music. She deserves the coverage that the ACA demands. Particularly the clause about pre-existing conditions.

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

Sincerely,  
Anika Pensiero

Brooklyn, NY

--

Acting Instructor at New York Film Academy  
Lecturer in Speech at City College of New York  
Voice and Speech Faculty at AMDA: College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts

MFA UC-Irvine 2013

[www.anikasolveig.com](http://www.anikasolveig.com)  
[www.counter-balancetheater.com](http://www.counter-balancetheater.com)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Henry Shull <henry.a.shull@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:47 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

I appreciate the efforts of the Congress to ensure affordable, quality health care for all Americans. I believe that the best solution to current problems in the US health care system is to work on improving the foundation set by the Affordable Care Act, rather than seeking to repeal, or to repeal and replace, it. I believe that the Graham-Cassidy bill would be a step backward for America, rather than a step forward.

One of my close friends, now in their 60s, has suffered from cancer, with a 50/50 prognosis for 5-year survival. This person has contributed to the economy and to our local community for decades, through hard work and through participation in various social organizations, and to penalize this person with extremely high insurance costs seems nothing but cruel and unjust.

**The very core idea of insurance is pooling risk.** Passing legislation that would prevent the logical pooling of risk, through the allowance of serious discrimination on the basis of "pre-existing conditions," seems foolish, and to the detriment of the sickest and most vulnerable Americans. In a century, I expect historians will look at this period and wonder why there was confusion on such a common-sense issue. I strongly urge Congress to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill, and to build on the strengths of the ACA.

Sincerely,  
Henry Shull  
Cambridge, MA

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

---

**From:** Cecile Adams <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Let me reiterate the importance of rejecting the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill so that the residents of this country can receive the healthcare they deserve as human beings!

Cecile Adams  
cileadams@aol.com  
S77W12929 McShane Drive, #C209  
Muskego, Wisconsin 53150



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Alan Voigt <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Alan Voigt  
arvsaca@aol.com  
35S ierra Ave.  
San Anselmo, California 94960

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Faye Faye Ellman <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Protect our healthcare. Reject Graham-Cassidy.

Finance Committee,

The newest version of Trumpcare would kick 32 million people off of healthcare, devastating working families and rolling back the progress we've made in protecting so many Americans. Also, hidden in this bill—known as Graham-Cassidy—is a \$20 billion tax break for the highly-profitable medical device industry, which has \$230 billion in profits stashed offshore on which it has not paid a dime in U.S. taxes.

In 2009, the Affordable Care Act was reviewed by three different Senate committees, received dozens of hearings and 169 hours of consideration. This week's ONE hearing is an embarrassment and outrage given the life and death matters at stake.

I urge the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee to reject Graham-Cassidy and to protect the healthcare of millions of Americans. It's also time that wealthy corporations pay their fair share in taxes! When they do, we'll be able to invest in our country's future, including healthcare for working families.

Faye Faye Ellman  
fayefoto@gmail.com  
270 W 25th St  
New York, New York 10001

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Annie Kiermaier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:44 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** keep ACA

As a 64 year old woman I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I need premiums that I can afford. My adult children need affordable health care as well. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. America needs health care for all.

Sincerely, Annie Kiermaier

Rockport, Maine

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Audra Brulc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare

To whom it may concern:

The people of my community rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Over 800,000 Oklahomans rely on SoonerCare, our state-sponsored healthcare program. Of those recipients, over 500,000 are children. Realistically, they will need lifelong public healthcare support — and they deserve it, as human beings with dignity and potential. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. We cannot afford to threaten programs like SoonerCare over political fights. These people matter.

Sincerely,  
Audra Brulc  
Norman, Oklahoma

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** June Gillam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** vote no on newest bad health care idea

Please, drop all this helterskelter rush job on such a crucial issue.

June Gillam  
Gorilla Girl Ink Books  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Heather Olson-Trow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't take away my health care

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

I would desperately, with all my heart and soul, like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to IMPROVE the ACA, not repeal it. PLEASE. Our lives are in your hands.

Sincerely,

Heather Olson

Stillwater, MN

Sent from my iPad

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Mia Sorcinelli [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health Care

I am a family physician working in an underserved area. My patients absolutely rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill.

I also oppose this bill for a more personal reason: Three years ago I was diagnosed with melanoma, which was treated successfully, but remains a pre-existing condition. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Mia D Sorcinelli Smith, MD

Reading, Massachusetts

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ron Heady <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham --Cassidy Health Care Bill

This proposal violates almost all the values and normal traditions of the Senate: conceived in private, no committee input, no public hearings, and the "promise" of one day of public hearings before an "up and down" vote on the floor of the entire Senate. There will not be time for the proposal to be vetted and analyzed by the CBO. This is shameful and disgusting. Furthermore, it will destabilize the insurance market, deprive millions of access to health care, and save--zinc the long run--virtually no money. Oppose the bill!

Ronald Heady  
Nashville, TN. 37221  
Sent from my iPad



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Beth Moss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** vote no on Graham Cassidy  
**Attachments:** ACA testimony.docx

Several members of our family rely on the Affordable Care Act for their health insurance and other supports. My cousin in LA is an artist and doesn't have employer paid health insurance, so she's bought hers on the exchange and for the first time can see a doctor and not go to the ER. Another cousin in MD has a physical disability and mental health issues so receives SSDI and health insurance through Medicaid. My son has autism and lives on his own with just a weekly check-in by a support person (paid by Medicaid). He swims for the US Paralympic team and receives room, board, and training. He also has a part time job with a job coach (Medicaid). He does not have employer paid health insurance, so his health insurance is through Medicaid as are his job and independent living supports.

He lives independently with a roommate with the weekly check-in because over his lifetime of 24 years he has benefitted from therapy at school (Medicaid) and at home (Medicaid) that taught him how to be an independent person. That up-front investment in his health and teaching him independent living skills, how to speak, how to cope with the world has made him the man he is today.

If Medicaid is taken from him and other people who rely on it to be healthy, live their lives as independently as possible, and contribute to society and to the economy, then we will see a sharp uptick in people who are more dependent and who will be living in more expensive segregated institutions.

The responsible thing to do is to slow down and improve the system now in place so that more people can access affordable health care. Vote no to Graham-Cassidy.

Thank you,

Beth Guthrie-Moss  
[REDACTED]

Madison WI 53717  
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Joy Herrin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care bill

Being grandparents of an 8 yr. old grandchild w a pre-existing condition, we are disturbed by the insensitive and ignorant views of government officials.  
Access to insurance is not being able to afford insurance. Isn't it better to have families able to sustain themselves without filing bankruptcy to save their child's life?  
Or divorce in order to put the child on Medicaid?  
Shame on you for putting these children and families at risk.  
Fix the problems w ACA... don't repeal.  
Joy and Dave Herrin  
Chicago Illinois

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Christina Nielsen-Campbell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Hearing Public Testimony

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

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

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

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson proposal threatens the health and financial security of millions of Americans including older adults, low-and moderate-income families, people living with disabilities, veterans and people with preexisting conditions. It does nothing to improve affordability or availability of coverage for consumers.

On a more specific note: I have experience working with people with mental illness, victims of the current opioid crisis, and those with chronic medical conditions including End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Many if not all of these lives are at risk if this proposal becomes law. Today I saw what a patient would have had to pay for life-sustaining dialysis if he had not had insurance. The bill was for \$65,000 for a single month. Most Americans cannot afford to pay that. I can't think of a single patient of mine who can. And for me personally, being able to afford my insurance premiums, medical visits, and medications is crucial.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson health care proposal. This legislation would have extremely detrimental impacts on millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Minnesota residents. I am hopeful this legislation will not move forward. A social worker's job is hard enough; please don't make it harder.

Sincerely,

Christina Nielsen-Campbell, MSW, LGSW

Minneapolis, MN

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Anne Armstrong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Kill the Bill!

Shame on anyone who would put tax breaks for the rich ahead of the millions of people who would suffer should this bill pass.

The fact that the ACA is right now being sabotaged tells me that it is actually still working, despite claims to the contrary, the excuse for this bill.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to fix it, not repeal it.

Thank you  
Anne Armstrong  
Manchester, NH

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jane Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy

I rely on affordable healthcare that covers pre- existing conditions. I am in excellent health except for arthritis. I also have a risk factor for cervical cancer that occurred before i was even born. My mother took a drug to prevent miscarriage back in the 1950's that now has been shown to increase this risk.

I have found the insurance exchange in MN to be very helpful despite the fact that I live in the MN Arrowhead and have only 2 coverage options here. I have a high deductible health plan with an HSA.

I also have a cousin who developed encephalitis from a mosquito bite in her teens. She is severely mentally retarded and has had to live in a group home on Medicaid due to this. I shudder to think of what would happen to her if Medicaid is gutted.

I am a retired medical social worker and have seen over and over that no one can pay for long term nursing home care for very long. Medicaid is essential to providing quality care for our vulnerable populations of elderly and disabled!!

We need a bipartisan effort to improve ACA, not repeal it. I cannot believe that this is being considered without a CBO score! How irresponsible!

Thanks you for considering my comments! Jane Johnson Tofte, Minnesota 55615

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lysa Tracy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:54 PM  
**To:** gchcomments

RE: Senate Finance Committee hearing on Graham-Cassidy-Heller healthcare bill  
From: Lysa Tracy, [REDACTED] Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill that is currently before the committee. Despite the statements made by its defenders, it is obvious upon reading it that this bill would be a disaster for healthcare in the United States. The Senate's hurry to rush the bill through has precluded a full CBO score, but the best-available analyses indicate that millions of people would lose their health insurance. Not only would this be devastating for these people personally, but their communities would suffer as well. Hospitals and nursing homes, often the largest employer in a region, would be forced to close due to lack of revenue, putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work and affecting the economies of every state.

The Graham-Cassidy-Heller bill would be a catastrophe for all citizens! I would be impacted due to being denied coverage for my pre-existing conditions (Lupus and congenital spinal issues for which I recently had surgery). I would either be denied coverage, or it would be priced at a rate so exorbitant that I would not be able to afford coverage.

As you can see, the outcome of this bill is not simply important to me--it could be a matter of life and death. I hope you will do the right thing and vote NO on this evil bill.

Lysa Tracy  
[REDACTED]  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Reba Jane Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:51 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal Monday, September 25, 2017

My name is Reba Jane Smith. My address is [REDACTED].  
I am writing in hopes that my story will help to keep the Medicaid, Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and regional center services in tact.  
My son was born with Profound Mental Retardation with Autistic Tendencies. He developed Epilepsy at the age of 9 years.  
Because of the Regional Center, we have been allowed access to indispensable resources that have helped to make my son's life more comfortable.  
Where he will never be able to fully function in society as a "Normal" person, he is able, with his VNS device and medication, to live a happy life at home.  
I am his In Home Support Services Worker. It breaks my heart to think that one day, should he out live me and his dad, that he may end up in a home where there would be a lack of care. The kind of care he receives at home shows in his relatively good health. Brushing his teeth, grooming and toileting are all vigilantly addressed by me. He's a clean and healthy young man soon to be 28 years old. No one else would take care of him like me or a family member or good friend would. Doctors have stated plainly that by his overall health and the attention to detail in his care, it's obvious that he's taken well care of and at home. His dentist shares with his dad and I over and over, how distinctly different the care of an institution and the care given at home is, just by examining his mouth.

Dear Sirs and Madams, Please cast your eyes and hearts upon this population of innocents who are fully dependent. Some from birth, some developing hardships along the way.  
Where decisions have been made not for the greater good but for behind the scenes special interest groups. Those who could or would profit by the hardship of others. My son, and others like him, don't have a way of going to a real job in order to afford the things they need. My husband and I are already subsidizing my son's needs that aren't being taken care of by Medi-Cal or the Regional Center. We are not free loading. We are working hard. And if you don't think being an IHSS worker isn't hard, well, it's totally manual labor.

I see my job through IHSS as a blessing. I appreciate it every day because I know my son is being taken care of better than anyone else could possibly do.  
I see Medi-Cal as a blessing because it helps to provide necessary supplies and doctors that keep my son's health at it's best.  
I see the Regional Center of the East Bay as a blessing because they provide a myriad of recourses and fill in where Medi-Cal does not.

Our lives are in your hands.

With Respect and Hope,

Reba Jane Smith

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Jackson Blanchard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller

Dear Senators:

Oppose Graham-Cassidy-Heller, an attack on America's patients.

Sincerely,

Jack Blanchard  
Greencastle, Indiana



Jack Blanchard '20  
Peace and Conflict Studies | Religious Studies  
DePauw University  
Greencastle, Indiana  
[REDACTED]



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** James Edmondson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:50 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Cc:** Dr. Pediatric Pulmonology Edmondson  
**Subject:** Vote NO!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Vote NO! on Graham-Cassidy!

James Edmondson  
Forest Hills, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Madeleine Maguire <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Affordable care act

Hello,

My family relied on quality, affordable healthcare to get us through the last 10 years. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story is that my mother was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's when I was a senior in high school. disability did not cover this and she could not work, and required care at home for 12 years before she died. If that healthcare had not been covered, I would not have gotten through college and become a nurse practitioner because I would have stayed home to care for her.

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

Sincerely, madeleine maguire, NP

Cambridge, MA

--  
Madeleine Maguire

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lincoln Phillips <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham Cassidy

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

Sincerely,

Anne Phillips

Nashua, NH

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Ron Matson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:54 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My two children are now using the Affordable Care Act for their Insurance and would not be able to afford private insurance. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Ron and Laurie Matson

Conewango Valley, NY

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lynne Eggers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:52 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill!

**I am fortunate enough to receive Medicare with a supplemental insurance from my previous employee. But - I know many people who do not have the benefit of good insurance. They had been unable to afford insurance until the ACA was instituted. I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill - it is a poor replacement for the ACA - worse even than the previous attempts to repeal the ACA. Many individuals have pre-existing conditions - most seniors have pre-existing conditions. Those with disabilities would also be very adversely affected. Work together and improve the ACA. Thank you.**  
**Lynne Eggers**  
**San Francisco, Ca.**

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lynnette Vega <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham - Cassidy healthcare bill

Dear Senators,

I'd like to express my strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy health care bill. Before the Affordable Care Act, my husband was turned down for coverage because of a pre-existing condition (he had hepatitis C). Now, at 74, if we were to leave our current plan in order to find some other type of coverage, he would most likely be turned down again -- should Graham-Cassidy become law. Also, giving the management of our health care over to the discretion of states is a really bad idea -- like playing Russian roulette. What we really need is a national health program so that everyone is covered 100%, from cradle to the nursing home.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Vega  
[REDACTED] La Honda, CA 94020

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** David Bernstein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

My 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,

David Bernstein

Alameda, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Michelle Scarola <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** VOTE NO on Graham Cassidy

Dear Sirs:

I am a self-employed individual from NY who does not receive any subsidies and pays \$750/month for health insurance.

This cost is draining my savings and the potential increases will break me. The ACA is broken but Graham Cassidy will not fix it due to its partisan foundation. What I need more than anything is a plan that provides stability. Sky rocketing costs and having my care thrown up in the air every four years is nerve wracking, saddening and emotionally exhausting. This is not fair and not what we the tax payers are paying you to do.

Please stop paying politics with my health and create a bi-partisan solution that will fix our system for the long run.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Scarola  
Bayside, NY 11360



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** elaine piedra <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:09 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Oppose Graham-Cassidy Bill

Dear Sir,

My family depends on quality affordable healthcare, for this reason I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am a cancer and transplant survivor, have heart disease, and weakened immune system. Because of my ailments I have numerous and ongoing medical needs, these conditions must be treated in order for me to maintain as healthy a life as I can. I deplore Republicans and Democrats to work together to create a good and affordable for all Americans.

Thank you,

Elaine Waite  
Naperville, IL  
60540

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sharon Hamer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:01 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

**I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. It is an assault on the average American. It is un-American to go to war, a health war, on the most vulnerable Americans. If you want to improve the ACA by all means do it, but denying health care to those who desperately need it is cruel, dangerous and un-American.**

Sharon Hamer  
Cambridge, MA  
[REDACTED]

"Put others first...be kind to all you meet along the way...find goodness and humor in each and every day"--  
Mike Dawes

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Thomas Lovell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:45 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Bipartisan Healthcare Reform Will Save Lives

**To our honorable lawmakers,**

**My mother is a low-income diabetic, but she works hard to support herself since my dad died a few years ago. My parents both worked multiple jobs for barely over minimum wage my whole life to support us, but the system determined that we were just above the poverty level, and we were rarely eligible for food stamps or other services like Medicaid. Today, I work with a homeless services organization, and the Graham-Cassidy bill will minimize critical funding that we need to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. My parents taught me to help people in need because they knew how hard it is to achieve the American Dream if you are poor, despite what we are told in school. Please help Republicans and Democrats work together to fix the issues with the Affordable Care Act so that my children can live in a country that truly values the American Dream, a nation in which people won't lose everything due to a job loss or serious illness.**

**Thank you for listening.**

**Sincerely,**

**Thomas Lovell**

**San Diego, CA 92104**

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lori Saile [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 2:34 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** srop Graham-Cassidy

My family rely/relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My sister has an autoimmune disease. She has worked extremely hard to find the right balance of rest, nutrition, stress management, health care, and medications to control the presentation and progression of her disease. Because of this, she has been able to continue to work full time, pay both her taxes and her portion of an employer-supported health insurance plan, and live as normal a life as possible. However, dropping any piece of her care plan is disastrous. If she misses 2 or more doses of her daily medication, she immediately spikes a raging fever, and experiences crippling fatigue. This can trigger a flare up of her disease that can take her out of work for weeks or months at a time. Without health insurance, the cost of this medication alone is several thousand dollars per month, which she would not be able to afford to pay. If insurance companies are allowed to deny coverage or drastically increase premiums for those with pre-existing conditions, my sister will likely not be able to afford the medication that keeps her functioning as a healthy and contributing member of society and a taxpayer. She would then need to rely social security disability to provide income to survive, at a high cost to taxpayers.

I understand that the ACA is both costly and flawed, and changes are needed. But the proposed bill goes too far in repealing needed protections. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,  
Lori Saile  
Syracuse, NY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Megan Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 6:56 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham Cassidy bill

Dear Finance Committee,

I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I live with well-controlled depression, have had a concussion, and live with migraine. None of these things are my fault, and even if they were, why on earth is it okay to withhold healthcare from actual human beings? Anyone who would vote for a bill which withholds healthcare from actual human beings either by making it unaffordable or which means that pre-existing conditions disqualify people from getting healthcare coverage is a monster.

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

Sincerely,

Megan Brooks

Natick, MA

--  
Megan

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** A R Gammon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:12 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No on Graham-Cassidy

My family rely and many, many others in the US 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,  
Andrea Gammon

Portland, Maine

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Cheryl Moyer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:25 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Healthcare bill

Hello Rep. Kennedy,

We live in California but I follow you because your beliefs are the same as mine. This healthcare bill isn't good for anyone. My husband had a stroke when he was 39. He is fine, but now has a pre-existing condition. We would not be able to get health insurance at an affordable rate because of this. Luckily, our employers provide us with decent benefits, but for the people that don't have that luxury, I must urge you to fight this horrible bill that would hurt people in our same situation.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Moyer  
Costa Mesa, CA

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Marcheta Madden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:29 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** The Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hey, Senators considering passage of this bill....revenge is not so sweet when you end up hurting millions of people. Why do you continue to be so narrow-minded in your pursuit to shred anything having to do with former President Obama? Is it because those financial supporters with their puppet strings twiddling you around are threatening to discontinue their support? Repair the ACA, don't destroy it!

Please man-up and woman-up, and find your hearts when you do!

Marcheta Madden, Albuquerque, NM



## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Linda Brosh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:37 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Monday's Graham-Cassidy hearing

Hello,

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

I've worked all my life and recently retired as a School Nurse. I no longer have employer based health coverage and now need to buy into the individual health insurance market until i age qualify to buy into Medicare. (I wish I could do so now!)

I need A GUARANTEE my premiums cant be jacked up because of my age or because of Any pre-existing conditions. The ACA already does that.

This is no joke, this is not about Republicans saving face, this is about real peoples lives! I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA and make life better for all Americans, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Linda Brosh

Novato, CA

Please ignore spelling, Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Carol Chen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:55 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Public testimony for Graham Cassidy

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I have two young kids will depend on me and my husband. If either of us get sick, the Graham Cassidy bill would put an enormous financial strain on our family. My grandmother died young from breast cancer, which runs in my family. If my mother were to get cancer, she would need good affordable health insurance to survive. She and my father are retired so they're not bringing in any income. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Carol Chen

San Francisco, California

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Hildabridle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:18 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/ Cassidy Bill

I oppose this bill! It's a disgrace and an affront to the American people! The Republicans have no shame Hilda Baeza

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Sarah Kienle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Testimony about Graham-Cassidy Bill

Hello,

My family and I highly rely on quality and affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My husband was diagnosed with Type I diabetes, which is a genetic/ hereditary autoimmune disorder in the last year shortly after our newborn son was born, and without affordable health care that provides coverage for his insulin, pump, and glucose monitor we would be struggling to pay for the medicines and treatments he needs to live a healthy, normal, and productive life. We are so grateful for our healthcare, and this is why we are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill. We would very much like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Kienle

--  
Sarah S. Kienle

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Rita [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Further, the lack of debate on such significant and far-reaching policy matters without study or debate debases our representative government.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. And please do so after a real deliberative process.

Sincerely,

Rita M Novak

Chicago, IL

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Alejandra Wilcox [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 3:36 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. I am 27 and have had access to excellent medical care for the majority of my life. Despite this, I have a number of illnesses (pre-existing conditions) that, without the ACA, would have disqualified me from being insured, including a birth defect in my heart that was not caught until I was 19 years old.

I also depend on mental health services and affordable, life-saving medication that is not protected under the Graham-Cassidy bill. My treatment, my medication, are not luxuries for me. I would love to not have to think or worry about them, as would most of us, but unfortunately, that's not an option. Graham-Cassidy simply does not offer enough protections -- not for me, and not for my younger sister, my mother, my friends, or the millions of other Americans who struggle daily with illness.

The solution to our nation's complex healthcare problem is not to rush a bill through simply for the sake of repealing the ACA -- particularly a bill that disadvantages low-income Americans, women, and those who are already sick.

I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. This is not a question of politics. This is a question of humanity.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Wilcox  
Tempe, Arizona

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*Alejandra Wilcox*  
[REDACTED]

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:10 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please don't destroy healthcare for my family

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is I have been anemic since College and I also have prediabetes I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Shayla Maatuka

Champaign, IL

Sent from my iPhone

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Emily Owaki [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:57 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill

Hello,

I'm writing today because I need to speak up. My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I strongly oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My brother has a pre-existing condition and disability, and a mother who is self employed and must provide her own insurance. Having an affordable option as well as Medicaid means being able to see a doctor before a small issue becomes life or death, and it terrifies me that this option could be taken away from loved ones.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Owaki  
Chicago, IL



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** John Magisano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** No On Graham-Cassidy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please do not allow the Graham-Cassidy to the Senate Floor for a vote. This bill is being rushed without proper review and no rating from the Congressional Budget Office.

This is not appropriate and could be destructive to the health care system. Please require proper review and in-depth, deliberative study of possible impact of this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Rev. John Magisano  
[REDACTED]  
Brooklyn, NY 11218

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Madsen Family [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill

I am writing to urge you to not pass this horrible bill. Millions could lose coverage. Instead please work on Medicare for all.

Heather Madsen  
Lakeville, MN

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Erin McGrath [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Objection to Graham-Cassidy Bill

Good afternoon,

My name is Erin McGrath, and I have Type 1 Diabetes. If the protection for people with pre-existing conditions is changed or removed, I would be in the high-risk pool for health insurance on the open market. The premium for this insurance would take up most of my take-home pay. There are many people with Type 1 Diabetes, and other chronic illnesses, that need access to basic levels of pharmacy coverage and doctor appointments.

My uncle died recently, and he had been buying his insulin on the open market. One vial of insulin costs \$300/month. Many people need two or more vials each month. The pharmaceutical companies are making big profits off of a life-saving medicine for thousands of Americans. I keep thinking that if he had had health insurance that covered his insulin, he might be alive today.

I teach in a public school with about 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. I need this children to have access to affordable health care, so that they can come to school healthy and ready to learn. I can't have my students in the hospital managing asthma, when they need to be in the classroom. I can't have my students' families lose housing because of health care debt.

We need to work on a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Maybe we could offer all Americans the same coverage that Senators receive?

Respectfully,

Erin McGrath  
Madison, Wi

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Katherine Rawson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Health care

I, my family, my friends, my neighbors, all rely on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. We need healthy communities and strong healthcare institutions. We do not need a country where only the wealthy few can afford to stay healthy while the rest of us sicken and die from curable conditions. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it. I would like to see a government that uses our hard-earned tax dollars to take care of every single person in this country. I would like to see people on Capitol Hill show that they actually care about the welfare of the people in this country.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Rawson  
Vermont

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Sharon Barr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 11:56 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Attempt to repeal Obamacare: please don't!

I had breast cancer in 1993 and was covered for care in England where I lived (I am American). When I returned to the United States I went to work and was covered for scans, etc., but when I lost my job I was unable to get any kind of coverage due to this preexisting condition problem for six years. Very luckily I did not have a recurrence.

I want a bi-partisan effort to provide universal health care that will not just go away when every time the political party in power changes. I want my representatives which are both Democrats and Republicans to get together and work on this.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Sharon Barr  
Tucson, Arizona

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kathie Cohen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham/Cassidy Bill

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. My story with pre-existing conditions is that I have a young adult nephew with Type 1 Diabetes, and without affordable healthcare, he may not be able to remain healthy. Once he turns 26, he will no longer be covered on his parents' healthcare plan, and if pre-existing conditions aren't covered in a healthcare plan that is available in an affordable, realistic manner, his health will be compromised. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely,

Kathie Cohen  
Louisville, KY

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham-Cassidy bill

Please do not pass the Graham-Cassidy bill. Instead, please work to improve Affordable Health Care.  
With respect,

Ann Breen Metcalfe

[REDACTED]  
Schroon Lake, NY 12870

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Clara Bertness [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:45 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Clara Bertness- My Public Testimony

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

My story: My partner and I are both dependent on the mental health care and medicine we are able to access through our insurance. Specifically, any diagnoses we receive would generally be considered a preexisting condition. Without the protection of the ACA, the very treatments we depend on on a daily basis could easily be grounds for denying coverage. We have lived a good portion of our lives without the treatments we have now, and those times have caused each of us deep harm, at times debilitating or life-threatening. I lost a previous partner to their own mental illness.

The treatments we are able to afford on no uncertain terms save our lives regularly and allow us to stay employed. Mental health care is extremely important for millions of Americans, yet most effective treatments are incomprehensibly expensive and almost always long-term. More support and protection is needed for those suffering mental illness across all income levels, but the ACA is a crucial step to diagnosis and treatment for me, my spouse, and a good portion of our friends and family. I would like to see a bipartisan Congressional effort to improve the ACA, not repeal it.

Sincerely, Clara Bertness

Providence, Rhode Island



**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Kylie Nealis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** A message re: Graham-Cassidy

Myself and my family 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,

Kylie Nealis

Oakland, CA

**Wright, Kevin (Finance)**

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**From:** Lesley Bevan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 10:46 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing

Graham Cassidy Bill Hearing  
September 25, 2017  
Lesley Bevan  
[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60625

Hello,

In 2016, I survived cancer, enduring chemotherapy and 5 surgeries, while my husband simultaneously battled a debilitating and mysterious auto immune disorder. Those were our darkest days, yet we prevailed. Surviving these illnesses will be bittersweet if it means we can no longer afford health insurance under the Graham-Cassidy Bill. With two hefty pre-existing conditions under our roof, insurance for our small family of three would bankrupt us. We feel fortunate to have put our health issues behind us for now. Others are not so fortunate. Please don't pass the Graham Cassidy bill--instead, work to create a more humane system that leaves no one behind.

Sincerely,

Lesley Bevan  
Chicago

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Lindy Rae [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 23, 2017 4:24 AM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Do NOT repeal the ACA

My family relies on quality, affordable healthcare. Because of this, I oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill. Due to family genetics, my husband is required to take medication that we couldn't afford if not for medical insurance through the ACA. This new repeal proposal would mean that we could no longer get health insurance due to this and other Pre existing conditions, like many of our other fellow Americans.

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

Sincerely,

Lindy Keelan

A Voter from San Jose, CA

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Marilyn "Lindy" Keelan, Forever Ambassador  
Your permanent digital home for family photos and memories.  
Store, print, and protect your family photos and memories for generations!  
My link to Forever.com: [REDACTED]

## Wright, Kevin (Finance)

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**From:** Heidi Foreman [REDACTED] <>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** gchcomments  
**Subject:** Please Don't Let GCH Pass

Dear Finance Committee Senators:

I understand and appreciate that health care legislation is complex. I also understand the ACA is not perfect. It needs to be fixed, on a bipartisan basis. Ramming through a bill at the last minute, without the public seeing it or the CBO scoring it, is shameful. The bill under current consideration is a throwback to the days when many people in the individual health insurance market were either blocked from coverage or could never afford what was offered. Please don't take your constituents back to those fraught times.

While there are promises being made that we'll have "access to affordable coverage," no one really believes it and it's certainly not guaranteed. Those who have "lived this life" with even a benign pre-existing condition know better. We know we either had no coverage or, in my case, had to resort to a totally unaffordable state high risk pool. And that's just one of the many problems with this legislation. Ripping away essential benefits, women's health care and slashing Medicaid, among other items in this flawed bill is shameful.

Every reputable organization comprised of experts in healthcare – from the AMA to state Medicaid directors and even the insurance companies - has seen the bill for what it is and have denounced it. I have no doubt that when the public actually sees the bill and the CBO provides a full score they will do the same.

Please ask yourselves, if you believe this is so much better than the ACA (which a majority of Americans like as long as it's not called Obamacare), are you willing to use it for your families' coverage? My guess is you wouldn't honestly be able to look us in the eye and say yes. So, why would you force this on your constituents just so you can say you've repealed and replaced Obamacare?

We're counting on you to do better!

Sincerely,  
Heidi Foreman  
Chicago, IL